

08/09

The Morrisonian



The Year the Inspectors Called

Having taught at Morrison's for nineteen years, the mantra from the various Rectors that have held the rudder during this time has been, "When the inspectors arrive, we must be prepared..." Well they came, they saw and... they went away again - suitably impressed. It was pleasing to have outside recognition that we're doing a sound job. Indeed, one of the first publications they wanted to look at when they arrived was 'The Morrisonian', and I, in turn, was suitably impressed when Mary Ritchie (Chief Inspector) took a copy away to her bolt-hole at The Hydro and appeared the following day having read it. She commented on the quality of the magazine and the 'creative writing potential' of some of our pupils. She also noted how well 'The Morrisonian' captured the essence of how hectic and fulfilling a Morrison's session is. Well, here is your chance now to inspect the first full colour 'Morrisonian'. We hope you too will be suitably impressed.

The Editorial Team

P O'Kane, P Boal, T Lafferty, D Riddell and I Barr

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The team would like to acknowledge the photographic input of Kieran Dodds and Sandy Weir . We would also like to acknowledge the editor of 'The Strathearn Herald', Caroline Boxer, for her review of 'Oklahomal!'.

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Introduction

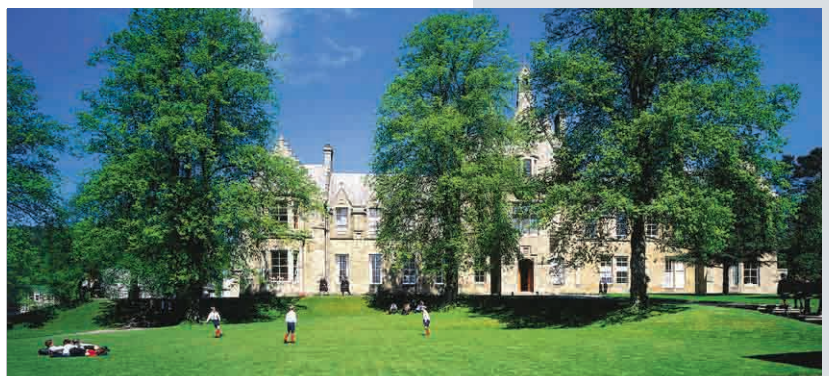
One of the many things that takes place in a Morrison's year but which doesn't reach an audience much wider than the current members of the school is the house competition. Week in week out over the course of the year the four houses of Drummonds, Grahams, Murrays and Campbells battle it out in a series of competitive events to determine which will win the coveted Supreme House Award, the Mrs Thomas Bolton Cup. Sports Day in late June sees the culmination of this competition and the decision as to which house is the eventual winner can hang on the outcome of the final race of the day, the senior relay. However the annual challenge begins the previous autumn with the early rounds of the competition. House rugby, hockey, football, photography, chess, debating, general knowledge, music, the swimming gala, the tug-of-war, basketball, badminton and more besides all help to accumulate points towards the house totals and the eventual decision. I report on the progress of the competition in Monday Assembly and I have plans in place for a highly visible tally board where pupils can view the changing status of the competition as the year progresses.

Does it matter? Of course it does. Membership of a house provides another and alternative identity within the school, very different from belonging to a year group. Houses are vertical in structure, meaning they have a membership made up from all six year groups thus allowing for a different type of mixing. Furthermore, belonging to a house provides an opportunity for

every member of the school to take part in competition of an athletic and non-athletic variety. For those who don't want to be involved in inter-school competition, or for those who don't get selected for a school team in their preferred sport, the house competition provides an alternative outlet. Being a House Captain or Vice Captain carries with it the responsibility for organising teams and providing senior leadership across the pupil body, an extremely valuable lesson in its own right, while all members of S6 serve as House Prefects.

Houses, as you can tell, are an important element within the school and the inter-house competition provides another layer of opportunity for participation. Testament to the fact that house identity counts for a good deal comes from the former pupils; I am always struck when talking to them by how they remain loyal to their houses long after leaving school.

S Pengelley
Rector and Principal
June 2009



NURSERY



Swinging under our huge trees



Enjoying a visit to the primary playground



Stuffing our 'Scarecroweena'- ready to keep our crop safe

We Can Do That

Any visitors this year could not have failed to be struck by the 'we can do that' attitude of our children.

We have embraced new ideas and challenges which have been reflected positively in our active learning approaches.

B Thomson



Music in the garden is just so different – where does the sound go?



Cooking with a difference



Being friends is just great!



We love finding minibeasts in our garden



We are the 'Paint Monsters' – just look at our feet!



Painting on a 'lazy sunny afternoon'

We Can Do That



We love having visitors and Dawn from Crieff Library always reads us a great story



What treasure are we going to find in the shredded paper?



Parents enjoy our 'Stay and Play' sessions



Our Eco-fashion Queen 2009



Counting & sorting with dog biscuits as part of our 'Pet Topic'



Baking snack for tomorrow

We Can Do That



Busy planting seeds for our vegetable garden



Relaxing having just finished the summer nursery concert to an audience of 78!



Great observational drawing



Taking turns and counting is just part of learning to play board games



How many jigsaws can we do?



The DoE boys are good at reading us stories

PRIMARY





Primary

Being at Morrison's Academy Primary School and Nursery this session has been one thing above everything else: hectic. As ever the pupils have thrown themselves enthusiastically into all the opportunities that have come their way. Whether in class on a daily basis, in music, on the sports field, at Co-curricular activities or outside the school, the children have completed a very successful school session.

In particular this session, we have embarked on some new activities as well as revisiting the annual favourites. This year saw an extension of our Eco activities throughout the school. We now have a full blown committee throughout the Primary and they have greatly increased our range of activities this year. In October we had a very successful 'Green Day' where all pupils learnt more about recycling, composting and litter picking during a fun filled day. Our Transitional production in the second term also connected with this ongoing work. Entitled 'A Load of Rubbish', the show explored Eco issues in a light hearted way whilst still getting over essential messages. We were particularly pleased to have the writer, Sue Gordon, attend the second show and she praised the children highly for their performances in bringing her words to life.

Music this year saw Primary Four take part in a joint Scottish Opera project with pupils at Ardvreck. The Primary Five, Six and Transitional pupils therefore had a different musical experience having workshops with the RSNO at school and then attending a concert in the Concert Hall in Glasgow. Several P6 boys also took part in a boys-only singing concert in Perth Concert Hall.

In sport many of our pupils gained both team and individual successes and their contributions to rugby and hockey were recognised at our first annual rugby and hockey awards ceremony in Academy Hall at the end of the season.

