



The Morrisonian

80/70

THE MORRISONIAN

2007/2008



MORRISON'S ACADEMY
Developing the whole child



Welcome

'The only place where success comes before work is in a dictionary.' Vidal Sassoon

In this edition of 'The Morrisonian', we have decided to focus on the theme of success. Perhaps I should rephrase that – success has declared itself to us in almost every submission sent to the editorial team. If the magazine is a celebration, and recognition, of what is good about Morrison's Academy, our 'cup runneth over.' From the outstanding accomplishments of our debating teams to the Olympian heights of FP Fiona Penny, from the fundraising exertions of our Charities' Committee to the musical endeavour of the Chamber Choir, from the playing fields of Dallerie to the stages of Academy and Memorial Halls, from the Beatrice Mason building to The Old School building, this has been a

quite exceptional year. However, as Mr Sassoon above has rightly pointed out, none of this could have come to pass without dedication, determination and dilligence. If the tone of this is somewhat triumphalist then perhaps we should temper it with the thoughts of Helen Hayes, the American actress:

"My mother drew a distinction between achievement and success. She said that 'achievement is the knowledge that you have studied and worked hard and done the best that is in you. Success is being praised by others, and that's nice, too, but not as important or satisfying..."

The Editorial Team
P O'Kane, P Boal, T Lafferty and D Riddell

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Introduction

In their joint assembly at the end of the summer term, and at the conclusion to their careers at Morrison's Academy, both the Head Boy, Sandy Jackson, and Head Girl, Alexandra Taylor, drew attention to the many co-curricular activities they have been involved in and enjoyed during their time at school. Both have been successful academically but both also felt that it was the opportunities that they have had access to outside the classroom that has made their time at school a particularly rich and memorable experience. Interestingly they also felt that they have made their strongest friendships through co-operation with their peers in co-curricular activities. Listening to them I couldn't help but smile, for what they were saying more or less mirrors what I will be talking about in my Speech Day address.

The academic results that individual pupils achieve during their time at school matter greatly: they will appear on a person's Curriculum Vitae for many years afterwards and they provide the key that will open the door to higher education. Good examination results help build confidence, provide a measure of attainment and reveal some portion, but by no means give the whole picture, of the quality of teaching. A 96% pass rate at Intermediate 2 and an 84% pass rate at 'Higher' represent a strong performance and significant level of achievement by S4 and S5 respectively but not one that can allow for any degree of complacency. We have to keep in mind that every year group is different and will have its own particular strengths and weaknesses; it is our job to get the best out of every member of the school according to his or her ability.

However, academic results form only part of an individual's portrait. They tell nothing about what are currently called 'soft skills', and yet these skills are vital for future well-being and success, and it is through participation in co-curricular activities that these all-important attributes are cultivated.

At Morrison's there is a great range of activities to choose from and each will help to develop a different combination of

these skills. If we look at Debating as an example, it is a demanding activity for it requires its practitioners to stand up in public and argue a case; no easy matter but a tremendously useful technique to master. How many people have found themselves later in life terrified at the prospect of having to give a public presentation for which a grounding in debating, if they had had it, would have helped prepare them. Of course there is much more to debating than standing up in public. You have to marshal a series of often complex arguments, present them as a coherent and entertaining whole, respond to the points made by the opposition, co-operate with the other members of your team and do all of this under pressure of strictly limited time; all very helpful skills to have at your disposal.

Debating is just one of many opportunities available at Morrison's Academy where an individual can develop personal qualities: drama, music, team and individual sports, the Combined Cadet Force, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, the John Muir Award, Young Enterprise, holding positions of responsibility, captaining a team, being a Mentor - the list goes on and on. All these activities build skills and develop competencies, enhance personal confidence and allow friendships to be cemented. They are an essential complement to the all-important academic learning that takes priority in the classroom and, combined inextricably together, these two elements provide the rounded education of the type that I consider to be essential preparation for our young people as they face the challenges that lie beyond school. Happily, Alexandra and Sandy agree with me and the one piece of advice that they both proffered during their assembly was that current Morrisonians should make the most of the co-curricular opportunities available, and on that point I agree with them.

Simon Pengelley
Rector and Principal

June 2008





Nursery

Nursery

Nursery is such a fun place to learn

Our pictures clearly demonstrate the learning opportunities in the Nursery with social involvement creating confident and successful children.

B Thomson



We went to the local garden centre to buy plants for our garden



We enjoy monthly assemblies with Mr Robertson and P1-3



The ball pool is such great fun



We found such a lot of information in our books on insects



All 10 of our caterpillars changed into Red Admiral butterflies



We are here ready for our summer concert, so where is the audience!

Nursery



Weeding – keeping our vegetable garden tidy is hard work



The Rector has come to inspect our 'tatty drills'



"This is us!"



Eleven chicks hatched this year



Designing the new wild-life garden



Now it is sunny we can have lunch outside



Small group work can re-enforce our learning



We learnt all about Burns today

Nursery



The Factor built a bonfire for Guy Fawkes



Monsieur Millon, from the Secondary School, came to talk to us about French celebrations



We celebrated Chinese New Year – the year of the Rat – with Primary 1



Local author, Meg Griffiths, came to do a reading for us with Primary 1 during book week



Even Princesses find time to practice their writing



When those figures just don't add up – have a mug of tea!



Luckily Santa had time to visit us



We were in charge of the 'Hook a duck' at the MAPA Christmas Fayre



Primary

Welcome



Another year has drawn to a close and the Primary School pupils have yet again given their all in working to achieve our motto of 'Ad Summa Tendendum'. As has been the case in each of my five years here I never cease to be amazed and proud of what the Primary School children achieve both individually and in various teams and groups.

In sport the pupils continue to work hard and many children experienced some fine individual successes this year which have already been recognised at assemblies or Prizegiving. Cross country running was an area where the pupils performed well this session. For the first time in several years we sent a team to the National Championships in Kirkcaldy and our pupils acquitted themselves very well. Everyone finished the course and Chris White of P6 in particular is to be commended for his excellent performance. The number of good performances from the P6 pupils bodes well for next session. The rugby team, ably captained by Gavin Tainsh, produced our most successful season for years winning nine out of eleven matches. They played with enthusiasm, determination and a lot of skill especially recording memorable victories against Stewart's Melville and Dollar Academy. The girls' Hockey squad worked hard all season and have much to build on as many of them were P6 girls who will have gained valuable experience for next year. The cricket team got off to a fine start with two excellent wins but then the usual blight of Scottish cricket struck as rain stopped play. The annual swimming galas and sports days marked many fine individual performances and exciting races. Our Transitional Quiz Team did not quite reach the dizzy heights of last year losing narrowly in the first qualifying round.

In the areas of music and drama our pupils excelled themselves yet again with a splendid Christmas Concert, wonderful performances in the Scots Song and Poetry competitions and who will forget the hippos crashing the dance. Alongside these a high number of pupils participated in all forms of musical activity with both orchestra and choir continuing to flourish and we had yet another successful venture with Scottish Opera. The number of pupils involved in the Pipe Band was in double

figures and this bodes very well for the future. We cannot let things musical pass without mentioning the fantastic contribution that Mrs Joan Taylor has made over the years in the Primary School and we wish her all the best as she moves on from Morrison's.

Our Book Week was perhaps the most successful yet with the GP Room transformed into a space where we could see the wonderful 'extreme reading' entries and our visiting authors were able to work with the children in an exciting environment.

This year saw the Primary School extending the use of the House System more widely and apart from the keenly contested usual House Competitions the pupils were involved in accumulating, and occasionally losing, points for their House on a daily basis. Good citizenship was rewarded and after all Houses started with one hundred points back in August I am pleased to report that all the Houses had points in the middle to high seven hundreds as the contest drew to a close at the end of the session. The winning margin was in single figures and the pupils responded very positively to the system throughout the year.

Our two residential visits to Comrie Croft and Kindrogan went particularly well this session and I am delighted that yet again the Transitional pupils returned from their week having all gained the John Muir Trust conservation award.

In the classroom the pupils continue to produce very good work and this year has been no exception. Yet again I am indebted to the Primary School staff and those Secondary colleagues who teach the pupils. Their enthusiasm, dedication and skill when working with the pupils are fundamental to the children's success and I am grateful for the contribution that they make.

It has been another busy and successful year and I am left with only one thought at the end of it all: what will we do to top session 2007 - 2008?

A Robertson
Head of Primary

Primary 1

Spring

Horses galloping
Calves jumping
Daffodils growing
Eggs hatching
Birds flying
In the Spring

Francesca Scott P1

Spring

Eggs hatching
Lambs jumping
Flowers growing
Seeds planted
In the Spring

Blair Johnson P1

Nesta and Ned

Nesta and Ned were little dragons. One day they went to Wild Wood and they saw spiders on a tree. Big Bad Dragon saw the web and he ate the web. The spiders jumped off the web and they went to Creepy Castle to hide.

Luke Scott P1



Dipper was a dolphin. She was happy in the sea. One day Dipper went to play with the big dolphins. They found a ship wreck with a shark in it. The shark was stealing the treasure.

Hope Kennedy P1

Yesterday Primary 1 went to Memorial Hall to see When the Hippos Crashed the Dance. I liked the hippos because they had pillows in their jumpers and they were singing.

Myles Lindgren P1

Dipper was a happy dolphin. One day she saw a wreck and in it was a treasure chest. She then swam past a diver and a scary shark. Dipper swam over the waves to see the big dolphins near a little boat.

Scott Birnie P1

One day a hen laid a little egg and then crack went the egg and out came the baby chick. The chick went with her mummy. They went a walk to the farm. The horses looked at the baby chick then they went back to the nest to sleep.

Aimee McGregor P1

Primary 2

Hamelin

Once upon a time there was a town called Hamelin. In Hamelin there was a dark tower. No one knew what was at the top. People went in and never came out. So the mayor called for someone to investigate. Just then a strange man appeared. 'I am the pied piper,' said the man. 'Ok,' said the mayor. 'I will give you £1000 if you investigate.' So the pied piper set off. He couldn't see immediately so he took out a long flute and a light shot out. He reached the top and looked round. Then he played a tune and at the bottom all the missing people appeared. Then the piper went back to the mayor. 'You can have £50,' he said. The piper was very cross. So he played another tune and all the people followed him into the mountains never to be seen again.

Angus Grierson P2

Duma and Twiga

One beautiful Monday morning Duma was walking in the forest. Then something caught the corner of her eye. Ooooh said Duma what is that? It had a long neck and big ears. She walked over to it. Excuse me she said what are you? Why? Don't you know what I am? No, I do not know what you are said Duma. I am a giraffe. Ooooh what is a giraffe? I don't know but I do know it is an animal. Can you play with me? Okay let's play I spy. And they had a very nice time together. I have had enough said Duma. I'd better be getting home. Bye. And Duma went home.

Sarah Barrie P2

Primary 2

How to Build a Snowman

You will need

Snow
Sticks
Stones
Scarf
Hat

First you will need to make a big ball of snow for the body.

Next you will need to make a small ball for the head.

Then put the head on the body.

Last of all put a hat on, a scarf on, a mouth of stones, a carrot nose and sticks for arms and stones for buttons.

Paige Wilkie P2

The Headmaster

When Jack was running in the corridor he bumped into Mr Robertson. He said to Jack, 'Go to my office.' When he got in Jack said, 'Why is your office made out of rubbers?' Mr Robertson replied, 'If I make a mistake I can rub it on the wall and all my other rubbers are terrible. Now why did you eat all of the rubbers and pencil cases?' Jack said, 'Because I was hungry and I only eat rubbers and pencil cases because I am an alien! 'Are you really an alien?' 'Yes.' Then Mr Robertson ran out of his office back to the classroom and told the teacher all the comments. While Mr Robertson was talking to the teacher Jack was eating all the rubbers. So he had to stay there for an hour.

Joseph Dillon P2

The Christmas Concert

In the Christmas Play I was a Roman Soldier. I wore a red t-shirt, a helmet and I wore an armour skirt and I also wore a tunic. My mum and dad came to watch. I thought it was fantastic and it was fun. It was the best play. I had a lot of fun. I loved it. I tried my best to do it. I thought it was very good.

Alex Bremner P2

The Christmas Concert

In the school play I was a wise man. I had to pretend to have frostbite. I had to wear a crown and joggers. My mum and dad were watching me. I had to kneel in between Mary and Joseph and my mum and dad enjoyed watching me.

Marcus Somerville P2

The Christmas Concert

In the Christmas Play I was a Roman soldier. I had to sing 'Stand Up and Be Counted'. My dad came to watch me as a Roman Soldier. He liked it. He said it was jolly good. I had to wear armour.

James Finlay P2

The Christmas Concert

In the Christmas Play I was an angel. I wore a white skirt and a white t-shirt and white tights. My mum came to the play and my dad came too. They thought that it was fantastic.

Elsbeth Stuart P2

The Christmas Concert

In the Christmas Play I was a star. My dad and mum thought I was very good. I wore a gold skirt and a white t-shirt and white tights. It was fun. First my dad came then my mum and dad came. They thought I was very good.

Jenny Whitaker P2

Trip to the Crannog

On Monday 2nd June Primary 2 visited the replica crannog at Loch Tay. When I got to school Mrs Hicks was in the classroom talking about the crannog. When the bus arrived I felt excited. I stepped onto the bus and sat beside Harry and played 'I spy'. At last we got to the crannog. We crossed a road to the gift shop and we met a lady who asked us a question. She showed us a tooth and we had to guess what animal the tooth was from. The answer was a wild boar. Then the lady took us through a tunnel that had a video of Iron Age things found under the water. We moved on and saw a loom which was an Iron Age sewing thing. Then we walked outside and the lady took us into a crannog and we sat down on benches. The lady gave us some things to pass round. She also gave information about the crannog. After a short time we went outside to see some of the activities. We did wood grinding. The lady held something against some wood and two people held a bow and pulled from side to side. Next we saw stone drilling. There was a bow and there was a small dip in a stone and there was a stick with a pointed end. You placed the stick on the stump of the stone and twisted the stick by pulling a bow on a machine. Then the lady

Primary 2

took us to drop spinning where she had a spinner with some threads made from nettle fibres. The lady spun the spinner and stretched some thread. Surprisingly it didn't look as hard as I thought it would be. The lady then left and a man came to demonstrate how to make fire. The man made some ember and put it in a pot of sawdust and blew. He soon made a flame. A minute later we did the activities and then drove to the park.

Angus Grierson P2



Primary 3



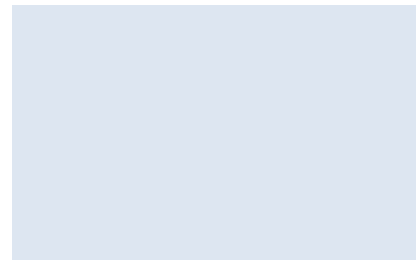
A Taste Of India

Morrison's Academy Primary 3 pupils had the chance to sample a taste of India with a visit to Abbi's Restaurant in Crieff. The class had been studying India in their topic work and were delighted to be invited for a real taste of Indian cuisine. The children enjoyed a range of delicious starters as well as typical main courses from the region. Class teacher Ian Barr commented, "Thanks to Mr and Mrs Shakoor and the staff at Abbi's, the class were able appreciate a variety of Indian dishes to complement their studies in school."

J Longmuir

Comrie Croft

In May, primary 3 pupils visited Comrie Croft where they enjoyed stunning views of the local countryside.



Primary 4

A Word of Advice

Dear Primary 3,

You may feel nervous about coming in to primary 4, but there is nothing to worry about. All you have to do is

- Tie your tie
- Keep smart
- Put your name on things
- Don't forget the date
- Don't fall out with your friends
- Don't forget your homework and remember to do it
- If you are struggling don't sit there, ask your teacher.

Lucinda Harrison and
Saskia O'Hara P4

Dear Primary 3,

We hope that you enjoy primary 4 after the summer holidays because it is a great class.

- When you come to class in the morning put your homework in the tray.
- Don't talk when the teacher is talking.
- You get two pieces of homework each day except Fridays.
- We do ICT, French, Games, Science, Art and Home Economics.

Fraser Easton and Luke Robertson P4



Primary 5

Japan Topic

Primary 5 have recently finished their geography topic of Japan where they studied the natural landscape and climate of this far eastern country, as well as aspects of the Japanese culture. They even sampled one of Japan's most famous exports, sushi, at our Japanese picnic.

The children were so keen to discover more about Japanese life that they decided to use this as the theme for their class assembly which was presented to the rest of the primary school. The children wrote the assembly script, stage directions and production notes and took charge of organising the costumes, props, and background scenery. They called it 'A Day in the Life of a Japanese Family'.

F Harvey

Glasgow Science Centre

On Thursday 1st May, P.5 went to GSC. We had to work really hard to get the information. We had to do a lot of research on the website to see if we could do things that would tie in with our Solar System science topic. We looked up the times, presentations and so on.

The journey was long and exciting. Finally after what seemed like ages we arrived at GSC. It looked very unusual. You could see the River Clyde. Our guide came and took us in.

When we got in we put our lunches and coats away. Straight after, we went to the IMAX. The IMAX theatre was colossal and empty. We were the only class there. We had to wear giant 3-D glasses. My favourite part in the movie was when the rocket took off. The movie was called Space Station.

Next we went to the lunch hall. It was dull and boring.

After lunch we went to the Planetarium. It was dark. The stars got projected on to the ceiling and that's why we sat on chairs that were tilted back, so that we could see easily. 'Our Place in Space' was the name of this show. I learnt how to find the North Star and some planets. We also learnt how to find constellations. Constellations are people and animal shapes in the sky made by the stars. It's like you have to join dot to dot in the sky. The Planetarium was circular and the projector looked futuristic.

Next we went into the Science Mall. It was gigantic. My favourite experiment was an extraordinary harp. It had no strings but if you strummed, it made a noise. There was also a crazy looking robotic bird. You asked it questions and it would answer you.

Finally it was time to go. We picked up our lunches and blazers then went outside to have our photo taken. We got on the bus. The journey back was long and quiet. It was an amazing trip. I'd like to go again.

Amy Lee P5



Primary 6

Friend or Foe

The two boys sat shivering in the empty compartment waiting for all the other evacuees to get on the train. They saw all the children saying goodbye to their mothers and fathers. Tucky started to cry. He had no one to say farewell to. His mother had died when he was young and his father had died in the war.

Davie patted him on the back. "We'll be ok," he said. Every syllable trembled with sadness. They heard the whistle go and saw the train's smoke rise up. They wondered what awaited them in the future.

Henry Morshead P6

Cinderella

Cinderella works so hard
polishing the floor, fixing things,
working lonely by herself,
while her sisters wear diamond rings.

She dreams every night
of a place far away,
meeting a prince
with whom she will stay.

A letter arrives,
shiny and gold
addressed to the family,
the ball she shall go.

"Cinderella you can't possibly go,
your clothes are rags and you need
to stay here."

Cinderella runs to her room
with a crystallised tear.

In a flash a fairy appeared
dressed in pink, fat and small.
"I'm your fairy godmother
and you shall go to the ball."

Cinderella is transformed.
No more rags, now beautiful and
grand.

With magic spells and fairy dust,
she's the prettiest in the land.

Tessa Cox P6

Peter Pan

I didn't do it, honest. My mother left me at an early age and my father beat me. I left to come to Never Land thinking people may like me but then Peter Pan cut off my hand and I just wanted revenge on him. Like I said I came here thinking people might like me, then Smee was lovely to me and for my birthday he bought me this lovely ship and a crew. I've always wanted to sail the Seven Seas.

Twenty two days after my birthday Pan cut off my hand and I really, really wanted revenge. So I asked Tiger Lily, the Indian princess, to tea and cream cakes. I asked her if she knew any stress relief clubs. But Peter Pan made it look as if I captured her, which I didn't. I just invited her over! To this very day I will say I did not capture her or the Darling children. If anything they captured me! What happened was that I was reading a map to see where all the little rocks were in the sea. I was in the forest and then the children came flying out and took me hostage. They then started paint bombing me! I only managed to get away because of my crafty untying knot skills.

And to the final accusation, I must admit I did do it. I tried to kill all the fairies because I knew Pan can't live without the magical mysteries. I'm very sorry but you've got to understand I absolutely hate Pan.

Emily Deans P6

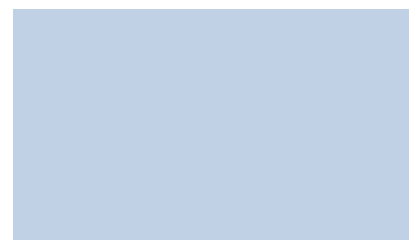
A Dangerous Adventure (extract)

It was closing in, it's thunderous bellow quickening. It was either gruesome death or cross the treacherous River Kwai. The explorer has made his decision. He stepped onto the swaying bridge, gaining courage as he walked. Ping! The rope in front had been reduced to a thread. Perspiration trickled down his anxious face as he was forced to continue. It was on the bridge.

The extra weight was ominous and suddenly the last remaining thread gave way. His heart beating like a cheetah's chase, he held on for dear life. There was no point, his sweaty hands leaving their grasp, but no! He knew of the riches that lay ahead. He must survive.

Mustering all this remaining strength he crawled to the top of the sharp cliff. He glared up into the hot Peruvian sun, panting. He had made it, but so had it!

Christopher White P6



Primary 6

Emotions

It is very relaxing when I get home from school once I have finished my homework.

Georgia Birnie P6

I feel tired when I come home from a friend's sleepover.

Kirstie Jones P6

I feel determined when I am losing and want to win.

Fraser Baird P6

I get fed up when I have no one to play with.

James Ewart P6

I feel that I would worry if I got lost in a foreign airport.

Alastair Scott P6

Last year we had eleven puppies and when I saw them I was surprised at how small they were.

Jessica Roberts P6

I felt hopeful when the winner of the bagpipe competition was being announced.

Cameron Lee P6

I feel loved when my friends and family appreciate me when I do something well.

Rebecca Coffey P6

Poems

Flames in the Fire

Sparks flickering out of the fire
Smoke floating around the air
Colours change as the fire ascends
Ghostly shapes constantly changing
before my eyes
Raging reds hissing and sizzling
Orange sparks crackling crazily
Furious flames fizzle and fade
As the fire descends and dies

Robbie Robertson P6

Flames flickering

Smoke swirling
Red hot flames up up
Slowly disappearing into nothingness

Dhillon Clarke P6

Extracts from a Myth – Storm Bringer

A tall dark figure pushed through the crowd, a deep purple hood covering his face. A gasp went through the crowd as they muttered quietly, "Sorumtheus!"

Elsie Haldane P6

One day Zeus, god of all gods, called upon three men to journey to the sky serpent's cave and retrieve the golden chest.

Holly Smith P6

Transitional

Kenning

A brave fighter
A born leader
A patient killer
A proud beast
A deadly sinner
A swift mover
A loud roarer
And the king of the jungle.

Calum Savage TA

The Fire

"I wonder what this place is?" said the President's eldest son.

"I don't know," replied his daughter. "It looks like some sort of warehouse."

"Let's look around," said the youngest. Looking round they observed some objects in their surroundings: a dusty bottle of a strange purple concoction, the windows smashed and boarded up, the floor slippery with shiny liquid and metal canisters lying about the floor.

"This place looks weird," Karl, the eldest son said, "Let's look outside." The other two agreed and so they proceeded out of the warehouse into a large overgrown area containing a small outbuilding.

"Let's try in here," said Rosie, the daughter.

The floor was littered with rocks, hay and old pieces of machinery which was tempting for the youngest. Mitch picked up some old cogs and began grinding them together. That one spark flying from the two rusty pieces of metal was so unbelievably important to those three children. It meant life or death.

The flames licked the walls, trapping the children. "My children!" screamed the President, struggling with the guards preventing him entering the

Transitional

burning building, as the siren sounded.....

Adam Davie TA

The Locked Door

As the siren sounded she began to feel relief.

It had all started the day before. Cindy was in her immaculately decorated bedroom. She was lying on her purple rug when her phone rang. She got up to answer it.

"Hello, Cindy here."
 "Is this Cindy the childminder?" asked the voice.
 "Yes," she answered.
 "I would like you to come to Totemson Hall to childmind my two children at 8 o'clock this evening please."
 "Sure, I can do that."

Cindy walked towards the great mansion. Crippled leaves flew in every direction. The dark trees seemed to droop down, wanting to rest on the ground. Cindy knocked on the black door. A rather large woman answered the door, along with a tall, broad man. The woman was richly dressed and had blonde, curly hair. The man glared at Cindy with very dark eyes. He wore a dark blue suit with a red bow tie.

The woman showed Cindy round the old house. She left and Cindy sat herself down in the old green chair in the library. She looked around for a book with the guidance of one light which dimly lit up the room. Cindy felt secure as the windows were locked and there were only two doors leading outside, the front door which was locked and the back door which led into the greenhouse. But that door was padlocked and chained.

Cindy began to read. The phone rang beside her.
 "Hello," she said.
 All she could hear was heavy breathing. She put the phone down and continued to read. She rang the police who told her to keep the caller on the line for 30 seconds. She managed this and put the phone down with relief. It rang once more.
 "Hello. We've found the source of the call. It's coming from the house...."

Andrew Aschaber TA

The River's Song

The river was singing
 Sunlight waved over it,
 And the trees were whispering
 As the song became louder.

The waves of the river were dancing,
 Drowning the innocent spray,
 Spiralling out of control,
 As the song became louder.

The water plummeted as the waterfall cried,
 Its top rained down upon the earth,
 And the remains of the puddles floated along the river,
 As the song became louder.

The currents swam and then sliced the rocks,
 The rocks seeking revenge then split the currents in two
 As the wind shrieked with excitement.
 And then it all stopped.
 No sound.
 The singing was lost forever.

Hannah Gauld TA

The Sun

The great, powerful golden sun
 Flees, come cold, dark nights
 And her sister, the moon,
 She hides away in her cloud home,

Sleeps in her soft bed,
 Keeping warm by shuggling
 Under her soft, fluffy duvet.
 Come dawn, she swiftly awakes
 And hurries to her climbing point
 To rise, to banish sister moon.
 The sun of course always wins
 And swaggers to the top of her kingdom
 To rule for another day
 Then flees, come darkness, and we can see the moon once more.

Katie Hiscocks TA

Things That Go Bump in the Night

It was December 1892, the wind was blowing hard and the windows rattled - a cold draft hung in the air. That was when it happened. Charlie and Jamie Nundon had made a fortune together mining coal but Charlie wanted the money for himself so he crept into Jamie's room, room 13 and stuck a knife in his back.

100 years later, I, Charlie's great grandson, Joe, was to stay at the same hotel. An old butler greeted me and showed me to the reception desk. When I first looked around the building I was not surprised that the tiles were falling off the roof or that the paint was peeling.

Then I dragged my bags up the stairs to my room, room 13. That night the wardrobe shook and the door creaked open. A great figure came out of it clad in typical Victorian clothes, its grey feet barely touching the floor. It spoke in a deep voice, "Are you not the great grandson of my evil brother?"

Joe replied, "Yes, I am."
 "Then you must perish," said Jamie.
 He vanished.

Transitional

The next morning, after breakfast, I decided to explore the hotel. First I went down to the dark corridor where every door was locked. I picked the lock of the door which said room 67. What I found inside was a horrible sight- amongst the dust and cobwebs there were two skeletons, one in the bed and one at the desk. What had happened to them?

I also noticed that I was the only guest in the hotel, the only living one, that is. I had to get out of this hotel. I suddenly collapsed. I felt my flesh disappear and I collapsed. The last thing I saw was the ghost of Jamie saying, "The prophecy is fulfilled." The mystery of the hotel remains unsolved....

Matthew Barrie TA

Spider

Kenning

A web caster
A fly catcher
A sneaky hider
A bath lover
A mad runner
A feared climber
A hairy beast
A trained killer

Ben Speck TD

Tanka

Something waiting, what?
Something hunting, what is it?
It's a quick runner.
Sneaky hider, wall climber
What is it, it's a spider.

Ben Speck TD

Haiku

It's known to kill pets.
We never see it at night.
Humans hate it so.

Ben Speck TD

Labrador Puppy

Kenning

A gluttonous gobbler
An attention seeker
A furniture destroyer
A cat chaser
A keen retriever
A ball chewer
A sock stealer
A toe nibbler

Donald Strathie TD

Haiku

A Labrador puppy leaps high
Below him on the bottom floor
Cats are ready to pounce

Donald Strathie TD

Tanka

Playing with a puppy
Out on the soggy field
Throwing tennis balls
And the puppy retrieving them
And having lots of family fun

Donald Strathie TD

Fox Poems

Kennings

Prey catcher
Stealthy hunter
Swift mover
Bushy Tail
Pricking ears
Emerald eyes
Razor teeth
Loud bark

Isabel McDonald TD

Haiku

A fox is dashing
Over the great green green fields
Very swift mover.

Isabel McDonald TD

Tanka

A fox is running
Over the bright sunny meadows
A small red blur there
Always ready for the world
Only another long day.

Isabel McDonald TD

Cats

The Cat

Bird Swallower
Garden Litterer
Kitten Producer
Mouse Chaser
High Leaper
Dog Fearer
Milk Lapper
Catflap User

Lewis Ross TD

Transitional

The Chase

The fierce cat leaps down,
Her eyes are fixed on her prey,
The helpless mouse shrieks.

Lewis Ross TD

A Beautiful Thing

A beautiful sight,
The kitten meows for its mum,
A soft, furry touch,
Helpless in their own darkness,
They emerge into the world.

Lewis Ross TD

The Predator

A jaw snapper
A bone cruncher
A meat eater
A fast glider
A sharp-eyed brute
A sneaky reptile
A secret listener
An old dinosaur
A hard-boiled egg
A severe predator
A spiky monster
A lazy beast.

Matthew Scott TD

An Ancient Brute

An old dinosaur
A meat eating predator
A sleepy monster

Matthew Scott TD

A View to a Kill

A spiky monster
A bone crushing old dino
A racy glider
A large man killing beastie
An overall predator

Matthew Scott TD

Frogs

Kenning

Fly catcher
Lazy dozer
Green lump
Pond king
Singer show-off
Bug muncher
Cat plaything
Hand wetters
World watchers
Speedy hoppers
Olympic winner

Naomi Gillies TD

Tanka

Looking at the fly
Watching it nervously fly
Eyes moving wildly
Getting frustrated
Smack, you shouldn't have flown by.

Naomi Gillies TD

Haiku

I live in a pond
Sitting on a lily pad
Now getting hungry

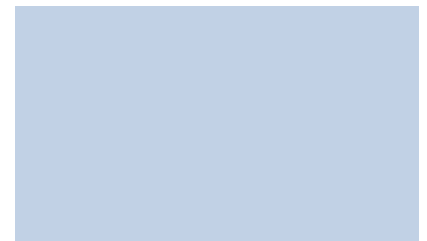
Naomi Gillies TD

Rabbit

Kenning

Big ears
Happy hopper
High leaper
Carrot cruncher
Lettuce muncher
Rather small
Fluffy fur ball
Quiet squeaker
Cucumber sneaker
A small twitch

Noah Parker TD



Art Club

This year the primary school has enjoyed Art clubs for two different year groups – primary 3 and primary 6.

Primary 3

Primary 3 pupils attended a lunchtime Art Club during Terms 2 and 3. Activities were centred around developing paper skills and included: making bookmarks, jellyfish, stained-glass windows, concertina cards, picture frames and origami. A big thank you too to the enthusiastic Primary 6 pupils who volunteered their support. The Primary 3 pupils enjoyed the social interaction with one another and appear to have enjoyed the variety of activities on offer.

'I really enjoyed making jellyfish because it was fiddly,'

Callum Jones P3

'We like Art Club because you can do different activities. We especially liked it when we made pop-up ballerina cards and handed them to each other,'

Astrid Lindgren and Catriona Robert P3

'I liked making the window pictures,'
Sadia Shakoor P3

'I really enjoyed everything because it is really fun and nice people,'

Chelsea Fearnley P3

Primary 6

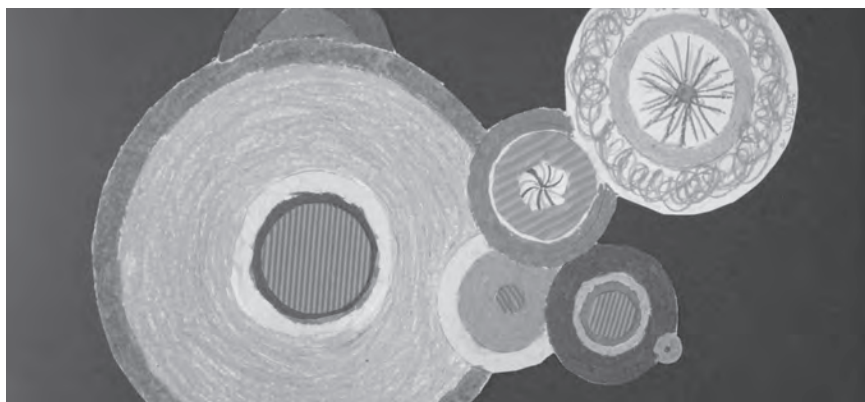
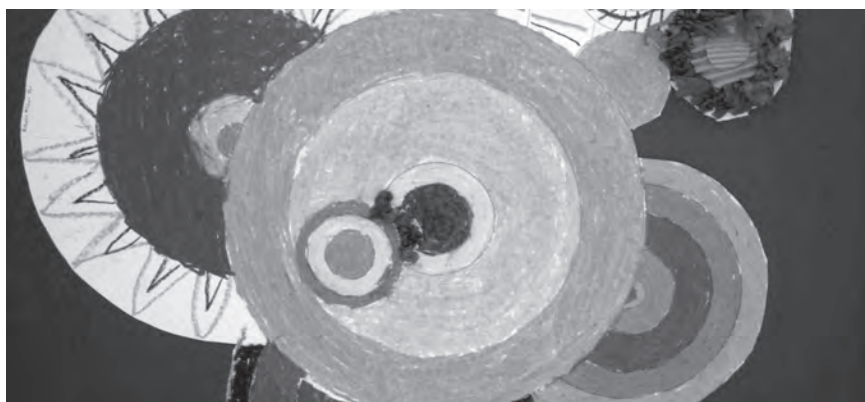
Over the summer term, Primary 6 pupils have been offered the opportunity to develop their creative skills in the weekly art and design club. The budding artists have enjoyed experimenting with a variety of materials to create texture and depth and have refined their painting

and blending techniques.

Pupils have produced an impressive range of creative work, including intricate creative mixed media work inspired by the artist Kandinsky and tile designs which were combined together to produce a large collaborative design. Recently the art and design club have studied

landscape paintings from Vincent van Gogh to abstract artist Ben Nicholson and have successfully developed their own unique methods to create a landscape from paper layering and sponging.

G Wilkie
K McCain



Computer Club

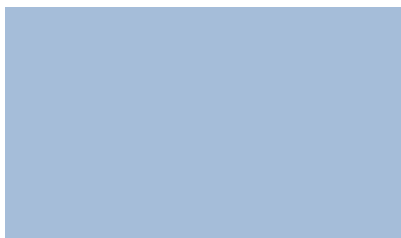
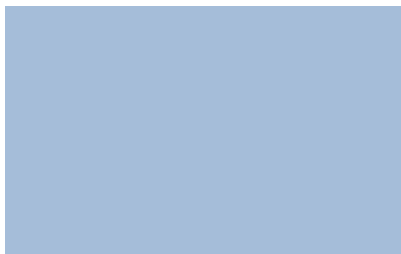


Pupils from Primary 4 and Primary 5 were involved in the Computer Club this year. They had opportunities to use different software and carry out different activities from what they might do in the class situation.

The Primary 5 group were shown how to use a spreadsheet to do calculations and were amazed to see how quickly it could do the 99 times table! They also used a spreadsheet to help budget their Christmas shopping at Argos Online.

Primary 4 were busy making banners, Valentine Cards, symmetrical pictures and PowerPoint presentations.

M Anderson



Drama Club

Over the course of the session, 55 pupils from Primary 5 to Transition have been regular participants of the Primary Drama Club. Run in groups, children experienced a cohesive programme that embraced many key drama skills.

Children have played drama games, created adverts, attended a gibberish conference and even put on mini plays including alternative versions of fairy tales! The more dramatic the better!

There have been memorable performances from Mr Egbert Nosh and what Drama Club would be complete without villains, evil queens and grumbling princesses!

A great session of activities much enjoyed by all!

A Dickinson

Quiz Club

Following on from our sixth place in the National Final last session, expectation was running high for this year. Initially a group of almost twenty Transitional pupils came along but this number soon decreased to a group of between ten and twelve. The pupils worked hard and enthusiastically as selection for the squad grew closer. Finally, the day arrived and the chosen squad was Adam Davie, Naomi Gillies, Katie Hiscocks and Kate McCallum with Matthew Barrie as a reserve.

The local round was held at Crieff High School and, despite a valiant effort and some excellent answers, the team missed out narrowly from going through to the next round in Perth.

A Robertson

Eco-Kids

Eco News

The Eco Club have had an exceptionally busy and successful year. A committee of 4 pupils and 3 staff members was established back in October in order to steer the work of the 25 strong Eco Club. Work on the Eco Project elements of School Grounds and Biodiversity has been relentless with the children busy planting, weeding, watering, laying garden borders and seeing to any stray bits of litter.

In October the Eco Club held a cake and candy stall to raise funds to buy gardening tools and other equipment needed for the project. This was a great success and the club has been able to tackle and enjoy many activities throughout the year, from making Valentines tea-light holders to rain collectors from old plastic bottles.

F Harvey



Eco Mottoes

Morrison's, Morrison's the Eco School,
Everybody tries to keep the rules,
Respect, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
Don't drive to school, why not cycle?
Grow and eat your greens,
Don't be Eco mean,
Pick up litter, put it in the bins,
Please don't commit any Eco sins,
We look after wildlife,
We try to keep them out of strife
By keeping to these rules, we keep our school beautiful.

Lucy Johnson P6, Emily Deans P6, Sam Dillon TD and Saskia Ohara P4

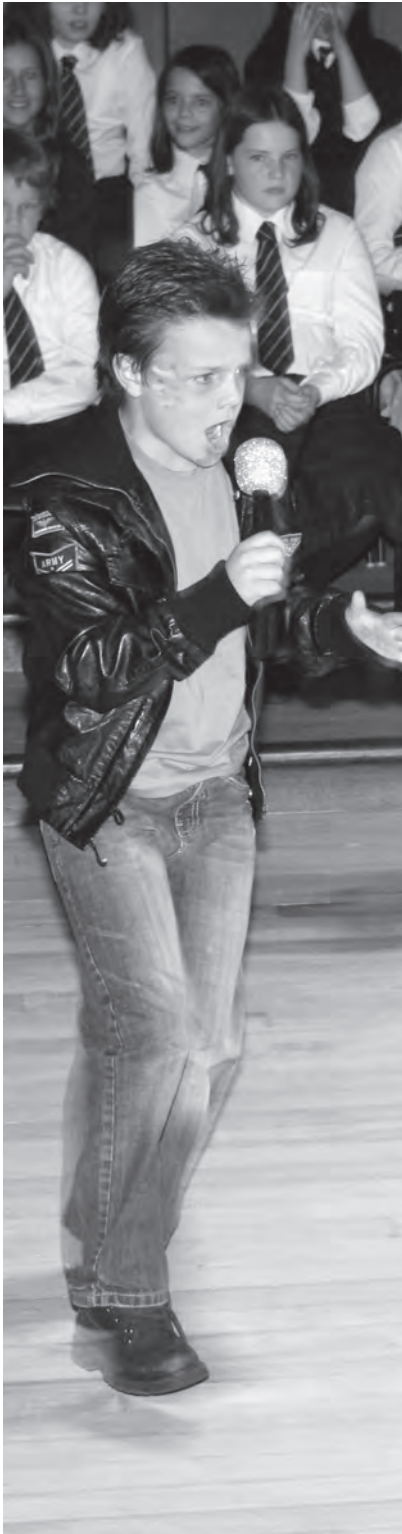
Environmentally friendly
Conserve water
Often walk or cycle to school

Focus on healthy eating
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
Invoke wildlife into our Eco school
Everybody plays their part
Never waste paper
Don't drop litter
Lights should be off when no-one is in the room
You should always be ECO FRIENDLY!

Naomi Gillies TD, Emily Graham TD, Libby Dillon TD, Megan Davison P5



When the Hippos Crashed the Dance



Think of a perfect summer show: laughter, a touch of vaudeville, good tunes, catchy words and a slick performance. That was the treat in store for capacity audiences in Memorial Hall during the brief run of this Primary extravaganza when a large cast of pupils from Primary 5 to Transitional sang, danced and joked their way through an entertaining script and demanding routines with all the confidence of seasoned troupers.

Introducing 'Strictly Animal Dancing', Lewis Ross (Owl), in Bruce Forsyth mode, was assisted by Rosie Beech (Ostrich). These were clever performances, engaging the audience in the jokes and the story and inviting noisy reaction and applause, orchestrated by Giles Harker (Penguin the Floor Manager). A fine solo performance by Hamish Riddell (Turtle) invited the cast to 'Come out of your shell' and soon the stage was filled with the various competing groups – Bunnies, Flamingos, Snakes, Hens and Roosters. Through them romped the four rumbustious Hippos, led by Ruaridh Lauchlan, archetypal hoodies in a fun-fuelled frenzy all of their own. Of course they were banned and even the gentle advocacy of Rebecca Coffey (Field Mouse) could not get Owl to change his mind. Enter the Judges – Gavin Tainsh (Len the Lion), Christopher White (Craig the Crocodile), Alison Christmas (Arlene the Arctic Monkey) and Jamie McLaren (Bruno the Bear) – and on with the show!

First on were the Bunnies, pink-eared, white-scuffed, demure, followed by the Snakes, led by Jonny Carswell (Elvis Snake) with a hip-wriggling performance worthy of the King himself. Next came the Flamingos, long-legged and elegant, with engaging pink net bows for tail

feathers, and then the Roosters and Hens performing a lively square dance, called by Noah Parker.

Needless to say, each routine in turn was 'crashed' by the Hippos, suitably disguised but totally failing to conceal their anarchic identity. Each time, they were ordered off before the Judges delivered their verdicts. These were splendid performances; Jamie McLaren's impassioned 'Bra-VISS-imo', Gavin Tainsh's measured deliberations and dreadful one-liners, Christopher White's world-weary marking down and Alison Christmas' "professional" analysis all combined in a witty and well-observed pastiche of reality TV. The audience loved it, and the Judges milked the situation to the last drop! A happy ending, with the repentant Hippos rehabilitated and acclaimed, brought the show to an all-singing all-dancing finale.

What fun it was, for cast and audience alike. The musical accompaniment from Mrs Susan Smart (piano), Alastair Hamilton (bass) and Ben Vardi (drums) was impeccable, with a strong rhythmic lead encouraging and supporting excellent performances from all the talented soloists as well as the ensemble. The costumes and masks were simple and effective, and the choreography made clever and imaginative use of the Memorial Hall theatre-in-the-round. And how refreshing to attend a school performance in which every word – sung as well as spoken – was so clearly articulated. Warm congratulations are due to the whole team – actors, musicians, and all the many back-stage helpers – and especially to Mrs Joan Taylor for her clever adaptation of the original script and the trademark precision and energy of her production.

Jean Anne Scott Miller

When the Hippos Crashed the Dance



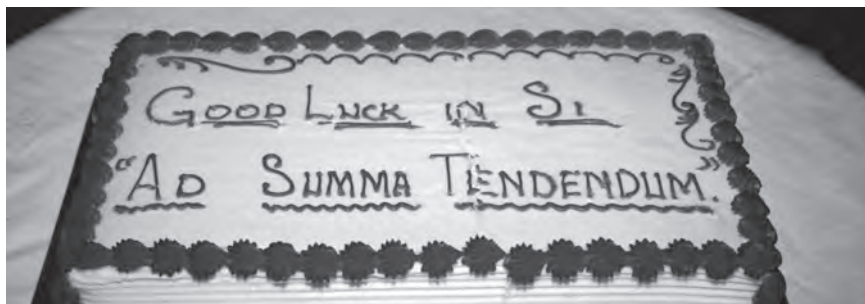
Transitional Farewell

The transitional ceilidh was a very successful event. The pupils and teachers enjoyed themselves greatly. It didn't matter if you ended up dancing with a teacher. In the Dashing White Sergeant, I ended up with Mr Guile and Monsieur Millon. Monsieur Millon was very funny doing his John Travolta moves.

We danced the Gay Gordons and a couple of other dances and then we had a lovely buffet that was made by the dinner ladies. There was pizza, sausage rolls, crisps, juice and a very nice cake that said 'Ad Summa Tendendum'. After that we had some disco songs and then more ceilidh ones. The Academy Hall decorations were beautiful and the DJ was brilliant.

When the night was over, everyone was sad that they had to go, but they were also glad that it had been such a great night. I went home with very sore feet and an inflatable banana that I won for being very happy! It really was a great, unforgettable night!

Jemma Murphy TD



PRIMARY AWARDS AND PRIZE WINNERS

Primary School Prize Winners

Primary 4	Merit Effort	Hannah Boag Elizabeth Said
Primary 5	Merit Effort	May Appleby Torin Gillies
Primary 6C	Merit Effort	Elsie Haldane Alastair Scott
Primary 6L	Merit Effort	Jennifer McDowell Julia Barrie
Primary 6M	Merit Effort	Christopher White Jenefer Strathie
Transitional A	Merit Effort	Katie Hiscocks Calum Savage
Transitional D	Merit Effort	Lauren Strickland Emily Graham

Special Awards

The Philip Cann Memorial Quaich for Chanter	Hamish Riddell
Novice Piping The Campbell Cup	Cameron Lee
Beginner's Drum Pad	Richard Hammond
Novice Drumming The Stewart Cup	Lucy Johnson
Junior Drumming The Taylor Quaich	Matthew Cook
The David Comrie & Son Preparatory Music Prize	Isabella England
The A B Hunter Trophy for Scots Song	Hannah Boag
The David Comrie & Son Trophy for Primary Singing	Holly Boag
The MAPA Quaich for Scots Recitation	Rosie Beech
The Primary Art Prize	Emily Graham
The Lawson Quaich for Contribution to Primary Drama	Lewis Ross
The Ferntower Cup for Most Promising Primary Musician	Amy Smart
The Laidlaw Quaich for Contribution to Primary Music	Naomi Gillies Mellisa McDonald
The House Trophy is won by the Campbells	Amy Smart Noah Parker
The Hay Quaich for pupil who best epitomises the school motto "Ad Summa Tendendum"	Calum Savage

Sports Prizewinners

Swimming	Girls	Winner Runner up	Holly Boag Rachael Love
	Boys	Winner Runner up	Adam Davie Matthew Tait
Tennis	Girls	Winner Runner up	Amy Smart Kate McCallum
	Boys	Winner Runner up	Chris White Alastair Scott
Short Tennis		Winner Runner up	Callum Jones Catriona Roberts

Primary 4 & 5 Sports Events

Long Jump	Girls	Winner Runner up	Rebecca Dye Caitlin Edgar
	Boys	Winner Runner up	William Waller Christopher Campbell
High Jump	Girls	Winner Runner up	Caitlin Edgar Storm Robertson
	Boys	Winner Runner up	William Waller Christopher Campbell
Ball Throw	Girls	Winner Runner up	Caitlin Edgar Rebecca Dye
	Boys	Winner Runner up	William Waller Christopher Campbell

Primary School Sports Champions

Girls	Winner Runner Up	Holly Boag Lauren Strickland
Boys	Winner Runner Up	Donald Strathie Connor Holmes



Secondary

English

S1

Fang of Hope

A lone yellow school bus rattled up the country lane towards the massive Victorian mansion. All of the pupils on the bus were tired but full of excitement about the week ahead.

"Hey, look over there!" cried Madeline, a tall, brown-haired girl in jeans and a strappy top. A shout of enthusiasm came from most of the pupils at the sight of the old house they would be staying at for the week. It had been a long journey and the sight of lights blazing against the just fading daylight was a welcome sight to everyone. As the bus drew to a halt one of the massive, oak front doors creaked open and an elderly couple came out to greet the tired kids. Everyone stumbled off the cramped bus and squabbled over suitcases, eager to get inside to the warmth.

The elderly couple led all the pupils into the main hall. There were crystal chandeliers hanging overhead and paintings running the length of the hall. A big open window stood at the end of the hall bringing a cool breeze towards the hot students.

"Let me show you the dining room; you must be hungry," said the old lady. Everyone struggled towards the door she was holding open, tripping over suitcases and bags in their eagerness for food. Madeline and Eliza were the first to catch a glimpse of the food in the dining room. Plates and plates of amazing food ran the length of an old oak table and right in the centre was a huge leg of ham. Madeline felt sick and rushed back into the now empty hall. A sudden loud bang brought her to her senses as the window suddenly closed without any help from wind or human. She ran back into the dining room,

ignoring the meat and ate as much as she could.

After dinner the old man led the kids to their rooms. They slept in different sides of the house, east for girls and west for boys. Madeline and Eliza were together and looking forward to exploring the house at night. As soon as they had unpacked Eliza jumped onto Madeline's bed and started jumping up and down.

"Calm down!"

"OK, OK," Eliza dropped from the bed with a thud, landing on a loose floorboard.

"So do you want to start exploring now?" Madeline agreed and the girls picked up their torches and crept along the corridor. A while later Madeline came to a dead end and turned round to tell Eliza but her friend had disappeared. She retraced her steps and hurried round a corner to find herself in the main hall where she saw that the window was open. Cautiously she went over to it and looked down. Lying among the bushes was Eliza and a dark shape was speeding rapidly away from her. Madeline was just about to cry out when a loud bang stopped her and with lights in her eyes and a throbbing pain in her head she fell out of the window to lie next to Eliza.

A short while before midnight Madeline picked herself out of the bushes and shook Eliza awake: both had only been lightly stunned but the blow was enough to knock them out for at least an hour. Madeline struggled out of the rest of the bushes onto the lawn and stared around the moonlit garden. Eliza wandered over to where her friend was standing motionless and was about to speak when Madeline started walking away with a fierce look of curiosity on her

face. Eliza ran after her, trying to see what her friend was seeing and eventually she spotted what appeared to be a walled-in garden. Madeline approached the graveyard and saw that inside there was a small figure. As the girls approached the graves the girl turned and cried out, "No, you shouldn't have come here!" "Why not?" asked Eliza.

Her question was answered by a low snarl and both girls spun round to see a small black dog standing behind them with teeth bared. Madeline gave a small cry as the creature's front paw was completely gone and blood was dripping freely onto the frosty ground. She put out a hand to try and soothe her but met some kind of invisible barrier that, no matter how hard she pushed, she couldn't get through. The dog leapt at her but met the same barrier and couldn't quite touch her.

"Madeline, come here," came Eliza's voice. Madeline walked slowly towards her friend's side, not quite sure she wanted to see what her friend was pointing at. "Hope West and her dog Fang, Born 1814 died 1820, When Fang passed away, Hope lost the will to live, They are friends and companions, And will rest peacefully together, When named and reunited." Madeline looked at her friend and approached the girl who was now sitting silently on the wall.

"Hope," she said softly "Hope West - I've found your dog Fang. He's right here." The girl dropped off the wall to her knees and called to her dog. He bounded joyfully towards her and the moment they touched, they both vanished.

English

S1

The next morning Madeline and Eliza woke up lying in their comfortable four-poster beds. Madeline sat up and felt like she had been very ill but she knew that what had happened last night was all true. As the girls were about to go down to breakfast, a small voice echoed round the room.

"Thank you. Now that Fang and I are together we can rest in peace. The sleepless years drove him mad you know and I was scared he was going to do something really terrible next, so thank you." A dog's bark and a child's laughter followed the voice and then faded away completely to show that Hope and Fang were really gone.

"Madeline?" said Eliza.

"What?" she replied.

"Come and look out the window - it's snowing," answered her friend.

The small skeletons that were Hope and Fang lay eternally at rest beneath a blanket of snow.

Rosanna McDermott S1

Rats!

Silent Creepers, Crafty Sneakers,
 Afraid of nothing,
 Shriekers, Squeakers,
 Sharp teeth, large Feet,
 Greasy fur, how they eat!
 Crippled features,
 Cunning Creatures,
 Fat, Greedy
 Fast, Speedy,
 Agile, Active,
 Fearless Fighters!
 Killers, Thieves,
 Vandals, Disease,
 Hide in Sewers, Dark Cellars,
 Their many Lairs,
 Drain Pipes, Attics,
 Everywhere!
 Bite the babies, carry rabies,

Fight the toddlers, kill many!
 Dashing, Flashing,
 Scattering, Scampering
 Scat!
 Cat!

Charlotte Pritchard S1



English

S1

The Sea is a Wild Cat

The sea is a wild cat,
Beautiful and proud,
Her white claws scraping up the sand
And her sleek colourful body
Twisting, turning
In a current of its own.
Green eyes sparkle,
White teeth glisten.
A small fishing boat,
Sailing in the raging wind.
Cunning is the wild cat,
Waiting, body tense,
Dark night, silent,
Muscles ripple, then, Wham!
A paw tosses the boat high,
Sailors scream, mice shriek.

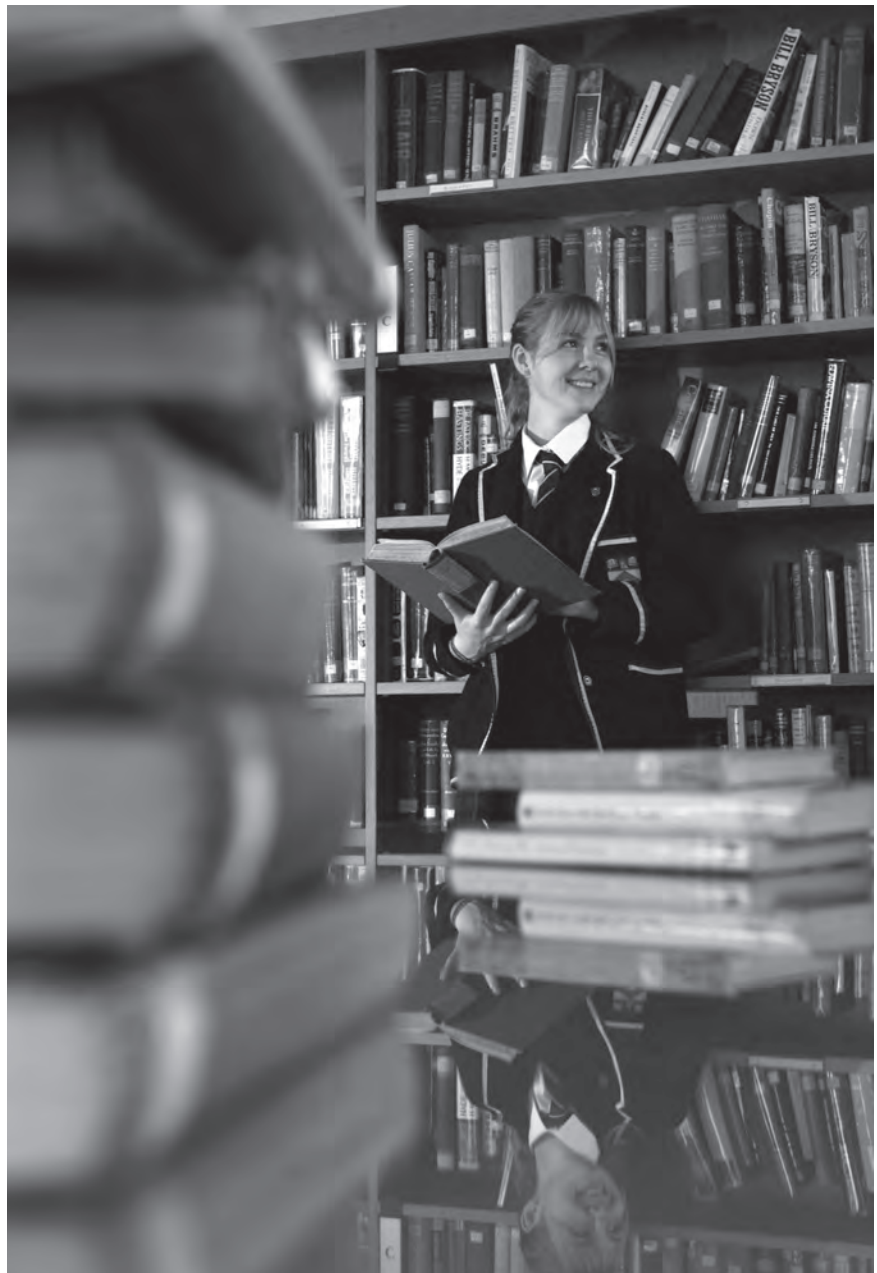
White claws scratch black rock,
The cat rolls about the shore,
And then playfully returns,
Toying and mocking the tiny boat,
Paw to paw, paw to paw,
A flick of a powerful tail,
Then for the final kill,
She pounces high, a beautiful arch,
Down, down she falls,
But the mouse is slick,
Heading towards the harbour,
Its safe mouse hole,
Too narrow for the cat's paw,
She chases it, fury making her
movements sharp.
The storm is still raging with open
hatred,
But the boat has almost reached its
haven.

Then, a paw lashes,
Boat crashes,
Crew dead,
The hunt is now over,
The wild cat calm.
She cleans her paws and raises her
proud head,
Her whiskers welcome in the dawn,
"Look at me," she whispers to the
wind,
"Look at me!"

In the days to come,
Wives and children will mourn,
The destruction and deaths of last
night,
But the wild cat seems almost tame,
And under the wispy clouds and
faded moon

She curls herself into a tight oval
And sleeps the day through.

Charlotte Pritchard S1



English

S2

A Second Chance

"Hey come back here!"

Billy Jones was running as fast as he could through aisle 13 in the local supermarket with a bag full of food and drink. The manager was running after him but could not keep up with the much younger boy. Billy made it to the door and was out in a flash and along the road, still at top speed. The manager had given up trying to catch him saying that it was only a couple of bags of crisps and a few other things. Billy did not stop running until he reached his den where he stopped to examine his takings...

Kirsten Jack S2

The Holiday Nightmare

The plane lurched. George woke with a start, then relaxed back into his chair. His eyes took in his surroundings before closing again. Big, comfy seats were aligned in rows and a T.V. installed into the back of the chair in front of him. This was important as his long, skinny legs needed plenty of room.

George Freeman was 16 years old and lived in Wells with his mother for most of the year but visited his father regularly. His parents were not divorced but they seldom saw each other except when George's mother came down as well. Richard Freeman was a lawyer who had not only won many influential court cases in Johannesburg but in other parts of South Africa as well. Pauline Freeman, on the other hand, was a shopkeeper who earned a modest income. She had lived in England all her life until she had married Richard. They had both moved down to South Africa and lived a happy life until George came along. Wanting to raise her child in England, she had moved back up to Wells, leaving her husband behind.

George himself was a large, tall boy but skinny. He was black with close cropped hair and bright, blue eyes. He worked in Well's Cathedral as a tour guide and played squash regularly. He was proud to be part South African and was also a firm believer in God. The plane lurched again but this time, George slept on.....

Lindsay Duncan S2

Paradise

The July air was brushing against my face and there was a quiet stillness as birds were sleeping, their pinions as bright as gold. The summer breeze was lightly sweeping alongside the leaves of the trees of the unknown paradise; a mixture of yellows and greens, which cannot be distilled by mist, darkness or rain. The river was quietly moving through the rocks and stepping stones; the river like a blue thread, meandering through green cloth. This is paradise.

However, among the emeralds and ambers, a grey giant stands ominously in the middle of the tranquil water. Trees and tulips are darkened by its shadow, shadowed by its darkness, sitting in its iniquitous wake. The huge pillar of rock and granite, knows not of the mutiny below, just of the destruction that it has caused and of the satisfaction it feels. If you look closer you can see this mutation of nature used to be something of beauty, prowess...awe: but man has dug into its core leaving an eternal scar on the natural splendor. This paradise has been marred by mankind.

Alastair Hamilton S2

English

S2

Paradise

As the majestic oaks sway in the slight breeze, the orange globe caresses the fierce blue sky. The sharp green scent of spring echoes in the woods and fields. There are lambs pattering and ewes plodding on the soft, new grass of spring. As the grass ripples, the clouds flow in the everlasting sapphire ocean above. Larks harmonize with the song of the wind as the sheep dawdle in the sea of emerald below. The dark green firs are spearing the sky framed by the broad leaved trees with the tender, green foliage of spring. The wind caresses the saplings which dance in the new light of spring while puddles remain as a remnant of a hard winter. The days linger as the sun longs to stay out and play. The badgers peek out of the perpetual forest as the fields bask in the glorious shining light from above.

Spring has come.

Douglas Guthrie S2

Dead End

I walked down the river side, pebbles crunching under my feet and slowly waded into the ice-cold water. Standing there, with the water around my waist, I thought of how I came to this dark day.

I had led a privileged life. I lived in a beautiful house on the outskirts of London. I had had a private education in one of the top schools in England and a wardrobe bursting with designer clothes. But none of these possessions made me happy; only that could be done by my dog, Violet. She was a gift for my thirteenth birthday and was the only gift that I truly loved...

Honor Morris S2

The Assassin

"Bang" another job well done, another life taken, another day in the life of Russell 'Rusty' Thompson. Rusty lowered the gun and put it back in the holster inside his jacket. He hardly knew anything about the man lying on the floor, the man he'd just killed. All he knew was his name and where he would be found. He turned and left the room.

It was a blisteringly cold night in the North of Sweden. As Rusty waited for the taxi that would take him back to the airport, he could hardly see anything through the wind, fog and snow. Eventually the taxi came and sooner than he knew, Rusty was on a plane taking him back home to California....

Jamie Macdonald S2

The Mother

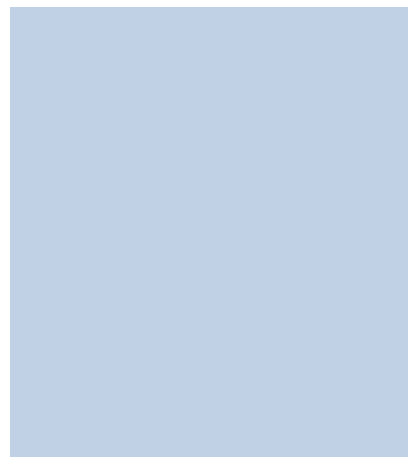
The fierce, pitiless wind howled fearsomely as the shrieking storm reached its peak. Wave after bludgeoning wave battered the craggy cliffs. This was not a night for human or animal to be abroad. This was a night for staying in the comfort and security of your own dwelling.

At the top of the cliff, set back from the edge was a single solitary tree. Deep in the foliage of the tree, four pairs of gleaming eyes stared fearfully into the eye of the storm. The mother cat drew her kittens around her into the heart of the nest, instinctively trying to protect them. The little bundles of fur miaowed plaintively and pawed constantly at their poor mother.

Suddenly, a blinding bolt of lightning cracked open the dark night sky and violently smashed into the trunk of the tree, cracking it like a hammer through glass. Mother and kittens were catapulted through the thundering air and were scattered in all directions. Two of the little babies were pitched into a clump of heather and they lay their dazed. The mother was flung in the opposite direction and slammed into a jagged rock, stunned and disorientated. Blood flowed from a gash in her paw. She levered herself up and frantically scanned the surroundings. Through the slashing rain she spotted her two motionless children and limped towards them. She nuzzled the tiny bedraggled creatures and they stirred. She picked them up carefully in her mouth and hobbled towards the relative safety of a thick bush nearby. She placed the kittens delicately in the middle of the bush,

English

S2



turned, and looked towards the cliff.
Where was her third child?

The deluge continued. She edged cautiously towards the precipice and stared down into the raging torrent below. A few feet down, the third tiny scrap of fur was hanging onto an overhanging ledge for dear life. In the mother's mind, there was only one thing to do. Inch by inch, she descended. Inch by inch she crept down the slippery surface. Every last ounce of energy was being expended to save her baby. Just as the little one's grip started to slip, the mother, fighting through the pain barrier, extended her neck and grabbed the flailing kitten in her mouth.

Inch by inch she hauled and tugged the tiny terrified kitten towards the top of the cliff. Inch by inch the mother was becoming more and more exhausted. With the wind and rain whipping at her, she put every last scrap of strength into dragging her little kitten to the top. With faltering steps, she staggered over to the bush and slumped into a heap beside her loved ones. She was worn out with fatigue but her family was safe.

Erin O'Kane S2

The Wolf

A petite parcel of fur
Blind in all aspects
Diminutive and incensed yips echo around the forest
The siblings combat for food has begun.
A flying whirl of grey – blue colour pursues its quarry
The cub recedes into the fog as the rabbit gathers pace
Being but four months, this Warmth is still infant.
Nonetheless there is an altered existence soon to arise.

The nights draw in and the days grow short.
In the den the Change is lamenting its past existence
The harsh wind groans as the warmth evolves
This ruthless winter will change the Warmth to Bitter forever.

The Bitter pursues its prey, a new - made gleam in its eyes
The deer runs swiftly, but The Bitter is swifter.
The throat is slashed and the pack is fed.
The Bitterness howls with pleasure.

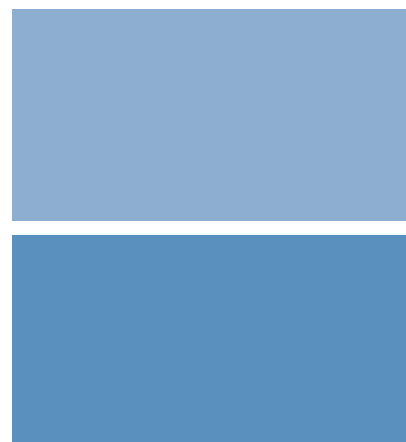
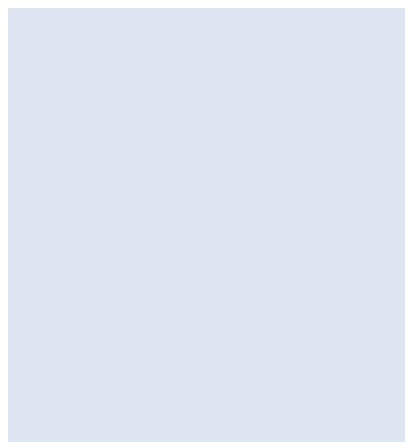
A number of bars separate the Lament from the world.
Wide eyes stare at the mammoth machines screeching past
Their speed impossible, their 'life' undesirable
The Lament howls for the life it will never live.

Though the Petrified can run, the machine can 'run' more.
Ugly beings lean out with large black cylinders in their arms
The Petrified moans as the legs grow tired from racing.
A thunderous crack fills the trees as the Dead crashes down.

I look to see the Thing with its emotions so incredibly varied
Fear pounds through me as I draw nearer to the carcass
Its infancy was so innocentits future was so undetermined

The Wolf is as terrifying as I have always dreamed ...

Lindsey Macdonald S2



English

S3 - Short stories

Midwife Mayhem

The light kept flickering, sending the room into constant shadow. The hall outside was silent and dark; not even a whisper could be heard beyond the open door. The storm outside lashed against the window, seemingly trying to break the glass. The only sound to be heard was the storm outside and my own heavy breathing. This was one of my many night shifts in the midwifery unit I had agreed to take on, but even the fact that I was being paid double time couldn't quell the surge of fear that shot through me every time the lightning flashed. The piles of paperwork I still had to get through lay scattered over the desk. Timetables, rosters, endless names and figures swam before my eyes. I rubbed my face, trying to wake myself up. I needed to keep awake. A waiting silence settled upon the room, watching, waiting. Bending over my desk, I tried to complete the form I had been filling in.

A sudden ring interrupted the silence, sending me shooting to my feet in blind fear. The silence was broken. My hand clapped over my mouth to stifle a terrified scream as I tried to calm the steady throbs of fear that pulsed through my veins. The consistent bell rang through my ears, sending a telepathic message; someone's at the door. I gripped the doorframe and inched out of the room, the feeling of protectiveness washing away the instant I stepped out into the hall. I began slowly walking towards the door, but fear pushed me on, whispering that someone was behind me, stalking my every step. I ended up running to the door at a flat run as if the hounds of hell were after me, slamming into the hard wood and yanking open the door, sensing a

kind of relief when I saw someone was there.

It was a woman. Her straggly hair stuck to her skeletal face, pulled back loose in a messy ponytail. Her skin was pale, paler than any skin I had ever seen. Her thin dress clung to an alarmingly thin figure, dirty and stained as if she had rolled down a steep hill. Her lips were blue and her eyes even more so; an icy gaze bored into my own. She had a cold presence, one that sent shivers up my spine. She looked like a ghost or a madwoman, and I would have shut the door if my gaze hadn't been drawn to her shaking hands clasped round a bump in her middle.

Taking a shuddering breath, I swallowed hard before clearing my throat. "Do you need help?" Her iron gaze dropped from mine, and I breathed a silent sigh of relief. She shook her head, looking anywhere but me. "No," she muttered, stepping back then forward undecidedly. "My baby. You must save my baby."

I stared at her before my brain kicked into action. She needed help, and by the looks of it, fast. She probably had a touch of hypothermia. I nodded and widened the door, inviting her in. "Please, come in. I'd better check your baby."

She stumbled in after me, falling strangely silent. Her rattling breath reminded me of a memory I had been trying not to think about for a long time. I stiffened as suddenly the woman gripped my arm. Her skin was icy cold and clammy, like the hand of someone who has been long dead. I led her to a spare room, starting to shiver as cold tremors went through my body. I helped her onto the bed, taking deep breaths to soothe my

hysteria. I was panicking for no reason, and I could not let that happen. Last time I had panicked, someone had died. I closed my eyes as a brief memory flashed through my brain, one I had been trying to bury.

I was standing in the hospital room, tears sliding down my cheeks as the police took my statement. The limp body on the hospital bed reminded me of my mistake, my horrible, terrible mistake. I walked over to the woman and touched her forehead. I'm sorry, I thought. I'm sorry I killed you.

I shook myself. Get a grip. I brought out the necessary instruments and moved to take the woman's pulse. "No!" she cried, startling me. "Save my baby. My poor, poor baby." I inspected her silently before nodding curtly. "Fine. I'll check the baby first."

I put the stethoscope on the woman's stomach, listening for the tiny drumming of the baby's heart. Again, I felt cold shivers run through me, making me clench my teeth together to stop them from chattering. I turned my attention to the stethoscope, listening with all my might.

Nothing.

I stared at her stomach, fear clutching my heart. I listened in vain once more; listening for the sign that would tell me the baby was alive. Still no sound. I didn't even hear the woman's heartbeat after her baby's own. I removed the stethoscope and took a breath.

"I will have to transport you to another hospital for a scan," I told her through numb lips. "I know this is not what I am allowed to say, but I want you to be prepared. Your baby is dead."

English

S3 - Short stories

A waiting silence descended on the room. I waited for an agonized scream or a great flow of tears, but she just sat there, staring at me, measuring me.

"My baby." She said, her voice mocking. "You must save my baby." Without a word she held out her wrist, her eyes suddenly glowing with hatred. I stared at her hand before taking it, a faint voice whispering what I suddenly thought I knew. "You don't have a heartbeat." I whispered. I stepped back, away from her eyes and away from her still body. "You're dead."

Amy Tait S3

Short Ghost Story

The breath rattled through me, but still I could hear my Father's footsteps close behind. I could also feel the bruises from his last beating, which kept me running. But this was to be worse. I had told my mother that Father was beating me: something he wasn't supposed to do as I was just eleven - and he had to remember what happened to George. George, the brother I never knew, ran away because Father beat him so frequently - he was never seen again. They say that he was about my age.

Mother went out with her friends, but she left Father with me, who followed me round the house. I ran for it, as it was obvious what he was planning. But he was close behind me now.

"Eric, stop!" he panted, "I'm really, really sorry. Please don't run..."

But I ran.

"Please! Please..." the cries died down and I slowed my pace, slightly.

A little while later, scratched and bloody after running through the forestry, I stopped, exhausted and thirsty on the banks of the river, little more than a wide stream at this point. The light was dimming slightly so I thought it a good move to rest here for a while. For the first time, I had a good look at the river, which had always passed more or less unnoticed. The water was diamond clear and so very pure it seemed to emit a certain shimmering glow. The bottom, clearly visible through five feet of silvery lucid water, was riddled with stones of surprising beauty among which many garnets winked in the rippling light. I touched the surface - the clarity exploded into strewn fragments of lost contemplation, but soon reformed, untarnished.

I looked up and with a jump, beheld a boy of about my age, standing on the opposite bank. His appearance, similar in a way to mine, was dishevelled, but he seemed light and free. He was bruised, and his face scratched and scarred. The torn clothes hung loosely around him but he held his head held high. We looked at one another. Without warning, he dived into the clear surface with such breathtaking ease that the water seemed hardly to move. He emerged a little downstream and, shaking his eyes free of his dark matted hair, pulled himself out. I stood up as he approached and grinned foolishly, but he just laughed.

He beckoned me to follow him but I remained still, curious.

"Who are you?" I asked, but was only answered by another beckoning, this time motioning me to follow him into the brush to the side of the track.

"Why?" I heard a crunch down the track and needed no more encouragement. We walked through the dense undergrowth in silence, him taking the lead for a few hundred yards or so.

"Where are you taking..." I was cut short. We had emerged at the cliff edge known only as 'The Crag' by my family. Here trees clung to the edge of the void, as if hoping that they would not be claimed next by the leering precipice. The boy had stopped and was gazing, mesmerised across the fields beyond. A little along from us was the river, plunging over the edge in a graceful fall before touching, almost silently, on the surface below. It then followed the bottom of the cliff into the distance, where a weak, autumn sun was radiating orange light in a last, but vain attempt to stop the close of day.

"We're safe here," the boy's distant voice whispered, "safer than we'll ever be." His eyes were vague and peaceful but he snapped them into focus on mine and the tumult of questions building up inside my mind was swept away in a wash of truth. He saw this and threw back his head and laughed. Laughed into the oppressing, November twilight and laughed at the demons raging inside his head and laughed at the echo of a boy who had laughed long ago. I looked into my brother's cracked, sapphire eyes and, smiling, I threw myself into the abyss.

Hugo Fairclough S3

English

S3 - Sonnets

Emptiness

An empty room is all that's left in me
Abandoned of life and all that makes it home,
And since you left, it's just a memory
Just spaces now, where once you used to roam.
A thought does steal across my troubled brow,
A feeling creeps in to my failing heart,
But still the emptiness does not allow
Even hope to strike a spark and start.
But yet, my stubborn will cannot accept
That you are gone, and all the lights are out.
My destiny, its promise has not kept.
Or has it? In me springs an innate doubt.
Though doubt may now have filled that empty space,
My heart yet pleads for you to take your place.

Alexandra McNaughton S3

London

So many sights to make you stop and stare,
So many taxis all going somewhere,
So many people but none that I know,
So many buses with some place to go.
So many down-and-outs sleep on the ground,
So many pigeons all flying around,
So many fumes all polluting the air,
So many banks with investments and shares.
The hustle and bustle - the city's sound,
The strange existence of those underground,
As the trains stop the people come in waves,
Hundreds of faces all manner of shades.
If you go to London it won't take long.
For you to become a face in the throng.

Ciaran O'Kane S3

That Place

Wandering up to that dark eerie place
Silence slithers past me, winning the race
Heart rate speeds up, mem'ries flash in my mind
Fears I thought had gone begin to unwind:
Dim light, shadows, dark corners and echoes
Whistling wind through cracks in the windows
Creak on the stairs - was that me? I'm not sure
One more dark nightmare I'll have to endure
Fear creeping through me I try to ignore
Panic increasing I reach the large door
I grip the doorknob, my knuckles turn white
Summoning courage with all of my might
I take a deep breath and enter my doom
I really do hate the dreaded Book Room

Rachel Cram S3

The Ode to Perfection

His subtle smell is still lingering on
His taste, paradise, beautifully strong
Not long here but he has gone on his way
This place that he fears is his destiny.
Too tempting to leave alone by himself
I wish I could have him all to myself
Rich and exciting, he's everyone's dream
Hurry up! Quick! He'll be gone and you'll scream!
Fresh and inviting, he's deviously dark.
We all love that something that gives off a spark.
Perfectly textured in every bite,
Beauty and colour an amazing sight!
The ode to Perfection's secret we see,
Is my chocolate cake- it's gorgeous with tea!

Rachel Jones S3

English

S6

Traumatic Tales of Duke of Edinburgh

What terrible calamity could inspire one to feel so hopeless on a Saturday morning? My answer is but three words - Duke of Edinburgh!

Feeling sick with dread, I dragged myself out of bed and pulled on my D of E outfit: a horrible mixture of hideous outdoor clothing belonging to everyone at home - excluding me, of course. Having viewed my reflection in the mirror, I resigned myself to my fate and lugged my heavy feet down to school. A couple of the keen beans were already there, excitedly cramming 'Cuppa Soup' and tent poles into their bags (and most likely a couple of rocks in order to prove themselves macho). Their shining faces of expectation did nothing to improve my mood. I stomped into the kit hut to find our D of E instructor, Mr Jack, who greeted me in a manner of utmost excitement, as if the bronze and silver expeditions hadn't given him enough outdoor experience of recent. On seeing the expression of outright misery on my face, he told me a couple of the old clichés, "... proud of yourself... wonderful experience ... character building..." But all of this, of course, meant nothing to me. All I could think of was the last expedition and how I had contemplated throwing myself off a nearby cliff. Good times.

On arrival in the Cairngorms we saw our second instructor, Mr Anderson, who in true D of E fashion was lit up in anticipation as if nothing pleased him more than the prospect of a four-day hike with a group of school kids. At this point, we were introduced to our examiner who was clearly another insane hiker or 'Munro bagger' as Mr Anderson had proudly referred to

himself. "Hullo, folks," he began in a strong Scottish accent, "Aye am an examinur fir the Duke of Edinbroh's Aword scheme..." he said, beaming around at us as if there were no finer job anywhere. The other group set off first, leaving us to 'chill' with the teachers and some other random walkers. Riveting.

We walked. And we walked. I was doing quite well, until the current self-appointed navigator informed us that we had to climb a nearby mountain. Convinced - or rather hoping - he was wrong, I snatched the map off him. Time to brush up on the old navigational skills I thought as I checked the map but, to my horror, realized he was right. I wanted to throw down my bag and scream. Oh, I had seen it on several previous D of E occasions: on silver, my friend Morag decided that the last stretch on that sweltering day was all too much, so threw her bag down a hill, sat decidedly on the ground and sobbed that she couldn't possibly go on. We were then forced to retrieve the bag, give her some chocolate whilst Emily and Lisa swiftly broke into a heated argument over which of them would carry her empty water bottle. But I would not be defeated by the wilderness, so I marched up that hill, spurred on by the prospect of a cuppa-soup and a night in a freezing tent. On arrival at camp, a good ten or eleven hours after departure, we were greeted by teachers who were busy befriending a few other walkers crazy as them for choosing to walk for miles in the middle of nowhere simply for the novelty of sleeping outside.

Soon we had picked a random site (those entire lessons devoted to selecting the exact right spot to pitch a tent had clearly gone in one ear

and out the other) and threw our tent up as quickly as possible. We stood back to admire our handiwork - it seemed in definite danger of collapse. But we simply laughed - a technique often employed on D of E to stop oneself from crying. And so, I was greatly surprised next morning when I awoke to find myself still in a standing tent. Rather impressive for Alexandra and me who are not exactly just the people you might need in a camping emergency.

We sat around the pretend camp fire (a real one is a hazard, apparently, and strictly forbidden) to lumpy porridge and set off for another day of what promised to be highly exciting walking. Carefully treading through miles of thick bog, I thought back to Third Year when it had been announced that pupils in our year could start D of E. Of course, a large proportion of us stormed Mr Jack's classroom in desperation to do bronze, and he calmly informed us that he would select 14 names from a hat and put a notice of the chosen few on his door. The suspense was unimaginable. When the wildly anticipated list did appear, it was big news. I remember craning my neck to see over everyone else and glimpsing my name, delight flooded through me: those who were not on the list were inconsolable. Only seven of our original group now remain. And that's what I call ironic.

"Stop!" One of the boys at the front informed us that we had taken a wrong turning and to quickly get back on track we must climb up a small cliff face. I thought this was a ridiculous plan and glared at the stupid boys who were now voicing their shared opinion that this cliff climbing idea was genius. So we

English

S6 - Traumatic Tales of Duke of Edinburgh (cont.)

started up this nemesis, hanging on to miserable weeds for dear life, feet slipping dangerously on the scree. Someone yelled in utter excitement how fun and exciting this was. Yeah. Shortly after this ordeal we met a couple of 'Munro baggers' who had clearly mistaken us for a group of outdoorsy freaks like themselves. We explained that we were on our gold D of E expedition and they beamed at us - they were obviously in favour of this torture of youngsters. We then realized that we were severely behind schedule (a major blow to the boys who continued to insist that a five minute stop is a sign of weakness) and marched for the rest of the day, as I told myself that I could not give up and be rescued... though the thought of the mountain rescue service arriving on scene to aid a group of courageous D of E'ers in a helicopter did appeal to me greatly.

Feeling emotionless the following morning, I knew I must be entering the next phase of D of E. First dread, then despair, then comes laughing at yourself - and finally just not caring anymore. A little smile flickered across my face and I felt rather pleased with myself for having come up with this theory. (I had clearly become so brain-dead that I thought my theory both interesting and clever: a true cause for despair). I didn't care that we smelled so bad that flies were starting to follow us. I didn't care that I only knew we smelled bad because I saw the flies. I felt much better, setting off with a very munro bagger-like spring in my step. But then I got some devastating news: namely that we were to take a 'short cut' over a heather-covered, pathless mountain. This was another stupid idea. But it seems that the others had not been blessed with the short-cut taking

childhood that I had, so we headed up the mountain. When I was younger, I had loved it, and even looked forward to getting up at 3am with my Dad to climb mountains and have breakfast at the top. This time I looked up to see that I was well at the rear of the group and feeling completely inadequate. I stormed off at top speed, moving at a glacial pace compared to everyone else. Furiously unhappy, I resolved that I would not be defeated by this mountain- this was the only way home. I pushed on resolutely behind the others, and finally collapsed over the top.

The next stretch was thankfully downhill and I felt fantastic... I could practically hear the 'Lord of the Rings' soundtrack echoing in the valleys! Oh my God. I was clearly turning into one of those people who I had sneeringly dismissed - a walking enthusiast. But it mattered not, for I was finally in the 'let's keep walking' frame of mind rather than the 'let's throw ourselves off that cliff' one. On arrival at yet another campsite, we realized that the wind had picked up a few notches and had to engage in some full-on wrestling to get the tents up. But by this stage, I cared not a jot that civilisation did not exist- I lived in the mountains!

Next morning we awoke to Mr Jack's "Time to get up, folks!" in his usual cheery manner but no doubt he was feeling a bit disappointed - this being our last day and all. We packed up our tent for the last time (unless, as the teachers had enthusiastically recommended, we organize our own platinum D of E... I don't think so). I felt, and most likely looked like, I had fought in battle but it mattered not as today was our last and I was going to

finish this infernal 'adventure.' However, after about five minutes, my fairly optimistic attitude had vanished. The familiar facial focus of furious determination was back - a highly attractive look which I know will take botox years to reverse. As I fought through the thick heather, absolutely determined that I would do this, I listened to the boys who were starting to plan their next outdoor adventure and cheerily invited us to join them. Seriously, some of them can only be called as keen as teachers, having described D of E as a 'total party.' I, of course, thought this was perfectly ridiculous.

A couple of hours later we could see some... wait for it... buildings! And looking from the highest point at the little town in the valley, glistening like a beacon of hope in the bright sunshine, I felt on top of the world. If I had broken my leg at that moment, I would have hopped; if it had snapped off, I would have rolled - nothing would stop my re-emergence in society and a hot bath! We were so close. It was then that I remembered one particularly humiliating expedition where every single member of the group had broken down crying, only to be greeted at the finish by our school's photographer who forced them to climb another hill and stand in some ridiculous formation to pose for a photograph for the school magazine: 'Sweaty, Muddy and Greetin' Spice, all smiling for the camera whilst everyone treated us like some national heroes returning from war. Surprisingly enough, that picture didn't make it into the magazine! I looked up and saw the end point looming straight ahead. Cheering, we ran. Throwing down our heavy bags, our bodies feeling lighter than air, we

English

S6

threw our arms around each other. We had done it! I was glowing with pride and joy. Now who mentioned... platinum?

Catie Gray S6

Transatlantic Tale

The occupant of the seat in front suddenly writhed and drove the plastic fold-out table further into the belly flab which Una had been teaching herself to ignore over the last few months. Unfortunately, she could not readjust her seating position because her mother had insisted on sitting on her skirt. This meant she was made to lean in the direction of the sweating passenger beside her. If this wasn't bad enough her personal space was invaded again and again when her mother wrestled to adjust her specially purchased flight socks. The TV screen in the back of her seat was starting to sting her eyes and they watered profusely in the dry air of the cabin. This was meant to be a holiday but how comfortable were sticky dates in a sweaty box meant to feel? As the audio for the film she was bravely attempting to watch did not entirely drown out the conversation beside her, Una was forced to listen to her mother's incessant chirping to some complete stranger in a fake English accent meant to disguise that of her rather broad Scots, "Aam originally from Glasgae but you cannae tell!" Only six and a half more hours to go...

From seat numbers 259- 260 a loud description of medical misfortunes had started up which was impossible to ignore...

I HAD THEM BOTH REMOVED YEARS AGO...

After sleeping for what felt like two minutes, Una was brutally shaken into consciousness by a squawked call to "DINNER!" Her mother asked the extremely busy flight attendant about all of the ingredients within each meal on offer, using extremely exaggerated arm movements which whacked Una in the face several times. Why her mother needed to enquire so deeply into whether any animals were endangered in the process of making the meal was unclear, as she'd been given the only options of roast beef or chicken. She cried, "But ah dinnae like meat!" It was the same thing when they went to Uruguay last year, and Venice the year before that, when her mother had ordered her meal according to the exact proportions demanded by Weight Watchers and then poured salt all over it. The complaints before, during and after the holidays about how she had 'pit on weight' were completely justified by her inability to cut back.

Una devoured the hot, brown meat-like material, not thinking too much about the different gelatinous textures squirming in her mouth. The complete stranger was apparently not so foreign now, but proved himself still strange by sinking his yellow plaque-ridden teeth into the equally yellow plastic roll provided. Una tried not to pay attention as he talked animatedly about his pet poodle's fascinating accessories. But sadly this fascinating story was drowned out by:

...REALLY? WHAT EXCESS FLUID?

When the turbulence began, her mother gripped the man beside her in mortal terror. Soon Una's stomach too began to churn, due to the twisting, thrashing and rolling - and that was just the newlywed couple on

her right. As they jiggled in their seats, their freebie earphones flapped against their ears, labrador-like, distorting the music's romantic ambience.

...THEY WERE YELLOW? ... LIKE BILE?

The fun-filled ride continued as Una's mother extracted a creased fragment of paper from her every-occasion pack of 'useful' detritus. This piece of toilet paper was described as a map from the 1980s. Politely requesting to see the artefact, Una informed her mother that she thought New York might be somewhat different now. For example, Coffee Stain roundabout and Chocolate Brownie Smudge Park were likely to have been relocated.

...ENORMOUS, IT WAS...

The next performance for their newfound relation, Mr Fungusfangs, was the mockery of Una's passport picture. It was admittedly unflattering, even amusing, but probably wasn't worthy of the falsetto screeching which it provoked. Una's guardian shouted, "Ma bladder's gonna buhrst!" This meant she needed to visit the toilet, despite the fact that Una had just settled herself. Squeezing out of her 'chair' Una allowed her parent to clumsily fall across her, until she poured herself all the way into the aisle. Slumping back in her seat, Una prayed for their arrival...Six hours and twenty-nine minutes.

...SO THEN THEY BROUGHT OUT THE SCISSORS...

Una gave up on the Cannes-also-ran film when an air hostess (badged 'flight attendant') shoved some documentation under her nose. The words described immigration details. She hadn't wanted to be an Immigrant, with all the associations of

English

S6 - Transatlantic Tale (cont.)

queuing and delousing, but right now she'd settle for some solid ground and a nice spell in quarantine. There were tick-boxes making sure that things like illegal bombs, weapons and soil samples weren't being brought into the country. Under the section "food" she ticked 'yes' - in the hope of getting some. Technically, she did have food...there were several packets of emergency crisps stowed in her flight bag. Una was sure that those men standing under the sign saying 'welcome,' armed with rifles, wouldn't take it seriously. She was wrong.

After the retinal photograph, facial mapping, fingerprints and handwriting tests, her mother and she proceeded through immigration. Una had underestimated the security measures: they found a platoon of gun-toting paramilitaries heading in their direction eyeing up her mother's seven different cases of 'healthy snacks'. Casually slipping on her sunglasses and lingering behind, she sniggered as the elder was taken to another building for 'a thorough searching.' An hour later, Una's mother reappeared, dishevelled, and they walked silently to the air trains. Evidently that joke about the hidden cocaine had fallen a bit flat.

259- 260 had now caught them up

...AFTER HOW LONG DID IT START TO SMELL LIKE THAT?