This year our Book Week also contained a charitable element. The pupils were encouraged to read as many books as they could over a three week period and collect sponsors. We were

delighted that our first ever involvement with Readathon raised a superb total of over £1250 towards helping children with cancer through the Roald Dahl Foundation. Needless to say, our other charitable works were as pleasing as usual.

Our residential visit to Kindrogan saw us taking our largest ever group of sixty one pupils and seven staff to the centre where the children completed a very successful week of activities. They were praised by both the centre staff and other visitors and were a credit to themselves and their school. At the time of writing P6 are about to embark on their visit to Comrie Croft where they will also thrive and have a great time.

Apart from these new ventures all the usual events took place. We had an outstanding Christmas Concert with some wonderful performances in our Nativity. The children were involved in the annual music competitions as well as an exciting 'Xmas Factor'. As ever, the pupils took part in many musical competitions and performances and have completed another busy year.

All of these events do not happen without the dedication and enthusiasm of the Primary staff, Secondary colleagues and hard working support staff. As last year, the Primary House Captains have carried on the good work of their predecessors and Harriot, Ruaridh, Ailsa, Robbie, Kirstie, Harry, Lucy and Christopher are to be applauded for their efforts this session.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Fiona Harvey who is leaving us after three years and wish her all the best in her new post in the Middle East. Her enthusiasm and skill as a member of the Primary Staff will be greatly missed and we wish our 'Eco Warrior' bon voyage.

Finally, there was the small matter of our visitors from HMle who came to us in March. I would like to share a pupil view of this visit. This pupil was very excited about the visit because the 'Queen's men are coming to see us.'

A Robertson
Head of Nursery and Primary

Primary 1 and Primary 2

Pirate Pete

Pete was a pirate and one day Pete saw a little island. The island was wobbling. Pete wondered why the island was wobbling. He went to the island. He looked under the island. A shark was under the island. Pete saw the shark. He ran off the island.

Caitlin Andrews P1

Blessu

Blessu was an elephant. He was swimming in the pond. His trunk was a snorkel.

Campbell Swaine P1

Bonfire Night
Bonfire flaming
Fireworks sparkling
The sky is dark
I feel happy

Harry Bath P1

Ghosts

Yesterday I went for a walk to look for ghosts and I found a ghost. He became my friend and I took him home.

James Graham P1

The Crannog

Primary 2 went to the replica crannog at Loch Tay. We had lots of fun. When we arrived everybody was excited. First Simon showed us what divers had found of the old crannog like the stilts that held it up. Then we saw the crannog. On the floor was bracken, hay and long grass. They probably made benches and tied them together with long grass and put animal skins on top. Then they showed us some homemade machines. Then we made bread and also pots and pendants. Then we went to Aberfeldy park. I had a great day.

Bryony Barclay P2

Ceilidh

On Saturday night I went to the school Ceilidh. The hall looked beautiful. I had shepherds pie for tea. After tea P1 to P3 sang songs. After we sang songs me and Luke said our poems. Then I danced with Mrs Marchbank. Then I danced with my dad. I really enjoyed myself and I want to go back next year.

Emma Cook P2

On Saturday night I went to the school ceilidh. I went to the ceilidh with my mum, dad, sister and brother. First we ate. Then we sang songs and the Music Man. Next we danced the Military Two Step. After that we sang Auld Lang Syne.

Aimee McGregor P2

On Saturday night I went to the school ceilidh. I chose a table with my family and my friends. Then I sang Scottish songs. After that I danced with Emma. Then I went home.

Scott Birnie P2



Primary 2



The Rescue

After the message it was break time. Everyone lined up and went outside. Suddenly I had an idea. When no-one was looking I sneaked inside. I went past the classroom up the stairs and at last I reached Mr Robertson's room. I checked there was nobody in and there wasn't. So I sneaked inside. I couldn't find the kennel. Then I remembered where it was. It was at the corner of the room. So I went to the corner of the room and unlocked the kennel. Then Buzzy crawled out and we climbed out the window just as the bell rang for lunch.

Myles Lindgren P2

The Christmas Play

In the Christmas Play I was a shepherd. I wore a tea towel, my joggers, a blue t-shirt, a big gown, my gym shoes and two ties. I sat round the back. I felt great. On Wednesday my gran and granddad came. On Thursday mummy and Grant watched me. I was excellent.

Luke Scott P2

In the Christmas Play I was a shepherd. I wore a t-shirt and a sack. I was a talking shepherd. My mummy and daddy thought that it was excellent. I felt happy.

Blair Johnson P2

In the Christmas Play I was an angel. I wore white tights and a gold sparkly skirt and a white t-shirt. I sang songs. I felt embarrassed. My mum and dad thought I was brilliant.

Hope Kennedy P2

In the Christmas Concert I was a donkey. I wore a grey sweatshirt and black tights and donkey ears. I did tick-tocking at the curtains. I felt happy. My mum and dad watched me. My mum and dad said it was fantastic.

Robbie Loudon P2

What Shall I Chose as my Pet?

One cool cat
Two dancing dogs
Three rolling rabbits
What shall I choose as my pet?

What shall I choose as my pet?
One awful alligator
Two funny frogs
Three beautiful birds
I shall choose two dancing dogs.

Pippa Boyle P2

Day and Night

In the day
Leaves rustling
Dogs barking
Buses beeping
And the street is busy

In the night
Wolves howling
Owl hooting
Church bells
And the street is quiet.

Michael Wylie P2

Primary 3

The Accident

I felt scared, in fact very scared. Suddenly the strangest thing happened. The tree whipped out a branch really quickly and snagged me. I escaped with a bad cut. Something came into my mind when I saw a woodcutter nearby. I forgot all about the running.

"Can I borrow your axe please?" I asked him thoughtfully.

Then I swung the axe...

Angus Grierson P3



The Magic Door

When I was walking along the hall I reached the study room and slotted the key into the cabinet door and turned it slowly. Suddenly all of the cabinet doors opened. There were sparkles of magic when I looked inside! I hesitated then off I went through the magic door into a different world...

Natasha McClean P3



The Adventure

Once upon a time there was a beautiful princess who lived in a tall tower which reached up to the clouds. But the tower had no doors so she could not get out and all she had for company was a rather nice prince named Charlie. Charlie owned a beautiful horse called Starlight, though he was not able to ride his horse. Princess Penelope did not get much to eat because the witch who locked her in the tower did not have much money to buy food. One day, everything changed...

Jenny Whitaker P3



Primary 4



Our First Scottish Opera Day

When there were only a few weeks to Scottish Opera, Ardvreck came round and we practised with a man from Scottish Opera. His name was Roger. There were three groups, Frontier People, Native Americans and Cavalry. Morrison's and Ardvreck all went into different groups so it was mixed. We practised all the songs. The songs were called 'Gold Fever', 'Boys in Blue', 'Land of My People', 'What in Tarnation' and 'We've Got Plenty More'. Everybody really enjoyed it. It was really funny because of Roger. I was in the Frontier People group with Katie, Iona, Isabella, Callum and Taylor.

Catriona Roberts P4

Way Out West

On the 25th November, Primary 4 walked to Ardvreck to perform 'Way Out West' with Scottish Opera. The Headmaster came and introduced himself and we split into three groups called The Cavalry, Native Americans and Frontier People. Primary 4 sang five songs and one of them was called 'Gold Fever'. At break time I played with a boy called Angus.

The best bit was when we learned the moves because we jumped up and down. At lunch I played football with John and I won!

When we did the Dress Rehearsal there was a little audience. My costume was really cool because I got a Mohawk. The audience were clapping at the end of the song and I felt cool. The performance was scary but I liked it a lot. My Mum didn't come but my Dad came and I felt happy. The opera people were called Simon, Alan and Lee. Mr Robertson came with Mr Duthie to watch us. After that we had juice and then left. It was a great day!

Robbie Coffey P4

Wars of Independence Visit

On Friday 29th May it was very hot and sunny. Primary 4 went on a school trip. First we got on our bus with Mrs Byers, Mrs McConnell and Mrs Dickinson.

The bus drove us to Bannockburn Heritage Centre. When we go there we walked to see a statue of Robert the Bruce and got our picture taken. After that we walked, well marched, to meet a knight who took us to see a lot of weapons and to act out the Battle of Bannockburn. His name was Randolph of Moray. He was dressed in armour and a leather coat. He also showed us all the armour. He talked about coats of arms.

We went to watch a very realistic film about the Battle of Bannockburn. My favourite bit of the film was when De Boon got killed. We even got to try on armour and helmets. I really like the helmet I tried on. Since it was a very nice day, we had a picnic outside the centre.

After the picnic we went to Stirling Castle and met a man called Calum. He took us on a lovely tour. At the end of the tour we got dressed up and I was a blacksmith. Finlay was allowed to put chain mail on. Calum eventually had to leave us so we could look at the dungeons, chapel and the kitchens. The dungeons were very dark. The chapel was very peaceful and the kitchens very smelly.

We got back on the bus and came back to school. I really liked the visit because I like things like that!

Fraser Lindsay P4

Hippos Factfile

Introduction

Hippos have very, very big webbed toes so that they can swim in the cool water. On these extremely hot days, the hippos don't like the heat.

Primary 4

Habitat

They live in East and Central Africa in the rivers and lakes. This place is absolutely steaming and that is why they normally stay in rivers and lakes to keep cool.

Appearance

Hippos are very large mammals. They have enormous jaws and huge teeth! Their height is about 1.5 metres tall and they have a barrel shaped body. Length wise they are 4 metres. They weigh 1200kg which is the same as my family car!

Food

Hippos leave the bits of food in the river to feed at night. It is a bit like a midnight feast! They are herbivores, which means they eat grass and plants.

If I Had Wings

If I had wings
I would touch the tops of mountains
and the tips of the beautiful houses.

If I had wings
I would taste a chunk of the clouds
and the snow on the tops of mountains.

If I had wings
I would listen to the wind blowing
and the mean wolves howling.

If I had wings
I would smell the fresh air above
and the fires down below.

If I had wings
I would gaze at the tips of the green
trees
and the bridges far, far below.

If I had wings
I would dream of eating the sand
and drinking the sea.

Astrid Lindgren P4

Animal Kennings

Camouflaged body,
Fast runner,
Race winner,
Sneaky hunter,
Squishy tail
A jaguar.

Cameron McDonald P4

Loud honker,
Big loader,
Slow eater,
Water sprayer,
Long trunk,
Slow walker,
An elephant.

Iain McGregor P4

Loud barker,
Ball fetcher,
Fast runner,
Food lover,
Long jumper,
Mostly muddy
Puppy!

Katie McLaughlan P4



Primary 5

Jacobite Trail

Exclusive top news! Yesterday, 6th April 2009, P5 of Morrison's Academy Primary School went on a class trip to the magnificent Doune Castle and The Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum.

Our best source, Miss Sarah Neill, told us, "My favourite bit was when we went to Doune Castle because we dressed as Highlanders." After that we had no further questions. However, our sources tell us the pupils got Jacobite weapons and were told not to die by the Jacobite who was guiding them.

Our source of information told us that when they went to the Smith Museum they saw Jacobites' weapons and artefacts. They also saw 'calthrops', a weapon which was thrown on the ground so the horses would stand on them and go crazy. An exclusive fact learned by the pupils is that the best pistols of the time were made in Doune.

Apparently, the brilliant P5 of Morrison's Academy claim that they had a little game at the Smith Museum where each group chose an artefact to show the other groups and the other groups had to guess what the mystery artefact was by using the clues the group gave them. Sounds like fun to us!



'The Morrisonian' understands that the pupils learned a lot of information about the Jacobites so they were pleased to achieve the goal of their trip. Find out where they will go on their class trip, in next year's edition of 'The Morrisonian'.

Jamie Coupland P5H

Dennis the Menace

Dennis raced out of the house and slammed the door behind him.

Lucy Whitaker P5C

He was dressed in a black and red striped top, black shorts and red socks rolled down to his ankles.

Emilia Barclay P5C

He had a cheeky smile though everyone in the neighbourhood disliked him.

Storm Robertson P5C

Dennis jumped onto his skateboard, leapt over the gate onto the road, with his thick black hair flapping wildly in the wind.

Saskia O'Hara P5C

He had one long eyebrow, glaring eyes and a mean smile.

Robbie Wylie P5C

With his red socks rolled to his ankles he jumped off his skateboard and ran to his tree house.

Ellie Goodban P5C

Primary 5

Cruella De Vil

Her hair, curling viciously above her head, was black on one side and white on the other.

Cameron Scott P5C

She has arched eyebrows and a sharp chin.

Alicia Boyle P5C

She has skinny legs with long, long feet.

Fraser Easton P5C

She is sly, devilish and does not care about puppies.

Ailsa Senior P5C

Her horrible, pointed fingers are huge while her face has wrinkles all over.

Daniel Fletcher P5C

Cruella, with a smirk, prowled along the road looking for more puppies.