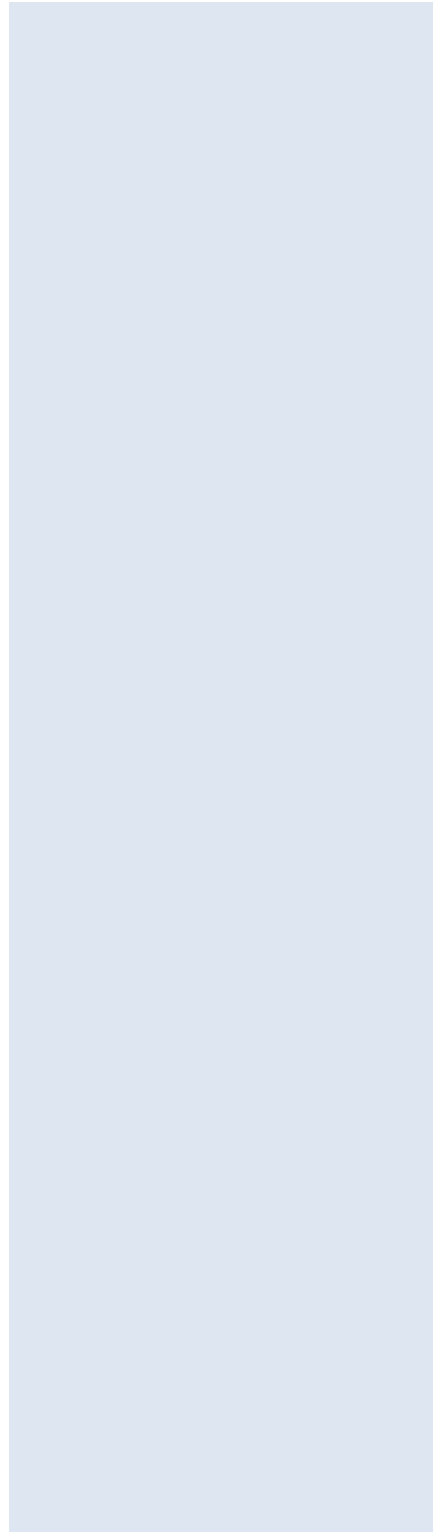
Figures dressed in scarlet, shouting platform numbers, suddenly appeared and began pointing in random directions. The incoherent noises of their walkie-talkies drowned out their already incomprehensible instructions, "Take a left, then a right, straight forward, back, then in." Obviously, these were the guys who had failed the IQ test to join the first

wave of airport militia. Ordered onto the green carpet, now grey and smooth like lino, the two women waited for passengers to descend before pushing into the spacious carriage (clearly only meant to hold four massively obese locals at a time). Crushed against the grimy window, Una's mother asked directions from all twenty transients until everyone was on first-name terms. The fellow travellers, shocked and awed by her mother's verbal engagement, breathed in to let them both off first when the carriage halted, "That wiz pure dead brilliant, that wiz."

To Una's horror, the exit steps now made the mistake of leading upwards. Her baggage weighed in at more than thirty kilos - even after discarding the life-support sweeties and magazines. This ballast would all too soon be replaced during the frenzy to stock up on duty free Statues of Liberty and Hershey bars - whatever they were.

Revealing as little underwear as possible, Una hoisted her tights up like the Union Jack and muttered a warning to New York City - the British were coming.

[Helen Andrews S6](#)



Computing and IT

This has been a year of trying out new things. We have been introduced to Alice and Scratch to develop our programming and design skills, have learnt about smart textiles (and had a go at creating some) and have matched ourselves against other schools in computing competitions. In these two pages you can read about what we have been up to as well as the success of one of our recent former pupils.

Make sure you read right to the end to find out how pupils can benefit from huge discounts on software from Microsoft and Adobe (and the school can benefit too).

Programming

For a number of years we have been using LOGO to teach introductory programming concepts as well as to provide a framework for developing computational skills and learning about the design process. This year we introduced two new programming environments Scratch and Alice which proved to be very popular.

Scratch

Scratch is a new programming language that makes it easy to create interactive stories, animations, games,



music and art and then to share these creations on the web. It is freely available from <http://scratch.mit.edu/>.

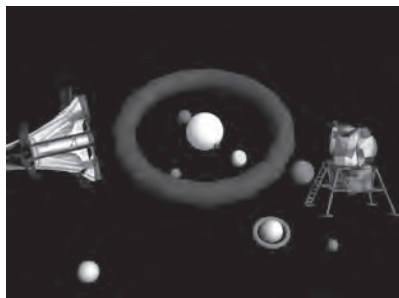
Scratch is designed to help young people develop learning skills. As they create Scratch projects, young people learn important mathematical and computational ideas, while also gaining a deeper understanding of the process of design.

Alice

S1 and S2 classes were introduced to Alice halfway through Term 2. Alice is a 3D programming environment that makes it easy to create an animation. It is freely available (www.alice.org) and is a tool for teaching object-oriented programming. It is used to teach fundamental programming concepts in the context of creating animated movies and simple video games. In Alice, 3-D objects such as people, animals, and vehicles populate a virtual world and the challenge is to create a program to animate the objects.

By manipulating the objects in their virtual world, pupils gain experience with the programming concepts typically taught in an introductory programming course.

The main reason for learning to use Alice was to enter the Schools' Computer Animation competition (see below).



Google Summer of Code

Rory Forbes, who left Morrison's last year, has been employed by Google to work on the Open Source software project, OpenNMS over the summer. Rory is studying Computer Science at Edinburgh University.

The project is focused on "Web Interface Improvements" and is part of the 'Google Summer of Code' program which hires university students from around the world to code for the summer. 1000 students from 91 countries are involved in the program this year, and all participants are supported by an assigned mentor. Rory's mentor is Rob Moore who is located in Austin, Texas.

You can follow Rory's progress over the summer at www.roryforbes.org.uk

Computing and IT

Competitions

Digital 60

As part of its 2008 celebrations of the 60th birthday of the world's first stored-program computer designed and built at the University of Manchester in 1948, the School of Computer Science at the University of Manchester ran a computer animation competition open to schools across the UK. The competition ran between 1 January and 1 May 2008.

The competition asked entrants to create a short animated Computer Graphics film using Alice, a free computer animation system. There was no minimum length for the animation but the maximum length was one minute. The animation had to be inspired by material from the taught curriculum in school.

Morrison's Academy submitted two entries and Alastair Hamilton (S2) was a prize winner in his age group with his 'Fun Facts of the Final Frontier'. His animation showed the planets orbiting the sun and gave interesting facts about each of the planets. His entry also won a certificate for Best Educational Film across all the age groups. He showed great skill in getting to grips with the Alice programming environment very quickly and richly deserved his success in the competition.



Alastair was able to travel to Manchester to attend the Digital 60 day on 20th June and to receive his award from Professor Steve Furber CBE.

Strathmore Trophy

The Strathmore Trophy is a competition run by Dundee University in which pupils are set a task to test their conceptual and practical programming skills. This year's challenge combined programming with the growing industry of smart textiles. The pupils were asked to create a system which used clothing and sensors to communicate emotions in the classroom. The Morrison's Academy team of Alastair Hamilton, Alex Johnston, Marianne Inglis and Nicola Suiter quickly rose to the challenge and decided to create a garment that could show feelings of boredom and excitement. For their input device the team chose a glove with pressure and motion sensors and for their output device a hat with LEDs that showed a happy or sad face. The concept was simple - if your fingers touched as if you were covering your mouth from yawning then a sad face appeared whereas if you were waving your hands in the air a few times then it displayed a happy face.

Nicola started work with the input device which involved some traditional skills in sewing to ensure that the sensors and communication leads remained within the glove. Alex was given the task of attaching the LEDs and communication leads to the hat which was a fiddly job involving a great deal of wire cutting, twisting and connecting cables. Alastair had the most difficult job of all in writing the code to ensure that the concept became a reality and programming

the circuit board by moving the switches to the appropriate positions. Marianne was the driving force behind the concept and planned the group's presentation which contributed to the final mark.

In the end, despite a valiant effort and having learnt a great deal, the Morrison's Academy team was pipped at the post achieving the second highest score from the judging panel.

RM Basement

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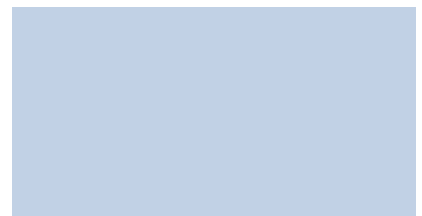
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D Hamilton

P Boal



Modern Languages

French

J'habite dans une grande maison jumelée près du centre-ville de Crieff avec ma famille. J'ai deux sœurs et trois frères. J'ai un jardin de taille moyenne – J'adore ça parce que j'ai un trampoline et je peux faire de la gymnastique ! C'est ma passion ! Ma maison est près du grand hôtel, le Crieff Hydro. Dans mon quartier, il y a beaucoup de très grandes maisons. Il n'y a pas de HLM. Mon quartier est très beau ! Crieff est de taille moyenne, et est situé à trente kilomètres de Perth dans le centre de l'Ecosse. Crieff est assez vieux et historique mais malheureusement c'est assez peu trépidant. C'est vraiment agréable. Quelques endroits sont propres mais malheureusement c'est extrêmement sale ! Il y a une église, un hôpital où ma mère travaille, un supermarché et mon lycée, Morrison's Academy. Pourtant il n'y a pas de cinéma, donc on ne peut pas aller au cinéma ! Il y a beaucoup de choses à faire. A Crieff, on peut faire de l'équitation, on peut jouer au foot ou on peut sortir avec ses copains ! Pourtant on ne peut pas faire de ski et en plus on ne peut pas aller au bowling ! J'habite à Crieff depuis trois ans et j'adore ça ! J'adore ma ville parce que c'est animé et agréable.

Emily Coffey S3

Je me réveille à sept heures et demie. Je me lève à huit heures moins vingt. Je me douche à huit heures moins le quart et je me lave à huit heures moins cinq. Au petit déjeuner je mange des céréales avec du lait et je bois du jus d'orange. Je me brosse les dents à huit heures et quart. Je quitte la maison à huit heures vingt-cinq. A midi, je mange à la maison. Au déjeuner, je mange de la soupe

avec du pain et beurre. Je bois de l'eau. J'adore les pâtes et le chocolat chaud. A quatre heures après l'école, je fais mes devoirs et je lis un livre à cinq heures moins le quart. Je mange avec ma famille à cinq heures et demie. Je mange du poulet avec des pommes de terre, les petits pois et des haricots verts. Je me couche à vingt-deux heures. Le samedi et le dimanche, je me lève à huit heures et demie. Je me couche à vingt-trois heures.

Megan Welsh S1

Bonjour ! Mon lycée s'appelle Morrison's Academy. Morrison's Academy est super à mon avis. Les cours commencent à neuf heures dix et finissent à quatre heures moins vingt-cinq. Il y a huit périodes, une période dure quarante minutes.

Morrison's Academy est près du centre-ville. Le collège est assez vieux mais les bâtiments sont modernes. Il y a cinq bâtiments et le bâtiment Old School a quatre étages, mais le bâtiment Ferntower a deux étages. Il y a cent élèves et trente professeurs. La chimie est ma matière préférée et je déteste la géo. J'aimais la chimie car le prof est sympa et je suis fort en chimie. Je n'aime pas le prof de géo car il est sévère. J'aime le professeur de français parce qu'il est français.

On ne doit pas fumer, c'est une bonne idée. Je déteste fumer et c'est juste. Il ne faut pas manger en classe, cette règle est bête parce qu'il faut manger. Il faut porter l'uniforme à Morrison's Academy. Je pense que l'uniforme est une bonne idée, parce que c'est pratique et on sait toujours quoi porter. Malheureusement, l'uniforme est cher.

Morrison's Academy est fantastique, je suis fou de Morrison's Academy. J'ai

toujours la pêche à Morrison's Academy!

Alastair Hamilton S2

L'été dernier, je suis allée en France. Je suis restée dans un petit village. Je suis partie en famille. Nous avons pris l'avion de l'Ecosse à l'Angleterre. Pendant le voyage, je me suis endormie. On a pris le ferry de l'Angleterre vers la France. J'ai parlé à d'autres voyageurs. On a passé quinze jours en France. On a logé dans un hôtel trois étoiles. J'ai partagé ma chambre avec ma sœur. Je me suis beaucoup amusée. Je me suis fait beaucoup d'amis. Un jour, j'ai fait les magasins avec ma mère. Un matin je suis allée en ville et je me suis perdue. Je suis souvent allée dans les cafés le matin et l'après-midi je me suis reposée. On a très bien mangé et il faisait un temps splendide. J'aimerais retourner à Paris, mais j'ai eu du mal à comprendre la langue parce que les Français parlent trop vite.

Natasha Berrie S5



Modern Languages

Bücher, Musik Und Kino

S3 German pupils write about their reading and musical tastes.

Bücher spielen eine wichtige Rolle im meinem Leben. Ich finde Bücher spannend und eindrucksvoll. Mein Lieblingsbuch ist "The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas". Es geht um zwei Kinder, die in Polen wohnen. Ich mag "The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas", weil es gut geschrieben und kompliziert ist. Bücher sind wunderbar!

Ciaran O'Kane S3

Ich lese ziemlich gern. Ich lese Fantasybücher und Liebesromane. Mein Lieblingsbuch ist 'The Devil Wears Prada' weil es spannend und gut geschrieben ist. Es geht um ein Mädchen, die bei einer Modezeitschrift arbeitet.

Rachel Smart S3

Ich mag Bücher. Mein Lieblingsbuch ist „10th Man Down“. Es geht um einen Mann, der sehr intelligent ist und versucht über die Welt zu herrschen. Ich kaufe meine Bücher bei Ebay, weil ich sie vertrauenswürdig finde.

Andrew Paterson S3

Mein Lieblingsbuch ist Inkspell, weil es so spannend und gut geschrieben ist. Es geht um ein Mädchen und ihr Buch. Inkspell ist echt klasse.

Callum Gibson S3

Ich lese gerade „This Lullaby“ von Sarah Dessin. Ich finde es so lustig und gut geschrieben. Es geht um ein Mädchen, das eine Hochzeit plant.

Emily Coffey S3

Ich bin ein großer Bücherfan! Mein Lieblingsbuch heißt Twilight von Stephanie Meyer, und ich lese gerade das Buch. Wenn ich einkaufen gehe darf ich Bücher kaufen aber nur wenn meine Mutter dabei ist, sonst darf ich nichts machen!

Amy Tait S3

Ich habe Black Hawk Down gesehen. Es geht um einen Mann, der in einem feindlichen Land gefangen ist und er ist ein Actionfilm. Actionfilme gefallen mir, weil sie interessant sind. Leider gibt es kein Kino in Crieff, das nächste Kino ist in Perth.

Paul Phillips S3

Ich bin ein großer Musikfan. Ich singe im Schulchor und ich singe auch im Nationaljugendchor. Ich spiele Geige und Klavier und ich spiele im Schulorchester. Ich liebe die meiste Musik aber ich denke, dass Opernmusik ein bisschen langweilig ist. Ich liebe Musik!

Rachel Cram S3

Ich liebe Musik, ich bin eine große Musikfan. Musik finde ich wichtig. Ich bin sehr musikalisch, ich spiele Klavier und Geige und ich singe im National Mädchenchor. Ich höre gern Jazzmusik, klassische Musik und Popmusik auf meinem I-pod. Ich höre Musik in dem Auto und im dem Bus. Ich denke, dass Rockmusik laut, und Tanzmusik entsetzlich ist. Meine Lieblingsgruppe ist die Beatles- das ist die beste Gruppe. Letzten Monat habe ich keine CDs gekauft.

Emily Harrison S3

Ich bin ein großer Musikfan! Meine Lieblingsgruppe ist Elliot Minor, und ich bin einmal ins Konzert gegangen. Mein Liebessänger ist Paulo Nutini.

Ich habe einen I-pod und ich nehme ihn überall mit.

Rachel Jones S3

Spanish

Mi Tiempo Libre

No soy deportista. Durante la semana toco la guitarra y escucho mucha música. A veces voy al centro de deportes. Por la tarde veo la televisión o hago mis deberes. El sábado voy a la ciudad con mis amigos. Por la tarde voy al cine o voy a un restaurante. El domingo me despierto tarde. Por la tarde a veces voy a un café pero generalmente salgo con unos amigos. De vez en cuando voy al centro de deportes.

Alexandra McNaughton S3



Modern Languages

Mi Tiempo Libre

¡Hola! Los días laborables : Entreno en un equipo de rugby, juego al fútbol para el club de Luncarty . Durante la semana hago la natación.

El sábado: por la mañana juego al rugby. Por la tarde a veces voy a partidos de fútbol para ver mi equipo preferido, Celtic.

El domingo: por la mañana juego al fútbol. Por la tarde me duermo.

Algunas veces veo la televisión. Pero también escucho la música con amigos.

Matthew Ewart S3

Mi Tiempo Libre

Los días laborables: Entreno en un equipo de rugby, hago el fútbol pero lo hago después del colegio a las siete. Durante la semana hago el baloncesto una vez a la semana. Hago el rugby desde hace tres años.

El sábado: Por la mañana, desayuno y juego al rugby. Por la tarde juego al fútbol y con el ordenador con amigos.

El domingo: Generalmente duermo hasta las once. Después del desayuno juego con mi "Nintendo Wii" con amigos. ¡Es divertido!

Algunas veces veo la televisión. Pero escucho la música con amigos.

Andrew Patterson S3

Mi Tiempo Libre

Durante el invierno hago el esquí. Voy a Aviemore para hacer esto. Juego al tenis en verano. También me gusta hacer los deportes acuáticos. Por la tarde veo la televisión y hago mis deberes. El fin de semana generalmente salgo con mis amigos.

Me gusta ir al cine con mis amigos y, claro, ir de compras también.

A veces me gusta escuchar la radio y la música. Toco el violín. Me gusta leer libros.

Emily Scott S3

French Work Experience

After the Higher exams last year, I spent a week in Antony just south of Paris for work experience at "Stallergenes" (a pharmaceutical company specialising in allergy treatments).

I confess, although the point of my trip was to speak lots of French, I was really expecting most of the people I met and worked with to speak English and got a bit of a shock when I quickly discovered this wasn't the case. But communication turned out to be surprisingly straightforward. Everyone I met was keen to chat. Many of them had never met a Scottish person before and I was quickly bombarded with a series of questions about men wearing "Scottish skirts" and haunted Scottish castles they'd heard exciting rumours about. And they had plenty to tell me about the company, the local area, and places in Paris, French politics, their families and way of life.

I found it really rewarding to use my French in a more natural manner, unlike the controlled environment of the classroom where the language has been set up for pupils to understand. Additionally I had some free time to broaden my knowledge of French culture (though not too much I hasten to add - it was work experience after all). I was shown around Antony and given a very extensive explanation of its history; I went into Paris to marvel the sights and soak up the atmosphere, and

even learned some French dancing by the Seine. I was amazed at how much my French improved in only a week, not just in terms of new vocabulary but in terms of confidence to speak the language.

Since work experience I feel more at ease in speaking French: I can chat more naturally, knowing that it won't always be right but that I can communicate. The week was a hugely enjoyable and beneficial experience and when I arrived back in Scotland (fully kitted in striped t-shirt and beret), I felt like a real French person.

I would emphatically recommend a spell abroad for anyone who is keen to improve their language skills, as from both a cultural and linguistic point of view it really is the best way to learn. All that remains for me to do now is to organize a trip to Germany.

Catie Gray S6

Erasmus Year

James Kuhlwilm left Morrison's Academy in 2005 after studying German to Advanced Higher level. He writes about how he is using German in his studies.

After two years of studying Scots law at the University of Aberdeen, I began an Erasmus year at the Albert-Ludwigs Universität Freiburg in south-west Germany. I have been studying German law as part of my degree in Aberdeen and it has been the most rewarding year of my studies so far. The benefits I have gained are invaluable and I would recommend it as an integral part of university education.

Erasmus is an exchange funded by the European Union to encourage European university students to travel

Modern Languages

around Europe to learn and to interact with different cultures. Aberdeen offers the largest number of exchanges of the Scottish universities. Law students can choose either to study in an English-speaking university or in a university where all the classes are taught in the language of the chosen country. Having learnt German at school and continued to study the language in Aberdeen, I was eligible to do my exchange in a German university – either Marburg, Regensburg or Freiburg, all great university cities in their own right, but having spoken to a few students from the university in Freiburg, there only seemed to be one option and I decided to spend my third year of university in the sunniest city in Germany.

Although I was keen on the idea of going to Europe for a year to study in an English-speaking university, where classes would certainly be a great deal easier, I decided that going to Germany to improve my foreign language skills was by far the better option. Firstly, German is a valuable language to learn, particularly if you take an interest in business and law - German companies are always looking for native English speakers who can also speak German.

The semester in Freiburg does not begin until the second half of October, so I decided to apply for a job in Freiburg in order to improve my German before I started law classes and also to get to know the city. Many Erasmus students chose to do a language course in August and September, but I took a different route and one which I would strongly recommend. I searched Google for all the bars in Freiburg and sent away my CV with a covering letter to dozens of human resources managers. Only the Haubrauerei Feierling replied and I

managed to arrange a meeting for a few days after my arrival. There was a job vacancy and I was there at the right time to fill it. I worked there pulling beer from July until the start of October, working with 75 other German students. This served as my intensive German language course. My German improved immeasurably so that I was conversing in everyday language by October. I also got to know my colleagues very well and they were always there whenever I got lost as to the way things are done in Germany. Added to this, I was very well paid (Germans tip a lot better than Scots) and I was allowed plenty of free homemade beer.

After a five month break from any form of academic endeavour, it was a shock to the system to have to sit down at eight in the morning to a two



hour long lecture on the German constitution or the importance of §823 in the Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch. All in German of course. Although my German skills were now of a high standard, I was lost when it came to listening to and understanding complicated legal jargon and I have to admit that eight o'clock lectures were often sacrificed. The professors do, however, understand the way things work with Erasmus students and they tend to mark leniently. On an

Erasmus exchange, although learning is of high importance, the experiences which can only be gathered through learning abroad are given more weight than academic success.

An essential part of the Erasmus exchange is meeting new people from all over the world. I shared a flat with a Hungarian, a Czech and a Chilean and have learned a great deal about these various cultures. In a foreign country it is of course important that you can speak the lingo and through talking with people in their native tongue you learn a vast amount more about their culture and their views on the world than if you were to talk in English to one another. It is important to remember that Erasmus was set up to allow young people to travel around Europe and learn from others within the EU, and meeting other people within Europe makes the year worthwhile. Travel is empty without meeting new people and learning from them. This makes learning languages of vital importance. I personally regret the fact that I dropped French after my fifth year at school because I see now how important it is to learn foreign languages.

My year in Freiburg has been the best year of my studies so far and I strongly recommend the Erasmus programme and learning foreign languages. The language skills which I have picked up will be valuable in years to come and the knowledge which I have absorbed through learning from other people from many different cultures is immeasurable.

Freiburg im Breisgau – Deutschlands sonnigste Stadt

Freiburg ist eine Stadt in südwest Deutschland in der Nähe von den Grenzen mit Frankreich und der Schweiz. Man muss nur vierzig Minuten

Modern Languages

mit dem Zug fahren und man ist schon in einem anderen Land mit verschiedenen Leuten und Sprachen. Dies macht diese Ecke Deutschlands perfekt für Reisen.

Es gibt 200.000 Einwohner in Freiburg und ungefähr 40.000 davon sind Studenten. Die Stimmung der Stadt ist deswegen sehr entspannend mit vielen Cafés und Bars wo man in der Sonne sitzen und mit Freunden reden kann. Die Universität in Freiburg ist in der Stadtmitte und war in November 2007 als eine der eliten Universitäten Deutschlands genannt.

Ost aus Freiburg liegt der Schwarzwald, eine der schönsten Teilen der Welt. Im Sommer kann die Temperatur oft fünfunddreißig Grad reichen und im Winter gibt's viel Schnee zu skifahren und snowboarden. Es gibt auch viele tolle Wander- und Radwege. Man kann in den kleinen Dörfern traditionelles Essen mit hausgemachtes Bier oder Wein mit günstigen Preisen finden. Die schwarzwalde Kirschtorte ist unglaublich.

In der Nähe von Freiburg liegen Strasbourg, wo die europäische Parlament sitzt, Basel und Zürich in der Schweiz (aber man muss viel Geld dort mitbringen), wunderschöne Städte wie Heidelberg und Regensburg sind nur eine kurze Zugreise entfernt und es gibt auch der Basel-Mulhouse-Freiburg Flughafen, wo man nach Italien, Polen, Morrokau oder wo man will günstig fliegen kann.

Freiburg ist die perfekte Stadt für Studenten, die Sport, Reisen und Essen lieben. Für mich ist sie wie eine zweite Heimat.

James Kuhlwilm
Former Pupil

Mathematics

December is an unusual time to start a new teaching post. It is a wonderful time for observing pupils and seeing how excited they are at this time of year. The build up to Christmas, culminating in the Xmas factor and being asked to be a judge, was a fantastic experience at Morrison's. Meeting an abundance of polite and well mannered pupils in the classes I took over was a refreshing change from my previous school. I have very happy memories from there but a new challenge was required.

Pupils greeting me when entering the classroom and thanking me on the way out is certainly one of the nicest aspects of teaching here. The location and environment has made this a very pleasant place to work. It costs nothing for people to be polite and the pupils certainly make teachers smile when they show good manners. I hope this continues for a long time.

Maths Challenge

The United Kingdom Mathematics Trust, founded in 1996 as a registered charity to advance the education of children and young people in mathematics, organise 3 competitions each year covering the secondary school range 11-18. They attract over 600,000 entries from over 4500 schools and colleges and test reasoning and mental agility in maths.

Morrison's Academy has taken part in the challenges for several years and it wasn't long after Christmas that the results from the Senior Maths Challenge were received. Bronze awards were achieved by Ross Jack, Arthur Learoyd and Kate Greenlees in S5 and Jamie Fairclough in S6. A gold award and the best in school went to Alyson Murdoch in S6. Awards in this competition are difficult to achieve so well done to all of you.

The Intermediate Challenge was only available to S3 pupils as the S4 pupils were in the middle of sitting their prelim exams. The maths exam landed on the same day as the competition so it was the younger age group that represented Morrison's.

The Junior Challenge took place on 1st May. S1 and S2 took part in the competition and we were delighted with the number of awards the students received.

On top of these challenges, the same organisation runs team challenges. Hayley McDermott, Richard Wombill (S2) and Zak Howie and Emily Dick (S1) represented Morrison's at the annual Junior Mathematics Team Challenge at Jordanhill Campus, University of Strathclyde, accompanied by Mrs O'Kane. They competed well and narrowly missed finishing in the top half of the competition.

World Maths Day

My first experience of World Maths Day was when I received an information leaflet at the end of January. World Maths Day is one of the world's largest global educational events, aimed at lifting numeracy standards in a fun and meaningful way. It took place on 5th March this year and all S1 to S4 pupils were entered to take part on-line.

Questions come under four categories: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. In each game, pupils have one minute to answer as many questions as they can. When playing a game, the website attempts to find other players of the same level to match the player against. If no matches are found, the player plays "against" a computer. After each game, the results are shown together with the competitors' results. The game is automatically lost by getting three

Mathematics

incorrect answers. Students play as many times as they like over the 24 hour period from both home and school.

Over the duration of the event there were over 1 million students, from 150 countries, online challenging to answer these questions. The winner from Australia correctly answered 65,199 questions and to do this she must have had no sleep! Second place went to a pupil from George Heriot's in Edinburgh. All pupils combined to answer 182,455,169 questions which was a new world record and students from Morrison's contributed to this achievement with 140 students taking part, answering 23,376 questions, spending 1630 minutes (over 27 hours in total) and showing an average improvement of 41%. It is certainly an event that will be added to the maths calendar.

The enthusiasm from the students that took part was contagious and regular discussions took place on who was winning in the Academy and could the pupils beat the mysterious Mr S. McKenzie who had the highest score of 48 questions correctly answered in the minute. Alex Patterson (S1) came the closest from the pupils with a very impressive 37, narrowly beaten by Mr Jack with a last minute 38. Paul Phillips (S3) was first in the number of correct questions answered (1201), followed by Liam Roberts (1137) and Sally Gourlay (1029) who are both in S1. The pupils showing the most improvement over the duration of the challenge were Josh Murchie (S1) with a staggering 450% improvement, followed by Sam Laird (S1) and Reece O'Hara (S2) with 333% and 289% respectively.

WWI Collapsed Timetable

Easter term is always busy with SQA

exams and the need to have all the unit assessments, for all subjects, completed on time. The timetable is collapsed allowing various activities to take place. For pupils left in school they followed the theme of World War 1 and the Maths Department explored the use of codes in the war. This links in with some secret codes already covered in Chemistry and Semaphore from the CDT department.

The lessons introduced the contribution of the Choctaw Indians. During WWI, the Germans were able to decipher all of the allied forces' coded communications. Then something almost miraculous happened. A group of 19 young Choctaw men appeared on the scene, using their own language to transmit messages that the Germans were never able to decipher. That same language later helped bring about a successful end to WWI.

Codes were then looked at, generally, with the Enigma machine investigated followed by codes deciphered using Morse Code, Caesar wheels, transposition techniques and frequency analysis. A pig Pen Cipher, used by the Freemasons in the 16th Century to keep their records private, was shown and an activity to break the code followed. It involves each letter of the alphabet being substituted for a symbol. ISBN book codes were also investigated.

The Caesar Shift Cipher is a simple substitution cipher where each letter of the alphabet is replaced by a letter further along in the alphabet. There are only 25 possible shifts that can be used. To help you crack this Caesar Shift Cipher you may wish to make your own Caesar Wheel.

Your clue is "A Simple Choice" and comes from a very famous novel.

JWEWETWJ, AX LZW LAEW KZGMDV
 UGEW OZWF QGM ZSNW LG ESCW S
 UZGAUW TWLOWWF OZSL AK JAYZL,
 SFV OZSL AK WSKQ, JWEWETWJ OZSL
 ZSHHWFVW LG S TGQ OZG OSK YGGV,
 SFV CAFV, SFV TJSNW, TWUSMKW ZW
 KLJSQWV SUJGKK LZW HSLZ GX DGJV
 NGDVWEGJL. ZSJJQ HGLLWJ SFV LZW
 YGTDWL GX XAJW

The first correct answer sent to the Maths department shall win a Maths goodie bag.

In the coming year there will be more emphasis on problem solving techniques. A lot of pupils find the progression from Intermediate 2, in S4, to Higher, in S5, difficult and this can be attributed to the pace of the course and the problem solving involved with Higher. By practising more of these it should help to bridge the gap. On this theme can you work out how many prisoners escaped from Alcatraz in the following puzzle?

"When a friend was in San Francisco last year, he heard about a puzzle when he visited Alcatraz. 50 prisoners are locked in their cells. The prison guard, not realizing the doors are locked, passes each cell at bedtime and turns the keys once. A second guard comes later and turns the locks in cells 2, 4, 6, 8 and so on, stopping only at multiples of 2. A third guard does the same, but stops at cell, 3, 6, 9, 12 and so on, and a fourth guard turns the lock in cells 4, 8, 12, 16 and so on. This carries on until 50 guards have passed the cells and turned the locks. Then all the guards go to bed. Which prisoners escaped in the night?"

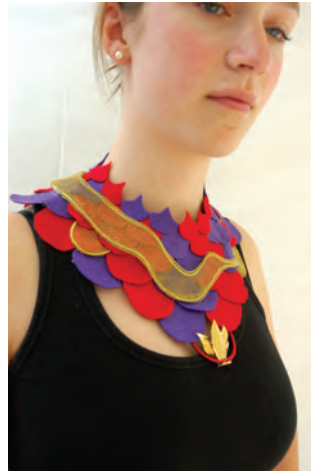
The first correct answer sent to the Maths department shall also win a Maths goodie bag. Good luck and thank you for your support throughout the year.

I Barnett

Art



Emma Marnoch S4



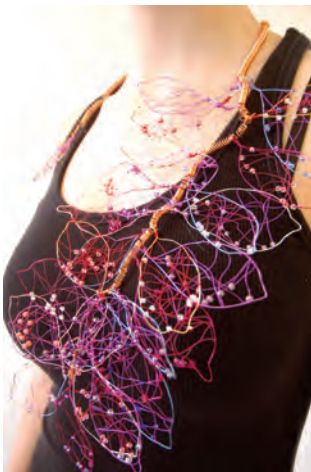
Melanie Stephen S4



Sophie Equi S4



Ruth Thomson S3



Ria Murdoch S4



Ailsa Guntley S5



Catriona Suifer S5

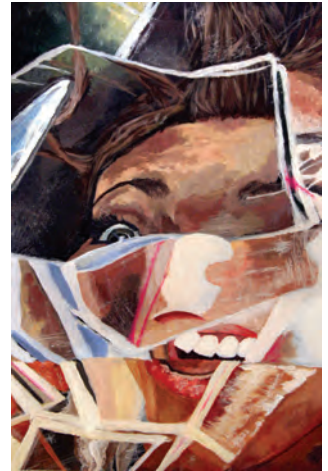
Art



Kirsten Longmuir S4



Madeline Riddell S4



Mandy Brown S5



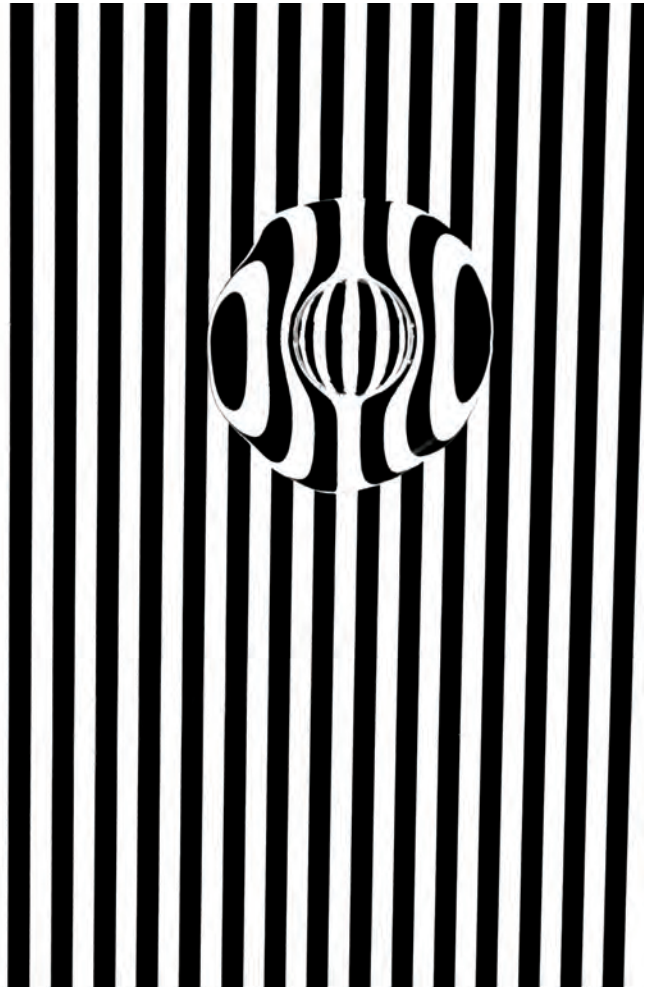
Harriet Smythe S5



Natasha Berrie S5



Kate Kennedy S5



Ryan McDowell S6

Art



Stephen Hamilton S6



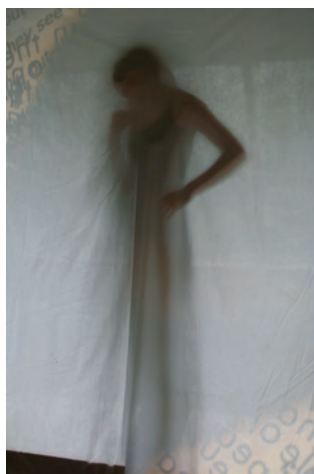
James Thomson S5



Seona Christie S5



WWI Installation



Suzi Patrick S6



Christie Fraser S5



Eve Bramley S5

Science

Biology

As in previous sessions, pupils studying biology have been involved in a number of trips. These included a trip to Kindrogan Field Centre, Enochdhu, a visit to the Scottish Crop Research Institute at Invergowrie and a visit to the Sports Physiology Lab at Abertay University.

In early October the Advanced Higher Biology group visited Kindrogan. This gives them a chance to attempt some basic fieldwork techniques and then carry out their long term investigations. The pupils made good use of this opportunity and worked very well during the weekend, despite the competing attractions of the quarter finals of the Rugby World Cup. Projects were carried out in woodland, river and pond. We also surmounted the challenge of placing out 50 pitfall traps in the pitch dark with only a few rather insipid torches to help us. We received invaluable assistance, throughout the weekend, from the tutors at Kindrogan especially the main tutor, Rich, who was a big hit with the pupils. Our thanks to them.

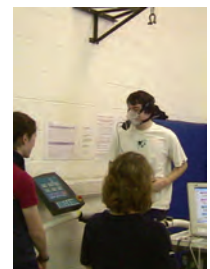
In November, the same group visited the Scottish Crop Research Institute at Invergowrie. They were given the

opportunity to see and hear at first hand about some examples of cutting edge research in cell biology. Experimental techniques were demonstrated to the pupils which dovetailed with the theory which they had covered in school. The day also offered an opportunity to get involved in discussion of some of the ethical considerations of genetic modification.

The final trip took place in the Spring term. The class visited the Sports Science Department at Abertay University, where they took part in a number of tests of their physiological capabilities. These included the effect of exercise on ECG and blood pressure and the effect of fatigue on muscle power output. The pupils also did sub-maximal testing using a walking shuttle test and then again on exercise bikes. This allowed them to estimate their levels of cardiovascular fitness. Michael Basford volunteered to do the maximal test (to exhaustion) on a treadmill to measure his VO₂ max. Once again Andrea Cameron and her staff at Abertay provided a memorable day out for these pupils. Our thanks goes to them for their time, their expertise and the use of their facilities.

We invited, through the Setpoint Scheme, a visiting speaker to talk to our pupils about "Research into Bone and Osteoporosis". We are grateful to Dr Fraser Coxon from Aberdeen University for taking time out to travel down and deliver this talk. He was able to provide pupils with an insight into current research initiatives and show them some fantastic images of bone at a microscopic level. We hope to make further use of the Setpoint Scheme in the future, The Scheme encourages the development of links between schools and universities and offers visiting speakers and demonstrations on a large number of science topics at a range of levels.

J Beedie
S Harper



Science

Chemistry Department

Top of the Bench Quiz

This year the chemistry department entered the UK-wide Top of the Bench Quiz for the first time. The photo shows the team of Alastair Hamilton (S2), Emily Coffey (S3), Callum Strong (S3) and Awena Sangster (S4). The pupils all performed admirably against their opponents from Harris Academy, St. John's High School and The High School of Dundee.

For the first round, the team travelled to Harris Academy where they confidently answered a wide range of questions to secure a place in the next round. The Harris Academy teacher commented on how strong the team were and said that he thought they could "go on and win" – a great compliment and confidence boost for the team right at the start of the competition. The next round was another "away game" at St John's High School in Dundee. With both teams neck and neck in the first few stages this made for a thrilling competition. However, hesitation and nerves on the part of St. John's pupils meant that several questions got passed over to Morrison's. Special mention must go to Callum Strong's killer instinct, pouncing on the opportunity to score bonus points when such situations arose! A home match against The High School of Dundee proved, unfortunately, a bridge too far for our budding chemists. The High School has a pedigree in this competition, reaching the national finals in London last year.

Despite losing on home turf, our team performed gallantly throughout this round, especially as the questions were more challenging compared to the previous two matches. Overall, this competition proved to be an



exciting new venture involving chemistry within the school. Our team, buoyed with success in the first two matches, regularly discussed how they would travel down to London for the finals. Needless to say, they were gutted when knocked out of the competition. Perhaps next year, the finals in London will become a reality for them...

Chemistry at Work

While science teachers constantly strive to link course content to the "outside world", it is sometimes difficult for pupils to visualise the type of work they might be doing if they pursued a science-related career.

Chemistry@Work days which are run by the Royal Society of Chemistry are designed to introduce pupils to possible chemistry-related careers. S4 pupils attended one of these days at St Andrew's University and heard from scientists working in several fields including forensics, the pharmaceutical industry, paint manufacture, agriculture and fizzy

drinks manufacture. On returning to school, pupils said that they had learned about several chemistry-related jobs that they were not aware of previously. The forensic science display in particular sparked an interest in several pupils who left the event keen to work on the set of CSI!!

Scottish Crop Research Institute (SCRI)

The Advanced Higher chemists spent a day at the SCRI near Dundee to get an insight into the important work done there at the biology-chemistry interface. Topics covered included the chemistry behind the "hotness" of chilli peppers and the chemical basis of the effects of cocaine use. Pupils were also introduced to analytical techniques such as mass spectrometry. While much of the science involved in these processes is well beyond the level encountered at school, the event was successful in highlighting how much the different sciences overlap in the world of research.

Science

Dr Bunhead's Exploding Santa Show

Higher Chemistry pupils travelled to St Andrews to the Royal Society of Chemistry Christmas Lecture. Dr Bunhead, straight from Sky One's *Braniac*, performed many fun and interesting chemistry experiments, most of which were accompanied by very loud bangs and flashes. Thankfully the organisers had disabled the smoke detector before the lecture! The trip was a great hit with the pupils. As after the 2007 lecture, many requests have been made to recreate the experiments in school. The photo shows pupils in one of the school chemistry labs preparing "elephant toothpaste" and trying to make a Jelly Baby howl as featured in the lecture. The demonstrations involving potatoes being launched through the air and much larger flames will have to be left to Dr Bunhead!!

Chemistry Practical Workshop – Dundee University

Pupils doing Advanced Higher Chemistry learn a wide variety of new and challenging practical laboratory techniques by completing a series of Prescribed Practical Activities as well as completing a research project. While this is an enjoyable and important component of the course, it is always a challenge to fit so much practical work into the school day and indeed into the school laboratories. We were therefore delighted to be invited to take the pupils to Dundee University chemistry department to carry out some of this work. The pupils attended two separate sessions at Dundee University in December to complete their prescribed practical activities.

Pupils had access to excellent resources both in terms of the laboratory facilities and the technical expertise. This, combined with ability to spend a whole day doing uninterrupted practical work, meant that the pupils were to complete tasks much faster than they can at school. However, even using the state of the art equipment, the pupils were constantly under pressure to "beat the clock" as some of the experiments took several hours to complete, especially for their second visit, which involved organic chemistry practical work. Our pupils seemed impressed with the facilities on offer at the university and also liked the fact that they could wander into different labs to check up on their friends doing different experiments at the same time.

Although a far more informal atmosphere was evident, our S6 students displayed the self-discipline that was required in order to complete the activities before they once more had to board the school mini-bus for the return journey back to school. Staff at Dundee gave the Advanced Higher pupils further support with some of their project work. Jamie Fairclough returned to Dundee to use some of their analytical tools as part of his investigation to uncover the chemical identity of an unknown compound.

Nuffield Science Bursary

Advanced Higher Chemistry Student, Stephen Hamilton, was granted a Nuffield Bursary this year which enabled him to secure a work placement in a science laboratory at Organon Laboratories in Newhouse. During this time he completed a project in the field of pharmaceutical



research.

At the end of his placement, he was awarded a certificate of completion by Francis Chapman, the Scottish co-ordinator of Nuffield Science Bursaries.

M McKeever
M Kihlken



Science

Physics

During the session, the pupils in the Physics department went on a number of trips. The Advanced Higher class went to the University of Dundee to attend a Rotational Motion Workshop as part of the Schools Partnership Programme. This was an opportunity for the pupils to carry out experiments in the AH syllabus with specialised apparatus, complementing their existing practical work in school. With access to the full facilities of the Physics Department, the pupils completed a number of laboratory sessions which included an investigation of the



relation between applied torque and angular acceleration as well as experiments on varying force and radius on the centripetal force.

In September, the sixth year pupils attended the "Day of Physics" hosted by the University of St Andrews Physics Department and supported by the Institute of Physics. With a full programme for the day, the pupils experienced a little of the life of an undergraduate student. They were able to investigate some physics in the teaching laboratories, interact with the students, hear something about careers with physics, and experience a "real" university lecture.

The day proved to be very hands on and a number of practical opportunities were presented and supported by the university's academic staff. Pupils were able to experiment with liquid nitrogen to determine the latent heat of vaporisation and investigate the coolant properties of the liquid at -220°C . They also experienced a practical on Galaxy search and classification, developing a better understanding of the way that stars and planets are born, live and die. In addition to this they were able to investigate the propagation of laser light, measuring its wavelength and establishing the applications of lasers in communications, medicine, data storage, and industry.

S Hill
G Guile

Smallpiece Trust

Two physics pupils, Jamie Fairclough and Keith Ratcliff, enjoyed a unique learning experience at the University of Exeter's Tremough Campus, near Penryn. The two boys spent four days

with the University's Camborne School of Mines, learning about mining and minerals through a jam-packed timetable of educational and fun events. The four-day residential programme was designed through a partnership between The Smallpiece Trust and the University of Exeter and was sponsored by two of the world's largest mining companies, Anglo American and Rio Tinto.

Reflections on the Engineering Course

On a soggy Monday 23rd July, Keith and I arrived at the Tremough Campus of the University of Exeter, perhaps slightly apprehensive at the thought of the four days of mining and minerals engineering which lay ahead: nonetheless we were looking forward to it.

On arrival we were introduced to the other students on the course then thrown straight in at the deep end. First there was a geology lecture, then a crash course in rock mechanics. Finally, in teams, we made presentations to our colleagues on what we had learned, which was by the end of the day, a great deal.

Over the next three days we took part in various engineering based activities, all focusing on team work and problem solving. All of these activities were interesting and almost all were great fun. All these activities culminated in a field trip down the Camborne "Test" mine. Once there, modern drill and blast mining techniques were demonstrated. We all had a go on the slightly outdated pneumatic digger - a rusty scaled down underground dumper truck on rails is the closest I can get to describing it.

Science

Reflections on the Engineering Course (cont.)

While the course at Tremough was educational, the social side was also remarkably good. Since there were only thirty students on the course, we all got to know each other pretty quickly. There was a wide mix of students who all got on well, despite the fact that the only other person on the course who lived north of Bristol was a chap called Igor from Finland.

The "Smallpeice Trust", the organization which sponsored our trip, also laid on some social activities for us. One evening we went down to the famous Cornish beaches for a sports evening. We also had a formal dinner. It was a great way to finish the course where we had the chance to talk to current students of the University and hear more perspectives on engineering courses.

The following day, after a big buffet lunch and many goodbyes, Keith and I boarded the train exhausted, having had an interesting and thoroughly enjoyable week.

Jamie Fairclough S6

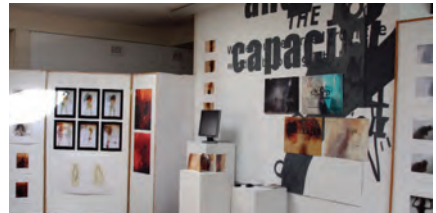
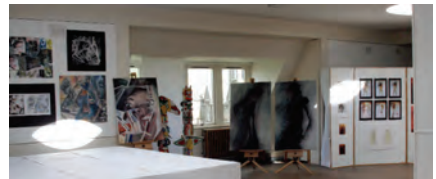
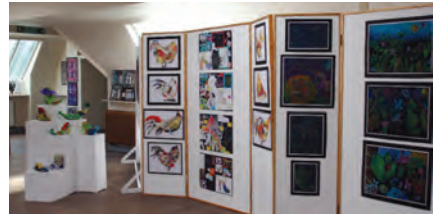
Art

Art and Design Exhibition

This year the exhibition featured work produced by a range of year groups from transitional to S6 and included drawing, painting, printmaking, photography, ceramics, textiles and installation art.

The photographs show the exhibition opening with former pupil and local architect Eric Strickland and his wife attending. Eric has very generously donated a significant sum to be awarded to senior pupils in S5 and S6 for achievement in Art and Design.

P McQue





Sport

Rugby

1st XV Rugby

We again had high expectations for this season and on the whole we were not disappointed. We maybe did not match the playing records of the last couple of seasons but a combination of poor weather after Christmas and six games being lost when the opposition called off spoiled the chances of an even more impressive record. A record of 11 wins and 1 draw from 18 games is still a good performance. Our fitness levels were again superior to most of our opposition, yet again a testimony to the hours that were put in during the seven months. The attendance at these sessions was the best for many years with many of the 2nd XV also being regular participants, which meant that when called into the team they were not left behind. Hard work on lineouts was evident as yet again we were able to rule the touchline in just about every game. This reward comes from hours spent on the timing and coordination that is needed to produce a successful unit. Hooker Michael Rae's throwing improved immensely – he had played the previous season as a loosehead prop.

The season started with a couple of stutters: a very late try against Queen Victoria salvaged a draw and then a defeat at Kelvinside where we had no luck or help from the referee. A loss it was and this led to some changes in the team with captain Cameron Matthews moving to scrum half. From there he was able to influence play both as a feeding half back as well as being one posing problems for the opposition with his breaking play. Tries against Glenalmond and Carrick were perfect examples of why no team could afford to ignore him. He led his team by example with a tremendous work rate both in attack and defence where his cover tackling



was an example to any budding scrum half. As in previous seasons there was a tremendous team spirit throughout the group and this was evident in the way they worked both in training and in match play. In two of the later games in the season we had games where there was only one try in the final score: we won at Stewart's Melville in appalling conditions and lost by one score at Hutchesons' – there have been other Morrison's teams who would not have sustained their position and would have folded.

We again played three rounds of the cup this year – but did have a couple of home draws this time and so again we reached the last 16. Coincidentally we were drawn against Banchory again in October, this time at home, and had an even more comfortable win this season. The long trip followed this game as we were drawn away to Gordonstoun at the start of November. In one of their best performances of the season the team came away with a one point win to make it a pleasant haul

back down the A9; our reward was a home tie against Dundee HS. At that point they were one of the favourites to win the competition. On a very wet day at Dallerie we held them till the last ten minutes when they scored twice to give them a more convincing victory on paper than it had actually been in reality. The fact that they subsequently lost by just two points to the eventual winners Merchiston put into perspective our boys' performance.

The team had a good balance of players from across the years, which gave some of the younger players good experience for the subsequent seasons. Six boys from 4th year played which is unusual, three being regulars; two others would have played more frequently if injury had permitted. Against Dollar just prior to the Christmas break both props were from 4th year and their performance drew praise from the opposition coach. John Ramsay was again top points scorer and proved himself a very confident and positive stand off. Graeme Clow was Mr Adaptable and

Rugby

1st XV Rugby (cont.)

Mr Dependable; he played both in the backs and in the forwards where his positive attitudes and great game sense gave him many opportunities to steal ball on the ground. Any combination of Graeme, Michael Basford, Euan MacSorley and Joey Thomas provided a formidable and strong back row that was rarely bettered. Adam Stone added a lot of size to the forwards but also combined that with greater mobility and confidence with the ball in hand. The forwards look to have great potential for next season. As in previous seasons the team received tremendous support from their families and also from former players and former parents who still have a strong interest in rugby at Morrison's. It is very much appreciated by us all, particularly when they are playing away from home.

Calum Brock, Joey Thomas and Fergus Robertson all represented Tayside Tigers under 16, and at the end of the season they all played at Murrayfield for the Perthshire under 16 team in the Scottish under 16 cup final.

At the conclusion of the season colours for rugby were awarded to: Michael Basford, Graeme Clow, Rory Houston, Cameron Matthews, John Ramsay, Michael Rae and Adam Stone.

N Pennie

2nd XV Rugby

What a difference a year makes! After, on many levels, a very disappointing season last session, the story of this season makes much happier reading.

A significant number of this year's squad also played last year but their approach, attitude and appetite for hard work were much more positive. This percolated down to the younger players and the 2nd XV quickly forged a real team spirit. This created an environment where players really wanted to be involved and make their mark. As a consequence, it was a real pleasure to be involved with this group of players. Every player did make a real contribution to the team and played their part in making this season more successful and, most importantly, more enjoyable.

The side was captained by Sandy Jackson who did a fine job, bringing to the team his characteristic high level of commitment and determination. The standard of team talk was rather higher than usual but Sandy also led by personal example. This was never more evident than in the match against Glenalmond. Debating or 1st XV commitments meant and that Sandy was not always available to lead the side. On these occasions Hamish Easton took over the mantle of captaincy and

was an able deputy. Other S6 "lieutenants" included Robert McWilliam, "Sidestep Bob", and the "find" of the season Jonathan Cox. One disappointment: unfortunately injury prevented Alex Harris from making a real sustained impression this season.

Other notable performers in the forwards included Peter Salmond who demonstrated both impressive upper body strength and tenacity in the tight exchanges and pace in the open. Craig Smith was our main source of lineout possession and his general athleticism led to him making a telling impact all around the field.

In the backs Alastair MacFarlane kept the team going forward with some intelligent kicking and sniping runs around the fringes. Further out, erstwhile prop forward Cameron Gauld reinvented himself as an effective stand off. He kicked very impressively both from hand and in his place kicking, especially early in the season. He also displayed a very safe pair of "cricketer's hands". The main attacking threat in the backs



Rugby

2nd XV Rugby (cont.)

was provided by Fergus Robertson. He made many searing runs, combining an inside break with a decent turn of foot. Although becoming isolated on occasion he almost always made ground, scoring many tries. Danny Mesteccky also ran strongly in the centre. Further out, the younger S4 backs all played their part but Robbie Tarran could probably lay claim to being the most improved player of the season.

The side recorded wins against Queen Victoria School (twice), Glenalmond College (twice) Lomond School, Linlithgow Academy, Strathallan School and Glasgow High School. Eminently winnable games were lost against Kelvinside Academy, North Berwick High School and Robert Gordon's College. We were well beaten by a Queen Victoria School development XV and Howe of Fife RFC. We also suffered a heavy loss in a rather pointless mismatch against Dollar Academy from which neither side gained much benefit.

During the season the team put together some very good passages of play.

This was most notable in our home game against Glenalmond where we produced a performance of sustained commitment and quality throughout, to win a very entertaining match. Unfortunately we never quite repeated that sustained level of performance throughout our other matches. However against Strathallan a classic try involving all the members of the team was a real highlight of the season.

I would like to thank all the players who were involved with the team this year: as I said earlier, all made a considerable contribution to the success of the season.

Congratulations to those who went on to represent the 1st XV

Finally my sincere thanks must also go to the parents and friends who supported the team throughout the season.

J Beedie



Colts / U16 Rugby

The start of the season saw the boys training hard and gradually coming together. The first match was not pretty but with David Comrie and Ian Savage playing well, the season started on a positive note. Solid victories over Kelvinside Academy and Lomond School followed. The Linlithgow Academy match was one which initially looked like we would get hammered, being three tries down before we responded. Alex Samson and Ross Johnston worked hard and Robbie Hutton showed just what ability he has. Eventually Shane Campbell, Robbie and Ross combined to score and with the

opposition forwards tiring, our guys realised they could win and eventually they did.

The highlights of the first half of term must be the performances against Dollar Academy and Bell Baxter High School. In the Dollar match we showed great determination and it was only by bringing on all their home first team players that Dollar was able to overcome a determined Colts squad. One of the most memorable episodes was watching Andrew Hoggan run on, straight into action! The Bell Baxter game was always going to be tough as we were depleted due to injuries. This said, Ewan Smith put in a couple of excellent tackles as did Shane and Ross. With the forwards giving as good as they got, the final whistle was about to go and the Colts were a couple of points down. A ruck on the half way was set up by Ewan and we won quick ball which was moved first to the right then the captain stepped up and just inside the opposition half he ran left to the touchline and dived over to score the winning try. A real



Rugby

Colts / U16 Rugby (cont.)

team effort to win the ball polished off with a decisive run.

Post Christmas was a bit of a wash out and apart from S3/4 matches the Colts finished the season as a team in December. Still it has been a good season with some real talent but a massive amount of team work from those individuals not normally highlighted. Crawford McLaren grew in stature and focus; Nathan Thomson just got better and better; David Comrie realised he had ability; Callum Gibson started tackling and realised he is a good player; Ian Savage carried on doing the hard yards; Andrew Paterson and Ewan Smith supported well and combined with the others. This group made the squad gel and perform.



for 10 years at my previous school, Belmont House, I was immediately struck with the significantly greater amount of after-school practices available to each rugby team, as well as timetabled games.

With a relatively small pool of players to work with in S2 it was going to be an interesting first season right from the start. However, the squad were particularly enthusiastic to build on the good work from last season with Mr Lovegrove and the initial training sessions were both fun and productive for all concerned.

With the season under way, the squad experienced a very narrow defeat by Queen Victoria School in our first fixture. The squad, quite rightly feeling somewhat cheated with this result, quickly took shape, basing itself around a very hard-working set of forwards who became the core of the team for the remainder of the season. The backs were a more individualistic bunch of players who displayed great athleticism and flair but found working together as a cohesive unit a more challenging

proposition at times.

The efforts of the team captains, Jonathan Priestly (Autumn term) and later, David McLeod (Spring term) should not be underestimated, both showing great motivation and inspiration towards the game as well as their fellow squad members. Jonathan was a talented player at the stand-off position who was very adept at finding space in the centre and wing just at the right time and being able to sprint long distances down the field. David, our No.8 for the season, displayed a tremendous work-rate at all times – he definitely led by example - not only controlling the scrum in particular, but also in his tireless contribution to tackling, some of which was almost fearless in execution.

All members of the squad brought their own talents to practices and matches, but particular mention should be made towards a few individuals who showed consistent enthusiasm and commitment throughout the season. Douglas Guthrie was a real mainstay of the

Awards

Player of the Year:

Ross Johnston

Runner up:

Alex Samson

Most Improved:

Andrew Hoggan / David Comrie

Team player of the year:

Nathan Thomson / Crawford McLaren

Colts badges:

Ross Johnston, Alex Samson
Chris Carling, Nathan Thomson,
Shane Campbell, Calum Flett

L Howell

S2 Rugby

Season 2007-2008 was my first as a rugby coach at Morrison's Academy since joining the school in January 2007. Despite having coached rugby

Rugby

S2 Rugby (cont.)

squad, developing into a talented scrum-half, as well as being last season's captain. Andrew Blair also proved he has immense potential, playing wing-forward for most of the season. Despite being a very quiet individual, he showed real grit and determination, making some of the best tackles throughout the year. His reading of the game was also very intuitive. Lindsay Duncan was a most versatile player who started the season at second row before being called upon to play on the wing. Lindsay formed an enduring partnership with Alastair Scott and Alastair Hamilton – the "Two Alastairs" – at second row, providing the backbone of the Forwards' impressive driving and rucking. Alastair Hamilton quickly took on the role of jumper in the line-outs, making this position his own for the whole season. We were fortunate in having four players to choose from for our front row. Ben Thomson & Matthew Ross were primarily our Props in the team, with Murray Low and Christopher Andrew alternating between Prop and Hooker. These four players formed a tight partnership amongst themselves, developing their own particular brand of humour. I look forward to watching these players continue to improve in future seasons.

Amongst the backs, Robert Morrison shone at full-back position, particularly in the second half of the season. A memorable moment was watching Robert skid head-first through a gigantic puddle in the middle of the pitch in an extremely wet away fixture against Wellington School in November. The look on his face said it all – scuba gear would have been more appropriate for that fixture! Due to inclement weather throughout January & February, there

were several cancellations and, unfortunately, the S2 squad lost a great deal of momentum. Training also moved to Academy Park which meant that our range of training techniques was not always practical. By mid-February our training was back at Dallerie and the squad seemed invigorated once more.

This loss of momentum mid-season had the greatest impact amongst the Backs with some of our key players at the centre & wing positions deciding to focus on other extra-curricular activities subsequently dropping out of the team. At this point in time our team suffered from a somewhat 'revolving door' situation. Alex Johnston and Jack Hendry were, like Robert Morrison, consistent contributors to the Backs at this time.

Overall, despite the rather low number of wins for S2 this season, in many games we came within a whisker of a draw or on occasion, actually winning until the final stages of the match.

With a more settled and consistent set of Backs in the squad, the S2's could have doubled their number of wins. However, the core of the squad remains in place for next session. The Forwards are a very tight set of individuals who will do credit to the school when playing in the Colts XV in S3. There also remains dedicated individuals who played as Backs this year. These players thoroughly enjoyed their experience of rugby throughout session 2007-2008 and I look forward to hearing of the exploits on and off the pitch in future seasons.

M McKeever



S1 Rugby

Even with a limited pool of players this season the S1 team displayed a very positive attitude, despite the opposition frequently being physically larger. Monday evening practices throughout the session deliberately involved games with the S2 team giving valuable practice against those players of greater stature.

There were clear signs of improvements in skills and in physical fitness levels as the season progressed. It is encouraging to record that a number of team members were frequently running out-with school hours in order to improve individual fitness levels. Notable victories against Belmont and Dollar both contained all the excitement of full length of pitch running, culminating in unforgettable tries.

Even when faced with defeat, it was noticeable that much positive encouragement was given by various individuals for the benefit of others and for the whole team.

The team frequently displayed a commendable good spirit; self confidence was high despite often facing difficult games with unflinching enthusiasm. Ben Vardi captained his side, his individual strength, quickness, coupled with good passing ability proved invaluable when driving the team forward. As full back, Lewis Parker frequently made use of his good pace with intelligent change of direction setting up many tries throughout the season. Noted also for good pace are players such as Iain Paterson, Gregor Cox and Josh Murchie.

Marcus Mollison and Marcus Reid are both a force to be reckoned with; opponents normally don't get past either of these players. Marcus Reid is

Rugby

S1 Rugby (cont.)



able to recycle ball, picking up 'scraps' and frequently turns them to the team's advantage.

Other players displayed a very positive attitude such as being good at taking chances together with good passing effort. Accurate line-out throws by Marc Ferguson were often a feature of the game.

The whole S1 team has the potential of becoming valued future team members. Their self confidence, pace and controlled aggression, often in the face of physically larger opposition, was a credit to each individual within the team.

G Guile



Primary Rugby

Played 11, Won 8, Lost 3

This session there were nearly fifty boys in the P6 and Transitional years with well over half of them attending the extra practice on a Tuesday afternoon. This meant there was

greater depth in the squad and it gave us the opportunity to have competitive game time on Thursdays which was invaluable.

The squad was one of the strongest we have had for some time, although still physically quite small, and with a number of Primary Six boys involved. Gavin Tainsh captained the side with Calum Savage taking responsibility for the forwards. Both worked hard at this



and made excellent contributions on and off the field.

The boys had a terrific start to the season losing only once before the Christmas break. This included super wins against Stewart's Melville College and Dollar Academy. These two games in particular stood out as they were so evenly balanced and played in such a competitive spirit.

After the break we lost a number of games to the poor weather conditions and only resumed playing matches in late February. Of the four games left, we won one, lost quite heavily to Glasgow High School and Glasgow Academy, and had one game abandoned. At the very end of the season the boys were invited to the Stewart's Melville College Tournament in which they acquitted themselves well.

The forwards made very noticeable improvements as the season progressed. Their driving and rucking became more committed as their confidence in each other grew. Calum Savage and Matthew Tait

Rugby/Hockey

Primary Rugby (cont.)

played consistently well throughout and were often the inspiration the pack needed.

The backs were a talented group with penetration and finishing speed. Gavin Tainsh and Henry Morshead regularly made try scoring breaks. Donald Strathie and Andrew Aschaber also showed promise and supported the ball carriers well.

There are obviously areas where the boys can develop their skills further: tackling, timing of the pass and keeping possession of the ball in contact. These, I'm sure, will improve with greater experience and more match time.

The squad should be very proud of the way they have performed this season and should take great heart from both their commitment and enthusiasm. There are a core of good players for next year's First Year team and a number of very promising Primary Six players with a year's experience under their belt.

Many thanks to the tremendous support of the parents, families and friends who came to watch. The boys always looked forward to running out knowing they had support encouraging them from the touchline. Also a special thank you to Mr Robertson who refereed many of the matches and held extra practice sessions on fixture free Saturdays.

Squad: Andrew Aschaber, Daniel Bremner, Jed Chalmers, Oliver Forde, Sam Greenlees, Charlie Grimson, Giles Harker, Ruaridh Lauchlan, Cameron Lee, John MacFarlane, Henry Morshead, Crawford Niven, Noah Parker, Hamish Riddell, Robbie Robertson, Lewis Ross, Calum Savage, Donald Strathie, Alastair Scott, Matthew Scott, Ben Speck, Gavin

Tainsh, Matthew Tait, Lloyd Waller and Christopher White.

G Chater

1st XI Hockey

This was always going to be a rebuilding season after losing so many key players, with the 5th & 6th years having to step up and shoulder the responsibility that was so well carried by the departed players.

The season started well. The girls had new tops and skirts and looked a very professional outfit and played well, beating The Mary Erskine School 3-1. The girls then went away to St. George's School and suffered a heavy loss. We were taught a lesson in how to play quick flowing hockey. We then picked ourselves up and travelled to Aberdeen where we drew 1-1 with Robert Gordon's College. Unfortunately we were unable to capitalise on all of our chances and this was to be the story for the season. We lost the next five games on the

trot. It didn't help that in the match against Madras College we injured Sarah Scott our goalkeeper in the warm up and our substitute Kara Stickland had to kit up for the first time in her life, an experience she never wants to repeat as she is used to hitting balls at goal not having them fired at her. We lost two of the matches 1-0 in what were very closely contested games against the High School of Dundee and Christ's Hospital School who were on a mini tour from Horsham. We finally won again away to George Heriot's School. In an enthralling match Alexandra Taylor scored the winning goal late on in the second half much to the delight of the girls and the travelling supporters. We then had a mid week match against Strathallan School. It was the best performance I had seen from the girls. They played with composure and kept possession of the ball extremely well much to the frustration of the Strathallan players. Unfortunately one misjudged interception attempt provided Strathallan with the time and space



Hockey

1st XI Hockey (cont.)

required to score the only goal of the match. In the final match before Christmas the girls drew 1-1 away to Trinity Academy. Again it was a game of missed chances on our behalf but our defence also held strong when they came under severe pressure. Unfortunately we then suffered a horrific spell of bad weather which saw us have to cancel four matches running before we finally got out again on the 1st March to face Glasgow Academy. The weather was so bad we were not even able to train at Dallerie so it was no surprise that a team who had been able to train and play on astro took full advantage of our rustiness and beat us quite comfortably. We then lost the next game to bad weather. In the final game of the season we managed to draw 2-2 with Madras College and again rued the chances we created but never took. However it showed that if we had had our goalkeeper in the previous encounter we would surely not have lost.

Summing up the season, it was disappointing in terms of results. We didn't take our chances and were punished as a result. However at times the girls played some excellent hockey and worked well together. In conclusion I would like to congratulate Alexandra Taylor and Vicky Henderson in being awarded full colours and also to Alex for her excellent captaincy this season.

I would like to wish all departing players every success in the future and I hope that they continue to play hockey for either a club or a university team. Thanks also go to the parents who regularly come to support the girls home and away.

D Nesbit

2nd XI Hockey

This has been an excellent season for the 2nd XI. They played 12, won 5, drew 5 and lost only 2.

A review of the season can be broken down into two sections, the first half of the season where matches occurred and then the second half where the weather played havoc with our fixtures and we forgot what a hockey pitch looked like.

The season started in glorious sunshine away to The Mary Erskine School in Edinburgh. It was also the first outing of the new playing tops and it can be said that the girls walked out onto the pitch a couple of inches taller that day. The girls may have looked like a team but I was slightly apprehensive about how this team would perform as it was a relatively young team with the majority of players coming from the 4th & 5th years. However I should not have worried as they had a supportive and passionate captain in Hilary Andrew. A 1-0 win in their first match managed to settle the nerves and galvanise the team. In the next two matches against St. George's

School and Robert Gordon's College the team drew and were slightly disappointed that they didn't sneak a win. There was no disappointment in their next game as they beat Loretto School 2-1 which was followed by a 0-0 draw away to Madras College.

So we had reached the October holidays unbeaten and the team was at times playing some wonderful flowing hockey. What we had in place was a defence that was committed and strong with a confident and talented goalie in Harriet Smythe. In the midfield, Ellie Wagstaff was orchestrating the play as she controlled the centre while also driving the team forward at any opportunity with her mazy runs. On the wings our young fourth years of Morag McGregor and Abi Ross held their position wide which allowed us to play with width and attack with great effect down the wings whipping inviting balls into the circle for our forwards. Up front, Hilary was having her best season to date. It can be said that wearing the captain's armband can hinder your play; well it



Hockey

2nd XI Hockey (cont.)

had the opposite effect on Hilary. She was playing with confidence and determination and led the team by example both on and off the pitch. Overall the key to their success was that they were playing as a team.

After the October break normal service was resumed with two convincing wins over St. Aloysius' College and George Heriot's School. The latter match was particularly interesting as Harriet had to be drafted up to the 1st XI on the Saturday which left the 2nd XI without a recognised goalkeeper. Thankfully Kim Donaldson volunteered to step into the breach. The girls did a great job that day of keeping Heriot's out of our circle and worked on the theory that the best form of defence is attack.

The low point of the season came at the end of November against Strathallan School. The girls started off well but lost a couple of key players in the first half through injury and in the second half lost their way and conceded a number of goals. This first loss of the season hit the girls quite hard; however it also had a liberating effect. No longer were they under pressure to maintain their unbeaten run. They got back to almost normal service with a 0-0 against Queen Victoria School. Unfortunately we lost our fixture with Dollar Academy because of bad weather. The team finished the year off with an excellent 3-0 win against Trinity Academy.

Into the New Year and the bad weather struck. The team did not play again till 1st March and this was a heavy loss to Glasgow Academy. However, remember that the girls had not played for approximately 10 weeks and were away against a very good astro-based team who were

clinical in front of goal. The final match of the season came at home against Madras College and what a good match it was. Both teams attacked with great vigour and the match swung in both directions, eventually finishing 2-2.

Finally I would like to thank the sixth years for their years of commitment to hockey and also thank the parents who have come along to support the girls from the sideline.

D Nesbit



Under 16 Midlands Cup

The under 16 team enjoyed an excellent run in the Midlands Cup and are to be commended for their efforts. The team was selected from girls in S2 to S4, and was ably captained by Ailsa Laird.

Unfortunately, due to the requirements of the competition that all matches are to be played on synthetic turf, we were not in the position to take advantage of a home draw in the first round. Strathallan School offered the use of their pitch for our game against Perthshire HC which was a well fought match with our girls finishing 2-1 winners. Rachel Adamson scored a superb goal to seal our win and Hayley McDermott also helped us on our way with some fantastic saves at the other end.

Next up was Madras College on the pitch at The Community School of Auchterarder. Our defenders ensured that the ball was cleared in an effective and useful way for the attack and this resulted in an early goal from Rachel Adamson which settled the nerves, steadied play and enabled the girls to play some great

hockey despite the awful weather. With a 3-0 win we found ourselves in the final against Glenalmond College.

Unfortunately Glenalmond proved to be too strong for us and despite creating some excellent opportunities in the first half we turned around 2-0 down. The girls kept playing with determination and were rewarded for their efforts with a last minute goal from Rachel Adamson. Despite the score eventually being 5-1 I feel this is not a fair reflection on the girls and their play and they are to be congratulated on reaching the final. It was a great effort from everyone and an exciting time.

Well done to all and thank you also to Miss Nesbit for both her umpiring and coaching.

J Lee



S3 Hockey

The S3 team has had a successful season despite the bad weather in the second term. An enthusiastic group of girls showed up to practices and training and this evidently paid off in our matches.

The season began with a 6-0 defeat by St. George's School, but we didn't lose our team spirit and although we lost our next match against Robert Gordon's College 4-3 it was a thrilling and exciting game. The score reflected the determination and skills shown by the whole team.

The following matches were against Madras College and Dundee High School and we recorded victories in each having taken on board the lessons learnt from the previous matches. The team set off in a

Hockey

S3 Hockey (cont.)



confident mood for The Junior Midlands Tournament and was unlucky not to qualify from the section. Our solid and dependable defence enabled us to clear the ball from the danger zone and allow our attack some great opportunities which they capitalised on in a match against George Heriot's School, winning 2-0. It was a very exciting and entertaining match for both the players and the spectators. Individual and team play improved dramatically towards the latter half of the term, resulting in some tough play and close matches against leading competitors.

Another superb match took place against Queen Victoria School when, with 10 minutes to go, we were 3-1 down. However Rachel Adamson then took the game well and truly to the opposition and we finished 4 - 3 victors.

At the Junior Indoor Tournament in January the team showed some great skills and was unfortunate not to qualify for the later stages despite only losing one match. Unfortunately the weather in January and February

meant a lot of cancellations of practices and matches so when our final match against Madras College came round we had almost forgotten where Dallerie was! We finished in style with a comprehensive 5-1 victory which was well deserved as we played with great enthusiasm and skill. The passing, individual skills and team play were much admired by the spectators.

With high spirits from such a memorable year we celebrated our hockey season with a meal in Perth, where individual awards were made to some team members for various achievements. However everyone contributed to the success of the season and all are to be commended for their efforts.

Hockey Badges were awarded to the following pupils:

- Kathryn Turnbull
- Rachel Adamson
- Rachael Jones
- Emily Coffey
- Emily Johnson

[Kathryn Turnbull](#)
S3 Hockey Captain



S2 Hockey

The S2 girls' hockey season was much disrupted this year with only nine matches played out of a possible eighteen. On a number of occasions it has seemed that just as the girls began to play as a strong team unit with both the attack and defence playing increasingly skilful and effective hockey, the rain would start and match after match was cancelled.

That said, the late summer sunshine which lasted well into October ensured our early matches against St. George's School, Robert Gordon's College and Madras College went ahead. The team were unlucky to lose 2 - 0 to St. George's in their first game of the season and consequently came out in fighting spirit to face Robert Gordon's the following weekend. Dallerie became something of a battle site that morning with both teams performing passages of excellent play with hard fought tackles from both sides. Despite goals from Marianne Inglis and Jenny Lovegrove and an early lead, the team was very unlucky to lose 3-2.

In their final match before the Christmas break, all the girls' efforts in training and after-school practices over the course of the term paid off with an exciting 2 - 0 win over Trinity Academy. The girls worked hard to support each other in attack and through fast and effective ball distribution were able to dominate the opposition. Lindsey MacDonald's second half goal was an absolute cracker and surely a front runner for this year's goal of the season!

The New Year started with rain which sadly didn't really stop until March, leaving only two fixtures for our S2 girls. In these final two matches the

Hockey

S2 Hockey (cont.)



team faced tough opposition in the form of Glasgow Academy and Madras College. Although there were some encouraging aspects of play in both matches, our lack of practice and game time was sadly evident. That said, fine performances came from Rebecca Coltart with a great goal against Madras and from our goalkeeper Hayley McDermott who made some fantastic saves in these matches as she had done over the course of the season. As a result, Hayley was deservedly named this year's most improved player.

All the S2 girls, whether they have been involved in Saturday morning fixtures or not, have been a great group to work with over the last two years. It has been a small year group but the commitment of the twelve girls who have regularly played for the school has been admirable – a huge thanks goes to all of them! Big thanks also go to the team captain Kirsten Jack who has led the team by example on and off the pitch and to all the parents who have regularly appeared at Dallerie to support the

team.

Good luck next year girls!

[E McCormack](#)

S1 Hockey

The S1 girls have had a great hockey season this year aided by their enthusiasm for the game and their

excellent efforts in training. The regular Wednesday 'warm-up' run around Dallerie quickly became a favourite and some of the S1 girls even beat the times of a number of the 1st XI players!

It was encouraging to see such a large number of girls regularly appearing for after-school practices. As a result we were able to field both an 'A' and 'B' team in the eight-a-side matches at the start of the season against St. George's School, Robert Gordon's College, Craigclowan School and Dundee High School. It was great to see such a large number of girls involved and clearly enjoying participating in Saturday morning hockey!

Two stand-out matches before the Christmas break came against Madras College and Trinity Academy. Against Madras, Krystina Stickland was on fine form scoring four of our seven goals and in our first 11-a-side match against Trinity Academy the girls played some promising hockey to win 4-0.

Although a number of fixtures were



Hockey

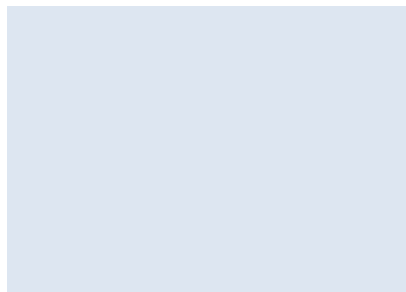
S1 Hockey (cont.)

cancelled after the Christmas break, the First Years went from strength to strength in their final three matches. In their first match of the New Year the girls played some fantastic passing hockey to come away with a 2-1 victory against Queen Victoria School. Rachel Paterson and Ruby McKinnell produced some great play in attack while our defence of Sally Andrews, Ellen Logan and Katie Mackenzie worked tirelessly to keep the opposition at bay.

Against Glasgow Academy the girls narrowly lost in a closely fought match with both sides enjoying numerous chances at goal. Our goalkeeper Sally Gourlay made some great saves while our defence and midfield distributed the ball efficiently up the pitch to our forwards. The season finished with the girls in fine form with a 9-0 win against Madras College.

Thanks go to my captain, Ruby McKinnell, who has led by example on the pitch with her enthusiasm, effort and ability and congratulations go to the team's most improved player, Rachel Paterson. Finally, well done to all those girls who have been involved in S1 hockey this year - I look forward to seeing you again next year!

E McCormack



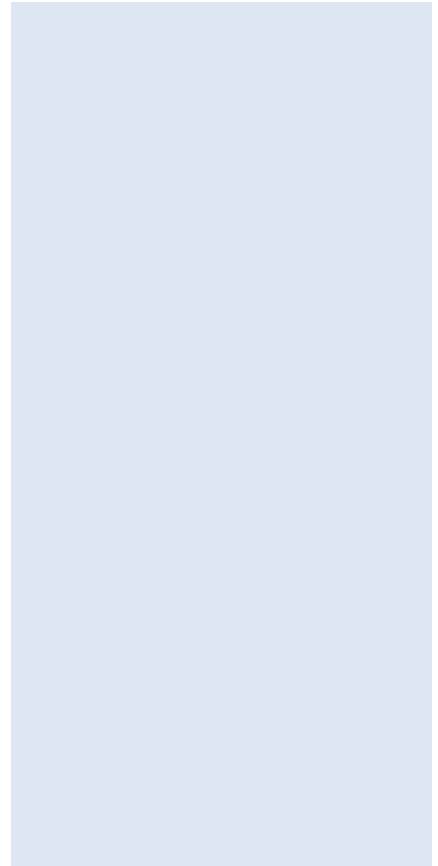
Primary Hockey

This year the primary team has been affected badly by the poor weather. They only managed to play 3 matches all season and unfortunately all were losses.

On the positive side the number of girls in primary 6 and Transitional attending practices was excellent. Over the course of the season the girls basic stick work improved greatly and all they required was more game time to put it into practice. This year we also had Ellie Wagstaff and Natasha Berrie from 5th year helping to coach the girls. They were a huge hit with the girls who appreciated that two senior hockey players were helping them to develop their skills and loved any opportunity they had to take them on, one on one.

This year the team was captained by Holly Boag who did a very good job.

D Nesbit



Athletics

Boys' Athletics



The usual Wednesday night sessions started well with a lot of junior boys joining the older boys and learning the skills required to improve their performances. We had two events versus other schools and the boys worked to improve personal performances prior to Sports Day.

The match against Dollar Academy was cancelled due to weather but the junior triangular competition against Dollar Academy and George Heriot's School went ahead but without the Heriot's boys.

There were good performances from Lindsay Duncan and Andrew Blair in the S2 competition and the impressive Josh Murchie showed he could transfer his triathlon ability to the track with a convincing win in the 800m.

Sports' day was a great success with the weather fine and cool enough for some impressive efforts. The competition was excellent with all the boys competing hard. The efforts of Michael Lafferty and James Thomson are even more impressive when you consider they have another year to go and will both be able to defend their respective titles next year.

L Howell

Girls' Athletics



In May we were scheduled to host two athletics matches. Unfortunately we had to cancel the match against Dollar due to poor weather. This was a huge disappointment to the intermediate and senior athletes as this was their only scheduled match.

At the end of May we hosted the junior triangular match between ourselves, Dollar Academy and George Heriot's School. The format of the event is that S1 team & S2 team have two athletes per event. Overall we came last in both competitions as collectively we were unable to compete; however we did have individual success stories. The S1 team was ably captained by Rachel Paterson and had some notable individual successes. Danielle MacLarty finished 2nd in the 75m hurdles. In the long jump Rachel Paterson came 2nd with 3.54m and Ruby McKinnell took 3rd place with 3.51m. Ruby McKinnell also took 3rd place in the shot putt with a distance of 7.50m just 12cm behind the winning throw. Katie MacKenzie took 3rd place in the 800m and the relay team finished 2nd. The S2 team was captained by Jenny Lovegrove. Erin O'Kane won the 800m in 2min 44sec. Nicola Suiter achieved 3rd place in the high jump and the 75m hurdles.

After this match the sports heats got underway. This year the number of

entries was up, especially at intermediate level. Thankfully, unlike last year, sports day took place as scheduled and the rain stayed off until later that evening. The primary championship was closely contested with Lauren Strickland winning the long jump and ball throw events which were decided prior to sports day. Julia Barrie won the high jump. Holly Boag won both the 100m & 200m and with a 2nd place in the high jump Holly was crowned Primary sports champion by one point over Lauren Strickland.

In the junior championship a number of girls contested the championship. Rachel Paterson won the 100m & 200m and took third in the long jump. Erin O'Kane won the 800m in a time of 2.49 secs and also took 2nd in the 100m & 200m along with 3rd in the hurdles. Ruby McKinnell won the 75m hurdles, high jump with an excellent jump of 1.30m, threw the furthest at the ball throw and shot putt and also came second in the long jump. Ruby's varied success led her to be crowned junior girls' sports champion with 23 points with Erin O'Kane taking second place on 16 points.

In the intermediate championship Rachel Adamson comfortably won with 40 points with her closest rival being Meggan Redden on 15 points. It was not as easy as it appears. Rachel had to dig in deep to fend off Meggan in the 100m & 200m and they were only split by a couple of tenths of a second in both. The pair also contested the high jump and when both cleared 1.38m on their first attempt, it went to 1.40m. Both girls failed on their first attempt then Rachel managed to clear at the second attempt and Meggan had two further failures. In the other track



Athletics/Swimming/Cricket

Girls' Athletics (cont.)

events Rachel won the 800m with Catherine Lovegrove in second. The hurdles race was also won by Rachel with Melanie Stephen finishing second. In the field events Rachel won the long jump with a jump of 4.69m and in second place with a jump 4.04m was Melanie Stephen. The shot putt was won by Emily Harrison, discus by Ailsa Laird and the javelin by Meggan Redden. Rachel Adamson won by a margin but the number of girls who contested the events, especially the field events, was pleasing.

In the senior girls championship Vicky Henderson, who is also the girls' athletic captain, won the championship easily. She took first place in the 100m, 200m, 300m, 800m and the shot putt and second in the discus. This gave her a total of 38 points. Her closest rival was Victoria Tripp who finished on 18 points. She did get the better of Vicki Henderson in the discus with a throw of 17.03m. Two events which did not involve either of these girls were the javelin and the long jump. In the javelin, Ailsa Guntley won with a throw of 15.34m with Claire Beattie in second with her throw of 13.34m. The long jump was extremely close between Kate Kennedy and Katherine Harris. In the end Kate won with a jump of 3.87m, only 2cm better than Katherine. This is when it is vital to take off right on the board.

Overall sports' day was a huge success. The rain stayed away, the girls competed in a friendly competitive manner and there were plenty of vocal spectators who added to the atmosphere of the day.

D Nesbit

Swimming

The Morrison's swim team has enjoyed some success this season, although individual opportunities for many of our swimmers were at times limited by pupil unavailability and illness. That said, we were able to field four swimmers at the Tayside Schools' Swimming Championships at the Olympia Centre in Dundee in November. The standard of competition is always very high with the majority of entrants being Club level swimmers.

Jemma Murphy (12 & under - 50m backcrawl and 50m freestyle) and Sam Rowley (13/14 years - 100m breaststroke) competed well in their respective events although sadly failed to qualify for their finals. Both swimmers showed a lot of promise for the future and I look forward to seeing them compete again next year. Medal success did, however, fall on Morrison's swimmers with Jamie Duncan winning bronze in the boys' 15/16 years 100m breaststroke and Josh Murchie runner-up in the 13/14 years 100m breaststroke.

In our regular swim match versus Glenalmond College we were fortunately able to field a strong team made up of pupils from S1 - S6. Both the U15 and O15 boys' teams left it right to the last race to take victory in two closely fought freestyle relays. Fine performances over the course of the afternoon came from Nathan Thomson in the U15 50m backcrawl; Josh Murchie in the U15 50m breaststroke; Graeme Clow in the 25m butterfly and John Ramsay in the 50m freestyle. The girls' competition was equally as hard fought with our U15 girls winning by only two points. Sami Murchie and Lauren Houston produced fine wins in the 50m freestyle and the 50m breaststroke

respectively. The O15 girls ably captained by Ellie Wagstaff were, however, unlucky to lose out to Glenalmond, particularly after success for Ailsa Laird in the 25m fly and Ellie in 25m breaststroke. My thanks go to all those swimmers who represented the school in this match.

In our own school swimming championships, Ellie Wagstaff became senior girls champion while Ailsa Laird was victorious in the intermediate girls' event. The senior and intermediate boys' championships were won by John and Paul Ramsay respectively.

E McCormack

1st XI Cricket



Last year I wrote: "We did not really see the best of what had been a promising team. Several return next year and we hope for better weather to give us the chance to fulfil the full fixture list."

Well this turned out to be a season of immense frustration - there looked to be a good mix of experience and youthful enthusiasm along with talent in both batting and bowling. However for a mixture of reasons this team was

Cricket

1st XI Cricket (cont.)

not seen as often as possible. The weather played a part as the games v George Heriot's School, Dundee HS and Kelvinside Academy all fell victim to the rain. However more disappointingly - Crieff CC (twice), Robert Gordon's College and St. Leonard's School were unable to raise teams to play us.

We had to wait till May 24th for our first outing of the summer and that took us down to Helensburgh to play Lomond School. Lomond batted first and were soon all out in 16 overs for 39. Good bowling, two wickets each for Cameron Gauld, Andrew Marshall and Jonny Cox backed up by some excellent fielding including one magnificent catch by Douglas Marshall gave us an excellent chance of victory. We only required 7 overs to achieve a 9 wicket victory.

We entertained Comrie CC in the next mid-week and, in an entertaining and extremely sporting game, lost in the last over. Our total of 83 included 39 not out from Cameron.

The return match with Lomond saw Cameron Gauld carry on with his fine form with the bat. Last year he scored his maiden half century in this fixture – this time he top scored with 62 as we accumulated 162 for 3 in our 30 overs. Lewis Mackie contributed 32 and Jonny Cox 25, both batsmen being not out. Lomond's response was to close up shop and make no effort to go for the runs – 30 long overs were bowled as they accumulated 71.

The final match of the term on the Monday after Sports Day saw us take on The Morrisonian club. Good bowling from Cameron, Jonny and the Marshall brothers restricted the FP club to 72. We comfortably made the total for the loss of 5 wickets to give us

our third win of the term, the winning hit coming from Simon Edwards who copied the Kevin Pietersen style of the reverse hit through the covers.

In the four matches special mention must be made of Cameron Gauld who averaged 65.5 with the bat - an impressive performance even in a shortened season.

It was an enjoyable season and one where the team played with a lot of spirit and for each other. I look forward to working with a lot of them again next year.

The Murrays won the inter-house six a side competition, easily defeating the Campbells in the final.

N Pennie

Junior Cricket

The S1 / Junior XI enjoyed a successful season but with a number of games cancelled.

The season started off against George Heriot's School. A mixed age group team took on Heriot's at Goldenacre. The boys settled quickly and ran out worthy winners. The only S1 match that didn't fall victim to the weather was the Robert Gordon's College game. The boys had turned up to all training sessions and traveled with high expectations. Gordon's had played at least four games and won all so Morrison's were up against it. We batted first and set a decent total. Liam organised his team well and quickly dismissed Gordon's top batsmen. A few errors in the field saw the home side gain confidence but it wasn't until the last two balls of the game that the home team managed to snatch the victory. The hardest game for the opposition and our boys learned a lot and really improved after this. They took on the S2 boys and the honours were shared with

one game each. The Primary team also played S1 and played well dismissing most of the S1s' top batsmen but Mr Wide played a cracker and the S1s ran out eventual winners. The mixed team against Belmont House School was impressive with five S1 boys in the S1 – S3 team against much older opposition but our team ran out fairly easy winners with the S1 boys making significant contributions. Marcus's batting was good as was the bowling of Lewis and Richard and the whole S1 squad was well led by their best player Liam Roberts. The final match was the pupils v the staff in which Liam and Marcus represented the pupils.

A good season, when weather allowed, and an impressive bunch of players looking to claim places in the older teams next season.

L Howell

Primary Cricket

There was a good turn-out for cricket practice and a strong squad of enthusiastic players this season.

We only, however, managed to play three out of a possible six school fixtures, winning two of them. The first of them was a Kwik cricket match against a Heriot's side which we won very convincingly. Accurate bowling by Lewis Ross allowed him to bag a hat trick and Matthew Tait contributed 19 runs in a valuable and entertaining knock.

The second game against Robert Gordon's College also resulted in a sound win. This time it was Christopher White, five wickets, and Hamish Riddell, three wickets, taking the honours with the ball. Christopher also batted through the innings with some excellent support and strong scoring by Gavin Tainsh.