Hannah Boag P5C

Descriptions of a Place

The wind was howling like an angry wolf in distress.

Dominic Somerville P5C

I can smell the pies and burgers. The floodlights at night are as bright as the sun.

Fraser Easton P5C

In the living room I can hear the big flat screen television and see the sea crashing onto the rocks.

Ailsa Senior P5C

Every stable door was a different colour.

Alicia Boyle P5C

Inside someone is on a forklift and the engine sounds like a bear growling in the cold forest.

Cameron Scott P5C

The light flashed like the sun blazing over the hillside, the waves tumbled over each other, the rain hammered on the roof but it still stood on its own in the darkness.

Emilia Barclay P5C

The beautiful chestnut pony that had been her mother's and was now hers was standing gracefully in the centre of the room.

Lucy Whitaker P5C

We approached the airport at dawn to find everything lit up.

Storm Robertson P5C

I walked forward to the glass door that was shaped like the eye of a huge horse.

Saskia O'Hara P5C

The stable is dirty, dull and covered in cobwebs though it is reasonably spacious.

Hannah Boag P5C

It smells as sweet as honey.

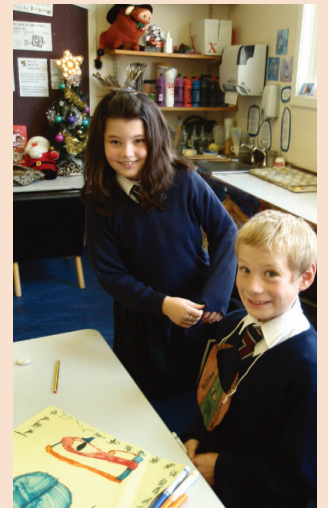
Robbie Wyllie P5C

Outside the noise of a huge car sounded like a dinosaur's roar.

Daniel Fletcher P5C

The sounds of buses, cars and bikes whizz through my ears.

Ellie Goodban P5C



Primary 6

New Lanark

On Friday the 29th May 2009 both Primary 6 classes went on a school trip to the New Lanark World Heritage site. The aim was to learn about the mills and discover what life was like in the late 18th century. The bus journey was long but it was certainly worth it.

Previous to the trip we had been reading a class novel which was based in New Lanark called Spindle River. It was interesting to actually visit the places mentioned in the book.

Our day started off with a guided tour of the New Lanark village. We were shown the water wheel that powered the mills and shown the site of mill number 4 which was tragically burnt down. After looking at the huge water wheel we went up to take a closer look at the shimmering Falls of Clyde. We noticed that beside the river, in a cave hanging from the roof, were long points of rock. The tour guide told us that they were called stalactites.

We went to visit the old village shop which sold cheese, beer and other necessities to the workers. This store became very popular and it evolved into the food chain we know as the Co-op.

Probably the most exciting section of the day was the Annie McLeod experience. In small groups we got to ride in pods and watch the story of the mill workers and learn about the dangers of the machinery. It was a tough life in the 18th century. Children had to work long days then go to school in the evenings or at weekends. The work was dangerous and very tiring as children were expected to dive under the moving machinery to collect the cotton.

Later on in the day we had an opportunity to dress up in traditional Victorian school outfits and discover what school life was like in Robert Owen's school.

Primary 6 enjoyed their outing to New Lanark as the history of the village and the mills was displayed in an exciting way. You could even touch some of the exhibitions!

Will Waller, Neil Robb, Amy Lee and Angus McFarlane P6M

The Extreme Sandstorm And The Old Man Of Nevada (Extract)

The sandstorm picked up, covering the Nevada desert in boiling sand. The small amount of people that lived in Nevada grabbed their belongings and ran inside their golden pyramids.

Zalfredo sat playing his oboe. His slithering snake hissed and started to dance in the bronze pottery pot that sat beside him on the sand. He stopped playing and looked over his shoulder and there he saw an amazing sandstorm. The small gritty, boiling and dusty pieces of sand lifted from the ground...

Alisha Reid P6M



Primary 6

Sleeping Beauty

The King and Queen had a baby girl.
She only had one hair and it was a curl.
She had a godmother, in fact there
were three.

One was round, one was lean and one
as tall as a tree.

"She'll prick her finger when she is old
and will fall asleep."

As everyone was told they began to
weep.

Eighteen years passed by,
The King thought the godmother had
told a lie.

A lady taught her how to sew.
She kept the whole thing down low.
She pricked herself on a spinning wheel.
Everyone worried a great deal.
She collapsed on the hard floor.
Right next to the door.
She was in a deep beauty sleep.
In her dreams she saw black sheep.

The whole village was in a slumber.
It was the curse made it happen: rain,
lightning, thunder.
Meanwhile the princess was in the tower
During this terrible shower.

A prince came trotting along
And was wondering what was wrong.
He looked at the tower
And there on the window sat a flower.

He walked up the stair.
And there lay a girl with hair that was
fair.
He gave her a kiss on her head
Which she lifted with caution and dread.

The whole village woke up.
The cattle and sheep and even the
princess' pup.
The princess said "Who are you?"
"I am your admirer, please say, 'I do'."

Then they got married right on the spot.
By the priest called Sophie Anne Dot.
They went to live together
Where there was good weather.

Amy Lee P6M

The Room (Extract)

It was Monday morning when Tommy
walked down the gloomy street to
school. The sky suddenly turned dark
grey. Tommy looked up. Above him the
sky was full of clouds ready to burst. He
started half running, half walking, trying
to get to school in time. He didn't make
it. The rain thundered down like a tonne
of bricks. He looked for a place to
shelter; eventually he reached a
cobwebbed door that led into a dark,
musty hallway.

Tommy went in; he walked along it
hearing the drip, drip, drip of water
being echoed a thousand times. Then
he heard a creaking of floorboards
above his head. Tommy froze...

Caitlin Edgar P6M

Past His Prime

Past his prime
Furious
Angry
The gorilla pounds.

Past his prime
Slumped
Dull
The gorilla looks.

Past his prime
Slow
Lazy
The gorilla looks.

Past his prime
His arms
Droop
The gorilla falls.

Past his prime
Furious
Angry
The gorilla pounds, pounds, pounds.

Angus MacFarlane P6M



Transitional

Transitional Cake Sale

As part of the Enterprise section of the Civics program, the Transitional classes ran a very successful Cake Sale. They were split into groups and given £5 to turn into a profit. The pupils were responsible for marketing, production, accounts and sales. Customers from the whole school were delighted by the goodies on offer. Overall the classes made a net profit of over £160.