Cricket/Football/Tennis

The third game took us to Lomond School where we lost an enjoyable and competitive match by 28 runs.

We did finish off the season with a 10 over game against first year. There were high expectations, though the first year boys came away victorious this time round.

Crawford Niven captained the side and did so well. He had the confidence and support of the team and used his experienced players knowledgeably. This squad of players should be pleased with their efforts and there should be much to look forward to next season.

Squad: Charlie Grimson, Ruaridh Lauchlan, Cameron Lee, Henry Morshead, Crawford Niven, Noah Parker, Hamish Riddell, Lewis Ross, Calum Savage, Matthew Scott, Donald Strathie, Gavin Tainsh, Matthew Tait and Christopher White.

G Chater

Primary Football Club

The Morrison's Academy Primary Football Club has enjoyed another busy year. Numbers have remained high throughout the year, with around twenty pupils from P6 and Transitional participating each Wednesday. The enthusiasm and commitment shown by the pupils at Academy Park has contributed to the enjoyment of all. Sessions include improving ball skills and positional awareness as well as practice matches. Anyone interested in joining should speak to Mr. Barr. The team for the recent match against Beaconhurst at Bridge of Allan was: M. Scott, R. Lauchlan, C.Savage, M. Tait, G.Tainsh (captain), D.Strathie, H.Riddell and R.Robertson.

I Barr

Senior Girls' Tennis



This term has seen two new look senior tennis teams with a number of new young faces appearing in both the 1st and 2nd VIs. Over the course of the term some very promising tennis has been played by the girls and, with the majority of players either in S4 or S5, there is obviously a lot of potential for the team to develop further over the next couple of years.

The 1st VI suffered changes in personnel on an almost weekly basis due to the many other important commitments of our girls. As a result we struggled against strong teams from Glenalmond College, Kilgraston School and George Watson's College. However, when the team did manage to come together the girls played some excellent competitive tennis which was very exciting to watch. The girls fought hard against Dundee High School and, although having the upper hand early on were unable to maintain a high level of consistent tennis for the duration of the match and lost 6 – 3. The high point of the term came with a 5 – 4 victory against The Mary Erskine School. A well-deserved and great result for the team!

Emma Beattie, Hannah Lewis, Alice Mcleod and Ailsa Laird were all great new additions to the team while

Claire Lorden and Alex Taylor provided some much needed experience. A big thank you goes to Maddie Riddell who was quite often drafted into the team at short notice. Congratulations to Emma and Ailsa for an encouraging performance at the Under 16 Kilgraston Tennis Tournament in June in which they competed strongly against teams from Dollar, Kilgraston and convincingly beat Strathallan College.

The 2nd VI team sheet also varied from match to match and, as a result, I am very grateful to all those girls who have played in the team this year. The 2nd VI team's performance peaked towards the end of the season against some strong opposition from The Mary Erskine School where they were able to record an excellent 3 – 3 draw. Christie Fraser, Sarah Stephen and Ailsa Guntley played some great tennis over the course of the term and I look forward to seeing them play again next year. The team, however, will be sad to say goodbye to Emily Whitters, Catriona Laird, Kim Donaldson and Hilary Andrews who have regularly appeared over the last couple of years.

A huge thank you to all those girls who have been involved in senior girls' tennis this year and to all those parents who have supported on the Saturday mornings! Finally, I would like to thank the 1st VI captain Alexandra Taylor for all her hard work and efforts on the tennis courts as well as her ability to efficiently organise and encourage her team mates.

E McCormack

Tennis/Basketball/Netball

Junior Tennis

This year was a very successful year for the junior tennis team, with 4 wins, 2 losses and only one cancellation. Although our first match against Kilgraston School resulted in a defeat and there was little time for practice because of the weather, we went down to Edinburgh eager to win against George Heriot's School. The enthusiasm obviously helped and we came away from Heriot's with our S1 and S2 team winning convincingly 6 - 3! The next week the junior tennis team went up to Dundee High School. Although both players from the first couple were out because of injury, the S3 team held together and came away from Dundee with another win. Our luck did not run out in the 4th week and the S2 girls won their first home match against The Mary Erskine School 9 - 0. The S1 team were however unlucky to lose 5 - 4.

Against George Watson's College the S2 and S1 teams both won while the S3 team were narrowly beaten. Although Glenalmond College proved too strong for us we came out in fighting spirit against Strathallan and finished the season with a very exciting 5 - 4 win.

Well done also to Sally Andrews and Erin O'Kane who won the Morrison's Academy S1 Invitation Tournament. Our Junior Tennis Champion this year was Erin O'Kane.

Rachael Jones S3



Basketball

A keen core of players have kept up the fine tradition of Morrisonian Basketball both in play on court and in uniform, which remains painfully

orange to look at. To their numbers have been added an impressive variety of guest players who have got involved at various times during the year.

Jon Cox must be a proud captain given the team's unbeaten record this season. The fact that both planned fixtures were cancelled due to weather and transport difficulties last term does at least guarantee that most desirable 'unbeaten' record. To be fair, Jon, Mike Rae and Michael Basford have played and fought hard with, and for, each other through some desperate games, only to see the result go against us again, in a way that I hope they will not quickly forget. Never giving up has been a trade mark of their play.

Useful contributions have also come from a highly energetic Mark Marchbank, a suddenly seriously tall Adam Stone and Robert McWilliam who has one of the longest shots I remember seeing for a long time. Really promising for the future has been the way that Gregor Cox has taken the battle to his older brother and often come away grinning, while Mathew Ross has missed very few practices.

Of course others have participated as well, and for their patience as well as their presence, I thank them. It has been another very enjoyable season.

R Anderson



Netball

The netball season began shortly after the New Year with both our Junior and Senior teams involved in a home fixture against Glenalmond College. The senior girls started

strongly, taking an early lead which was helped by the fast and effective ball distribution of Ailsa Guntley and Fiona Robertson and the shooting accuracy of Emily Tait. Unfortunately, despite the effort and hard work of Anna McLeod and Catherine Lovegrove in defence, the girls lack of match practice showed with a defeat of 25 - 9. The junior girls, led by Emily Johnson, fared much better however, and in a very close match between the two schools Glenalmond narrowly won 7 - 5.

In February our junior team hosted Crieff High School. In an excellent team performance the girls were able to cruise to a 22 - 3 victory. As the team's most experienced players, Emily Coffey, Emily Johnson, Rachael Jones, Emma Robertson and Katherine Turnbull led the younger team members by example with their fast, accurate passing and speedy movement around the court.

Ruby McKinnell and Sally Andrews, both regulars in our junior team, were able to use their experience of playing with and against older opposition in an U13 match versus Craigclowan School. Our U13 girls coped well under a lot of pressure with Ruby making some brilliant interceptions at our defending end and Sally on fine scoring form. Despite this, and continued improvement as the match developed, the girls lost 23 - 9.

In the final matches of the season we were again host to two strong sides from Strathallan. In spite of some great play by both our junior and senior girls, Strathallan's disciplined and well-organised play was unfortunately our downfall with both teams losing.

Netball/Mountaineering/Golf

Netball (cont.)

I would like to thank all those girls who have been involved in netball this year. There is definitely a lot of promise for the future in both teams and Mrs Lee and I look forward to working with you again next year! A big thank you also goes to the junior and senior captains Emily Johnson and Emily Tait who have both led their teams with enthusiasm and lots of encouragement.

E McCormack



Mountaineering Club

Again the club has been very busy this year. There was a cracking start with the Club's new T shirts being bought by Club members. There were new staff to help and senior pupils have now become Assistant Instructors and in addition to taking on responsibilities they are able to work on their own development while helping encourage and coach less experienced climbers. These pupils who have achieved both the personal ability and coaching skills are:

- Sam Laird S1
- Alex Johnston S2
- Joe Laird S2
- Luke Goddard S3
- Robaidh Halliday S3
- Melanie Stephen S4
- Catherine Lovegrove S4
- Daniel Mestecy S5
- Sandy Jackson S6



Thanks again must go to both Miss McCormick, Miss Nesbit, Mrs Lee, Wendy Duigan and Mr Speck for their support and help throughout the year.

This summer, after approaches from pupils, we started mountain biking. There are some very keen senior pupils but it is the younger years that have proven to be very popular. Mr Speck is doing an immense amount of work coping with the demand and it is hoped that senior and competent pupils will soon be able to help.

Finally I have been asked to clarify how pupils can access the activities and costs. There is a notice board on the wall opposite the boys' changing room in the PE Dept. where dates are displayed; also these are put on the board outside the GP room in the Primary department. It is only fair that those that take the opportunities and are in fact 'The Club' bear some of the costs. Therefore the club members have decided that for climbing there should be an initial annual membership fee of £5 (from the start of the School year) plus £1 for each booking. Members can book up to two sessions in any one term. Non-members are charged £2 per session and have to wait and see if there are spaces or cancellations (this is the usual case). For mountain biking the cost is £2 per trip and is used to help contribute a small amount towards the cost of equipment and training. Once a pupil reaches the dizzy heights (no pun intended) of Assistant Instructor in either discipline, they will no longer be required to pay for sessions but it is hoped they will contribute their time.

Please get in touch with the club if you are interested in any aspect of the joint clubs at - climbing@morrisonacademy.org

L Howell



Golf

The first event of the year involved Eve Muirhead. Although she had left school at the end of last year she was still eligible for selection for the Scottish Schools' team to play against England at Westerwood GC in September. She acquitted herself very well and was the only Scot to remain undefeated in a win for the English.

The summer season started with the Belch cup being played at Crieff GC with Mark Marchbank retaining the trophy and Andrew Turnbull pushing himself into the runners' up spot.

The Perth and Kinross Schools' individual championships were played at Crieff GC at the start of May. However none of our five players played particularly well and we did not finish in the top places.

The league this year went to a round robin format and we played five games in it but only gained a victory over Glendalmond College. Strathallan School and Kinross HS, the league champions, both beat us comprehensively but close matches were just lost to Breadalbane Academy and Blairgowrie HS. Unfortunately the Community School of Auchterarder could not find a date to play us.

The final match of the term should have been the annual match against The Morrisonian Club but this was cancelled, as they were unable to raise a team for the event. As it turned out the weather was very poor that day and the game would not have been a pleasure for anyone.

N Pennie



Sun Shines On Morrison's Fun Run

The annual Morrison's Fun Run was held at Dallerie on a glorious June Saturday morning. A healthy turn-out of 170 competitors enjoyed a selection of distances (500m to 5000m), with t-shirts, prizes and spot prizes being awarded so that no one went home empty handed. Morrison's Academy Parents' Association provided the much needed refreshments, with Highland Spring sponsoring the event.

P O'Kane



Sports' Day Results

Primary Boys

100 metres

1	C Holmes	14.57 seconds
2	H Morshead	
3	D Strathie	

400 metres

1	D Strathie	1 min 16.08 seconds
2	L Waller	
3	A Aschaber	

Cross Country

1	C White	11 min 20 seconds
2	R Robertson	
3	C Grimson	

High Jump

1	C Holmes	1.2 metres
2	D Strathie	
3	L Waller	

Long Jump

1	D Strathie	3.56 metres
2	H Morshead	
3	A Aschaber	

Cricket Ball

1	M Scott	37.32 metres
2	C White	
3	M Tait	

Relay

1	Campbells	1 min 5.6 seconds
2	Grahams	
3	Murrays	

Primary Girls

100 metres

1	H Boag	15.82 seconds
2	A Clifford	
3	H Gauld	

200 Metres

1	H Boag	32.9 seconds
2	H Gauld	
3	A Clifford	

Cross Country

1	H Gauld	7 min 10 seconds
2	L Strickland	
3	H Boag	

High Jump

1	J Barrie	1.1 metres
2	H Boag	
3	A Clifford	

Long Jump

1	L Strickland	3.06 metres
2	J Barrie	
3	K Jones	

Cricket Ball

1	L Strickland	28.57 metres
2	K McCallum	
3	E Deans	

Cricket Ball

1	L Strickland	28.57 metres
2	K McCallum	
3	E Deans	

Relay

1	Drummonds	1 min 5.8 seconds
2	Grahams	
3	Murrays	

Junior Boys

100 metres

1	R McLellan	13.6 metres
2	J Halley	
3	R Morrison	

200 Metres

1	R McLellan	28.1 seconds
2	J Halley	
3	A Blair	

800 Metres

1	J Murchie	2 min 33.7 seconds
2	L Duncan	
3	I Paterson	

Cross Country

1	L Duncan	12 min 38 seconds
2	J Murchie	
3	I Paterson	

75 Metre Hurdles

1	R McLellan	14.08 seconds
2	L Duncan	
3	B Vardi	

High Jump

1	R McLellan	1.45 metres
2	L Duncan	
3	I Paterson	

Long Jump

1	L Duncan	4.05 metres
2	R McLellan	
3	A Hamilton	

Shot Putt

1	A Blair	7.74 metres
2	R McLellan	
3	L Duncan	

Discus

1	R McLellan	22.44 metres
2	M Ross	
3	R Johnson	

Javelin

1	R McLellan	23.49 metres
2	R Johnson	
3	M Ross	

Relay

1	Murrays	57.33 seconds
2	Drummonds	
3	Campbells	

Junior Girls

100 metres

1	R Paterson	14.72 seconds
2	E O'Kane	
2	S Gourlay	

200 Metres

1	R Paterson	30.57 seconds
2	E O'Kane	
3	K Stickland	

800 Metres

1	E O'Kane	2 min 49.97 seconds
2	K Mackenzie	
3	D MacLarty	

Sports' Day Results

Cross Country

1	E O'Kane	8 min 16 seconds
2	K Mackenzie	
3	D MacLarty	

75 Metre Hurdles

1	R McKinnell	14.87 seconds
2	D MacLarty	
3	E O'Kane	

High Jump

1	R McKinnell	1.3 metres
2	L Macdonald	
3	M Inglis	

Long Jump

1	M Inglis	3.57 metres
2	R McKinnell	
3	R Paterson	

Shot Putt

1	R McKinnell	7.34 metres
2	S Macgregor	
3	D MacLarty	

Cricket Ball

1	R McKinnell	29.01 metres
2	A Hally	
3	S Andrews	

Relay

1	Drummonds	1 min 3.6 seconds
2	Campbells	
3	Grahams	

Intermediate Boys

100 metres

1	F Robertson	12.3 seconds
2	M Lafferty	
3	M Ewart	

200 Metres

1	F Robertson	25.46 seconds
2	M Lafferty	
3	M Ewart	

400 Metres

1	M Lafferty	1 min 2 seconds
2	S Easton	
3	J Duncan	

800 Metres

1	M Lafferty	2 min 31 seconds
2	R Hutton	
3	J Duncan	

100 Metre Hurdles

1	F Robertson	16.9 seconds
2	S Easton	
3	M Lafferty	

High Jump

1	R Hutton	1.55 metres
2	S Easton	
3	A Tainsh	

Long Jump

1	S Campbell	4.77 metres
2	M Lafferty	
3	J Duncan	

Triple Jump

1	F Robertson	9.95 metres
2	J Duncan	
3	M Lafferty	

Shot Putt

1	M Lafferty	9.57 metres
2	P Ramsay	
3	S Easton	

Discus

1	J Thomas	22.08 metres
2	M Lafferty	
3	S Easton	

Javelin

1	J Thomas	37.68 metres
2	F Robertson	
3	S Bourelle	

Relay

1	Campbells	51.51 seconds
2	Murrays	
3	Drummonds	

Intermediate Girls

100 metres

1	R Adamson	14.3 seconds
2	M Redden	
3	V Tomlinson	

200 Metres

1	R Adamson	29.86 seconds
2	M Redden	
3	C Lovegrove	

300 Metres

1	R Adamson	46.2 seconds
2	E Coffey	
3	C Lovegrove	

800 Metres

1	R Adamson	2 min 48 seconds
2	C Lovegrove	
3	E Coffey	

Cross Country

1	R Adamson	12 mins 31 seconds
2	C Lovegrove	

75 Metre Hurdles

1	R Adamson	13.68 seconds
2	M Stephen	
3	C Jones	

High Jump

1	R Adamson	1.4 metres
2	M Redden	
3	E Coffey	

Long Jump

1	R Adamson	4.59 metres
2	M Stephen	
3	E Scott	

Shot Putt

1	E Harrison	7.32 metres
2	A Laird	
3	V Tomlinson	

Discus

1	A Laird	16.33 metres
2	V Tomlinson	
3	M Redden	

Javelin

1	M Redden	16.44 metres
2	V Tomlinson	
3	E Harrison	

Sports' Day Results

Relay

1	Drummonds	1 min 0.67 seconds
2	Campbells	
3	Murrays	

Senior Boys

100 metres

1	S Jackson	12.18 seconds
2	O Penny	
3	J Thomson	

200 metres

1	S Jackson	25.07 seconds
2	J Thomson	
3	A Stone	

400 metres

1	S Jackson	58.75 seconds
2	O Penny	
3	J Thomson	

800 metres

1	J Thomson	2 min 28.37 seconds
2	D Mestecky	
3	O Penny	

1500 Metres

1	J Thomson	5 min 28 seconds
2	O Penny	
3	D Mestecky	

Cross Country

1	D Mestecky	24 min 25 seconds
2	O Penny	

110 Metre Hurdles

1	J Thomson	18.26 seconds
2	S Jackson	
3	O Penny	

High Jump

1	J Thomson	1.6 metres
2	O Penny	
3	A Stone	

Long Jump

1	J Thomson	4.95 metres
2	O Penny	
3	A Stone	

Triple Jump

1	J Thomson	10.87 metres
2	O Penny	
3	A Stone	

Shot Putt

1	A Stone	12.28 metres
2	J Ramsay	
3	D Mestecky	

Discus

1	A Stone	28.11 metres
2	G Clow	
3	J Ramsay	

Javelin

1	A McLellan	33.02 metres
2	C Smith	
3	E MacSorley	

Relay

1	Campbells	50.6 seconds
2	Grahams	
3	Drummonds	

Senior Girls

100 metres

1	V Henderson	14.45 seconds
2	C Beattie	
3	V Tripp	

200 Metres

1	V Henderson	30.82 seconds
2	V Tripp	
3	H Andrew	

300 Metres

1	V Henderson	51.99 seconds
2	K Greenlees	
3	V Tripp	

800 Metres

1	V Henderson	3 min 9.89 seconds
2	L Coffey	
3	K Greenlees	

Cross Country

1	B Allnutt	21 min 11 seconds
2	V Tripp	

80 Metre Hurdles

1	V Tripp	16.65 seconds
2	V Henderson	
3	M Riddell	

High Jump

1	V Henderson	1.25 metres
2	C Fraser	
3	E Wagstaff	

Long Jump

1	K Kennedy	3.87 metres
2	K Harris	
3	V Henderson	

Shot Putt

1	V Henderson	7.51 metres
2	S Scott	
3	E Wagstaff	

Discus

1	V Tripp	17.03 metres
2	V Henderson	
3	E Wagstaff	

Javelin

1	A Guntley	15.34 metres
2	C Beattie	
3	V Henderson	

Relay

1	Murrays	59.05 seconds
2	Grahams	
3	Campbells	

Sports' Day



Sports' Day





Music

Music

This has been another busy year for the Music Department. Although the general outline has inevitably been quite similar to previous sessions, there have been ample novel elements to hold everyone's attention and the standards reached by all our young musicians continue to rise and to impress. Some activities and projects are also described in fuller articles elsewhere in the magazine and there are numerous photographs depicting the wide array of events that have taken place over the session.

School Functions

From the Primary Harvest Assembly in September, through October's Founder's Day, the Christmas season (MAPA Fayre and Carol Service), and up to Speech Day at the end of the summer term, all our regular School functions have featured the work of the Music Department with the Chamber Choir, as ever, at the forefront. A healthy male voice contingent this year has given us the opportunity of hearing the Boys' Choir as well on a number of occasions; they make a good sound, so let's hope that we can build on this position of strength.

The School Burns Supper, January

After last year's glittering event (in aid of Pipe Band funds) this one might have been a little less grand in conception, but the speaking, music, entertainment and cuisine were equal on every level and proved once again that when it comes to upholding Scottish culture and tradition, Morrison's Academy is second to none.

Theatre and Concert Visits

A group of Secondary pupils enjoyed "Blood Brothers" at the Edinburgh Playhouse in October and "The Gruffalo's Child" proved a hit with the large party of Lower Primary pupils who visited the Edinburgh Festival Theatre in November. On a different note, a small section of the S1/2 Choir went to the Perth Concert Hall in April to hear percussionist Colin Currie and the Hebrides Ensemble.

Visiting Musicians and Groups

Boys' Singing Workshop with Christopher Bell (National Youth Choir of Scotland, September)

Our links with NYCOS are growing ever stronger (see section on Pupil Successes) and more boys are discovering the world of singing, to their great benefit; Christopher Bell just happened to be in town for a concert with his NYCOS Chamber Choir and was only too happy to put some of our chaps through their paces.

Visit from the Band of the RAF Regiment, January

A packed audience of Upper Primary and Lower Secondary were whipped to a veritable frenzy by the wind and brass players of this exciting and energetic band. The star of the show was undoubtedly the trombonist who preferred to sing (and liked to dress up too!)

Benjamin Grosvenor, February

Another high-flying musician who just happened to be passing by, Benjamin (keyboard winner of the 2004 BBC Young Musician of the Year and still only fifteen) was based in



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Crieff during a Scottish tour and, using our Ferntower Hall as a practice facility, he very kindly agreed to play for the School at Assembly and astounded us all with his technical wizardry and mature musicianship.

Thistle Brass (Strathearn Music Society Schools' Concert), March

This was the second visit that we have had from these wacky but extremely talented young players (they were last here in 2004) and they once again struck up an immediate rapport with our audience; we are always indebted to the Strathearn Music Club for all they do to bring the very best in professional music-making to our doorstep.

Inter-House Concert Competition, March

Moved once again to a spot at the end of Term Two, this annual extravaganza showed at long last some encouraging signs that Houses may be prepared to go beyond the disappointing standards of singing that have bedevilled the event for too long. Let us hope that the improvement can be sustained and built on.

Crieff Rotary Club Young Musician of the Year, November

This event is held every second year, organised by the local Rotary Club and usually hosted by Morrison's Academy (although pupils from other local schools are of course also involved). The format is slightly different from our own School Music Competition in that classes are divided on the basis of Associated Board standard rather than age.

Successes from within our own ranks included the following:

Open Class: Winner – Rachael Smart (violin); Runners up – Alexandra Taylor (cello), Angus McLellan (piano)
Intermediate Class: Winner – Lindsey Macdonald (piano); Runner up – Hannah Logan (cello)
Beginners Class: Runner up – Naomi Gillies (clarinet)

The X-mas Factor, December

This different approach to the traditional end-of-term letting-down of hair, introduced last session and successfully staged for a second time in 2007, has also led to a raising of the game by all the pupils involved. Pride In The Job, that's the thing – good to see.

Primary School Scots Song Competition, February

Every single member of the Primary School goes through a class heat before the winners compete in front of an independent adjudicator. There was friendly rivalry, and some delightful singing from all age groups. Adjudicator Mr. Sandy Campbell announced his decisions as follows:

P1/2/3 (David Comrie trophy):- Ella England
P4/5 (A.B.Hunter Quaich):- Hannah Boag
P6/Tr (David Comrie Trophy):- Holly Boag

School Music Competition, February

This competition always attracts a large field of entries (in effect, nearly all the musicians in the school) and invariably requires qualifying heats to



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reduce the overall numbers so that they can all be accommodated in one day. The pupils named below therefore represent the tip of a very large musical iceberg. Our adjudicator this year was Mr David Elliot of George Watson's College in Edinburgh.

P4/5 Piano:- Libby Dillon, RebeccaDye

P4/5 Instrumental:- Hannah Boag, Libby Dillon, Lucy Whitaker

P6/Tr Piano:- Christopher White, Amy Smart, Matthew Cook

P6/Tr Instrumental:- Noah Parker, Melissa McDonald, Holly Smith
Primary Singing:- Holly Boag, Rosie Beech

S1/2/3 Piano:- Marianne Inglis, Ciaran O'Kane, Emily Harrison

S1/2/3 Instrumental:- Andrew Blair, Rachael Smart, Emily Harrison

S1/2/3 Singing:- Emily Harrison

Open Piano:- Kim Donaldson, Adam Kilgour, Angus McLellan

Open Instrumental:- Alexandra Taylor, Kim Donaldson, Stephen Hamilton

Open Singing:- Peter Salmond, Emma Marnoch, Helen Andrews

Knox Trophy (Best Instrumental Performance):- Alexandra Taylor

A.B.Hunter Trophy (Scots Song):- Kirsten Longmuir

Ferntower Trophy (Most Promising

Primary School Musician):- Amy Smart

Perth Competitive Music Festival ("Perform in Perth"), March

There was a healthy array of entrants from Morrison's Academy resulting in an impressive spread of individual certificate awards:

Lindsey Macdonald – First Place (Merit), Intermediate Flute

Lindsey Macdonald and Marianne Inglis – First Place (Merit), Intermediate Piano Duet

Oliver Forde – First Place (Merit),

Elementary Modern Guitar Solo

Naomi Gillies – Third Place (Merit),

Elementary Violin

Libby Dillon – Merit, Elementary Violin

Clare Ratcliff – Merit, Intermediate

Violin

Melissa McDonald – Merit,

Intermediate Violin

Scottish Schools' Chamber Music Festival, March

This was a useful outing to Stewart's Melville College in Edinburgh for the String Quartet, who benefited greatly from meeting some pretty impressive competition from other schools, and also from some helpful professional coaching.

Coleraine International Choral Festival, March

The Chamber Choir, returning to defend the Youth Trophy they won in 2007, were narrowly forced into second place this year by St Thingy's School from somewhere in England. However, it goes without saying that they sang beautifully in any case and in the Light Entertainment Class (competing against a strong field of adult choirs) their vocally and visually attractive Scottish Medley was placed third.

BBC Radio 3 Choir of the Year Competition, April

Selected to sing in the Area Final of this Competition (which included groups from as far away as Cambridge as well as Scotland and the North of England), the Chamber Choir again came away narrowly outdone but certainly not downhearted.



Music

Performance and Entertainment

Scottish Opera with P5/6/7 ("Passport to Paris"). November

This year's show celebrated the Entente Cordiale in a novel and different style, placing our massed operatic forces in the unlikely context of an airport departure lounge and subjecting them to the stresses and strains of delayed and cancelled flights. Nobody actually came to blows, but quite a few national stereotypes came to the fore and both Gallic and Gaelic passions were evident in the spirited acting and singing.

Primary Christmas Concert, December

Every last pupil in the Primary School plays a part in this wonderful annual extravaganza. The Orchestra provides the overture and then each class from P4 upwards (interspersed with readings and poems) does a turn – usually seasonally flavoured and always with that little extra edge occasioned by team pride and wanting to be the best. But the Lower Primary always steal the show anyway with their fully-costumed Nativity drama – this year "Shepherd Little" which featured the entire Little family (Father Little, Mother Little, Quite Little, Fairly Little, Not So Little and Big Little) as well as Stars, Angels, Wise men and the obligatory Roman Soldiers. Things can flag a little if P1's Twelve Days of Christmas runs too smoothly, but yet again they didn't disappoint, and the stirring sound (and sight) of the entire P1-Transitional population performing "Sing One Song" and their traditional "We Wisssshyou a Merry Christmas" brought the proceedings to a gladdening conclusion.

Rector's Invitation Recital, March

You have to be good to play at this one. A glance at the list of winners at the School Music Competition will reveal the identities of the players and singers, who all, having emerged successful from the former event, were now able to give of their best as concert performers with the support of family and friends in Memorial Hall (always a great venue for music). This event also included the winners of the Primary Scots Song Competition, so the audience were treated to everything from Ella England (P3), Pippa Boyle (P1) and Jenny Whitaker (P2) singing Coulter's Candy to Stephen Hamilton (S6) playing Schulhoff's impossibly taxing Hot Sonata on the alto saxophone.

Spring Concert, March

Although the Secondary School can't quite claim the 100% participation rate achieved by the Primary at Christmas, there can be few able-bodied Senior musicians who didn't play some part in this. Morrison's Academy can now field a very presentable symphony orchestra, but this is usually one of the few occasions during the year when it is possible to assemble all its members in the same place at the same time (just for the record, we did also include them in the School Carol Service at Christmas, and hope to do so in future sessions.) For this concert they played two Capriccios – one by Tchaikovsky ("Italian") and one by Rimsky-Korsakov ("Espagnol") – with great panache, bringing a feeling of Mediterranean sunshine to the sometimes drab surroundings of Academy Hall. The rest of the programme represented a more or less complete review of all the groups



Music

and ensembles that are currently active in the Senior School – the String Orchestra, String Quartet, Ceilidh Band, S1/2 Choir, Chamber Choir, Boys' Choir, Senior Choir, Swing Band, "Band Substance", Pipe Band and full Drum Corps – as well as solo items.

Primary Show ("When the Hippos Crashed the Dance"), May

A multi-coloured cast of rabbits, roosters, flamingos, mice and the obligatory Elvis clone brought to life this specially adapted production, so that any resemblance to any persons living or dead – or indeed any passing likeness to popular TV dance competition shows – was of course entirely intentional.

S6 Recital, June

This was the first musical volley fired in the 2008 S6 Arts Week. This year's S6 has been more than usually active and talented in the performing arts, and put on a highly professional concert of solos and ensembles, ably aided and abetted by the full Chamber Choir. Soloists were Alexandra Taylor (cello and piano), Kim Donaldson (clarinet and piano), Angus McLellan (piano), Stephen Hamilton (alto saxophone and piano), Hilary Andrew (soprano), Helen Andrews (soprano) and Emily Whitters (piano). The Chamber Choir made it as far as their final number (Flying Free) before succumbing to the emotion of the occasion (this was absolutely their last concert appearance under the direction of Mrs Taylor, who leaves us at the end of this session: see below).

S6 Show (Cinderella), June

The Summer Show was a re-interpretation of the fairy tale classic first staged by these wacky young thespians when they were in Primary School in 1999: full spread elsewhere in the magazine.

Swing Band at the Hydro, October

A couple of years ago the Swing Band was invited to the Crieff Hydro to provide music for the Annual Dinner of the Association of Directors of Social Work and Criminal Justice. Not only were the players all acquitted without charge on that occasion, they also clearly now have a record of the non-criminal variety, and were invited back for a repeat performance shortly after the October half term break this session. Nice to be appreciated and to have made a good impression.

Concert at St. Kessog's Church, Auchterarder, October

Now very much a regular fixture of our musical calendar, featuring the Chamber Choir and an array of soloists: slightly earlier in the year this time but supported as ever by a full house of parents, friends and community members.

St. Fillan's Music Circle, November

This is a group of music lovers who meet on Tuesday afternoons during the winter season, usually to listen to recorded music or talks and lectures. Occasionally they do like the real thing, however, and we were delighted to entertain them with a mixed programme of choir items, ensembles and solos sustained almost entirely by the S3 music class (with a

little reinforcement from other members of the Chamber Choir who were able to make themselves available). There is substantial musical talent in this year, and nearly all of the pupils who sing are also proficient on at least one instrument as well, making programme planning very easy.

Carols at Innerpefferay, December

This is not actually an official Music Department event, but it always involves many pupils and staff. Mrs Taylor directs the Innerpefferay Singers, Mr Duthie accompanies, and the choral ranks are invariably well seasoned with members of the Chamber Choir and even a few teachers (past and present). There is a very special kind of atmosphere about it all, whatever the weather throws at us, and this year was no exception.

Perth Festival Of The Arts Lunchtime Concert in St. John's Kirk, May

The invitation to schools to take part in the Perth Festival usually appears months in advance, but bids for the best date have to be in within minutes in order to ensure a time when exam commitments are at a minimum. We were immensely lucky this year to be allotted our first choice of a day when all Morrison's musicians were 100% free of SQA exams. Hence we were able to take a party of 45 hand-picked performers including String Orchestra, Chamber Choir and "Band Substance" as well as chamber groups, ensembles and soloists. Add to that the bonus of a full and appreciative audience and the result was a happy and successful concert delivered with no (apparent) stress.

Music

External Examinations and other Pupil Successes

The Department continues to present candidates for Trinity/Guildhall qualifications (in the Summer Term only) as well as Associated Board exams. Both carry exactly the same weight and value but there are slightly different requirements for Trinity/Guildhall, which are more suitable for some of our pupils. By the time this issue of "The Morrisonian" goes to press, 67 pupils will have passed AB Practical Exams and the T/G total will be 21. From the results currently available, special mention goes to Stephen Hamilton for passing Grade VIII Alto Saxophone (AB) with Merit, and to Clare Ratcliff for achieving Distinction in violin and piano (both at AB Grade III) at the same sitting. Hilary Andrew has passed her Grade VIII Singing (T/G) with Merit and Alexandra Taylor now has her Grade VIII Piano (T/G) safely in the bag at Merit level; she is fully expected to add an AB Cello Grade VIII to her trophy cabinet after this 'Morrisonian' has gone to press. Other AB Distinction level passes were achieved by Rachael Smart (Piano Grade V) and Naomi Gillies (Clarinet Grade I), whilst in the recent T/G exams in June there was a very healthy crop of Distinctions including Lindsey Macdonald (Grade V Flute), Kirsten Longmuir (Grade VII Singing), Emily Harrison (Grade VI Singing), Rachel Cram, Cara Jones and Hannah Logan (Grade V Singing), Annabel Brooks (Grade IV Singing), and Amy Tait (Grade III Singing).

Kirsten Longmuir has won a place on the Music Theatre Course at The Dance School of Scotland (Knightswood, Glasgow) which is Scotland's only fully-funded specialist school of its kind. Competition for

places here is fierce and Kirsten's achievement is of the very first order. She starts her two-year course in August, and although she will be sorely missed at Morrison's, we wish her all the very best for what we hope will be a successful showbiz career. See you in the West End before long, Kirsten!

Rachael Smart has received the significant accolade of being invited to lead the National Children's Orchestra of Scotland for her final concert with them during this Summer holiday. This is a notable achievement and confirms the respect in which she is held by this important national body in whose ranks she has played for the last three years. Concurrently she is also carving out a place for herself in NYOS (National Youth Orchestra of Scotland), having already been invited to play in its Christmas Concert last year and attended its Training Course over the Easter holidays. She also continues to attend the Junior Academy at RSAMD in Glasgow every Saturday.

Amy Smart is following in her sister's footsteps and has already attended a NCOS Training Course with her cello this Easter. Hilary Andrew has been accepted into the Training Choir of the prestigious National Youth Choir of Scotland. Four of our girls are now regular members of the newly-formed National Girls' Choir of Scotland. Kirsten Longmuir, Emily Harrison, Rachel Cram and Hannah Logan recently took part in impressive concerts in Perth and Edinburgh. David Innes and Andrew Tainsh are now on the books of the National Boys' Choir of Scotland. They sang in Edinburgh during April and will be in the choir again for a mini-tour in May.

The Perth Youth Orchestra gave its annual Easter Concert to a packed

audience in the Perth Concert Hall on April 6th. Morrisonians in its ranks were Kim Donaldson (clarinet), Harriet Smythe (viola) and Emily Harrison (violin)

Department News

After fourteen years of service to Morrison's Academy Mrs Joan Taylor leaves us in June to take up the post of Head of Music at Ardvreck Preparatory School. She will leave a gap which ordinary mortals will struggle to fill. Of course a full tribute will be found in the Staff Section of this 'Morrisonian', but we must also record here our deepest admiration and gratitude for all her tireless work here and wish her all the very best in her new career just up the road.

Miss Fran Pybus left us at the end of last session after six fruitful and happy years as clarinet and saxophone teacher: her place has been taken by Miss Gemma Carlin. She has already started a new batch of young hopefuls who will almost certainly form the backbone of the Orchestra and Swing Band woodwind section in years to come. The Department was delighted to hear on February 27 that Mrs Morag Campbell had become the proud mother of a bouncing baby girl, Sarah. Morag's place is being ably filled during her maternity leave by Mr Scott Murray, who is maintaining our high standards of individual piping instruction as well keeping the Pipe Band well up to scratch. Scott's background and experience are impressive and we count ourselves fortunate to have secured his services.

H Duthie



Cinderella

S6 ARTS WEEK

Pantomime? In mid-summer? Certainly – a wonderful pantomime: witty script, dreadful one-liners, fantastic costumes, slick staging, audience participation, brilliant musical support, pretty girls, handsome boys, all packaged in a glittering performance by a troupe of actors who had it all to play for and played it to the hilt.

Things got off to a promising start with the welcoming Buck's Fizz enhanced by a musical performance from the school jazz group 'Band Substance'; providing not just background entertainment but a considerable talent showcase. Then down went the auditorium lights, controlled by David Hiscocks, and the show began, a lively overture setting the mood. On came the Mice (Andrew Crowe, Jamie Fairclough, Keith Ratcliff, Duncan Redden and Graeme Sudworth), an agile and anarchic Greek chorus, giving a running commentary on the plot throughout the evening and, in their snappy straw boaters, providing a very creditable barber-shop quintet.

There were great performances. Helen Andrews as Cinderella gave a feisty interpretation to the care-worn kitchen maid of the story, and she sang beautifully as well - particularly in the final duet with Prince Michael de Corps (Hilary Andrew), which held all the sweet sugar and spice of a fairytale ending. Both Hilary and Kim Donaldson (Gary of Gordon & Durward) took on the role of Principal Boys with zest and aplomb, and while no thighs may actually have been slapped, the swagger was well conveyed, despite Prince Michael's wimpish green tendencies. Cameron Matthews was an excellent Buttons, cheeky and poignant and

connecting brilliantly with the audience, while Catie Gray gave the spitting cat Fifi elegance, hauteur and a horrid viciousness quite in keeping with the part. Angus McLellan (Baron Henry Hardup) made excellent comic use of his zimmer and his general doddering state, and then he touched us all with his fine singing of 'More I cannot give you', a reprise of his part in Guys & Dolls. Catriona Laird (Stepmother) was roundly boo-ed and hissed at every appearance and played the part with disdainful relish. Stephen Hamilton (King Simon the Simple) can best be described, in voice and facial appearance, as Ian Paisley on a Bad Hair Day. Clearly exasperated by his son, he seemed out of touch with events, apart from the looming constitutional crisis which would be triggered by Prince Michael's continued bachelor status! Emma Gilmour (Queen Louise the Lovely) made a regal figure in a fully supporting role. Alexandra Taylor (Fairy Godmother) looked gorgeous and sounded brisk and managerial – a touch of the Head Girls – but she made the magic happen with a delightful wiggle and the tap of her wand, and the turnip aka water melon was transformed into a splendid coach with glittering wheels, cleverly propelled across the stage by the ubiquitous Mice.

For the audience, the essential part of any pantomime is the Dame. We were blessed with two of them: Sandy Jackson (The Hon. Griselda Hardup) and Michael Basford (The Hon. Gertrude). Will we ever forget their outrageous business with their diaphanous and feather laden peignoirs, carelessly flicked aside to reveal all too ample breasts and more and then drawn together with a tetchy modesty? Their sustained

false alto was truly masterly, particularly in the inevitable duet 'Sisters', and their comic timing, both verbal and physical, gave the whole evening an extra dimension. Quite simply they were brilliant!

Supporting roles from Victoria Tripp and Emily Whitters (Ladies in Waiting, doubling as Milkmaids), Alex O'Carroll (Dandini) Michael Rae, Jonathan Cox, and John Ramsay (Government Ministers), Hamish Easton (Herald) and Rory Houston (Footman) and the rest of the Little Milkmaids – Lisa Coffey, Sarah Edwards, Victoria Henderson, Sarah Ritchie, Sarah Scott and Emily Tait – assisted the story with song and dance and they were in turn demure, stately, and sprightly as required.

The Musicians, Matthew Beetschen, Alastair Hamilton and Ben Vardi sustained the whole performance with their sympathetic support, and in particular, Mr Beetschen's impish musical humour and meticulous playing were crucial to the show's success.

As ever a host of people helped both front and back of house, and it was a team effort which made a truly wonderful end-of-school performance by a talented Sixth Year cast. What a memorable way for them to end their school careers, and what a rollicking good time we all enjoyed in their company.

The show was memorable for another reason. This was Joan Taylor's last production, after a fourteen year career at Morrison's, during which she has produced, directed, cast and written so many brilliant shows. This spontaneous, funny and very professional performance was an apt way for her to say goodbye.

Cinderella

The standing ovation she was given on the second night and the warm tribute paid by the Rector reflected the respect and affection which she has won from her colleagues as well as from several generations of pupils lucky enough to learn and perform under her direction.

Jean Ann Scott Miller



Cinderella



Cinderella





Co-Curricular

Drama



"The Monster That Ate 3b"

by Randall Lewton (adapted by Patrick O'Kane)

What a splendid rollercoaster of a show this was: from the relative calm of pre-show canapés (courtesy of Mrs Maguire) and the opening sequence of an Italian boy (Lindsay Duncan) asleep in front of a fishing rod, to the first "appearance" of the monster (cue: music from "Jaws"), the madcap journey of the English teenagers (to the strains of the "William Tell" overture by Rossini) and the denouement that was reminiscent of the final scene from "Swan Lake" where evil is defeated and good prevails. The tableau of the billowing ocean with the monster being defeated by Tommy and Otto (with the help of a black pudding) was certainly one of the highlights of the evening.

Indeed, what was especially clever about this production was the way that the director (Mr O'Kane) had taken an uneven script and infused it with life, particularly through the medium of sound effects, music and mime. For instance, who would have thought that Verdi's music for "La Traviata" could be used so effectively to accompany a stylized fight between English and Italian kids? That is not to say that I did not enjoy the dialogue but I feel that without the clever embellishments this would have been merely a good show as opposed to being a knockout success.

The plot was simple enough. A group of "Bash Street Kids" and their teachers embark upon a cultural trip to Italy. Unfortunately, their town of choice has been plagued by a sea monster for many years and, in any case, the Italian youngsters are not

particularly friendly but, you guessed it, the young English tourists are instrumental in ridding the place of the monster and the play ends in general merriment but for the appearance of the monster's spawn, brought to life by Erin O'Kane. (Do you think your Dad was trying to tell you something, Erin?)

And what of the performances? Well, there wasn't a weak link in the entire cast and it was so good to witness a group of young people working as a team to realize their producer's vision as opposed to the proverbial up-staging that is the bane of many a theatrical undertaking!

I particularly enjoyed the interaction between the English schoolboys: Otto (played by Douglas Guthrie), George (played by Ciaran O'Kane), Fletch (played by Gregor Gray) and Tommy (played by Stephen Lafferty). There was a certain Marcel Marceau quality about Douglas' portrayal of fitness fanatic Otto that was funny and endearing at the same time ("Black Pudding, anyone?"), while Ciaran's George was delightfully "far out" ("Any cheese going?"): he reminded me of Slash from "Guns and Roses", all hair and not quite connected to reality! Congratulations are also due to Gregor Gray and Stephen Lafferty who gave very convincing performances as naïve Fletch and dependable Tommy. In my opinion these were more difficult parts to pull off than those played by Douglas and Ciaran but pull them off they did! Well done! I also liked Rachael Jones' Nora who let us listen into her diary of the trip. She had a certain quiet dignity that proved to be a welcome contrast to the mayhem that was going on around her.

The three members of staff, played by

Drama

Sandy Jackson, Kirsten Longmuir and David Maitland Gardner, were carefully delineated, Sandy's Mr Heywood suitably bluff, Kirsten's Miss Dale delightfully prim and David's Headmaster looking and sounding as if there was a permanent dirty nappy under his nose!

We will long remember Sandy's unfortunate sun burn and the romantic encounter between Miss Dale and the Headmaster when cupid came a-calling in the unlikely shape of our factor, Mr J Speck, who abseiled from a trap door in the ceiling to visit the loving couple in a scene reminiscent of the spectaculars performed by Louis XIV of France!

And so to the Italian contingent! Ruby McKinnell was quite spooky as the prophet of doom, her portrayal reminding me of the mad soothsayer from "Up Pompeii" which I believe was based on the ancient Roman plays of Plautus. Carla and Carlo (the hotel owners played by Rachel Cram and Arthur Learoyd) could also have come from one of those ancient plays: she the shrew, he the sloth. Rachel and Arthur added much to the evening with their battle of wills. I particularly enjoyed Arthur's take on mañana. Of the other townspeople, the following cast of characters made their mark: Joe Speck's seemingly ever-present ice cream seller whose wares were used by Fletch to dampen Luigi's spirits; Andrew Haydock's priest, rosary always to hand; David MacDonald's inscrutable policeman; Ronald Guthrie's passionate mayor; Emma Robertson's grieving mother; Rosanna McDermott's dramatic storyteller; Callum Strong's testosterone-driven Luigi and his alter ego played by Lindsay Duncan.

And we musn't forget the acting contributions made by members of staff. Mrs T Lafferty, Mrs J Longmuir and Mrs D Riddell (when not knee deep in costumes, hairspray and makeup) made quite an impact as the "good time" nuns. (I laughed out loud at their entrance and really enjoyed their politically incorrect antics. While they were on stage I couldn't help thinking what Mr O'Kane's mother would make of them. I gather she was not particularly amused!)

Of the murdered merchants it was Mr M McKeever who made the biggest impact. He had great stage presence: something that was even more apparent when he appeared later on as the monster. But congratulations are also due to the other murdered souls who died so dramatically at the hands of the villagers: Mr I Barnett, Mr E Coffey, Mr G Guile (a surprisingly convincing priest), Mr P Lovegrove and Mr R Millon.

Every director knows that the thespians would be lost without good back stage support and this group of actors had this in spades. From the faultless lighting of Mr R McDermott and his crew to the impeccably timed sound effects and music of Mr D Hamilton and son and the carefully thought out designs of Ms P McQue (set) and Mr S Jewell (programmes and posters): both reminiscent of old "B" horror movies.

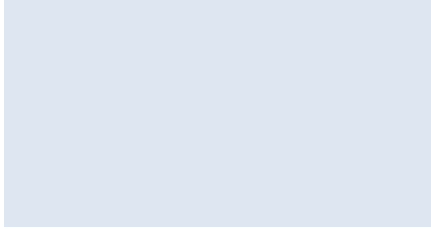
I think that Mrs M O'Kane deserves a special mention: of course, for her work front-of-house and on costumes but more especially for keeping her husband as calm as possible given his nature and the enormity of the task that is any school show!



Drama

Lesser known Chekov this wasn't but a thoroughly enjoyable night at the theatre it certainly was. Well done, everyone!

H MacMillan



Drama



Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

The CCF continues to be a popular extra curricular activity within the school and offers pupils the chance to involve themselves in a variety of challenging activities. The emphasis is very much placed on the individual to decide what they want to achieve from their time within the CCF. For some the camaraderie of the annual summer camp is a highlight of their time in the organisation; whilst others gain great satisfaction from honing their shooting skills and competing in the Country Life Shoot. The opportunity to complete the Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award is a key attraction to many and every year a significant number gain these awards.

This report aims to give an overview of some of the key moments of the previous twelve months.

Summer Camp 07

During the first week of the summer holidays 65 cadets and six members of staff headed to Barry Buddon Camp for a week of activities. The first day was spent settling into the modern well-equipped accommodation and being issued equipment for the week by Mr Buchan. Then the Contingent deployed into the field for a twenty-four hour exercise. This was organised by members of 21 Cadet Training Team, who regularly assist Morrison's Cadets. Despite some heavy showers all went well and morale remained high. Everyone completed a challenging series of events including blank-firing section attacks, a night ambush and a night sleeping under bivouac shelters. It was a great opportunity for the senior cadets to assume command positions and lead their junior counterparts throughout

the exercise. As an interest activity the cadets were given a survival demonstration that will be remembered for many years, even if it is only for Oliver Jones eating a fish's eye.

The chance of some sleep in camp the next day was spurned by the majority of the cadets and, having cleaned themselves and their kit, they enjoyed impromptu football games. Then it was onto buses to head to Ballater to begin an adventure training package. This was overseen by Edinburgh-based 24 Cadet Training Team and was the highlight of the week for many. I was extremely impressed with those S2 cadets who completed a 27km walk over 5 Munros. Jasmine Thomas still had enough energy to run to the minibus at the end of the walk. The next day was spent canoeing on Aboyne Loch and orienteering at Cambus of May. The torrential rain meant that the planned abseiling and climbing was not a viable option.

Following another bus journey, we arrived back at Barry Buddon for the final two days of activities, the first of which comprised of a day shooting on the ranges. For many this was the first time that they had had a chance to shoot at targets at ranges greater than 25m. There was also an opportunity to fire the Light Support Weapon which was enjoyed by all. That evening the cadets participated in a period of drill instruction which was led by a sergeant major from the Scots Guards. It was amazing to see the rapid improvement in the standard of their drill and bearing after only half an hour's instruction. By this stage Andrew Turnbull was complaining that he was exhausted and had never felt so tired in his life.

How he must have wished that he had heeded the advice to sleep earlier in the week!

The final day of activities was spent completing a series of stands run by a variety of the arms of the British Army. The Royal Artillery introduced the 105mm Light Gun, the Royal Engineers ran a mine clearance stand and the Royal Army Medical Corps ran first aid activities. The most unusual part of the week was still to come and this took the form of a visit and speech by a NASA astronaut who had just returned from space! He might well have just inspired some intrepid travellers of the future.

Throughout the week Sandy Jackson and Vicki Henderson worked tirelessly to organise the cadets and it is down to their hard work that the Contingent received so much praise from the various members of staff who ran the activities. In addition Mr McKeever and Dr Kihlken must be thanked for giving up their time to provide extra staff cover for the week.

Combined Cadet Force (CCF)



Combined Cadet Force (CCF)



Autumn Term

The Term began with a "field day" in September. This took the form of an inter-house competition in which the S6 cadets ran the stands and teams led by S5 cadets undertook the various challenges. As ever the tug-of-war proved to be a popular finale. The day also gave a chance for the Contingent to invite the hierarchy of 21 Cadet Training Team to visit along with representatives from the Headquarters of 51 (Scottish) Brigade.



Throughout the year a variety of opportunities to spend time away with the CCF arise. In August Lt Barr took an intrepid group of S3 cadets to Lagganside for a weekend of mountain walking and mountain biking. The chance to visit WolfTrax mountain bike centre was clearly enjoyed by all.



Over a series of Sundays in late August and early September a select band of cadets trained for the annual Scottish Cadet Military Skills Competition. They practised section attacks, trained on First Aid and Map Reading and honed their weapon handling skills. This year's competition was held on the west of Scotland on the Ardgartan training area. It took



Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

the form of a patrolling exercise in which the cadets had to navigate across mountainous terrain and complete a series of competitive stands. Sandy Jackson proved to be an inspirational team leader, gaining excellent results from his fellow cadets. It was gratifying to watch them win a number of stands including the section attack stand and the night rece patrol competition. After two days of hard fought competition the team gained bronze medals and were tantalisingly close to being champions. Roll on next year!

For a second year running Mr Buchan organised a Methods of Instruction weekend for the S4 cadets. The venue this time was Dunkeld Training Camp. The cadets undertook a variety of instructional lessons including drill and weapons training lessons. The feedback that came from 21 Cadet Training Team, who assisted with the weekend, was that they were extremely impressed with the enthusiasm shown by the group.

Whilst the S4's were learning to become the instructors of the future, the remainder of the Contingent participated in Crieff's Remembrance Sunday parade. With over 40 cadets marching behind the School's Pipe Band, the CCF certainly made their presence felt.

Finally a mention should go to Cadet Colour Sergeant Sandy Jackson who became the Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for Perth and Kinross. This prestigious position saw him assisting the Lord Lieutenant at the Dundee Festival of Remembrance and the Remembrance Day parade in Perth.

Spring Term

At the beginning of January slightly fewer than 30 S2 cadets undertook the Recruit Induction day. This gave them an introduction into the wearing of uniform, a chance to shoot the .22 rifle and began the process of learning how to handle the 5.56 rifle safely. All of the weapon safety instruction that the S2s received was

given by S6 cadets. I have been very impressed by the diligence and high standards shown by Cadet Sergeants Andrew, Fairclough, Redden and Sudworth as they dealt with their junior charges on a weekly basis. It was noticeable how smoothly the weapon handling tests went and this is down to the work of the S6 instructors.

Whilst this was going on, the S3 cadets were undergoing First Aid and navigation training. Once again this was largely done by members of S6 such as Cadet Colour Sergeant Jackson, Cadet Sergeant Basford and Cadet Corporals Easton, Gilmour and Ritchie. In my mind one of the main benefits of the CCF to senior pupils is the chance to take charge of a group of less experience cadets and teach them a new skill.



Combined Cadet Force (CCF)



Adventure Training

During the Easter holidays the CCF ran two separate adventure training weeks. Firstly, a group went to the Hardangervidda Plateau in Southern Norway to learn the skills of cross-country skiing. Then during the final week another group headed to Rothiemurchus Lodge in the Cairngorms for a multi-activity trip.

Exercise Viking Ski Trek

Between the 25th of March and the 1st of April 2008 a group of 12 cadets from Morrison's Academy CCF undertook Exercise Viking Trek, a cross-country skiing expedition to Haugastol on the edge of the Hardangavidda plateau in Norway.

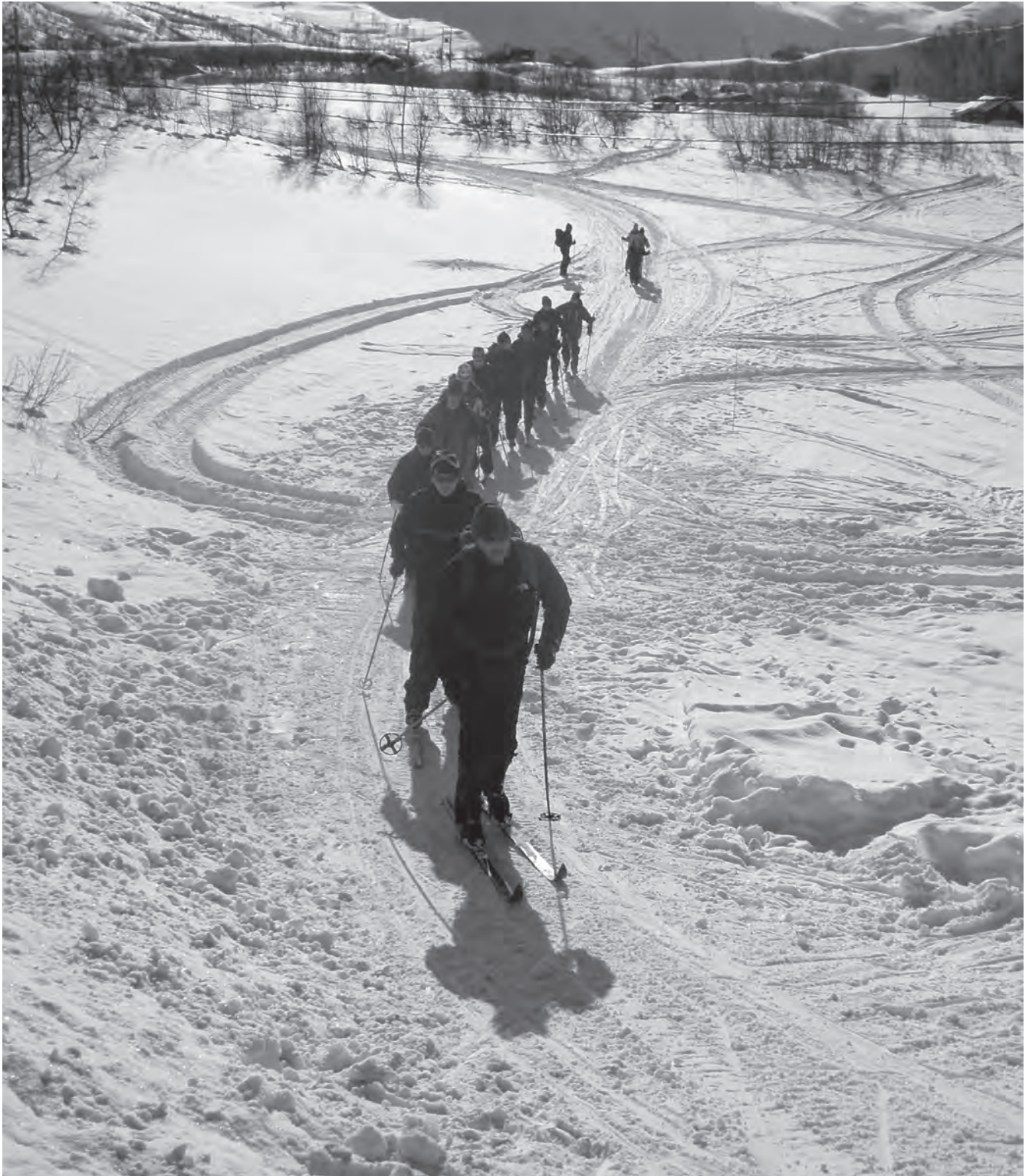
Sandy Jackson S6

Adventure Training at Rothiemurchus Lodge

The adventure started straight away as we arrived to find a foot of snow covering the track to the lodge. Sergeant Belsham wasted no time in getting us to work as a team and push the stranded minibus up the slippery track to the lodge. As we stepped inside, sodden and tired, we wondered how many more "adventures" were in waiting for us over the next few days.

The first day was a mountaineering exercise, made interestingly difficult by bad weather, tricky navigation and the constant snowball fire within the group. By the next day we decided we had braved the elements enough and opted for a session at Aviemore's indoor climbing wall and swimming pool. Great fun! The last day passed in a blur of corners, burns, jumps and drops at

Combined Cadet Force (CCF)



Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

Laggan WolfTrax mountain bike centre. After going over the basics, Sergeant Belsham permitted us to test our nerve and our handling skills on some of the more technical trails. By the next morning everyone felt sad to leave. We all agreed that the trip had been far too short and the activities brilliant. Even the food wasn't bad!

We returned to Crieff full of stories after having a great time and were eager to go again next year.

Gregor Gray S3

Summer Term

The main focus for the S4 and S5 year groups was their Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. The Silver group had a training expedition that saw them walking from near Comrie to the edge of the Sma' Glen. Their assessed expedition was held in the stunning environs of Ben Alder, near Loch Laggan. The Gold group spent a weekend on a training expedition near Bridge of Orchy to prepare them for the final venture in the Cairngorms. In both cases the cadets pushed themselves to their limits, forged new relationships with their peers and in many cases learnt something about themselves. Experiences such as this often prove to be life-forming.

In mid-May, the S2 cadets headed to Barry Buddon training area for a fieldcraft and live firing weekend. They learnt how to make "bivvy" shelters, cook rations and cross the ground in a tactical manner. For many the highlight was the chance to fire their weapons on the range. Just before the end of the term, the S3 cadets enjoyed a day at Comrie Croft where they undertook blank firing section attacks, completed a close quarter battle task and orienteered

around the estate.

At the start of the summer holidays almost 80 cadets are heading off for an action-packed week at Nesscliffe Camp, near Shrewsbury. I am sure that this will prove to be a fittingly enjoyable end to a busy year.

As ever I must acknowledge the huge amount of support that I receive in order to run the cadets. Within the school the SSI, Mr Buchan, gives of his time unstintingly as do Lts Barr and McDermott. We are also fortunate to enjoy the assistance of 2/Lt Scott and

Capt Willmore. In addition, the organisational abilities of Cadet Sergeant Major Henderson and her team of S6 cadets have ensured the smooth running of cadet training on a weekly basis. Finally, 21 Cadet Training Team and, in particular Sgt John Belsham, deserve a special mention for their outstanding work.

M Clayton
Officer Commanding
Morrison's Academy CCF



Chess Club & Round The World Cooking

Chess Club

This has been a mixed session for chess club. On the one hand, the resurrected Secondary group has been well attended and produced good results from a wide range of S1 to S4 pupils; on the other hand, the Primary group was slow to pick up, and it was really only in term two that this group took off. While ultimately there was keen enthusiasm for the activity and much new learning took place, it did mean that we did not put forward a team this session for the Fair City Chess Competition. We were not alone in this, and the competition did not feature other diehards from previous years.

Next session we intend running a beginners' class for Primary 5 pupils from September to mid-term and then build that into a primary grouping of Primary 5 to Transitional from mid-term to Easter, and hope to build the enthusiasm (and team participation) in that way.

Two interhouse competitions were played in the course of the session and the results are given below. The competitions were hard fought and played in very good spirit.

Primary competition

1st	Grahams
2nd	Murrays
3rd	Drummonds
4th	Campbells

Secondary competition

1st	Grahams
2nd	Campbells
3rd	Drummonds
4th	Murrays

Thanks are due to all pupils who have regularly attended chess club and to Miss McCluskey for her time and assistance.

A Law

Round The World Cooking

In a new co-curricular initiative, Mrs Farnan from the Home Economics department and Monsieur Millon from the French department presented a short course which provided an opportunity for pupils to make and sample some dishes from around the world. The countries were chosen from the teams competing in the Rugby World Cup in France.

Monsieur Millon provided the pupils with worksheets and recipes in French. He then helped them to translate the worksheets before Mrs Farnan provided the support required to ensure that the end product was edible!!

The course ran for 5 weeks in January and February and dishes from Tonga, South Africa, France, Fiji and Italy were discussed and prepared each week.



The course attracted a maximum of 12 pupils from S1 through to S4 who spent an extra hour after the normal school day making a dish from each of the countries and at the same time they gained an understanding of the French vocabulary required to describe the ingredients and the method of preparation for each of the dishes.

The pupils and teachers enjoyed the course and it is hoped that more co-curricular activities between Home Economics and the Modern Language departments can be organised in the future.

S Farnan
R Millon



Debating

The Year We Came Good

Two trophies, a foreign holiday, one internationalist, and more breaks to university finals than ever before. This was the year when Morrison's debating achieved success on a scale hitherto unknown to us.

The Courier Debating Trophy

The Debating Society secured front page coverage in 'The Courier' newspaper this year with our magnificent victory in the largest juniors' competition in Scotland. Emma Robertson and Ruth Thomson successfully opposed a motion to ban gambling in a packed Lower Parliament Hall in the University of St Andrews and in doing so won themselves the highly prized Courier Debating Competition trophy and a ten-day holiday in Florida.

The road to 'The Courier' final was long and demanding. Along the way Emma and Ruth faced two highly technical medical ethics motions. Firstly they proposed the ending of state funding of any form of fertility treatment. Then they opposed a woman's right to choose becoming enshrined in EU law. In the semi-final they encountered the longest motion of the year, that multi-national companies operating from Britain be mandated to provide a reasonable level of education to their workforce in the Third World. After a semi-final motion like that, the girls breezed through the much simpler gambling motion in the final.

Congratulations to Emma and Ruth on a tremendous achievement. They have won themselves the richest prize in Scottish debating.

Emma and Ruth's success is not all

there is to report on 'The Courier' competition though. The school dominated the tournament this year, securing three places out of the twelve in the semi-finals, and two teams in the grand final. Marianne Inglis and Hannah Logan deserve congratulations for breaking to the final and setting up such a strong debate from first proposition. Their bid for the trophy began back in October when they opposed the lifting of all planning restrictions on residential property. By January they were opposing intervention by the West in Darfur to prevent genocide. In the semi-final it was their turn to confront medical ethics when they had to support a motion calling for insurance companies to have access to genetic information about potential clients. In that semi-final they went head to head with the third Morrison's team of Lindsey Macdonald and Alex Johnston. Lindsey and Alex were by then past masters in medical ethics, having successfully argued in an earlier round that the state should take lifestyle into account in the allocation of organs.

Three of our Courier competitors this year will still be juniors next session, so we shall be well placed to make a mark on next year's competition.

Glasgow University Union Schools' Debating Competition

Sandy Jackson and Arthur Learoyd have for some time been seen as one of the toughest pairings on the senior debating circuit. They lived up to their reputation in November by winning the Lord Kelvin Mug at the Glasgow University Union Schools' Debating Competition. Senior motions are only announced fifteen minutes beforehand, meaning that the skills of

a senior debater must include the ability to get to the heart of an issue with minimal preparation. In the Glasgow final Sandy and Arthur showed that they have what it takes, by supporting western intervention to force General Musharraf to hold democratic elections in Pakistan. After a long day of debating, the boys impressed a distinguished panel of judges and brought home, for the first time in the school's history, the coveted mug.

We knew on that November day that this was going to be a special year. Firstly Sandy and Arthur had won the day. Secondly Catherine Lovegrove and Emma Robertson, from S4 and S3 respectively, had also broken to the final. This meant that two of the six teams in the Glasgow final were from Morrison's Academy.

Oxford and Durham University Competitions

Each year, we compete at the top level in Scottish competition and we are now developing a name for ourselves on the UK Debating circuit. Sandy Jackson and Arthur Learoyd were one of five Scottish teams to qualify for the finals day of the Oxford Union Schools' competition. The team enjoyed an eventful weekend in which they debated against some of the best teams in the UK on challenging issues such as investing in only renewable energy sources and taking children into care when their parents refuse medical treatment. In the final round the team was still in contention for a place in the final but a tough debate on introducing quotas for under-represented groups on children's television ended their dreams.

Debating

Durham University is another highlight on the UK debating calendar and this year we entered two teams for the first time. Emma Robertson and Catherine Lovegrove worked extremely hard to attempt five short prep motions in two days. They gave sterling performances and finished with extremely high speaker points. Sandy Jackson and Arthur Learoyd were again in contention for a major break in reaching the semi-finals of this competition but a debate on allowing stop and search on the grounds of race ended their hopes.

International Honours

Sandy Jackson rounded off a tremendous debating year by securing a place in the Scotland team which travels to Washington DC in the summer to defend its title in the World Schools' Debating Championships. He will join four other pupils from Scottish schools in what promises to be a demanding but rewarding tournament. In order to gain their places on the team, the pupils had to impress the selectors at trials with topics such as abolishing intellectual property laws and banning the wearing of religious symbols in schools. Arthur Learoyd narrowly missed out on a place with his partner, but with a year in hand, Arthur is well placed for Athens 2009. Arthur may be joined at trials next session by Catherine Lovegrove and Emma Robertson who have been invited to join the development squad for the Athens 2009 team.

Despite this upbeat report not everything went the way of Morrison's Academy this session. True, we broke to the semi-finals or finals of nearly all of the competitions that we entered. Yet Sandy and Arthur missed out on



the opportunity to win the ESU Mace in Scotland and thus compete in the International Mace in Liverpool. Lindsey Macdonald and Marianne Inglis also narrowly missed out on a place in the final of the ESU Juniors' Debating Competition. Emma Robertson and Ruth Thomson didn't quite win the day in the Auld Hoose Debating competition in Aberdeen. It has also to be said that none of our novice debaters broke to the final of the Glenalmond Debating Competition in February.

However, all this serves as a reminder that competitive debating is a demanding and exasperating activity in which one must take the rough with the smooth. We must never lose sight of the prime reason for debating and indeed the "raison d'être" of the debating society: to encourage our pupils to research great issues of the day, construct an argument and deliver it with confidence. A glance at the following selection of motions debated by Morrison's teams this session can only reinforce the

Debating

important work of the society.

This House believes

- that Glasgow should host the 2014 Commonwealth Games
- that childhood obesity should be tackled in school
- that the manager and coaching staff of a national team should be that of the nation

This House would

- give harsher sentences to celebrities who commit drug-related crimes
- introduce bans to prevent holidaying in countries with poor human rights records
- enforce a legal limit to the carbon footprint of the individual
- construct a national DNA database
- legalise the use of performance-enhancing drugs in sport
- give prisoners the right to vote
- vote for an independent Scotland
- establish a United Nations standing army
- ban media companies from broadcasting terrorist-provided hostage footage
- reintroduce capital punishment
- abolish all hate-crime legislation
- re-nationalise the railways
- allow asylum seekers to work
- allow the police to use entrapment.
- cap footballers' wages

P Boal

P Lovegrove



My Debating Career At Morrison's

I started my debating career in S1. I call it a career because it does seem to be a full time job. At that time the debating society, which had been in a state of hibernation, was just being rejuvenated under the watchful eye of Mr Lovegrove. Having had a full year of regular internal debating Mr Lovegrove decided to unleash some of Morrison's junior debaters on the world. In second year, Mrs Boal joined the ranks and I was part of the first team to compete at the Courier Junior Debating competition. It was something of a baptism of fire and over the course of the next two years it became clear we had somewhat misjudged competitive debating in Scotland.

During these two years (my 2nd and 3rd years respectively) we attended many competitions, diligently listening to the judges' feedback, even occasionally agreeing with them, and taking on the advice given to us. My 4th year then consisted of attending a lot of competitions, with an increasingly large number of impromptu debates. The number of competitions was only matched by my number of partners that year. I put this down entirely to the time commitment involved and not my own personality. But throughout that year the feedback became increasingly focused on minor details and honing specific areas - a good sign for years to come.

Indeed it was the following year in 5th year when our dedicated time and effort started to pay dividends. Now placed with Arthur as my regular partner we were able to make a significant impression at the university competitions with a number of 'near

misses'. When I say near misses I mean we performed well in the first two rounds followed by bombing out in spectacular style in the 3rd round. Nonetheless we achieved a new feat, breaking to the final of Aberdeen University's Schools competition and reaching Oxford Finals Day.

This meant an increasingly large amount of travel all over the UK and a seemingly endless number of train journeys with Mrs Boal. I can't say I envied the other passengers in the carriage as we have a bad habit of starting to debate loudly about seemingly pointless topics. It was also during this year that our style of preparation and commitment to hours of research became increasingly lacklustre. We did once, well more than once, spend an entire 15 minutes preparation time trying to get exactly one second on our stopwatch, rather than crafting perfectly honed and analysed speeches. Ironically that led to one of our best performances that year.

My final year's debating at Morrison's was certainly the most successful. From a team perspective we built on the previous year's performance, winning at Glasgow University and breaking to the final of Dundee. From my own personal perspective it was also a very successful year as I managed to top the individual speakers tab at Glasgow and Edinburgh.

During these final two years I also began to take a larger role in coaching and helping junior debaters. This was both enjoyable and rewarding, especially when they started getting better than you ever were. However, when they feel the need to remind me of their success in the face of my failure in junior

Debating

debates it becomes a little less rewarding. In fact the first thing I heard from our winning Courier Junior Debating Competition team was something along the lines of 'Ha we beat you... you went out in the first round'. I must remember in future to enforce the sugar ban more rigorously.

The informal style and good friendships I built up both within the school and in the wider Scottish debating community made these final two years by far the most

enjoyable. Debating has given me many enjoyable experiences, valuable skills, and good friends. However my debating career at Morrison's has now sadly come to an end.

My school debating career will culminate with representing Scotland at the World Schools' Debating Championships held in Washington DC in September 2008. After 6 years invested in debating it is certainly a much appreciated opportunity and one I look forward to. My thanks must

go obviously to both Mrs Boal and Mr Lovegrove for not only coaching me but also running all the debating teams all over the country and giving up a huge amount of time.

I wish all the Morrison's debating teams the best of luck for the coming years and with the good coaching hands I leave them in I'm sure they will bring great success.

Sandy Jackson S6
Debate Captain



Duke Of Edinburgh's Award

At recent national conferences involving other Independent schools and other providers of DoE, a great deal of praise has been heaped on our efforts at Morrison's. The reason for this is not just our participation level but also our completion level. In this year's annual return, we had 113 active participants, about 1 in 3 of the Senior school. Compared with the national average, most of them go on to complete at every level. The main reasons for this are parental encouragement, frequent gentle reminders from the staff involved in both groups, but most importantly, the determination of the young people themselves to achieve in the range of activities.

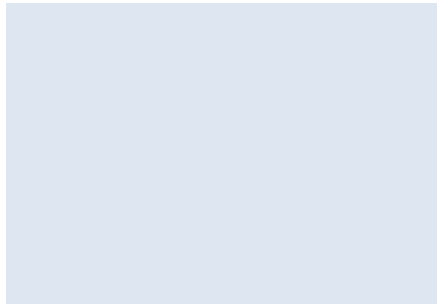
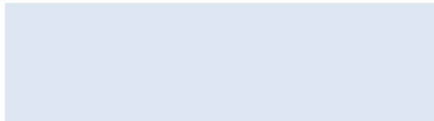
The second valuable piece of encouragement to come from these national gatherings fits very neatly with the school's efforts to move forward. Taking part in DoE helps almost everyone to become more self-confident. Whether it is having to deal with customers in a charity shop, or playing an instrument better, or battling with an icy blast in the middle of an expedition, the experience is usually very positive, although it maybe didn't feel like it at the time.

During the course of this session, 6 Bronze, 24 Silver and another impressive 14 Gold Awards have been completed. Congratulations to everyone who has achieved.

GOLD AWARDS 2007-2008

- Catrion Ballantyne (2006)
- Richard Boddy (2007)
- Michael Basford
- Andrew Crowe
- Jamie Fairclough
- Sandy Jackson
- Sam Jones
- Duncan Redden
- Hilary Andrew
- Emma Gilmour
- Vicki Henderson
- Catie Gray
- Catriona Laird
- Alexandra Taylor

D Allan



Duke Of Edinburgh's Award



Escape Committee

It has been a frustrating year for the Escape Committee with two of our four Breakouts foiled by the weather. Saying that, our successful Escapes have been very special, probably raising the bar still further as we plan for future trips.

However back in the Autumn term we went just a little mechanical, even 'petrol head'. In our never ending search for new excuses to journey a bit, and play a lot, we rode Rigid Hulled Inflatables through the Corrievreckan, the second largest whirlpool in the world, blazed around a highland estate on quad bikes and blasted away with shot guns hunting low flying orange clays (never mind the beach games in the rain, or the Extreme Ironing opportunities at Tralee Bay).

So then, just an average term for the pupils who get really involved!

Our thanks go to the Rector for his faith in the Risk Assessments presented, the skilled and professional Licensed Providers who made these opportunities possible for our young people, and the parents who supported these ventures.

For all that the above reads like a rather breathless account of what we have got up to lately, the Monday morning after the RIB Ride to Jura truly was a morning more ordinary. If the towering rain lashed cliffs, the boiling waters and standing waves, the grey scudding gun-smoke clouds breaking over the mountains and the awe inspiring ocean swells that had rolled there all the way from America, hadn't together touched something in every one of us, something was wrong.

It was then a double blow to lose both the Bothy Breakout to Glen

Feshie in February and the Bike Breakout to Glen Kinglass in March due to forecasts of unacceptably poor weather (forecasts that proved correct on both occasions as it turned out). This only leaves us planning, dreaming and scheming what we can get up to next session.

The Escape Committee has quietly been growing, but what we achieve would be greatly diminished without the enthusiasm of the escapees who try us, and themselves, out. Is it your turn yet?

R Anderson



John Muir Award



John Muir was passionate about wild places and their flora and fauna: This year, with the Explorer Level, we have taken our outing a little higher, onto the moorlands and hills of Perthshire, with their spectacular views. I am sure that the founder of conservation would have enjoyed these trips as much as we have.

Our final outing for the Discovery Award took us to the RSPB Nature Reserve at Vane Farm, near Kinross. Thanks to the Centre with their binoculars we were able to enjoy the great variety of birds on the wet grasslands. We learnt about how the Centre manages its farm in order to encourage as many different types of wading birds. Fifteen pupils achieved the Discovery Award. Their commitment and enthusiasm for taking part in this activity are to be commended.

The Explorer Level involves more of a hands-on approach to conservation. Early this term our small band of 'Explorers' went to Comrie Croft one Sunday afternoon with loppers to cut down some of the invading gorse bushes. These were close to a pond which had recently been cleared. Back at home we started a project to explore ways in which the land surrounding the pond could be planted to encourage wildlife.

Glen Quach and fantastic views of

Loch Freuchie and the surrounding mountains were the setting for our second trip. The mountain hares were out in force as were the oyster catchers and curlews. The pupils learnt how farmers manage their land to encourage wildlife. We saw many pheasants but sadly the grouse kept their heads down.

As always the running of the John Muir Award would not be possible without the constant support from colleagues and friends. A big thank you must go to Margaret Kihlken, our 'photographer', and John Speck, whose help and support have been invaluable.

Finally a special mention and congratulations go to Ronald Guthrie

(S5) who has gained the Conserver Award. This level involves 20 days of committed time. Ronald has worked independently and with great determination to achieve this award. He has attended conservation residential courses, taken part on various conservation projects such as clearing areas of rhododendron and worked on nearby farms surveying farmland birds. I know that the John Muir Award has made a great impact on Ronald and I feel sure that it has shaped the way he feels about the countryside in which he has grown up. It will also have an impact on his future life.

S Harper



Pipe Band



2007 – 2008 has been an interesting session for the Pipe Band in many ways and one which has seen the welcome addition of several new young members to augment its strength both now and for the future.

The band performed on 12 occasions, within School, locally and nationally. In September, the Founder's Day service again saw the band lead the school in procession to and from Crieff Parish Church. The band also enjoyed participating in a very varied and entertaining evening of music in October, as part of the concert given by the school and the visiting German musicians from the Louise Schröder Gymnasium.

November saw our young trio (Andrew Tanish, David McLeod and Ben Vardi) again play well in the Quartets and Trios competition at Dollar, and they were ably supported by other band members together with those waiting in the wings for next session. Also in November, the band honoured its annual commitment to the Remembrance Day parade, again taking part in the event in

Crieff.

Another event which has become an annual highlight is the band's contribution at the School's Christmas Fayre, although describing this performance, in the cold dark November night as being a highlight may be something of a misnomer. If only we had floodlights!! At least there was more illumination when, later the same day, the switching on of the town's Christmas lights was enhanced by the band's spirited performance.

Term two saw the band round off the Easter Concert with huge numbers on stage, again reflecting the wide range of ages. After Easter and 'under new management' we travelled to Edinburgh to take part in the massed Schools CCF Beating Retreat at Edinburgh Castle. I felt quite a sense of pride when it was suggested by more than one independent observer that Morrison's was the smartest band on parade!

Inspired by that affirmation, the band accepted an invitation to open the Crieff Hospital Garden Party and, on a sweltering June day, played two sets to entertain the appreciative crowds and even had time to 'Beat the Goalie'. The following Saturday, the band was in action again at the hugely successful Morrisonian Club 60's Decade Reunion. All the Morrisonians who attended were delighted that the band is going from strength to strength and some old band members were even moved to join in to demonstrate their old skills on the drums.

The year's performances were, as usual, rounded off by appearances at Sports Day and Speech Day.

On the evening of June 13th, the

Pipe Band



Pipe Band

annual Pipe Band competition saw continued high quality competition, with many younger aspiring pipers and drummers displaying their developing skills alongside the more established, older players. 44 competitors took part in total and a large number of parents and supporters witnessed keen competition for prizes which were awarded as follows:

Hamish Riddell

The Philip Cann Memorial Quaich

Cameron Lee

The Campbell Cup for Piping

David McLeod

The William McKay Cup

David Maitland Gardner

The Robertson Dobie Memorial Trophy

Richard Hammond

The East of Scotland Schools CCF Trophy

Lucy Johnson

The Stewart Cup

Matthew Cook

The Taylor Quaich

Lewis Ross

The McGregor Cup

Three other recognition awards were presented to:

Stephen Hamilton

The Herrick Liu Quaich (Bass Section)

David C. Maitland Gardner

The Logie Quaich (Pipe Major)

David J. Innes

The Scott Quaich (Drum Major)

We were delighted to have Mrs J.M. Taylor present the prizes and are indebted to our two judges for the evening, Mark Stewart (piping) and Brian Gibb (drumming), who had the

difficult task of choosing the winners.

As I mentioned at the Pipe Band competition, a busy programme like the above does not just 'happen' and the commitment of band members is something which cannot be paid too high a compliment. Now three times a week, the various tutors work the pupils hard to be the best they can be. It is testament to them that the pupils give so willingly of their time and effort, perform to such a high standard and, perhaps most importantly, enjoy what they are doing in the band.

At the competition I tried to make clear my own pride in the band and the collective achievements of its members on behalf of the School. Much credit must go to Pipe Major David Maitland Gardner and Drum Major David Innes for their efforts to ensure that high standards are maintained as the norm and I would again like to acknowledge the invaluable parental support we enjoy, without which none of this would be possible.

The change of management has meant quite a few changes in my weekly routine as I have gradually eased myself towards a fuller understanding of all that is involved in the role of manager / agent / promoter / financier and roadie! I am now only too aware of the extent of commitment shown by both Mr Law and Miss McCluskey over the years that they have managed and developed our band behind the scenes and was grateful for the opportunity to acknowledge this publicly on Sports Day.

With a wealth of new talent already developing their playing skills and considerable interest being shown throughout the School, the future of the band is looking good. I look forward, with the tutors, to doing what we can to turn the ambitions of the individual members into further concerted achievements for the band in the coming years.

A Beaton

Pipe Band Manager



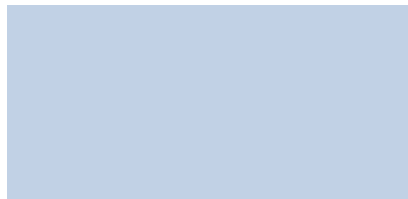
Scalextric Club

The Scalextric club is a new addition to the school this year. It meets on a Friday and consists of 12 race enthusiasts from P4 – S6. A signal of a chequered flag displayed on the locker room door is used to show when the club is meeting.

When the club began there were only two tracks. However, people have donated more and our current track runs all the way round the room with the flyover in the middle. At the club you can either play for fun or compete against other drivers. This year we have competed to set the fastest lap time and to see who can stay on the track the longest. I set a record on the flyover of 72 laps without coming off.

The club is open to everyone and you can come along even if you don't have your own car since people have donated cars for everyone to use.

Alex Patterson S1



School Council

The School Council, which meets twice every term, has discussed various topics of importance to the school. This year the council was lead by the Head Boy and Head Girl who chaired the meetings. They took a fresh approach to the council's proceedings by splitting its members into sub-committees, each of which was given a particular area of focus.

School Sports Curriculum

Throughout the year a group of pupil council representatives sought opinion on the school sports curriculum. Research was conducted using several formal pupil surveys carried out via form class representatives. The resulting proposals involved the rolling programme, use of the tennis courts, the climbing wall and activities for rainy days when outside games are cancelled.

Eco-Friendly

This sub-committee discussed ways in which the school could be made a more environmentally friendly place. Their suggestions involved the provision of bike racks, recycling bins in classrooms and around the school, energy saving light bulbs and the increased use of e mail when contacting parents. They hoped that posters placed around the school would remind everyone of the importance of being environmentally friendly.

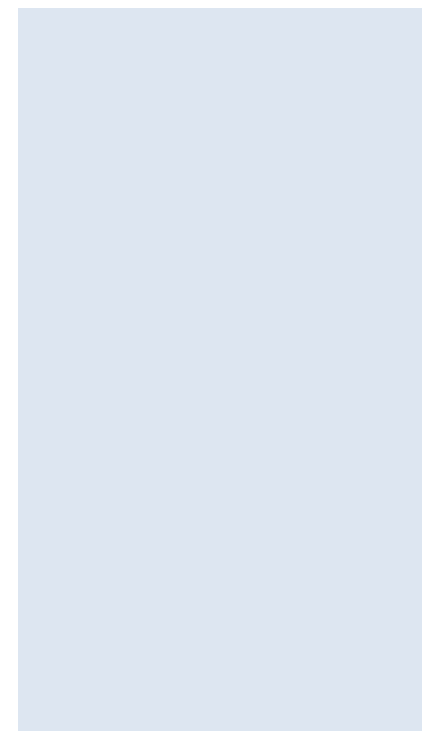
Anti-Bullying

The third sub-committee investigated bullying in the school and made several recommendations as a result of a survey of every school pupil

including several years in primary. The survey returns suggested that the vast majority of pupils in the school feel safe and have someone in whom they can confide. However, to deal with the issues of bullying which do occur, the group recommendations involve dealing with discipline on buses and in sports changing rooms and placing a message box in the school office.

The views expressed by each of the committees and the School Council are an important part of taking pupils' views into account as the school moves forward. The majority of the recommendations made by the council will be implemented in the near future.

Sandy Jackson S6
Alexandra Taylor S6



Young Enterprise

Last September the Elysium Young Enterprise Company of Morrison's Academy was formed. It was comprised of over twenty members of sixth year, and so was the largest of its kind that the school has held. Strangely enough, the most heated debate the company faced the entire year was deciding a name for itself. However, this being settled upon after just three meetings, Elysium was able to move on to explore the possible business opportunities around. These brainstorming sessions took place with great enthusiasm and ideas were of a high quality and plentiful. This promising start led the company eagerly into trade.

Elysium's first and largest project was the production of a Morrison's Academy themed calendar for 2008. This enterprise got off to a somewhat hesitant start, but with an obvious deadline to meet, in the form of the end of the autumn term, the company was able to galvanise itself into action. Small teams of company

members selected pictures suitable for the calendar and the final line-up was decided by democratic vote. The marketing team decided that the fast approaching Christmas Fayre represented the best sales opportunity for the product and prepared with posters and flyers around the school. However, time was running out, and the news that the printing company was 'experiencing a small delay' did little to lift spirits. The order arrived just twenty-four hours before the event, but despite this we were able to sell all hundred-and-twenty calendars before the end of term. A triumph!

Elysium's newfound enthusiasm did not falter with the New Year and a fresh range of possible ideas were discussed, some decidedly more feasible than others! Applying the principles of good business we were beginning to grasp, the company launched and sold Leavers' Hoodies, with great efficiency and hard work on the part of the members involved.

Following the success of the hoodies, Elysium marketed Paschminas. Despite considerable doubt over the saleability of scarves in the middle of a hot May, pleasingly the large majority of the scarves were gone in time for the 'end of trading' and AGM.

Thus, the AGM, although rather lacking in shareholders, was happily able to conclude the end of a successful year for Elysium. The ensuing barbecue and party, courtesy of Archie Burdon-Cooper, reflected the team spirit that had grown during the past few months, and was an enormously enjoyable occasion.

Our sincere thanks goes to the teachers, Mrs Fraser and Mr Macmillan, and our advisors, Archie Burdon-Cooper and Ian McLellan: we owe them a great deal for their advice and continued support over the past year.

Jamie Fairclough S6





House Competition

House Competition



Interhouse Results

Junior Girls' Athletics

1st	Drummonds
2nd	Murrays
3rd	Campbells
4th	Grahams

Intermediate Girls' Athletics

1st	Campbells
2nd	Drummonds
3rd	Murrays
4th	Grahams

Senior Girls' Athletics

1st	Murrays
2nd	Grahams
3rd	Campbells
4th	Drummonds

Junior Boys' Athletics

1st	Murrays
2nd	Drummonds
3rd	Campbells
4th	Grahams

Intermediate Boys' Athletics

1st	Grahams
2nd	Campbells
3rd	Murrays
4th	Drummonds

Senior Boys' Athletics

1st	Drummonds
2nd	Murrays
3rd	Campbells
4th	Grahams

Junior Girls' Badminton

1st	Grahams
2nd	Drummonds
3rd	Campbells
4th	Murrays

Senior Girls' Badminton

1st	Murrays
2nd	Drummonds
3rd	Campbells
4th	Grahams

Junior Boys' Badminton

1st	Grahams
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Senior Boys' Badminton

1st	Grahams
2nd	Campbells
3rd	Drummonds
4th	Murrays

Basketball

1st	Murrays
2nd	Grahams
3rd	Campbells
4th	Drummonds

Chess

1st	Grahams
2nd =	Murrays
2nd =	Drummonds
2nd =	Campbells

Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

1st	Campbells
2nd	Murrays
3rd	Drummonds
4th	Grahams

Junior Cricket

1st	Murrays
2nd	Campbells
3rd	Grahams
4th	Drummonds

Senior Cricket

1st	Murrays
2nd	Campbells

Girls' Cross Country

1st	Murrays
2nd	Campbells

Boys' Cross Country

1st	Drummonds
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Senior Debating

1st	Campbells
2nd	Grahams
3rd	Drummonds
4th	Murrays

Junior Football

1st	Drummonds
2nd	Grahams
3rd	Murrays
4th	Campbells

Intermediate Football

1st	Campbells
2nd	Drummonds
3rd	Grahams
4th	Murrays

Senior Football

1st	Drummonds
2nd	Grahams
3rd	Murrays
4th	Campbells

Junior Hockey

1st	Grahams
2nd	Murrays
3rd	Drummonds
4th	Campbells

Senior Hockey

1st	Murrays
2nd	Campbells
3rd	Drummonds
4th	Grahams

Junior Hockey Skills

1st	Grahams
2nd	Drummonds
3rd	Campbells
4th	Murrays

Senior Hockey Skills

1st	Campbells
2nd	Murrays
3rd	Grahams
4th	Drummonds

Music - Choir

1st	Grahams
2nd	Campbells
3rd	Drummonds
4th	Murrays

Interhouse Results

Music - Ensemble

1st	Drummonds
2nd	Grahams
3rd	Campbells
4th	Murrays

Music - Solo

1st	Grahams
2nd	Campbells
3rd	Murrays
4th	Drummonds

Junior Netball

1st	Grahams
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Senior Netball

1st	Murrays
2nd	Campbells
3rd	Drummonds
4th	Grahams

Photography

1st	Grahams
2nd	Drummonds
3rd	Campbells
4th	Murrays

Quiz

1st	Murrays
2nd	Campbells
3rd	Grahams
4th	Drummonds

Intermediate Boys' Swimming

1st	Murrays
2nd	Campbells
3rd	Grahams
4th	Drummonds

Junior Rugby

1st	Murrays
2nd	Campbells
3rd	Drummonds
4th	Grahams

Senior Rugby

1st	Campbells
2nd	Murrays
3rd	Grahams
4th	Drummonds

Junior Girls' Swimming

1st =	Murrays
1st =	Campbells
3rd	Grahams
4th	Drummonds

Intermediate Boys' Swimming

1st =	Murrays
1st =	Grahams
3rd	Campbells
4th	Drummonds

Senior Boys' Swimming

1st	Campbells
2nd	Murrays
3rd	Drummonds
4th	Grahams

Junior Girls' Tennis

1st	Murrays
2nd	Campbells
3rd	Grahams
4th	Drummonds

Senior Girls' Tennis

1st	Drummonds
2nd	Murrays
3rd	Grahams
4th	Campbells

Junior Boys' Tennis

1st	Drummonds
2nd	Grahams

Senior Boys' Tennis

1st	Grahams
2nd	Drummonds
3rd	Murrays
4th	Campbells

Tug of War

1st	Murrays
2nd	Grahams
3rd	Campbells
4th	Drummonds

Final Results

1st	Murrays	115 points
2nd	Grahams	107 points
3rd	Campbells	103 points
4th	Drummonds	99 points

	Staff	Captains	Vice Captains
Campbells	Mr Guile Miss McCluskey	Michael J. Basford Sarah G. Scott	Andrew Marshall Sarah K. Ritchie
Drummonds	Mr Law Dr Kihlken	Andrew W.J. Crowe Catriona M. Laird	Ryan C. McDowell Lisa K. Coffey
Grahams	Mr Coffey Mrs Harper	Cameron B. Matthews Emma K.R. Gilmour	Stephen K.D. Hamilton Emily Tait
Murrays	Mr Mackenzie Mrs O'Kane	John I. Ramsay Hilary J. Andrew	Jamie Fairclough Victoria A. Henderson



Charity

Charity

In the news...