M Anderson



Fireworks

An explosive device,
A horrific smell,
A colourful swirl,
A sensational show,
A dangerous beauty,
An amazing sight,
A BIG BANG,
And a vanishing party in the sky.

Penny Morton TA

An exciting whoosh,
An amazing scare,
A screaming flower,
A whizzing wheel,
A whistling wonder,
A sizzling spinner,
Then its all over in a BIG BANG!

Henry Morshead TA

Fizz, bang, flash BOOM
I love fireworks late in the night
Sparkly, shiny, smoky bang
Eerie in the cold winter nights
Whistling, swooping, popping, exploding,
Sounds that travel in the night.
Orange, yellow, blue, red, green
Floods of light in the sky at night.
Ringing, sizzling bursts of light
Enough to light up London for the night
Cracking, singing, spinning, dancing
Catherine wheels and sparklers look nice
Sizzling, spinning, creaking, laughing ooh
what a delight!

Alastair Scott TD

Scotland

Tablet, toffee nice and yummy
Feels very good in my tummy.
The hills so quiet, don't hear a peep,
All that live there are the sheep.
Highland cow, nice and furry,
Keeps them warm in a snow flurry.
Whisky, scotch, Scotland's drink,
Not feeling good - take a swig.
Boys playing rugby,
Getting covered in mud.
Men playing tug of war,
How hard they tug

Cameron Lee TD

Transitional

Scotland

The pipe band are playing, can you hear the beat,
The fudge and the tablet are a wonderful treat
The tartan is colourful, the tartan is bright,
The thistles and heather are a beautiful sight
The ceildh music is jumpy and fun,
The deer in the field, they all like to run
Up in the fields where the highland cows roam
The scenery is bright that's why Scotland's my home!

Rosie Cram TD

Grandpa's Key

Grandpa's death was a shock to everyone. That day when he went to fetch the milk from the corner shop, no one knew he wouldn't be coming back. We were alerted straight away. As we ran down the cottage steps, a horrific site met my eyes. My grandpa, the man who had helped my single mother raise us, the man who spoke with such passion about mysterious legends and stories as we were growing up, was lying on the road, drenched in his own red blood. The blue Volvo driver was wailing in guilt and regret, but I didn't listen. I stared at my grandpa. As the pool of blood ran down the street and trickled into a street drain I looked into his eyes. He seemed to be staring right at me....

Elsie Haldane TD

A Great Adventure

Roben Curtis, a Dutch explorer, spotted a bridge over the River Kwai which happens to be the only way to complete his three day journey. He looked cautiously at the frayed rope and the loose wooden planks. Anxiously he stepped his right foot out then his left.

He took each step slowly trying not to think about the fast flowing river eighty feet below him. He kept telling himself not to look down but to keep looking forward.

'Almost there,' he said to himself, ' just a few more steps.' But then!!!! He dreaded the thought. But the rope had snapped. He didn't want to believe it but sure enough he was racing towards the rock face....

Robbie Robertson TD

Things That Go Bump In The Night (Extract)

The miserable, solemn night was a wailing hound, howling the sorrow and grief that had befallen this treacherous house. Queries as to what actually occurred on August 15th from parliament had pressured the government to send a group of elite troops to level the danger. Unfortunately, I was one of them. Surrounded by numerous tanks and explosives, we cautiously entered the forgotten house.....

Christopher White TA



A Load of Rubbish

A Load of Rubbish

This year's Transitional Production at Morrison's Academy was the Eco play 'A Load of Rubbish' by Sue Gordon. The performances took place in the school's Memorial Hall which provided an intimate setting for this entertaining production. The play mixed humour with a strong eco message to deliver some important information on the benefits of recycling and reusing as much of our rubbish as possible. The cast of twenty performed the play with energy and enthusiasm, positively accentuating the message and raising lots of laughs from the audience along the way.

On the first night the pupils were read a message of good luck sent to them by Sue Gordon, the author, who lives in Perth. The pupils responded to this positively but had an even greater surprise at the end of the second night when they were introduced to Sue who had come to see her play being performed for the first time. She expressed her delight at seeing her words come alive on stage and commended the children on the quality of their performance. This rounded off what one pupil described as '...the best fun and most exciting thing I've ever done!'

A Robertson



A Load of Rubbish



Transitional Ceilidh

Transitional Ceilidh

Transitional held their Farewell Ceilidh in St Andrews Halls. As you can see, it was a memorable evening.



Hockey and Rugby

Celebration Evening

Friday, March 13 2009 saw in the very first Primary Hockey and Rugby Celebration evening.

Pupils were joined by parents and staff in Academy Hall for a buffet and presentation of prizes and certificates. Every pupil was presented by Mr Pengelley with a certificate for their involvement and dedication to their team. Speeches were made about the successes the teams had experienced this season. Winners of each salver gave details of their personal achievements.

Salvers were presented to three members of the hockey team and three members of the rugby team.

In Rugby, Top Tackler was presented to Andrew Campbell; Most Improved player was Oscar Shad. Most Effective Contributor was Captain Henry Morshead.

In Hockey, Top goal Scorer, with twenty nine out of thirty three goals, was Ailsa Clifford. Most Improved player was Louise Hally and Most Effective Contributor, as voted by her team-mates, was Julia Barrie.

The evening was rounded off with Mr Robertson calling out the raffle prizes including a signed football, a voucher for BlueSky Experience and lots of Easter eggs! Mr Roberson also gave a vote of thanks.

My thanks are extended to Mr Chater, Mr Robertson, Mr Pengelley, the primary staff, Mrs Maguire and her team, parents and, most importantly, the children for their commitment and dedication.