Burns Supper

The school held a very successful charity Burns Supper in Academy Hall on Friday 25th January. The Head of Modern Languages, Edward Coffey, was Master of Ceremonies and directed the evening’s programme with sharp wit and repartee. He introduced a top table which included the ever-entertaining Jim McLaren (Tam o’ Shanter and Holy Willie’s Prayer), an informative Immortal Memory from the Head Of English, Patrick O’Kane, and two highly amusing speeches from Head Boy, Sandy Jackson (Address to the Lassies), and Head Girl, Alexandra Taylor (Reply to the Lads). Scots Songs from the boys’ and girls’ choirs also added flavour to the evening. In total, nearly £1000 was raised to support the school’s chosen local charity, First Response in Comrie.

Children In Need

Morrison’s Academy raised over £1000 for Children in Need by asking pupils to bring in their spare change.

Cheque for Crieff Hospital

Morrison’s Academy pupils Emily Tait and Victoria Tripp presented Elspeth Liechti, Senior Charge Nurse, Ward 1, Crieff Hospital, with a cheque for £700. The sum was raised by the Charities’ Committee during a cookery demonstration event last year. Thanking the pupils, Elspeth stated: “We are hoping that we can enlarge our garden area for Ward 1 and day-care and this is a great start for our fund. I would like to say a big thank you to Morrison’s Academy Charities’ Committee for supporting the ward.”

Italian Night

Morrison’s Academy held a very enjoyable charity dinner and dance in Academy Hall on Saturday 21st June. Edward Coffey, the Head of Modern Languages, made a wonderful Master of Ceremonies and directed the evening’s programme with style and ease. Whilst the school’s very own swing band, ‘Band Substance,’ set the mood for the evening, other musical acts included the fabulous Mr. Jim McMail, who has appeared on BBC Radio Scotland and toured with his Rat Pack Tribute Show, and the fantastic local band ‘The Bulletholes’ from Comrie. Parents, staff and senior pupils danced the night away whilst raising over £1500 which will be used to support our sponsored teacher in Malawi and the forthcoming hockey/rugby tour to Italy.

Morrison’s Academy Helps Kidney Kids

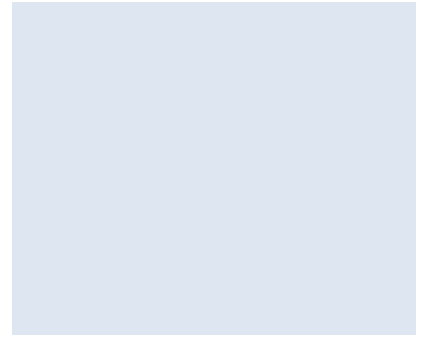
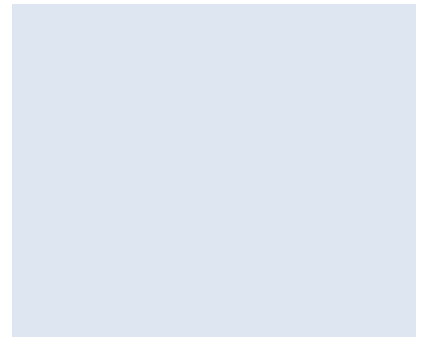
Members of Morrison’s Academy Charity committee handed over a £1000 cheque to the Kidney Kids mascot with Sheena Dunsmore, co-ordinator of Kidney Kids (Scotland), in attendance. Pupils at Morrison’s raised the money by dressing as a sporting hero for the day as well as taking part in a high-energy workout.

Successful Shoebox Appeal

Morrison’s Academy Primary had a very successful Shoe Box Appeal on behalf of Blythwood Care. Nearly eighty shoeboxes crammed with Christmas gifts were donated to the charity.

Morrison’s Sight Savers Cheque

Three Morrison’s pupils, Douglas Guthrie, Ben Vardi and David MacLeod, handed over a cheque for £1200 to Carol McGregor who gratefully accepted it on behalf of the charity Sight Savers. The money was raised through various musical fundraising activities, one of which was a special Xmas Factor musical talent competition which the boys (otherwise known as The Rogue Pipers) won.



Charity



Charity

Morrison's Teacher At Nansato Primary School

Morrison's has made a wonderful commitment to supporting the full costs of one local teacher to work for one year at Nansato Primary School in the Mulanje district of Malawi. A good education is one of the fundamental building blocks for young people who are trying to lift themselves out of poverty.

Mr Nyambalo is the 'Morrison's teacher' for the year. He is a Malawian in his early 50s and he brings a level of skill and experience to the post which would not have been available to the school without your gift.

He teaches Standard 8, the final stage in Primary School and a vital one for those who aspire to go on to secondary education. In Malawi the system is different to Scotland. Pupils are required to pass each Standard before moving up and this means that there are pupils aged from 12 to 17 in his class. Many pupils complete their education at this level and go on to an apprenticeship if they are fortunate.

Mr Nyambalo's class has fifty-eight pupils (forty boys and sixteen girls). This is a very large number to manage and to prepare for the vital qualifying exams in November which will determine their future. Without your support, the class size is likely to have been doubled and the students chances halved. The proportion of female students reflects the wider pattern in the rural areas where female education continues to be a lower priority than many would like. This is changing and it is heartening to note that his best students are female and the numbers going on to secondary education are rising.

Likhubula House, which Morrison's has generously supported, is 10 minutes walk from Nansato Primary School. Those pupils who have been orphaned or who are known to be supporting their families with the help of relatives are now engaged in bee-keeping, vegetable gardening and fish farming as part of the development of Likhubula House. In this way we are helping them to develop skills which will improve their diet, their job prospects and their self-esteem.

[Scottish Churches World Exchange Likhubula House, Malawi](#)





Christmas

Christmas Dances

S1/S2 Christmas Dance

A sparkling Christmas tree, glittering tinsel, a shimmering star and flashing colourful lights caught our eyes as we skipped excitedly into a buzzing Academy Hall: the S1/S2 dance was about to begin. The girls were resplendent in their pretty (and no doubt expensive) dresses. The boys looked unusually smart in their kilts and sporrans. The band struck up the first dance: some people grabbed partners while others stood shyly against the walls. However, after a few Dashing White Sergeants, Gay Gordons and Strip the Willows, everyone was warmed up and the evening seemed to fly by like Santa on his sleigh. From what I could see, everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the dance put them in the mood for Christmas. A big thank you goes to the Dance Committee, the teachers for supervising the festivities, the PE staff for teaching us the dances, the kitchen ladies for the food and drink and the band for the wonderful music.

Erin O’Kane S2

S3/S4 Christmas Dance

The S3/4 dance was much enjoyed by the students of these year groups. All of the boys wore smart kilts while the girls wore stunning dresses of different varieties. The dances were popular as nearly everyone got up for every dance. At the interval the food vanished like magic from the plates, with the third and fourth years giving the sixth years a run for their money. Everyone joined in for the last song of the night, ‘Auld Lang Syne’. When interviewed, a student remarked, “I like dances because you can have

fun with your friends and dress up, as well as getting to dance.

Amy Tait S3

S5/S6 Christmas Dance

On Monday evening, huddled groups cut their way through the crisp winter evening towards Academy Hall. The hall looked beautiful, festooned with lights, ribbons and silver stars. We owe a big thank-you to the dance committee for organising the dance and to all those who took part in the decorating of the hall on Monday.

After the usual anticipation in the run up to the dance with weeks, and in some cases months, of deliberation in choosing a dress, the wait was finally over. Everyone was ecstatic to finally see each other’s dresses and, at least ten minutes were devoted to the obligatory recognition of this concerted effort.

Difficult to miss, was the rebellion against the little black dress. After years of nearly everyone appearing in this timeless classic, the variety of colourful dresses was a refreshing change, and the girls looked gorgeous. So did the boys, resplendent in kilts, sporrans and the whole shebang.

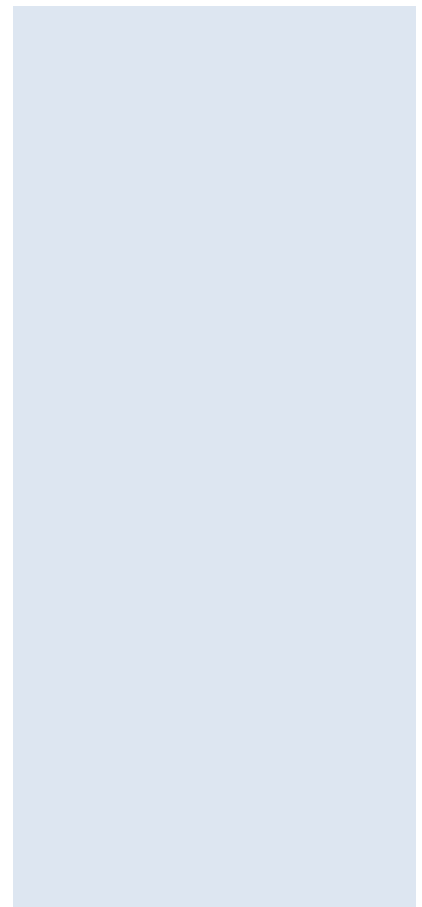
In our country dancing lessons, dances such as the Eightsome Reel proved particularly problematic. Luckily, it was all right on the night and the groups pulled it off spectacularly, finishing the dance on the final note of the music. The popular dance, Strip the Willow, was again a source of amusement as the energetic spinning of some enthusiastic dancers sent their poor victims flying off in random directions.

The main attraction for many was the sophisticated buffet and it went down well with those ravenous dancers who had spent so long on hair/nails/make-up that there had been no time for dinner!

Sadly, the dance drew to a close with (tearful in some cases) nostalgia. Sandy thanked everybody in his speech, most effusively, before the dance was rounded off, as is tradition, to Auld Lang Syne.

Two girls broke off from dancing to tell me: “The dancing was fab’ and everyone looked stunning.”

Victoria Tripp S6



Christmas Dances



Christmas Fayre

Christmas Fayre

On Saturday 1st December, the Morrison's Academy Christmas Fayre got off to a cheerful start commencing with a heart-warming rendition from the Pipe Band. The loud and rhythmic music was the key thing that spurred on all the keen buyers. Many people enjoyed it and some parents said that they found the Band "absolutely outstanding". Back inside, where it was warm, the corridors were already reeling with people. They had obviously been looking forward to this day and they were in a frenzy to spend their money.

Upstairs in Memorial Hall, the Swing band had begun their festive tunes and they already had a large group of admirers. Their version of 'Santa Claus is Comin' to Town' was met with a smile and throughout the corridors there was the consistent sound of humming the tune. The Choir received the same amount of adoration, perhaps even more! It was seen as a key "highlight".

Further along the packed corridor, the 'Hook a Duck' stall was blooming! The atmosphere around the stall was boisterous and full of excitement and even though it was aimed at children, several adults could be seen positively aching to have a go. Likewise 'Splat the Rat' was also amongst the children's' favourite stalls.

After all the hustle and bustle of the stalls, the shoppers were inclined to visit the school cafe which was situated in the staff room. Laden down with goods, there was a surge towards the chairs and soon the whole room was smothered with tired buyers, loudly conversing with each other about what they had bought or won. They were served by three charming waitresses, myself being

one of those three. A mince pie and some steaming hot tea were rather refreshing and the cafe quickly became the most popular sanctuary.

During my break I delved into the sea of parents, pupils and visitors, to find out what they had thought of the Fayre. The general response was that each stall had an excellent variety of goods from which to choose a suitable purchase and, regardless of how far they had travelled, it was agreed it had been 100% worth it.

Sally Andrews S1



Commercial Stalls

As always, the Christmas Fayre played host to a vast range of stalls from local businesses, catering for all interests; from food and wine to the more unusual offerings of Frost IT and Aloe Vera products, which offered a range of health drinks, showcasing the medicinal properties of the plant.

Cartoons were popular, with Creswell Cartoons delighting visitors with a "wonderful" witty selection that left many "spoiled for choice". In addition, Pedro's stall allowed visitors to sit down and have themselves transformed into caricature form, which proved a novel and much-enjoyed attraction.

The rector seemed to appreciate greatly the variety of goods on offer, particularly admiring the "good quality food" available from the Rannoch Smokery, along with Harrison's Fine Wines. The latter saw a steady stream of customers, with a lot of interest in their selection of reds – as seems appropriate for the festive season – along with their popular Touraine white wine.

Indeed, many stalls had products ideal for the time of year, with Scoteesh Productions' 'All Set' CD-ROM providing interactive country dancing tuition (perfect for those who need to brush up quickly on their skills).

All in all, it would seem that, once again, the commercial stalls were very well received, and it was especially heart-warming to see former-pupil David Frost's business, Frost IT, flourishing.

A true success story then, in more ways than one.

Arthur Learoyd S5



Mapa Stalls

For most people, the MAPA stalls were the highlight of the day including all time classics for the whole family to enjoy, such as Santa's Grotto for the younger age group or the Raffle for the more mature visitors.

There was a stall for everybody and many seemed to have their favourites. The chocolate fountain was a "tasty sensation" and the cake and candy "yumalicious" with a wide range of appetizing home baked goods. The face painting was also a great success with almost every cheek sporting a new festive work of art!

The school community really pulled together by going through their cupboards for unwanted gifts which lined the tables of both the children and adult nearly new stalls. This team spirit was instantly recognizable in the crowds of people flocking to enjoy yet another jam-packed Christmas Fayre.

Katie White S1



Christmas Fayre





School Trips

Debating - London

The Debater's Reward

As we reported in last year's magazine, Catherine Lovegrove and Marianne Inglis were the runner's up in the Courier CIOB debating competition. Their prize for their efforts was an all-expenses paid trip to London for the team, and their coach, which was taken last summer.

On arriving in London, the first challenge was to negotiate the London underground. Ever true to form, Catherine came prepared with a map of the underground tucked neatly into her pocket. In no time we were armed with our underground passes and on our way to the hotel. After getting settled, it was time to enjoy a relaxing evening where we toured some of the sights. The all-important trip to Harrods ensured that we could enjoy some world famous ice-cream while sitting on the seats used by Britain's next top models and buy some limited edition teddy bears for our young relatives. After the madness of commercialisation in Harrods, there was a need for escape and what better place than the beauty of Regent's Park where we could enjoy the waterfalls, gardens or perhaps just act like kids in the play area. This ensured that we worked up an appetite in time for our trip to the world famous Hard Rock Café. The special for the evening was non-alcoholic fruit cocktails which allowed you to keep the glasses as a souvenir of the evening. I had no idea of the difficulty of making decisions on the best cocktail or type of glass.

Day 2 of the trip was jammed packed with the major London sights. The morning started off with some excitement when at breakfast we discovered that we were staying at the same hotel as the X factor

production crew. Perhaps we would be lucky enough to see some of the stars and judges of the hit show. However, this was not to be and instead we had to contend with the wax work stars at Madame Tussaud's. After being pictured with pop stars, film stars and royalty, you would never have believed that the real fun would lie in the world leaders' section. Even for debaters the thrill of having pictures with G8 leaders isn't that great but getting the chance to use an interactive console which shows you as a world leader with your own design of flag is a different matter altogether.

Feeling a little star-struck, it was off to the underground again for a trip to the London Eye. The queue took a little longer than expected and showed just how paranoid our security had become when I had to leave my First Aid kit with the security department; just in case I decided to use the scissors as a lethal weapon. However, the views from the Wheel soon put everything into perspective. When riding high over the Thames, in view were the Houses of Parliament and Big Ben, St Paul's Cathedral and the Tower of London, to name but a few. We were left convinced that this was indeed the best way to see London's architecture.

From the London Eye it was then a quick dash over to Westminster for our guided tour of the Houses of Parliament. The guide was an historian who throughout the visit highlighted the important significance of the building as a palace as well as its importance to government. Our tour included the Commons and Lords debating chambers and the Queen's Robing Room and he brought the many formal ceremonies

of the parliament to life with his vivid tales and descriptions. From a debater's point of view, being able to visualise and understand democratic proceedings in the UK is always an advantage, especially when dealing with issues such as abolishing the House of Lords. However, despite the girls' extensive knowledge, they were still shocked to learn the penalty of sitting on a bench in the Houses of Parliament when you are not an elected MP. Perhaps the most potent comment made by the girls was that while in this country we may have the democratic right to enter parliament and demand to see your MP, you would have to be a determined individual to go through all of the security checks.

The evening was a little more slow-paced as we enjoyed a musical offering in the West-End in the form of Les Miserables at the Queen's Theatre. The storyline is a gripping and tragic one which evoked emotion and reflection on a wide number of issues. This particular showing was extremely special since we had the privilege of attending the shows 9,000th performance. This was exhilarating since the atmosphere in the theatre was electric. Reaching this milestone was record-breaking since no other show had run so long – not even Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Cats". Afterwards, the girl's broadcasting and speaking skills were put to the test as we were interviewed on our views of the show and the performance for a special DVD for the cast to enjoy at their commemorative party.

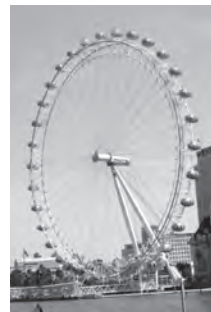
The final day of our trip was spent at the Tower of London. This was truly an unforgettable historic experience and the auditory tour guide ensured that

Debating - London

no element of the Tower trip was missed, from the prisoners' exhibition and the story of Anne Boleyn's and Lady Jane Grey's execution, to the significance of the ravens in the tour and Traitor's Gate. With all of the death and destruction on display, it was refreshing to have the chance to go inside and view the beauty and majesty of the Crown Jewels. We argued over our favorites, be it Queen Victoria's small diamond crown or the Imperial State crown. However, there was no denying that we were awestruck by the beauty and workmanship of these pieces.

Finally, we must thank the Courier and Chartered Institute of Bankers for rewarding the team for their hardwork. I am sure in years to come they will look back with fond memories of the competition and that they will have both enjoyed and learned a great deal from this trip.

P Boal



Advanced Higher London Trip

The English trip of 2007 to London was an unforgettable experience. We set off on a Friday with the excited Mr O’Kane, the prepared Mrs Riddell and three eager-to-learn students: Catie Gray, Vicky Trip and I (Helen Andrews).

The first day was one of constant travel, which in truth meant getting lost a lot, especially when relying on Mr O’Kane’s map (reminiscent of crumpled toilet paper). I have an aptitude for being ill on any form of transport. This became a well-honed skill by the time Sunday evening hailed the end of the trip.

First Mr O’Kane’s car was used to take us to the airport. There was also a small detour on the winding road back to our driver’s home as he had forgotten the essential requirement for any trip: his mobile phone. This part of the journey involved Mrs Riddell and I swapping seats so that she sat in the back. I then played with the air conditioning windows so that I was receiving a sufficient windblast to distract me from my increasing nausea. Meanwhile, Mr O’Kane began his mockery of Mrs Riddell by explaining that she had been quoting an article in an unnamed newspaper which stated that there were deadly mosquitoes in the London underground, all the way from Africa. I think not.

On parking at the airport, Mr O’Kane made sure one of his wheels was definitely in the neighbouring parking space. We then proceeded, after much confusion, in the direction of the airport bus station while Mr O’Kane went to retrieve his phone (again) from his car.

The plane took off soon after our arrival, thankfully with us on-board.

We were offered refreshments, so naturally Vicky and I said yes to everything. Catie however, on inspecting the limp pickle in one of our sandwiches, refused flatly. It was only an hour-long flight; however I found I could not look out of the window as we veered left and right swooping up and down in a somewhat unnecessary fashion before landing in London’s Docklands.

The train to the subway was fairly straightforward, allowing us a view of some of the less spectacular sights of London i.e. building sites and derelict, crusty buildings. We emerged from the filthy, roasting, mosquito-ridden underground station at Lancaster Gate, trundling our suitcases behind us without a clue as to where we were staying. After enquiring of a hotel in the same chain, a newsagent, a taxi driver and other random passers-by, Mr O’Kane finally allowed Mrs Riddell to summon a taxi – but only after we had walked along the street the hotel was on, twice.

It was clean, quiet and near Hyde Park. Vicky, Catie and I jumped in the lift to dump our luggage and go to the Park. Mrs Riddell went to find the shops on Oxford Street and Mr O’Kane went for a run...in the sweltering heat. After an hour or so we headed back, realising how much money we had spent on food that day already. We then proceeded to Leicester Square to spend more on parking dinner. The students went off for a pizza and our teachers headed off to the (even) more expensive side of town, stopping briefly to interrogate two policemen about further directions. Clearly the visitors from Crieff had not quite adapted to the metropolitan way of life yet.

We waited for our teachers to meet us at our designated spot and tried to find a bald, tall man in a white t-shirt with an attractive woman. It’s fascinating how many men are bald, tall and wearing white. They were not all, however standing next to attractive women – so we found Mr O’Kane fairly easily.

Our voyage continued on foot in search of the Fortune Theatre. Again, Mr O’Kane pulled out his flimsy scrap of paper. We followed his directions until Mrs Riddell grew tired.

The production of ‘The Woman in Black’ started and ended with the sounds of my coughing. It was supposed to be a scary play, but I think the only people who were scared were those directly in front of my splutterings. At half time Vicky, Catie and I bought overpriced ice-creams and read the programme. When the play came to the end we agreed it was not as scary as a) predicted and b) my advancing pleurisy.

Promptly afterwards we hurried back to the hotel. Catie then suggested that she, Vicky and I sneak out to ‘the clubs’ after the teachers went to bed. Vicky and I, aghast at her plan, maturely decided against it and fell asleep a few minutes later (...at least that was the agreed version). Helen Andrews

We woke bright eyed and bushy tailed on Saturday morning, as clearly instructed, and met the teachers downstairs for breakfast. We then headed to Shakespeare’s Globe where we would spend the main part of the day: looking round an exhibition and having a tour of the theatre in the morning before watching a matinee performance of

Advanced Higher London Trip

'The Merchant of Venice'. The prospect of practically the whole day spent at the theatre did not seem particularly enticing, even if it was an English trip, but on the arrival at the Globe we decided that we had never seen such a magnificent theatre and our tour turned out to be surprisingly interesting. No, seriously. Afterwards we discovered a nearby market where we had a deliciously fatty lunch of extremely chocolaty brownies and German bratwursts. Helen managed to get herself into a terrible mess and en route back to The Globe we were rather side-tracked by a rather serious ketchup-related emergency. Fortunately we managed to get Helen cleaned-up and arrived at the theatre in time to see 'The Merchant of Venice'- a three-hour long yet highly entertaining Shakespearean classic. After the play we had been promised a stop at the shops so marched with impressive speed through London so as to cram in as much shopping time as possible. En route we stopped at a few places, mostly to play at filling in the street names ourselves on Mr O'Kane's 'highly reliable' street map and also at St. Paul's cathedral to 'take in some culture'. We then insisted that we had experienced quite enough culture for the day, thank you very much, and hurried off to the shops on the arrival at Covent Garden. An hour later, we had arranged to rendezvous with the teachers. The meal was thoroughly enjoyable and the conversation was... riveting. After a five-hour in-depth-discussion involving input from Mr O'Kane, Mr O'Kane and Mr O'Kane, our group leader decided he had not blessed us with his conversation enough for one night and continued to share with us his 'pearls of wisdom' at the hotel before he bid us



goodnight and, verging on emotionally drained, we headed up to bed. Victoria Tripp

We woke up on Sunday morning with an important mission: shopping. With single determination we took the journey through the underground to Oxford Street Station and headed out into shopping heaven. For a few moments we simply basked in the sight of all the different shops: Topshop... Selfridges... Primark!!! Not to mention many, many more. Our early morning start turned out fine. We had a lazy breakfast, and dawdled down the endless road to Primark for just after its opening at 11:30. I will only say that it was immense and full of clothes. If that doesn't tell you we managed to spend all our shopping time there, nothing will. At this point we had a hasty lunch before running off to the Tate Gallery. We ran down Oxford Street, jumped aboard a train straight to St Paul's and then quite literally raced all the way to the Tate



Advanced Higher English Trip/French Exchange

Advanced Higher English Trip (cont.)

Gallery, dodging a rather large band by way of huge detour down another road entirely.

Mr O’Kane was a sight to behold. He had on sunglasses, shorts, a Hawaiian floral shirt which he reliably informed us he had picked up in France (as though that makes his crime any less heinous) and a jacket.

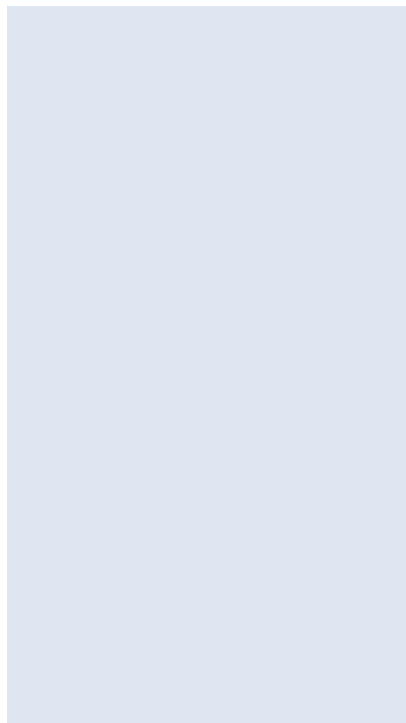
It was now time for a bit of culture. Helen, Catie and I enjoyed a leisurely stroll around the Tate Gallery. In the section we spent the most time in, there were screens positioned around the room. Each screen showed the same film of a man tripping up. However, each screen showed the film from a different angle. It was very clever as you could see the fall from a different angle. It was very clever as you could see the fall from such view’s as the man himself, the dog he tripped over and a passing car.

Unfortunately it seemed we had cut it a bit fine to catch our plane. We set off hoping we wouldn’t have to run the entire journey. We caught the tube back to the hotel to collect our bags, dashed back to the underground, walked down the narrowest staircase in history (at this point may I remind you of the sweltering heat in the underground) to get on to the DNLr line which would take us straight to London City Airport. Disaster struck when we discovered the line was closed. We raced out of the underground into the street. Mr O’Kane and Mrs Riddell flung out their arms (film style) “Taxi!” they yelled.

“I’ve always wanted to do that.” Mrs Riddell added happily. Pity it didn’t work. The taxi roared past, oblivious. Luckily, just a few moments later we caught a different taxi. Catie

attempted to leave Mr O’Kane behind but he caught the door flying into his face and jumped in too. Mrs Riddell asked the taxi driver to get us to the airport as quickly as he could. Our dramatic moment was rather spoiled when he asked our flight time and upon hearing it laughed at our panic and told us he could get us there easily in time! It was a short drive to the airport during which we, rather ironically, passed the DNLr line several times. Our driver turned out to be right as we made the flight with time to spare, though admittedly with seats fairly near the back. We checked in, our bags (well the girls’ bags) weighing considerably heavier than on Friday. After our flight was the short drive home during which time we reflected that we had thoroughly enjoyed our trip to London.

Catie Gray S6



Echange Scolaire

Institution Sainte-Marie, Antony, France – Morrison’s Academy, Crieff, Scotland

In February and March a group of 13 Higher and Advanced Higher French pupils took part in the first exchange between Morrison’s Academy and the Institution Sainte-Marie in Antony, on the southern outskirts of Paris.

In Paris our pupils stayed with French host families and visited the Château de Versailles, Montmartre and the famous Latin Quarter where they dined in a traditional Parisian restaurant. An enjoyable day’s shopping and sight-seeing in Paris included a visit to the Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame. In addition we attended classes in order to get a flavour of school in France. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

During our brief but action-packed visit to Crieff, the French pupils spent a day in school, paid a visit to Glenturret Distillery, attended a ceilidh and were treated to some fine Scottish fare at The Gallery restaurant. After the mandatory day trip to Edinburgh and a very enjoyable evening’s entertainment at the Music Department’s Spring Concert, Scottish and French friendships were toasted at a buffet in Academy Hall.

En février dernier nous sommes partis en échange scolaire, il y avait quatorze personnes dans le groupe. On est restés chacun avec une famille française et nous sommes partis pour quatre jours. Nous avons pris l’avion à Beauvais, près de Paris, ensuite on a voyagé en bus pour aller au collège. Le voyage était assez ennuyeux alors nous avons passé la plupart de temps à lire, regarder par la fenêtre et, pendant une heure, nous nous sommes endormies. Les après-midi on faisait souvent du tourisme autour de Paris; on a vu la Tour Eiffel et Montmartre par exemple. Un jour nous sommes allés à ‘Saint-Marie’ (leur école) afin d’essayer de

French Exchange/German exchange

Advanced Higher English Trip (cont.)

comprendre leur culture et leur école. Au début nous avons eu du mal à comprendre la langue parce que les français parlent très vite mais après deux jours nous avons mieux compris. On s'est très bien entendu avec les

jeunes français. J'aimerais retourner à Paris et je recommanderais un tel séjour à l'étranger.

Ellie Wagstaff S5



The Munich Music Exchange

The link between Morrison's Academy and the Louise Schroeder Gymnasium from Munich grows ever stronger. Their Big Band, particularly impressive right now, is their pride and joy, and it was decided that the School's trip to Crieff in 2007 would therefore concentrate exclusively on this fine body of men and women. So it was that the week just before the October Half Term turned into our very own Oktoberfest of music and celebration (without the beer of course!), with a very special atmosphere about the School which only visitors from foreign parts can bring about.

With barely seven days at their disposal they hit the ground running and, after a day of sampling Scottish school classes with their hosts, they were immediately whooping it up at a fast-paced Ceilidh in Academy Hall later that evening. Saturday saw them back in School, this time playing for some quite surprised (and delighted) prospective parents – it just happened to be Morrison's Open Morning – and their second performance was not long afterwards when they entertained a crowded ballroom at the Crieff Hydro on the Monday evening. We managed to fit in sufficient practice time during the week to allow our own Swing Band to rehearse jointly with their partners and perform magnificently at the Farewell Concert which arrived all too soon. Between times the socialising grew to fairly intense levels and a right rollicking time was had by all on all fronts. The great thing was that everyone "gelled": the LSG musicians are already a well-integrated outfit, and Morrison's musicians are no slouches when it comes to teamwork

German Exchange The Munich Music Exchange (cont.)

either. Mix the two together with an added dose of shared joie-de-vivre (or whatever the German equivalent is) and the phenomenon is compounded – magic!

And as if that weren't enough we have the great body of Morrison's parents. Those who were involved on this occasion excelled themselves beyond even the standards set in previous years. It has been said countless times before but it is worth repeating: without the support of our School host families this type of project simply couldn't happen. We owe them a considerable debt of gratitude.

Since this partnership began, musicians from Morrison's have made the trip to Bavaria three times (2002, 2004 and 2006) but this year's visit from LSG was in fact only their second (they started in 2003, but were not able to come in 2005). We have now therefore invited them back again in October 2008, partly to redress the balance of hospitality and partly to improve synchronization with our own Rugby/Hockey tours which currently happen in the even-numbered years; this change of phase will enable Morrison's pupils to take part in our "away" musical fixtures and still take full advantage of their sporting opportunities in the alternate years.

The upcoming exchange visit will be based around our respective choirs (rather than bands) and we hope it will further broaden and strengthen the base of what is already an extremely healthy and well-rooted enterprise.

Ein Tag Bei Dem Goethe Institut

Letztes Jahr sind wir (Catie und ich) zum Goethe Institut in Glasgow gefahren, um andere Deutsche

Studenten zu treffen. Für uns war dieser Erfahrung echt nützlich, besonders für unsere Prüfungen, weil wir unsere Deutsch üben konnten. Den ganzen Tag wurde Deutsch gesprochen und wir müssten an verschiedenen Sprachaktivitäten teilnehmen. Dieser Tag hat viel Spaß gemacht und wir würden das doch empfehlen.

Emily Tait S6



WW1 Belgium Trip

S2/S3 Tour of the Battlefields of France and Belgium

Below are the thoughts and experiences of some of our pupils who went on the tour to Belgium and France in June. I have juxtaposed these reflections with the introduction to 'The Roll of Honour', part of the memorial edition of 'The Morrisonian' published shortly after the First World War. I believe that the gratitude for The Fallen expressed in its final paragraph is matched by the sensitivity and thoughtfulness of our current crop of Morrison's pupils.

P O'Kane

In Memoriam 1914 - 1918

Little need be said in presenting this Memorial Number of "The Morrisonian" to our readers. It is but one of many that the Great War has evoked, alike in purpose, alike in tragic distinction:

"Great and mean
Meet massed in death."

and the common doom has ennobled us all. The place of their dying has been beyond our shores, their graves are severed by continents and a waste of seas, and their true and abiding monument is elsewhere; but in the lack of that in our own land, we instinctively look for something that will keep from utter oblivion. So it is with these Old Boys, once of ours, and now but a noble memory. Their names will one day be written enduringly on the wall of the School Hall, but you will only read them there on occasions of state, when as Old Boys you revisit Morrison's. In the form in which they are presented to you here, they will, in your own homes, be a constant reminder of the debt you owe to these, who once – some shortly since – sat on the same seats as you.

As the record shows, they died in every corner of the warring world; they fell in the earliest fighting in the great retreat, they fell in the last days before the armistice. Death took them in every guise - in the air, on the sea, on the land; so that the tale of their dying would be a brief but complete history of the war with all its fluctuations of hope and dread, of victory and defeat. We in the Central Perthshire lived so remote from the deadly realities of these four years, so ringed in by the peace of the hills and the wide plain, that it needed strong imagination to picture what was happening away to the east and the south; but every month came tragic reminders that the school too was at war, when we learned that one or the other Old Boy would never come back again. Yet, even as it stands, the record is imperfect, for it takes no count of the gallant many who missed death but by a finger's breadth, and who will go through life maimed in body or limb, if not spirit.

To them, to all who served, and to the dead, we give our gratitude for their service and sacrifice in the years of the great peril. It is our joy and pride that we were of the same blood as they; it will be the crowning glory of the school if the boys to come show themselves worthy of these who went before them.



First World War Trip to Belgium

Still to this day, the people living in the areas which were formerly battlefields of the First World War are reminded of the horrors of the war. On arriving in France we visited various cemeteries of British men who fell in the Battle of the Somme. As we walked past the former "No-man's land", we saw three unexploded bombs that had been uncovered in the days before our visit.

Later that day our tour guide brought us to the Newfoundland Park Preserved Battlefield where each pupil experienced a very moving tour of the trenches in which the young soldiers lived for their time at the Western Front. It was extremely disturbing to actually stand in the trenches on such a warm and peaceful day and try to imagine the dark dull days in the trenches, surrounded by mud and rats with the incredible noise of explosions. We then visited Lochnagar crater where a mine was exploded under the German trenches. It was an extremely emotional experience as we saw the 90ft deep crater where debris was flung as high as 4000 metres into the air.

During our time in Belgium and France we visited many different



Langemark

WW1 Belgium Trip

First World War Trip to Belgium (cont.)

cemeteries. A very disturbing visit was when we went to Langemark cemetery where just under 25 000 German soldiers were buried. It was very unsettling when we were told that 20 000 men were buried in a small pit in front of us; it was impossible to comprehend how many people died in the war. Langemark was a very different experience compared to the British and French cemeteries. It had a very cold and eerie atmosphere with black slabs for gravestones whereas the British graveyards were bright and each soldier had their own headstone.

The most touching and moving part of the trip for me personally was when we went to Tyne Cot where 12 000 men were buried. We also saw the names of two former pupils who had no known grave, P. Laurence and W.S Turnbull. Here Mr O’Kane read out poems of our choice and for the first time I fully understood the scale of the tragedies.

It was extremely tear-jerking to read the personal messages on the headstones of some of the soldiers,

“In sweet memory of Dadda “
 “ Always will you be missed by your beloved wife, Amy “
 “ He answered the call and paid the toll “
 “O’ for the touch of a vanished hand
 O’ for the sound of a voice now still”.

It really puts into perspective the brutality and futility of the war and how the hundreds of thousands of men who were killed were longed for, missed and loved by their families back home.

Emily Coffey S3



Ypres centre

Langemark Cemetery

The laughter ended immediately as we stepped through the rot iron gates into the cemetery. There were no flowers, no warmth or anything except the sinister, morbid atmosphere of the graveyard. The Belgian sunlight had been deflected by several gnarled, aged oaks leaving only a sickening pale green light to illuminate the black slabs.

I walked among the graves, pausing to glance at the names etched into the stone. Here were the names of forty thousand young men who left Germany over ninety years ago and now lay four or five to a grave in this eerie corner of Belgium. I walked back to the entrance passing four large faceless statues that cast long shadows in their uniforms. In the middle of the cemetery there was a mass grave containing the remains of twenty thousand soldiers. A shiver crept down my spine at the sight of this and I turned to leave.

As I exited into the censurably warmer sunshine just beyond the black gates, I knew I would never forget that forbidding cemetery and the impression it left with me.

Gregor Gray S3



Essex Farm



In Flanders Field



Newfoundland Caribou



Tyne Cot

WW1 Belgium Trip

Silent Remembrance

I hear the birdsong, as they call to each other,
 Uncaring of human events or memories.
 I walk; eyes closed, my fingers
 Trailing lightly across the headstones of these soldiers,
 Remembering them, and what they did for us.
 I reach my destination and kneel down.
 I open my eyes, but still the distant gunshots and bombardments,
 That seer across my mind continues.
 And I brush away the dirt that has accumulated on the headstone.
 And read slowly, the message from a loved one.

Shimmering tears prick my eyes; blinking them away is no use.
 So I continue to kneel, weeping in front of this man's grave.
 And though I did not know him, I still feel a connection,
 Not just to him, but to all of those
 Who now lie in eternal peace and glory,
 In our hearts and our minds

So I stand, and feel the cool wind's kiss, tickling the wetness on my cheek.
 My eyes un-focus, my mind taking in
 The beauty and serenity of this final resting place
 And as the sun sets,
 I realise that these soldiers, these husbands, brothers, lovers, sons...
 They will not be forgotten!
 They will live on in eternal glory, and in our hearts and memories.
 So with this final thought, I turn
 And walk away into the fading sunlight.

Alex Samson S3



Serre Cemetery

Never Forget It

At first, in the graveyard of the Pals, at Serre
 They were all just names flying round my head.
 I had no idea who these men were.
 I didn't understand. Someone said,
 "I just don't get it."

We weren't ignorant: just unaware
 Of the pain and devastation caused.
 We had to kneel down, read and stare.
 A lump in my throat. I paused.
 I began to get it.

Suddenly it all became so very clear
 Although I had never known these men,
 They were real people who had fallen here
 Loved so much but never seen again.
 Did they deserve it?

As I read the messages, I began to understand.
 One from mother to a son who was killed:
 'O' for the touch of a vanished hand
 'O' for the sound of a voice now stilled.'
 I'll never forget it.

Emma Robertson S3



Highland Monument

WW1 Belgium Trip

“The Devonshires held this trench; the Devonshires hold it still.”

As we – forty odd mixed second and third years – trooped off the coach, dutifully (and patiently) commandeered by Tom, our trusty bus driver, we wondered what possible emotionally charged cemetery could exist in such a spot in the lush, lazy, French countryside. However, after a short walk up a small track, we came across a small and indeed serene cemetery where the tall, slender trees and surrounding beauty only seemed to accentuate the sense of helpless loss and sadness – even at first sight.

It was only later, after we had entered the graveyard that we learned that not only one hundred and twenty-two men of the Devonshire Regiment lie there, but also that all – with the exception of one who was killed mere days before – fell on the First of July 1916: the first day of the Battle of the Somme. At this realisation a respectful silence descended on the group, broken only by birdsong and the wind in the trees under a bright, June sky. Of all the cemeteries we visited, and they numbered many, this one I found the most moving. Perhaps the location was the reason for this, but although the Devonshire Cemetery lies amongst the attractive hedgerow and pasture of the Mametz countryside, many monuments and graveyards are located in similarly untouched and beautiful spots. For example, the 51st Highland Division Memorial displays a tall, bronze figure of ‘The Highlander’ facing an unspoilt backdrop of rolling, French meadowland on the edge of Newfoundland Park. Perhaps the sheer scale of loss in such a small time frame was at the route of my emotion but, similarly, I am disinclined to put it solely down to that: huge losses in

small time periods were – while tragic – commonplace in the Great War. Take, for example, Essex Farm Cemetery where a whole section lies side-by-side killed on exactly the same day.

I think that the personal stories of individual soldiers, as skilfully recalled by Robin, our tour guide from Tyne and Weir, were the reasons for my sadness. One told of a young Captain in the Devonshire Regiment who – after hearing a rumour of the plan of attack shortly to be conducted in his part of the Front – made a plasticine model of the terrain, on leave, to illustrate the insanity of the British push. On his return, the model was shown to his commanding officer. The lieutenant-colonel saw the sense in Captain Smith’s reasoning and the model was taken to their commanding general. The now infamous reply came back a few days later: “How considerate; we’ll bear that one in mind”. After confiding in his close friend, Lieutenant William Hodgson, they realised that nothing was to be done in prevention of the slaughter to come. It was then – on the 29th of June, 1916 – that William Noel Hodgson composed the famous “Before Action” in the knowledge of his impending death, the last stanza of which is below.

Two days later, on the First of July 1916, both Captain Smith and Lieutenant Hodgson fell in the Battle of the Somme. They both now rest in the Devonshire Cemetery, Mametz, their sacrifice never to be forgotten.

“I, that on my familiar hill,
Saw with uncomprehending eyes
A hundred of Thy sunsets spill
Their fresh and sanguine sacrifice,
Ere the sun swings his noonday sword
Must say goodbye to all of this;-

By all delights that I shall miss
Help me to die, O Lord.”

W N Hodgson

Hugo Fairclough

In Flanders Fields

(A re-working in tribute to John McCrae)

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark their place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Now heard without the guns below...

They are the Dead. Some years ago
They lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now they lie
In Flanders fields.

They took their quarrel with the foe:
They fell - though it seems long ago
It was but short years since they died,
Now we remember why they lie,
And why they sleep,
Where poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

We stand here not to celebrate,
But merely to commemorate,
In sadness we ponder their sacrifice;
Those rotten years of wasted life.



Unexploded Bombs

WW1 Belgium Trip

In Flanders Fields (cont.)

Forevermore we will regret,
And never, never shall forget,
The dead, who lie where poppies grow
In Flanders fields

P. Ciaran O’Kane S3



Langemark

There was a great difference between seeing pictures of the graveyard and actually experiencing it first hand. When you see a picture of graveyards or death you can’t really relate to it as you have seen so many pictures like it before – you are desensitized in a way. But when you are actually there, walking through the arch and into the dark, almost silent cemetery, it’s only then you realize the gravity of the situation.

Langemark was different compared to other graveyards I visited. Not because it was in a different place, not because it held German soldiers instead of Belgium and French soldiers, but because of the silence that pressed down on you the minute you entered. There was next to no birdsong, everyone was speaking in hushed voices – barely anyone spoke at all – and the shadows cast by the leafy foliage of the standing trees around us added to the gloom. The plaques that marked where the dead lay were not standing up – they were spaced evenly on the ground.

The fact that affected me the most was when our guide told us that 20,000 people were buried in the mass grave before us. I was shocked when I realized it was roughly as big as my front garden.