N Dick



Primary Awards and Prize Winners

PRIMARY AWARDS AND PRIZE WINNERS

Primary School Prize Winners

Primary 4	Merit Effort	Callum Jones Chelsea Fearnley
Primary 5C	Merit Effort	Hannah Boag Daniel Fletcher
Primary 5H	Merit Effort	Rosie Paterson Jamie Anderson
Primary 6L	Merit Effort	Ross Healy Libby Dillon
Primary 6M	Merit Effort	May Appleby Alisha Reid
Transitional A	Merit Effort	Christopher White Penny Morton
Transitional B	Merit Effort	Julia Barrie Alex McDonald
Transitional D	Merit Effort	Madeline Wright-Davies Dhillon Clarke

Special Awards

The Philip Cann Memorial Quaich for Chanter	Hamish Riddell
Novice Piping The Campbell Cup	Cameron Lee
Novice Drumming The Stewart Cup	Richard Hammond
Junior Drumming The Taylor Quaich	Robbie Robertson
The David Comrie & Son Preparatory Music Prize	Luke Scott
The A B Hunter Trophy for Scots Song	Hannah Boag
The David Comrie & Son Trophy for Primary Singing	Hamish Riddell
The MAPA Quaich for Scots Recitation	Jamie McLaren
The Primary Art Prize	Charles Bowtle
The Lawson Quaich for Contribution to Primary Drama	Ailsa Clifford Jed Chalmers
The Ferntower Cup for Most Promising Primary Musician	Rebecca Coffey
The Laidlaw Quaich for Contribution to Primary Music	Cameron Lee
The House Trophy is won by the Campbells	Harriot Winfield Ruaridh Lauchlan
The Hay Quaich for pupil who best epitomises the school motto "Ad SummaTendendum"	Henry Morshead

Sports Prizewinners

Swimming	Girls	Winner	Penny Morton
		Runner up	Rachael Love
	Boys	Winner	Henry Morshead
		Runner up	Christopher White
Tennis	Girls	Winner	Penny Morton
		Runner up	Rebecca Dye
	Boys	Winner	Christopher White
		Runner up	Andrew Campbell

Primary 4 & 5 Sports Events

Long Jump	Girls	Winner	Rosie Paterson
		Runner up	Alexandra Milne
	Boys	Winner	Fraser Lindsay
		Runner up	Oliver Swaine
High Jump	Girls	Winner	Hannah Boag
		Runner up	Natasha Harris
	Boys	Winner	Thomas Johnston
		Runner up	Callum Jones
Ball Throw	Girls	Winner	Hannah Russell
		Runner up	Hannah Boag
	Boys	Winner	Thomas Johnston
		Runner up	Jonathan Cook

Primary School Sports Champions

Girls	Winner	Penny Morton
	Runner Up	Louise Hally
Boys	Winner	Henry Morshead
	Runner Up	Andrew Campbell



SECONDARY



Art



Abi Ross S5



Alisa Guntley S6



Amy Lee P6



Callum Strong S4



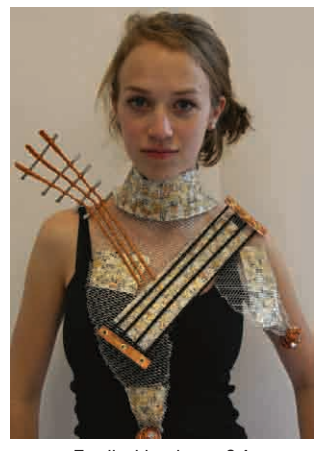
Callum Gibson S4



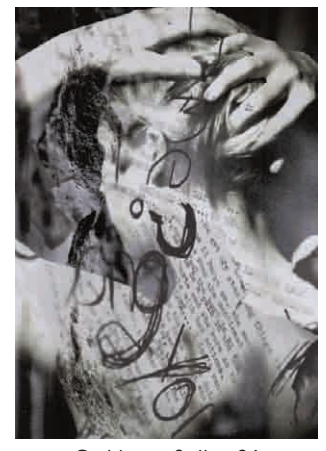
Callum Strong S4



Clare Ratcliff S3



Emily Harrison S4



Catrina Suiter S6

Art



Emma Marnoch S5



Emma Robertson S4



Ana Tong S4



Craig Smith S6



Emma Marnoch S5



Eve Bramley S6



Harriet Smythe S6



Eve Bramley S6

Art



Laura Bruce Wooton S5



Jessica Reoch s4



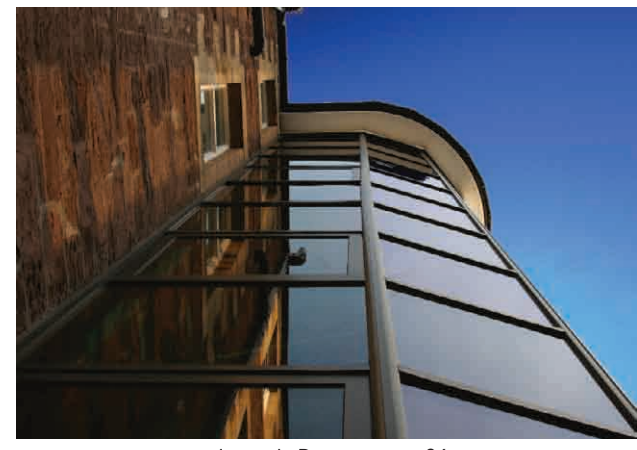
Louise Mackenzie S4



Madeline Riddell S5



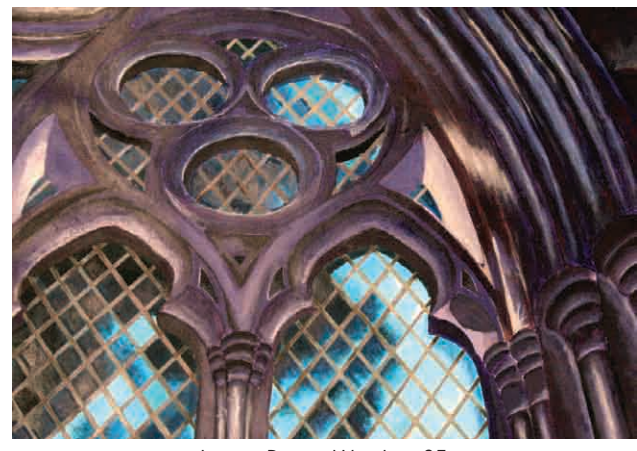
Oliver Penny S5



Joseph Rasmussen S6



Kate Kennedy S6



Laura Bruce-Wooton S5

Art



Lucy Loxley S4



Madeline Wright-Davies TD



Sarah Bowers S5



Sarah Bowers S5



Madeline Riddell S5



Megan Redden S5



Sean Bourelle S5

Art



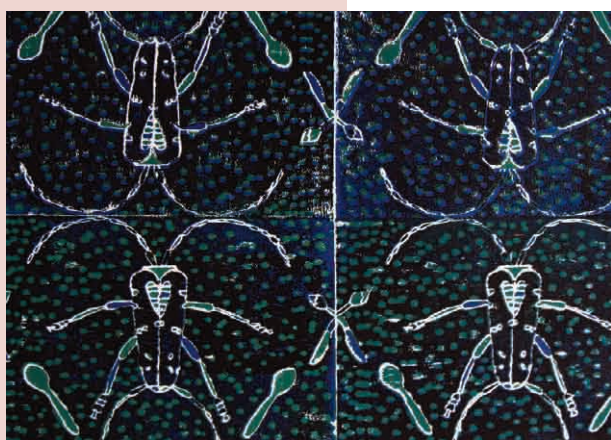
Tom Rae S6



Seona Christie S6



Sophie-Mae Howie S4



Rosanna McDermott S2



Tom Rae S6

Art

Scottish Parliament and People's Palace, Glasgow

Following the 2008 examination diet of Standard Grade, Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2 and Higher Art and Design, three of our pupils - Eve Bramley, Kate Kennedy and Harriet Smythe - had their Higher folio work selected for inclusion in this prestigious exhibition. The exhibition opened at the Scottish Parliament in October and then moved to the People's Palace in December. This was a significant achievement for the girls as their work was chosen from the entire Scottish cohort. This was the SQA's first ever major exhibition in Glasgow and the girls were also asked to model their designs on a catwalk for the opening ceremony. The Iron Bru cans were a touch of west coast humour kindly supplied by Barr's who partly sponsored the event!

Eve's piece was a textile bag inspired by fungi, beautifully constructed from felt. Her Design sheets were shown to their full advantage demonstrating her thought processes and experimentation with technique. Kate was one of a select few to have both Design and Expressive pieces exhibited. Her "Cape for a Collector" wowed the audience with its quirky assemblage of objects and approaches, including fluff from under the bed! Her Expressive piece which explored distressed surfaces and monumental sculpture within a graveyard was beautifully executed and thoroughly atmospheric. Finally Harriet's Design Unit for a hat on the theme of "Bits and Bobs" showcased her considerable skills in knitting, sewing and recycling to create a unique and wearable piece of fashion. Her Design Sheets displayed her expressive drawing style and allowed viewers to understand her sources of inspiration and ideas.

P McQue



English

Fox

In the dense woodland the black fox moves
Gracefully, its movements quick as lightning.
Suddenly the hunt approaches -
The fox dashes away.

Men on horses with coats as red as blood.
Their guns are instruments of death.
They chase the fox to the edge of exhaustion.
Then a single gunshot.

Bright red blood flows from the mangled corpse.
Ravens pick the meat off the bones.
The hunters stand and sneer.
Their evil laugh echoes like thunder.

The fox cub all alone cries for its mother.
There is no answer
The forest turns as black as night.
All alone the fox cub weeps.

Matthew Barrie S1

Murder Mystery (Excerpt)

I slumped down beside the ancient window in Mrs Step's classroom. As Mrs Step quickly marched into the room, the door creaked so I slowly twisted in my chair to see Mr Bolotchi waiting in the doorway.

"Can I help you?" Mrs Step enquired with irritation lacing her voice.

"I wanted to talk to the children please."
He was speaking in his broad Irish accent which always amused me.

"Alright!" she snapped. She was clearly distressed by this and I was struggling to keep my laughter under control.

"Thank you. Now children, as you should all be aware an inspector is coming to see the school. Now I want you all to be on your best behaviour. Is that quite clear? Good!" he bellowed. "Now," he continued sharply, "as a treat, I think it would be an idea if we could show the Inspector the photos from our last school trip!"

Muttering under his breath, he started to search for his camera.

"Joanne!" he beamed, his broad smile forcing the fringes of his mouth to turn upwards. "Can you please go down to my car, go into the boot and find my camera? Here are the keys." He flicked them in my direction and I leapt forward to grasp them.

"Yes Mr Bolotchi," I replied, slightly annoyed that he had chosen me.

"Good! Then that's settled. Hurry if you please!" speaking the last words with obvious irritation. I clambered out of my chair and strolled silently out of the door. I smiled to myself as I closed the door subtly and began to waltz down the hall. Simultaneously the inspector strutted in, her head held high. However, as soon as she noticed me her head turned sharply. She looked me up and down as if I were an item of rubbish.

"Why are you not in your classroom?" she demanded at last.

"Well...Mr Bolotchi asked me to retrieve his camera from the boot of his car." I stammered and stuttered through my answer so much that it was a wonder that she understood half of any of the words. To my surprise she suddenly turned very pale. I was confused by this but briskly carried on. When I reached the car I unlocked it with the keys. What I was about to witness, I will never forget...

Hannah Gauld S1

The Scarecrow on Trench Farm

After half an hour of driving aimlessly through the country-side, John Sanders finally found the sign for the farm he was looking for – 'Trench Farm' it said on a blue background. He then headed down the narrow dirt road towards it. He was surprised his small, rusty car hadn't broken down yet - it wasn't in good condition, but at seventeen, it was all he could afford. Maybe after his work on the farm he could get a new one. He got teased at school because of it, and it wasn't just the car's appearance that

they teased. John was very ugly. He had terrible acne, despite using all the creams. His ginger hair was greasy and curly, coming down to about shoulder length. Hanging over his bottom lip were two yellow bucked teeth. His ears stuck out of his head like wing-mirrors on a car and his skin was pale and sweaty. John was disappointed in his looks and he thought he should work on a farm after months of rejection for jobs in the town, which he assumed was down to his grotesque appearance.

A mile down the road and he reached the farm. It had three buildings: a farm house, a mill and what seemed to be a work shed. He looked around for the farmer as he stepped out of his car which was now covered in mud. He heard noises coming from the shed. Banging and sawing. He walked over and knocked loudly on the wooden door to make sure whoever was in there heard over the noise. A small balding old man rushed over. He was wearing blue dungarees and a green shirt that was ripped at the sleeve.

"Hello there," he said in an Irish accent "you must be John. I'm Mr O'Donnell, the proud owner of Trench Farm." He held out a hand and examined him while shaking. "Now, let's not waste anymore time talking, and get straight to some work," he said grinning widely, revealing his almost toothless gums.

For the first few days on the farm John did basic jobs such as feeding the chickens or tending to the crops. Mr O'Donnell, who he did not know on a first name basis yet, spent most of his time in the work shed. There were always loud noises coming from there. On John's fourth day on Trench Farm, he noticed a problem. Birds were eating the crops, so he decided that he should mention it to the farmer.

"Mr O'Donnell," he said, "I've noticed the birds are becoming a bit of a pest around the crops. Perhaps a scarecrow would solve the problem?"

"Ah yes," Mr O'Donnell replied, "and that's just what I'm getting. But you have

to make them real ugly. You know, to make the birds more frightened. I've tried good looking ones in the past, but they never work."

John was surprised that he referred to them as good looking or ugly. For all he knew, scarecrows were just a piece of material stuffed with hay and had a hat. But that's what he expected of an old man who lived in the middle of nowhere with only some chickens to keep him company.