I was definitely moved by this trip and, to tell you the truth, I was glad I wore dark glasses the day we went to Langemark.

Amy Tait S3



Langemark

On the third day of our trip to Belgium we visited the Langemark German Cemetery. Unlike the allied cemeteries, Langemark does not have individual standing gravestones to commemorate the dead but has black marble plaques on the ground to mark where small groups of soldiers are buried. Some of these plaques mark the graves of up to 40 soldiers.

As you enter the cemetery immediately you are faced with a mass grave of 5m2 in which roughly 20,000 soldiers were buried. There are roughly 44,000 soldiers buried in the area in total, some of whom have no known grave. In the entrance archway there is a room with oak panels on the walls bearing the names of 3,000 student soldiers who died in the fighting between October and November 1914. Large oak trees surround the cemetery and stop any sunlight from entering. This made the cemetery very cold and gave it a very eerie feeling. There were four statues at the head of the cemetery called The Watchers, built to watch over the dead soldiers.

The whole experience was very moving and emotional.

Katrina Wesencraft S3



Realization

What is history? Is it dates, numbers, death tolls? That’s what they teach us in class anyway. We write it down, we memorise it. It happened - end of story. This was what was in my mind as we embarked on our tour through Belgium and France, stopping at cemeteries and battlefields and listening to our guide.

It was only when we reached our final destination, Tyne Cot Cemetery, that the

whole business of the Great War really began to hit me. On entering the cemetery, which was set into the lush Belgian countryside, all I saw rising up before me was row upon silent row of little white headstones. The sun smiled down upon them and as I began to walk among them and read the messages left by families or come across graves of unknown men, I contemplated the history lessons I had received at school and realized: history wasn’t about the facts and figures - history was about the lives of the men buried here. Each had a story, a family. They would have had hopes, dreams, just like you and me.

As I stood and listened to Mr O’Kane reciting a poem of commemoration, I looked around me. The sun was still the same jewel in the sky, the trees continued to flourish, and the birds continued to sing and the expression ‘life goes on’ sprung into my head. I realized that life does go on and what we must do in the future is to remember the heroes of the past.

Rachel Cram S3



Menin Gate

WW1 Belgium Trip

Reflections On First World War Week

While some of my fellow pupils were parading around the Western European memorial sites off World War one, I was left behind at school. We were split into four groups of 3rd and 2nd year pupils. These groups were named after famous war sites. Each group was allocated a different timetable which featured different tasks which were related to the war somehow.

For example in art, we designed and made a piece of installation art which reflects and helps us to remember the men who lost their lives in the war. This piece featured photos and names of many brave soldiers, decaying flowers, skeleton leaves and white feathers. In I.T., we recorded a short piece of war literature which we then put a backing track onto and these were then played in Memorial Hall alongside the installation art. In languages, we had to design a poster or leaflet on a famous war town. This poster had to be in a foreign language of your choice with no English.

However, the highlight of the week in my opinion was the exciting geography trip to Stanley Mills in Perth and Pitlochry Dam. At Stanley Mills, we did a quick tour and then we were given a project to find out why Stanley Mills was so important during the time of the war. We learned that the cotton produced from the dam was very important as cotton was the main material used for the soldiers' uniforms and equipment. At Stanley Mills there is a small hydroelectric station which produced some of the electricity for the mill and surrounding houses.

We then drove up the motorway to Pitlochry to investigate the use of hydroelectric energy further. We saw the salmon ladder and went up to the

exhibition. It was very interesting and I learned a lot.

Overall, I believe that the week was a success for both the pupils who went to Belgium and the pupils who stayed behind at school.

Emily Johnson S3



Lochnagar Crater



Newfoundland Park



Thiepval



Tyne Cot



Tyne Cot

Veil of Remembrance

Cross-Curricular World War 1 Project

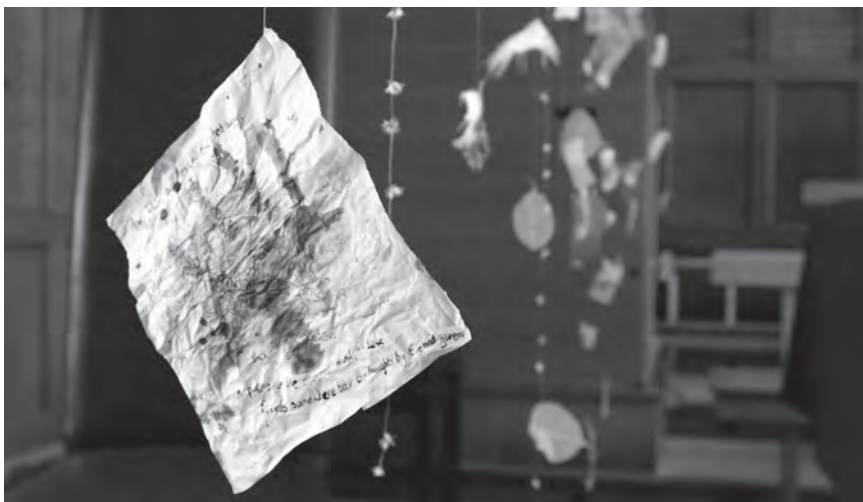
Art installation working collaboratively with English and ICT

During the collapsed timetable in June this year, pupils participated in a collaborative project between English, ICT and Art to create an installation in Memorial Hall. This involved pupils from S1 – S3 creating a piece which reflected the idea of memory, remembrance and our contemporary take on a momentous and horrific time. The piece linked visual art with poetry and sound to communicate in a powerful and moving way.

Pupils created a “veil” using invisible thread, linking fragments of handmade paper which recorded the names of The Fallen from Memorial Hall, as well as including their own relatives. Photographs were taken of the soldiers’ portraits on the balcony and their own reflections could be seen in some of the images, linking the past with the present. Fresh flowers, poppies, daisy chains and petals, evocative of young life and beauty destroyed were also threaded throughout the piece while white feathers alluded to another aspect of the war. Fragments of poetry written on fragile tracing paper stained with ink were suspended in front of the stained glass window. Pupils made digital recordings of themselves reading excerpts from letters home, soldiers’ accounts and poetry. They then used audio editing software to add background sounds and music appropriate to the piece.

The piece was viewed at a whole school assembly, allowing all to take time to listen and reflect on the fragility of life and the human cost of the war.

P McQue





Boarding

Boarding

Morrison's Academy opened its doors for the very first time on 1st October 1860. It is difficult to determine the exact date that boarders were first enrolled into the school but provision had been made from the very first days in the east wing of what is now known as Old School building – the area doubling as accommodation for the Rector and also as boarding. The initial presence of boarders, whose numbers were always restricted due to the lack of dormitory space, was initially viewed with some disquiet and possible resentment by certain members of the local population who insisted that the founder's intentions had been that the school should be endowed and built for the benefit of the children of the town and neighbourhood. Nevertheless, despite the opposition, boarding had arrived, beginning a tradition that was to last 148 years.

Conditions in the early days were regimented with the daily routine in 1863 seeing pupils having to arise at 7am, breakfast at 7.12am, school until 3.30pm, play until 4.30pm, tea

followed by more lessons until 7.30pm when prayers were said before bed at 9.00pm. Having said that, the school prospectus claimed for boarding that "the domestic arrangements are those of a well regulated family and each pupil has a separate bedroom".

Competition between boarders and day pupils has existed throughout the history of the school but in the early days the rivalry occasionally went too far with boarders perhaps gaining an unfair advantage in being allowed to use Academy Park after 5.00pm each evening, thus gaining valuable practice for games and gymnastics, resulting in the majority of cups being won by boarders.

The original Academy House (now the east end of Old School building) was capable of accommodating 40 boarders but in the early years the numbers ranged between 14 & 18. There were two main dormitories called "Big Doss" and "Wee Doss" and conditions were spartan to say the least! No heating, hospital style beds, one bedside table per pupil,

basins and water jugs. On Saturday evening, Matron laid out each boy's Sunday clothes – an Eton suit, starched white shirt, a hard, glossy Eton collar and a blue or white tie (school colours). In the early years, boarders went to church twice on a Sunday.

The arrival of a new Rector in 1909 necessitated the need for alternative accommodation as, although he continued to look after a few boarders in Academy House, he was not deemed capable of managing the entire boarding system. Further, with the increasing numbers of pupils, facilities were becoming stretched. Therefore, some boarders were rehoused into the sanitorium and others temporarily moved into "Glenearn", on the Perth road. Between the wars, the boarders moved from school into a house called "The Heugh", the location of which is uncertain. During the 1920s, boarding numbers continued to rise in line with the growing school roll with little to report except the outbreak of scarlet fever in 1925, mumps in 1926



Early Group of Boarders

Boarding

and influenza in 1929. A further change in Rector forced the Governing Body into deciding that it would no longer be prudent for boarders to be in the care of the Rector. By this time, "Glenearn" was being lived in by a member of staff who reopened the house as a private boarding residence.

The Governing Body, working with Provost Mungail of Croftweil and aware of the increase in numbers, formed the Boarding Houses' Association in 1931, primarily to "provide accommodation for boys coming from a distance". Ogilvie House (Victoria Terrace) was incorporated in 1935 and Innismhor (Dollerie Terrace) just before this date to cater for the increasing numbers of girls. Families who already had boys boarding at the school were putting pressure on the Governing Body to

find suitable accommodation for female siblings.

Mrs Marguerite H Wilson (nee McNeil), the first Girl Boarder of Morrison's Academy, writes:-

"In September 1927 Morrison's Academy Girls' Boarding School came into being.

Prior to this, there was no Girls' Boarding House and Mr and Mrs McNeill of Rangoon, Burma, who had already installed their two elder sons in the Boys' Boarding House, were anxious about their daughter's education. An appeal was made to Miss Mason, Headmistress of the Girls' School, to see if anything could be arranged. Miss Mason urgently asked her staff to consider the situation and, if possible, offer a solution. Two brave teachers, Miss Elsie Oates, Head of the Primary School, and Miss Mary

Malcolm, who was in charge of Physical Education, agreed to get together and buy a house "Innesmhor" in Dollerie Terrace and to take in their very first boarder, Marguerite McNeill.

It turned out to be a great success and within a year, more boarders were asking to join in. First of all there were three weekly boarders from a farm in Amulree - the Steele sisters - followed by Edith McGilchrist from Auchterarder. Very soon "Innesmhor" was too small for the ever-growing family and a move to "Aviemore" in Victoria Terrace took place. Still, the Boarding House grew in numbers and before long a move to "Balbegno" in Drummond Terrace was necessary. Finally, with numbers increasing so rapidly, it was decided to move to "Benheath" on the Comrie Road overlooking the McRosty Park - a



Dalmhor 2007

Boarding

wonderful situation. Miss Oates and Miss Malcolm retired about the beginning of the 1970s and the Girls' Boarding House Association was formed."

Glenearn came under the control of the BHA in 1950 which, with the acquisition of Dalmhor (Ewanfield) in 1946 and a "new " Academy House in 1947, meant that the school was now capable of accommodating approximately 115 boys in four houses – Academy, Ogilvie, Dalmhor and Glenearn. Benheath, the successor to Innishmor, became part of the equation in 1958 and the first time that the girls had been incorporated into the system.

In 1962, school numbers stood at 410 in the boys' school of whom 180 were boarders and 426 in the girls' school, 94 being boarders. Of these 94 boarders, some had to be accommodated locally with families until the school acquired Knockearn House in 1964, thus allowing the girls to reside in two houses. Further changes shortly after this time saw the girls living in Knockearn move to Ogilvie and the boys make the reverse trip. Knockearn then, for a period, became known as Dalmhor Junior House as it was adjacent to Dalmhor and in the same grounds. In 1969, the Purdie Building containing dining facilities opened next to Dalmhor and in 1974, the construction of a new boarding house was completed, also on the Ewanfield Campus. The Academy House (the third to bear the name) accommodated 36 boys whilst Knox House became an additional girls' house in 1975, such were the numbers. Further increases in 1977 saw Croftweit become a girls' house and also Dalmhor Junior House with the displaced boys being



Academy House 1991



Avondale 1960



Glenearn 1944

Boarding



Knockearn 1981



Oakwood 1933



Ochtertyre 1959

accommodated elsewhere.

In September 1979, the process of joining the two schools together was nearing completion. At the same time, boys' and girls' boarding also came under the umbrella of the Governing Body, together for the first time. This period, from 1979 until the early 1990s, was probably the period of time in the school's history when boarding was most popular. Around Crieff were to be found a total of nine boarding houses, each containing numbers in the region of 50-60 boarding pupils.

However, family needs were changing and, with an ever increasing availability of other local schools also offering boarding, together with the constant need to be looking further afield in order to find boarding pupils, notably to the Far East in China and Hong Kong, boarding numbers began to decline.

The arrival of the new millennium did not reverse the trend and numbers continued to drop with the houses gradually being sold in order to provide vital funds to invest in the main school. Finally, after 148 years, on 29th June 2007, Dalmhor House closed its door for the last time to boarders, thus ending a vital period in the history of the school.

Two notable pictures accompanying this article, one undated but showing a very early group of boarders, the second is a picture of the final group of boarders and boarding staff, taken outside Dalmhor House in June 2007.

Throughout the history of the school, a total of fifteen boarding houses have been associated with the school in various guises (some as private residences) and these are listed overleaf, together with the years, where known.

[R McDermott](#)

Boarding



Benheath 1959



The Heugh 1925

Boarding Houses

Academy	1860 – 2006
Avondale	1950 – 1975
Balbegno	1927 – 1930
Benheath	1958 – 1992
Croftweit	1945 – 2002
Dalmhor	1946 – 2007
Glenearn	1909 – 1998
The Heugh	1920 – 1932
Innesmohr	1927 – ???
Knockearn	1964 – 1984
Knox	1951 – 1989
Newstead	1943 – 1974
Ogilvie	1935 – ???
South Park	1950 – 1964
Whinmount	1950 – 1964



Staff

Staff Leavers



Joan Taylor

If you count a year in Nursery, seven in Primary and six in Secondary, a Morrison's pupil can spend a

maximum of fourteen years on campus here – the full life sentence, if you like (remission for good behaviour is not usually an option, although serious felony whilst in residence can ironically sometimes have the required effect).

Any pupils who came to Morrison's along with Mrs Taylor in those far-off days of 1994 will now be celebrating their release date with her as well, thankful that she and they have indeed served out their full term, and will surely be acknowledging also their immense good fortune that their own fourteen year stint has coincided with Joan's.

Over many years Joan has invested of herself in all around her on such a generous scale that it is impossible to avoid the well-worn phrase "she has become an institution". Her musical activities and achievements, remarkable as they have been, are only in fact one facet of her immense contribution to Morrison's Academy. Let's just run a quick Google search on this one and see what comes up:

Joan Taylor, Drama Queen. Never one to make a drama out of a crisis (well, not often anyway), Joan has nevertheless proved able to make drama out of more or less everything else. Folk usually expect music teachers to be able to put on shows (and can sometimes be disappointed) but the last few stage shows to be seen in Academy Hall have shown her to be a person of real vision when it comes to things theatrical. She always starts off knowing exactly what she wants

the end result to be and has the presence and ability to direct and demonstrate convincingly more or less anything from dance routines to fights and love scenes, persuading the most unlikely actors and actresses to shed their inhibitions and to achieve things they might never have thought possible. We've all had to run to keep up with her here, but if you saw Dirk Johnston for example a couple of years ago doing "Sit down, you're rockin' the boat" in 'Guys and Dolls' you'll know that Joan has the capacity to create true magic on the stage. Not content with inspiring countless Secondary pupils to tread the boards she has been equally unstinting in her drama work with the Primary School, always coming up with original and accessible pieces and using her infallible eye for talent to bring the very best out of the maximum number of pupils. This includes, of course, Christmas Nativity Plays without number. If Morrison's Academy were to appoint a full-time Drama Teacher tomorrow, it would be unlikely to fill the gap which Joan's absence will leave.

Joan Taylor, Fundraiser. This is a fairly recent incarnation but one which further displays Joan's qualities of initiative and persuasiveness. Taking over the Charities Committee two years ago she might have seemed to many like a fiend for self-punishment, but this is just the kind of challenge which she relishes and to which she invariably rises magnificently, sometimes even to her own amazement. Not even Mrs Taylor could have foreseen the result of her attempt to surround the Old School Building with 1p and 2p coins – for the legions of helpers who ended up counting them and carrying them to the bank, not to mention the wide-

eyed tellers who had to check them in: this was truly a project to remember.

Joan Taylor, Pipe Band Supporter. Joan cares as much about how things look as how they sound and, although we have no evidence of her prowess on the chanter, Joan, in collaboration with various interested parties, has made it a mission to ensure that Morrison's has the most smartly-clad Pipe Band in Scotland. The last Biennial Pipe Band Burns Supper in 2007 raised over £4000 and guess who responded to the Toast to the Lassies? (You just had to be there.)

Joan Taylor, Lord-High-Everything-Else. There are always things to be done in a busy school like Morrison's and Mrs Taylor invariably sees the need for action where others might tend to assume that "someone else will take care of that". Well, Mrs T. is that someone else. Have you ever wondered who organized the big decorated candles at the Christmas Carol Service? Or the floral displays at the Rector's Recital? Or the lunchtime refreshments for the visiting music



Staff Leavers

Joan Taylor (cont.)

examiner? The list is endless and I could go on, but the message is clear: Joan goes the extra mile. In modern educational parlance she is the essence of Added Value.

And then there's the small matter of Joan Taylor, Music Teacher. Joan teaches all age groups from Nursery to S6 inclusive. She is officially Head of Primary School Music, a role which she fills with characteristic gusto and thoroughness. In the midst of the most hectic periods of the School year she will frequently be found producing an Assembly presentation with P3 before dashing off to help the Advanced Higher class through the next phase of their Listening Commentary (deadline tomorrow). She can cope with anything from musical finger puppets to dodecaphony and the intricacies of serial compositional technique, but her first love must surely be singing.

Quite outwith her regular timetabled day she has developed an ever-growing clientele of pupils who have established her own reputation, and that of Morrison's music, firmly in the outside world as well as forming the nucleus of the School Chamber Choir, which is undoubtedly one of the musical jewels in our crown. She leaves her girls at the peak of their form and she is delighted (as are we all) that Mr Matthew Beetschen has agreed to take over the important job of keeping them right up there in the top rank of school choirs.

Joan came here from Breadalbane Academy in Aberfeldy, part-time at first, and worked with Alison Hunter and Derek Laidlaw before the last musical regime change in 2001. Originally from Northern Ireland, she could never be mistaken for anything other than a Belfast lass, but if there is

one of her characteristics that stands out above others it is her absolute rootedness in the local community here - school, town and the wider area around. If you don't know Joan (and if she doesn't know you) there's a fault in the radar somewhere that needs fixing. You will never see her idle - in fact for much of the time she is so busy and moves at such a relentless pace that some people simply don't see her, full stop.

If I had to sum up the phenomenon that is Joan in the minimum number of words I would have to do it by repeating the single question that I have been asked probably more often than any other during my time at Morrison's Academy: "Do you know where Mrs Taylor is?" The answer is invariably that I have not the faintest notion, but that one thing is certain: she is not lying down in a darkened room taking life easy.

We wish Joan all the very best in her new post of Head of Music at Ardreck, just up the road, and we know that she will stamp her inimitable personality on it in the same way that she has here. She leaves with our unbounded thanks, appreciation and admiration.

H Duthie



Marion Lines

Marion Lines is leaving Morrison's Academy for "pastures new", having taught German and French for 16 years and been Head of Careers for 11 of those years. Perhaps the best way to capture those 16 years is through the musing of pupils and colleagues, past and present:

"Her teaching was very clear to us and I really enjoyed learning French with her as she teaches it in a fun but firm way."

- Melissa TA

"She made herself very clear and made learning French much more fun than at my last school."

- Sam TA

"I enjoyed all her classes. She made them fun by using Powerpoint when we were starting new topics. Thank you, Miss Lines, I will miss you."

- Alison TA

"Marion is someone with a genuine love of her subject, particularly of German, and a keen academic interest in both language and literature. She has a gentle, quiet manner, treating pupils and colleagues alike with courtesy and respect. That said, she is not afraid to voice an opinion, but always in a measured and considered way that does not cause offence. A private and reserved lady, she relates with more ease to individuals than to large groups but when you get to know her she has a nice sense of humour."

- Sylvia Gardner, former Assistant Rector

"I first met Marion about eleven years ago when I started working with ISCO

Staff Leavers

Marion Lines (cont.)

and visited Morrison's Academy for the first time. The first (and lasting) impression I gained of her was very positive – she was always friendly, kind, welcoming and very supportive, yet also exuded calm efficiency at all times. When arrangements had to be made for careers events I was always 100% confident that everything required to be done would be done. Nothing seemed too much trouble. We had an excellent working relationship and shared the huge sense of relief that comes when all the Morrisby/Futurewise profiling and interviews were complete for yet another year, despite absences, bad weather etc. Marion was a very competent, hard working and efficient careers adviser who was genuinely concerned for pupils' interests, making herself approachable, responding to diverse careers and HE enquires and delegating the more challenging problems to me when appropriate! Her dedication to her work also shows in the way the school Careers Library has been developed and maintained to an exceptionally high standard. I have seen many, but few as well stocked as this. A thoroughly genuine, likeable and committed person: I will miss her both as a colleague and a friend."

- Greta Weir, Assistant Regional Director for ISCO

Marion was educated at Trinity Academy, Edinburgh, followed by the University of Edinburgh, Moray House College of Education, the University of Stirling, the Open University and Strathclyde University. By my reckoning, she has 3 (yes 3!) degrees to her name, together with 3 other qualifications. Before moving to Morrison's in 1992 she had been Head

of Modern Languages at St Anne's School, Windermere and before that Teacher of French and German at St Felix School, Suffolk (where she was also Housemistress to the Upper Sixth), Wells Cathedral School, Somerset and Dartington Hall School, Devon.

But what of Marion the person? Sylvia and Greta have set the scene for us here but I think that it is Marion, herself, not surprisingly, who holds the key to further enlightenment. Here's what she says about herself:

"Education has been one of the most important things in my life. University for me was not just the way to a good salary, but a time to develop a better understanding of the arts and, through them, a better understanding of mankind. I love reading novels and write poetry – private and unpublished. When I read novels, I read every word and, if a book is well written, I'll go back and read sections again. Drama, opera and music are also passions, so the occasions when I go to concerts or the theatre mean much more to me than their frequency might suggest. And then there is travel: a city break for me means visiting the art galleries and the historical buildings. Romanesque churches, Pictish stones and many styles of painting move me as does choral singing, an activity I enjoy not only for the music but also for the shared experience. I have been a member of the Crieff Choral Society for all of my 16 years in Crieff. My other hobby, Scottish Country Dancing, also combines music with good company. There have been excellent opportunities for me to develop my dancing skills during my time in Perthshire. I write dances too, but only for special occasions."

"Life's rich tapestry" indeed! A

tapestry which will take on different hues as she embarks upon the next phase of her life, both professionally and personally. We hope that she will find fulfillment in her new post as project coordinator for the "Routes into Languages" project at Leeds Metropolitan University and that she and Christopher continue to find happiness as a couple.

H McMillan



Graeme Guile

Graeme Guile joined Morrison's Academy in October 2005, having previously taught in Kinross High School.

Although he has only been with us three years Graeme has made a big contribution to Morrison's and in particular to the teaching of physics. His enthusiasm for his subject, his friendly approachable manner and his ability to communicate complex physics concepts in much simpler terms made an immediate impact with his pupils.

In the classroom his commitment to the success of his pupils was evident both in the volume of helpsheets and example sheets he produced and in the countless number of hours he gave after school to tutor pupils. The door was always open and many, many pupils benefited from this support.

Graeme also made his mark outside the classroom assisting with Junior Rugby and as a Head of House. He was a big hit as the hapless Constable Pike in 'The Pirates of Penzance' and a pious priest in 'The Monster that ate 3B'. However, his main legacy has been the increased levels of enjoyment and

Staff Leavers

Graeme Gulle (cont.)

understanding he has given his physics pupils.

Graeme leaves us to take up a new post at Kelvinside Academy. We wish him well with this and in his new life in Glasgow.

J Beedle



Adelaide Sinclair

The popular cliché “Doesn’t time fly when you’re having fun” is used somewhat sarcastically as often as it is literally but in Adelaide’s case, I think I can say without fear of contradiction that it can be used in the most literal sense.

I doubt if she could have imagined on her first day as a ‘Maid’ in Glenearn House in those heady Boarding School days over 30 years ago, that she would still be playing an

important part in the life and work of the School well into the 21st century.

Adelaide has particularly fond memories of Glenearn where she loved working with the Malaysian pupils and there was a warm and friendly atmosphere.

As the boarding side of Morrison’s life began to diminish and Glenearn House closed, in 1998, Adelaide eagerly accepted an alternative role in Croftweir as Assistant Housemistress, a role she carried out diligently for 14 years until Croftweir also closed. Fortunately, at the same time, the After School Club came into being and this provided Adelaide with her next Morrison’s career move, initially in Knockearn House and latterly within the Primary School where it continues to thrive today thanks to her dedication and devotion to the children.

Adelaide has thoroughly enjoyed her years looking after successive generations of Morrisonians and has made it clear that she will miss the ‘hubub’. However, she has always said that she would know when she could no longer keep up with the children and, sadly, she has decided that that time has now come. Adelaide will certainly be missed by staff and children alike, but thankfully her tradition of snack-time and sweeties will continue!

Now there will be time to indulge in another great passion: her garden. We all hope that this will continue to give her as much pleasure and satisfaction as she has given to all the Morrisonian children whom she has nurtured in her long and dedicated service to the School.

A Beaton





Former Pupils

Former Pupils

Fiona Pennie

An Olympian Speaks

1. Did you always have ambitions to be an Olympic athlete when you were a schoolgirl and when did you realise that you could be?

I was always into every sport possible at school; well, there wasn't much chance that I would be allowed otherwise! I think I knew that I wanted to excel in a sport of some sort and I think athletics was the strong contender in my mind. However, from the moment I picked up a set of slalom paddles when I was 9, I quickly went up the ranks of the divisions and suddenly found myself in the Junior Pre-World Championships team in 1997 when I was 14. I think at that point I realised that I was getting rather good at this and could go all the way to the Olympics.

2. What made you want to become a Kayaking specialist?

I would probably say that I just fell into it. Mum was a flatwater sprint paddler and had me in a boat when I was just a few months old. She then taught me on the flatwater when I was about 5 or 6 years old. I liked



going out to Loch Earn on summer evenings and having a splash around. When I was 8, I did my 1 Star and then did it again, just for fun, the very next year because I was too young to move onto my 2 Star! Our instructor on that second course was a slalom paddler and suggested that I try a taster slalom in Alva. I went along and I was hooked. My competitive edge meant that I only wanted to improve and fine-tune my skills to become faster and faster.

3. What are the most enjoyable aspects of training and what are the least enjoyable?

Every training session means that you are going one step further towards achieving your dream. I enjoy trying to perfect everything that I do to become faster and stronger. It takes you closer to being amongst the top paddlers in the world. However, canoe slalom is a sport where you have to train outside and this isn't fun in the winter! Waking up in darkness is one thing, but going out and paddling in white water when ice forms on your helmet and you can't feel your fingers is another thing!

4. What are you looking forward to the most at Beijing?

I'm really looking forward to representing Great Britain in the greatest sporting event in the world. It's something that you dream of when you are a kid and to finally be selected as the sole women's kayak representative for Great Britain is a great honour. Lots of new clothes and marching out into the Opening Ceremony are also major highlights!

5. Do you think athletes should boycott the Beijing Olympics?

For me, the Olympic Games is something that I've always wanted to compete in and I can't choose where



Former Pupils



the Olympics are held. The fact that, this year, the Olympics are in Beijing and that there are issues surrounding Beijing is not going to change my dream to compete in the greatest sporting event on Earth. A few individuals boycotting the Games or even an entire team is not going to stop the Games going ahead.

6. What would your advice be for ambitious young athletes at school?

When I was younger, I did nearly every sport under the sun. My former coach, John Brown, thinks that this always helped with my general fitness for paddling even if I didn't manage to get into a boat that often. I would tell anybody to just get out there and get as much experience and practice as you can. Being able to perform on the big stage like the Olympics requires years of experience doing as many competitions as possible. Stick at it and be determined to improve. Another note to take away is to talk to Mum and Dad nicely! Lots of sweet-talking gets you a long way on the financial front as well as taxi rides to everywhere you need to go in order to excel. Why do you think Mr Pennie has so many grey hairs?

7. How much time did you spend on studying and how much time did you spend on sport when you were at school?

I did lots of sport during school time and in after-school practices. This helped towards my general fitness for canoeing. I used to go for a run around Dallerie a few mornings a week before school as well. Other than that, canoeing training took up 2 evenings of the week and usually the

entire weekend. It wasn't just sport either; I was also part of the Chamber Choir, the Orchestra and the Pipe Band, so I was quite a busy person! School work used to fit in around it all somehow. There were certainly a few late nights come S5 and S6 to fit it all in! Weekend trips to Nottingham or Wales for races or training usually meant that I did some homework in the car under a light that Mum specially rigged up for me!

8. Which subjects and teachers did you like at Morrison's?

For fear of not having family members talk to me for some time, I better say that PE and Maths were my favourite subjects! Actually though, they were! Being at Morrison's for 13 years meant I had quite a few teachers over my time there. Among the many who stand out, Mr Dyer taught great interactive Physics lessons and Miss Littlechild made sure we learnt some German with her slamming desk technique!



Former Pupils

9. What are you going to do when you win gold and would you do a famous Morrison's Academy assembly for us?

There are a lot of fences between a gold medal and myself. If I make it over all of the fences, then it would be a massive achievement. If I was to get a gold medal, then it would be tremendous for the sport and hopefully canoe slalom would be in the public eye more than it currently is. This might even lead to increased sponsorship! I'm sure I could fit Memorial Hall into the diary somewhere!

10. Who is the most famous sportsperson you have ever met?

Probably Sir Steve Redgrave and Dame Tanni Grey Thompson. They are both mentors on the Team Visa programme that I am part of. I tried to stop my mouth dropping at the launch day of the programme last year, especially when Steve brought out his case of medals!

11. What is the most exciting place you've ever been to in your Kayaking travels?

Up until last year, my kayaking had taken me to Europe and Sydney in Australia. I have got quite used to the places we go to in Europe over the 10 years that I have been racing internationally. However, 2007 took us to new eye-opening venues. The World Championships were in Foz do Iguacu in Brazil and we went to Beijing for the first time for the Olympic Test Event. Both are very different cultures to the Western world and the first trips were exciting.

Erin O'Kane S2
Sally Andrews S1

Army Cadets Expedition To Ascend Mount Kenya 2007

When I heard about a five week CCF expedition to visit Kenya and Climb Mount Kenya, Africa's second tallest mountain last year, I immediately decided to apply for a place. After two selection weekends I was delighted to hear that I had been chosen for what was certain to be a unique and amazing experience. There followed an intense period of preparation which included a fitness training programme, the search for sponsorship and a lot of vaccinations!

We were a group of 30 cadets and 6 adults. After our arrival in Kenya we immediately began the walking phase of our trip. Initially we completed several long day walks in the Hell's Gate National Park including climbing Mt. Suswa (2355m) and Mt. Longonot (2776m), which gave us our first insight into the draining effects of walking at high altitude. Driving across the Masai plains we were able to reflect on our trip so far and then we walked up the beautiful Njorowa Gorge with its bubbling mud springs and hot water cascades. It was great to get a shower!

While Camping in Hell's Gate National Park we all got used to living under canvas. After a night under the stars we walked around Crater Lake and admired the hundreds of different species of birds, including flamingo. After our stay in the National Park we headed to a village called Sagana where we spent a couple of days sorting out kit and preparing for climbing Mt Kenya. There was time to go White Water Rafting and with grade IV and V rapids round every turn in the river the



experience was one not to be missed. Following this brief period of 'rest' we began our ascent of Mount Kenya which in total took 6 days, including several Acclimatisation days. The most memorable day of the trip was definitely the summit day which lasted 18 hours and was truly exhausting. The view from the summit was spectacular and to see the cloud base some 8,000 feet below was amazing. Climbing Mount Kenya was definitely one of the most physically and mentally challenging things I had ever done. Out of our group a total of 7 cadets and 2 adults failed to reach the summit due to mild acute mountain sickness. Following our descent of the mountain we headed on our 4 wheel drive mini buses to Buffalo Springs National Park where we would spend 2 days carrying out game drives. Initially we were amazed by the sheer number and variety of animals. During our stay in the National Park we saw lions,



Former Pupils

Mount Kenya (cont.)

giraffes, elephants, hippos and buffalos.

Our trip had been amazing, but we had an important task to complete. Whilst in Kenya we were to complete a community project which involved rebuilding parts of a school, painting walls and building furniture such as desks and shelves as well as interacting and playing with the children. This was all very satisfying and we felt that we had managed to improve the lives of the children who would be using the school.

Finally we set off for some rest and relaxation in Mombassa. Swimming and sailing in the warm Indian Ocean was fantastic and then it was time to head home. A day in Nairobi gave us an opportunity to buy souvenirs and experience a bit of the Capital's night life. The trip had been fantastic and I felt privileged to have been part of it.

Sam Jones





Head Boy & Head Girl

Head Boy



I arrived at Morrison's in primary four at the tender age of eight, although given the individual involved maybe it wasn't quite such a tender age. Since then I have spent ten very happy years at Morrison's and now face the somewhat terrifying prospect of the outside world.

A lot has changed in those ten years: I have grown from a small loud child into a larger, possibly even louder young adult, a worrying prospect I know. Morrison's has also seen a lot of change: I have seen four rectors and dozens of teachers come and go. On my now rare visits to the primary department it does all seem to have changed and moved on, at which point I age by 50 years and proclaim it wasn't like this back in my day. However a few things have always and hopefully will always remain constant. The school has always been both small and friendly, being very helpful and accommodating. It makes you feel like a real part of the school community and is excellent at offering help and support wherever it

is needed. The school has also always provided one, and on occasion more than one, day of glorious sunshine each term. These days will always stick in my memory. I can think of very few schools blessed with a campus as attractive and welcoming as that of Morrison's. Few things beat sitting out on Academy Park with friends on one of our few summer days.

My time at Morrison's has been extremely valuable and enjoyable for me. Aside from teaching me my academic subjects and helping me pass exams (I know it's very important but it's not really conducive to an interesting magazine article) Morrison's has also offered me a huge number of other opportunities which have shaped, or perhaps misshaped, me into the individual I am today. I have spent time doing activities at Morrison's ranging from singing, to acting, to CCF to Rugby to debating. This is by no means a comprehensive list. The times I spent doing these activities are the times I got the most out of the school. My experience was massively enhanced by making the most of these opportunities and my single biggest

piece of advice to any pupil at Morrison's is to take advantage of the brilliant opportunities offered at Morrison's and really make the most of your time at the school. Sadly it's all over too quickly. But nonetheless, the memories I have garnered from my time here will stick with me for all my life, from my first experience on stage in primary school right through to sitting my Advanced Highers.

I am excited and nervous at the prospect of the wider world away from Morrison's and I intend to take the lessons I have learnt at Morrison's into the world with me. The most important of these is to make the most of the opportunities offered to me. However there is also a part of me that is sad to be leaving the school and will certainly always recall my time here with great fondness.

Sandy Jackson S6



Head Girl



My education at Morrison's Academy began in 1997 when I joined Miss Hay's P3 class. The eleven years I have spent at the school have passed very quickly and have given me many memorable moments. From the start I have been very involved with co-curricular activities, in particular sport, music and pipe band and all of these have given me huge enjoyment and challenges.

One of my favourite memories is not one you will find on the list of official co-curricular activities. It was membership of the 'Primary 4 Dirty Words' Club'. This was founded by Sandy Jackson with Stephen Hamilton as chief researcher! Mrs Longmuir, our Primary 4 teacher, had been encouraging us to try to increase our vocabulary but I don't think she intended us to meet every break time to discuss the new 'dirty' words found by the researchers. Unfortunately, one day I went home and put my newly found vocabulary into practice, causing Mrs Longmuir to find out and the club being banned!

Many of my other interests also began when I was in the Primary school. I started to learn the 'Cello and Piano in Primary 3 and have had the same teachers since. Thank you Mrs Smart and Mr Beetschen for ignoring the weeks I didn't practice and also encouraging me to aim for grade 8.

I also first wielded a hockey stick in Primary 3 and have loved the game ever since. Since Primary 6 I have played for the school teams. The high point of my hockey playing was the tour to Barcelona in 2006. This was a great experience with my friends and I have so many good memories from the week in Barcelona which I'll never forget. This year I was honoured to captain the First XI. The team worked really well together and we had much enjoyment despite the fact that so many matches were cancelled because of bad weather.

Trips to Northern Ireland with the Chamber Choir have also been special and provided many memorable moments: the massive puddings at the Wine bar in Portrush, singing al fresco at the Giant's Causeway to the astonishment of the

other tourists, and winning the competition in 2007. The Chamber Choir will be one of the things I will miss most as we have been a close knit group and I have made many very good friends in different years because of the Choir.

This year has been busy, providing me with many new challenges and duties. I have really enjoyed being Head Girl and thank everyone in Sixth Year for their support throughout my tenure. I am sure, like me, they will also leave school with lasting memories of good times and lifelong friendships.

It is quite a thought that after eleven years we are leaving school forever and venturing out into the world beyond Crieff. I have more than enjoyed my time at Morrison's mainly because of the people I have met and the different opportunities I have been given. I would like to thank everyone for their friendship and wish them all the best of luck whatever they are going on to do!

[Alexandra Taylor S6](#)



Head Boy & Head Girl





Speech Day

Prize Winners

Individual Awards

Andrew J. Turnbull
Boys Senior Tennis Champion
The Dye Cup

Mark M. Marchbank
Individual Golf Champion
The Belch Cup

Alexandra E.J. Taylor
Music – Best Solo Performer
The Knox Cup

Kirsten M. Longmuir
Music – Solo Scots Song
The A.B. Hunter Prize

Hilary J. Andrew
Music – Vocal Excellence
The Garrie Quaich

Douglas W. Guthrie
Senior Drama
The Isobel Mcgregor Trophy

Michael J. Basford
Young Enterprise
The Sir Ross Belch Cup

Michael J. Basford
Jamie F.S Fairclough
Michael G.D. Rae
Young Enterprise
Burdon-Cooper Enterprise Award

Ellen S.F.W. Wagstaff
Emily K. Tait
Consulate General Prize
for Excellence in German

Catriona A. Bell
Rector's Award for Outstanding
Achievement in French

Sports Championships

The Murrays
Girls Sports Championship
The Scott Cup

The Murrays
Boys Sports Championship
The Scott Cup

The Murrays
The Supreme House Award
The Mrs. Thomas Bolton Cup

The Inter-House Awards

The Campbells
CCF
The Finch Cup

The Grahams
Talent
The Russell Cup

The Campbells
Rugby
The Marr Cup

The Murrays
Hockey

The Murrays
Cricket
The Marr Cup

The Murrays
Tennis (Senior Girls)

The Drummonds and The Grahams
Tennis (Senior Boys)
The Downie Cup

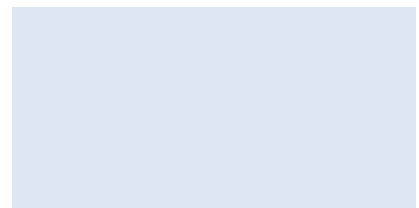
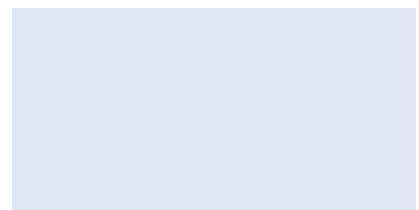
The Drummonds
Swimming (Senior Girls)
The John Smith Shield

The Murrays
Swimming (Senior Boys)
The John Smith Cup

The Drummonds
Badminton (Senior Girls)
The Ashmall Cup

The Grahams
Badminton (Senior Boys)
The Ashmall Cup

The Murrays
Inter-House Challenge Shield



Prize Winners

Secondary School Prize List

Secondary One Merit

Sally E.N. Andrews
Rosanna H. McDermott
Rachel A. Paterson
Katie A. White

Secondary Two Merit

Andrew A. Blair
Marianne L. Inglis
Kirsten A. Jack
Hayley R. McDermott

Secondary Three Governors' Subject Prizes

Kirsty E.M. Bennett
Information Systems

Christopher I. Carling
Business Management (shared)

Emily S. Coffey
German

Gregor I. Gray
Geography

P. Claran O'Kane
English

Andrew J. Paterson
Business Management (shared)

Emma K. Robertson
French, History, Spanish

Iain G.J. Savage
Accounting, Physics

Rachael L. Smart
Music

Ewan G. Smith
Practical Craft Skills

Callum M. Strong
Art, Chemistry

Anna E. Tong
Mathematics

Katrina M. Wesencraft
Biology

Secondary Four Governors' Subject Prizes

Laura Bruce-Wootton
Information Systems

David J. Innes
Music

Andrew A. LaHay
Geography

Catherine E. Lovegrove
French, History, Spanish

Alice C. McLeod
Business Management

Oliver V. Penny
Practical Craft Skills

Alan J. Ratcliff
Biology, Chemistry, English, German,
Mathematics, Physics

Madeline R. Riddell
Art

Secondary Five Subject Prizes

Claire Beattie
Governors' Prize for Human Biology

Rebecca E. Dickie
University of Dundee Prize for Business
Management
Governors' Prize for Spanish

Christie Y.E. Fraser
Philip Cann Memorial Prize for School
Activities
The McKenzie Strickland Architects
Award (Expressive)

Ronald M. Guthrie
Governors' Prize for Geography

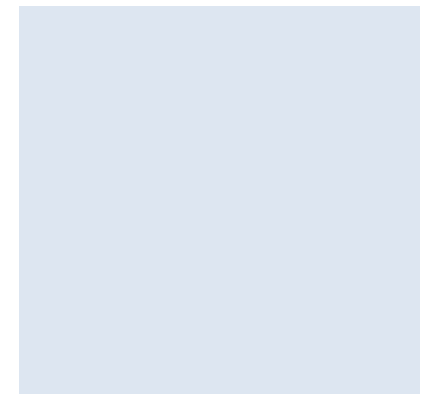
Ross M. Jack
Philip Cann Memorial Prize for
Chemistry

Kate L.G. Kennedy
Sanderson Prize for Art, Governors'
Prize for Biology
Kennedy Prize for French
The McKenzie Strickland Architects
Award (Design)

Arthur W. Learoyd
Taylor Prize for English
Governors' Prize for History
Howard Baker Prize for Information
Systems
Charles A. Thomson Prize for
Mathematics,
Palmer Valentine Prize for Physics

Claire C. Lorden
Robert Laurence Prize for German

David C. Maitland Gardner
Governors' Prize for Music



Prize Winners

Secondary Six Subject Prizes

Hilary J. Andrew
John Smith Prize for Mathematics
Governors' Scholarship for 2007-2008
The Stewart Award

Jamie F.S. Fairclough
John Smith Prize for Chemistry
A.D. Kippen Prize for Physics
A.M. Wilson Scholarship for 2007-2008

Catriona E. Gray
Palmer Valentine Prize for English
Palmer Valentine Prize for French
Hynd Prize for German
Strathairn Scholarship for Modern
Languages 2007-2008

Stephen K.D. Hamilton
Palmer Valentine Prize for Art
The McKenzie Strickland Architects
Award (Design)
Governors' Scholarship 2007-2008

Victoria A. Henderson
Governors' Prize for Business
Management
Roy Scholarship for Business Subjects
2007-2008

David R. Hiscocks
Strathairn Prize for History
Williamson Scholarship for History 2007-
2008

Rory H. Houston
Governors' Prize for Accounting
Governors' Prize for Physical Education

Catriona M. Laird
Governors' Prize for Modern Studies
The Stewart Award

Andrew J. Marshall
Palmer Valentine Prize for Geography

Suzanne Patrick
Governors' Prize for Photography

Alexandra E.J. Taylor
Mrs Alston's Prize for Music
Valentine Shield for Head Girl
C.A. Thomson Prize for Head Girl
The MacRosty Medal

Alexander I.R. Jackson
Moffat Prize for Biology
Rebekah M. Price Science Essay Prize
Governors' Scholarship for 2007-2008
Valentine Shield for Head Boy
C.A. Thomson Prize for Head Boy
The MacRosty Medal

Jamie F.S. Fairclough
The Dux Medal

2008-2009 Scholarship Awards

The A.M. Wilson Scholarship
for Science
Ross M. Jack

The George Strathairn Scholarship
for Modern Languages
Kate L.G. Kennedy
The Roy Scholarship for Business
Subjects
Rebecca E. Dickie

The John Williamson Memorial
Scholarship for History
Arthur W. Learoyd

The Governors' Scholarship
Kate S. Greenlees
Ronald M. Guthrie