John's fifth day on the farm was different than the rest. He was invited into the shed for some help and a change from the crops. John was surprised at the size of the shed as he walked in cautiously. It seemed smaller from the outside. Inside there was all sorts of junk. A wooden table with metal buckets and a chainsaw on top, lots of tools, a dusty old sofa and a dozen plugs and a cable lying in a heap on the floor covered in hay. The place smelt like dung. John didn't want to be there. It felt strange now that he was finally in the forbidden building. It had been out of bounds for the teenager for his four days on the farm. When John turned the next corner he stepped back in horror after what he had just seen. He began to run. His short chubby legs couldn't move very fast and he tripped over a wire on the floor crashing into a water trough. Mr O'Donnell caught up with him.

"I've been waiting for someone like you to come and work here," he said menacingly raising a crowbar.

Three weeks later and Trench Farm was back like it used to be. The crops were growing well without the crows... all because of one scarecrow. A rotting corpse, leaning on a plank of wood, kept the irritating pests away all harvest. Mr O'Donnell had added a hat and some button eyes to it, to keep it a bit more traditional.

Patrick Bowtle S2

English

The Sea

The sea is a vicious cat
Screaming in the wind
Clawing the sand, as if prey,
Hissing and howling
Fearsome as the roaring tide

Suddenly a great paw lashes out,
Catching fish in her wide mouth.
She is rough and wild
As if something has upset her.
Screaming, crying as she roars in the wind.

She is disturbed
Her white teeth glistening,
She jumps quickly in the air,
Attacks everything in her path.
Until nothing is left, only the large sea cat.

From a different angle
She is elegant, almost gentle.
Green eyes sparkle in the night sky
She is so soft, so calm
Like an eagle swooping in the air.

Then slowly she gets tired
She curls up, falls asleep.
Her breathing, a soft whistling noise
Above the stars are dancing,
Shining down on the gorgeous sea cat.

Claire Tong S1

To Know or Not to Know

To know or not to know ...
To not know that millions of people were below
To not know who was above.

To hear the deafening ring of sirens
To hear the bombs bombing, crashing, exploding
To hear the cry of children calling out for dead parents.

To feel the ground tremble
To see the burst of red flame
To watch the walls turn to ash...

Before you black out.

Ellie Galbraith S2

"All Quiet on the Western Front"**Letter from Paul to Kat (Excerpt)**

Dear Kat,

I never thought that that I would feel like this after going on leave. Everything is so different from how I expected it to be. My mother is ill, there is barely any food, and no-one understands us, what we have been through.

Coming home and seeing my mother ill with cancer has stirred feelings deep inside me. Though I may have once looked forward to them, I will now be dreading letters from home, as I fear that one will bring terrible news. I feel incredibly guilty that I, as her only son, have not been at her side during her illness, to support and help her and my family.

One thing that has shocked me is how little food is available. It is worse back home than it is at the front, and we have it pretty bad. The other day I offered to go with my sister to the slaughterhouse to try and get a pound of bones. We were queuing for three hours before news broke through that they had run out, so we went home empty-handed. I could scarcely believe that there was so much demand for a pound of bones. It shows how much supply is being diverted up to us at the Front.

It is incredibly frustrating that I cannot confide in anyone about what it is really like out there. I seem to be constantly stopped by people who tell me about the so-called "glory" of war and how one big push will break us through to Paris. If only there was some way of showing them what it is really like, to rid them of the delusion that this waste of life is somehow noble. You cannot describe to people who have never seen it how this propaganda is misleading them. They wouldn't understand about all those things that we have just switched off to - you know what I mean Kat. You just cannot tell them.

English

I am almost ashamed to admit that I am missing the routine of the Front. Here I have had too much time to think about things. I thought about the effects that this war is having, both at the Front and at home. What is the point in this war Kat? It started because some Duke was shot in Serbia, on the other side of Europe. Why should that concern us Kat? Now we are just slugging it out in France, and we aren't achieving a thing. All this war has done is to make life very tough for those back home and to rid our Fatherland of a generation of young men whose lives have been wasted. I feel that I am one of them Kat, that I have lost my youth. How can we ever return from this war and lead normal lives now? They don't understand what it is like up there, what we have been through. It is easier for you Kat - you had a wife and children, and a job, to anchor you back to your normal life before this war. We had nothing and have been allowed to drift away...

It feels good to be back in a routine at the camp on the moors, though I would still probably prefer to be back at the Front with you. I have been here before - it is where we were initially trained by Himmelstoss, but now I know hardly anyone here. We practise company drill on the moor, but as I have done it so many times before, it is now just instinct. I just follow the commands automatically and have time to appreciate my surroundings. The birch woods are incredibly beautiful. Their colour changes every minute as the wind blows their leaves and the light falls a different way. It is when I am alone that I look at Nature and love her.

Alongside our camp there is a big Russian prison camp and I am often posted to stand guard over them. The conditions are so bad, they have next to no food, and nearly all of them have dysentery. I cannot help but feel pity for these poor men. I now see them as humans rather than just an enemy to be shot at. They are just the same as us, except they come from another country. What should make them our enemies Kat? Surely a teacher is more

of an enemy to a pupil, or an officer to a recruit, than these men are to us? Some command high up has made them so, yet we are really so similar. How can I shoot at these men now Kat, when I am filled with such thoughts? How can I be a good soldier again?

Hayley McDermott S3

'There's no art to find the mind's construction in the face'

(Excerpt)

It was one of those suffocating summer days when, even in the shade, the oppressive warmth is intolerable. The sickly, sticky heat hung above the trees like an enormous weight waiting to fall and submerge the small riverside wood in its boiling, inescapable pressure. Beneath this looming, intense warmth, all was deathly quiet and disturbingly still. It was the middle of the day and there was no wind to rustle the leaves on the trees, no creatures moving in the undergrowth, not even the river made a sound. The river was at its widest here, opening out into a large pool so, like the rest of the forest, it seemed to be completely motionless.

A distant sound broke the deep silence. At the edge of the wood there was a grey, brick wall and there was a muffled sound coming from behind it. Two small heads popped up over the wall: a boy and a girl both with darkish auburn hair. They had similar big, dark eyes and judging by their appearance, they were brother and sister. The boy clambered over the wall with the ease of someone who had performed the action a hundred times then dropped to the ground with a sharp thud, wiping away the beads of sweat from his forehead before turning to the girl. Her auburn curls had now disappeared back behind the wall. Suddenly, her pinkish face and tangled curly hair appeared again - then disappeared - then appeared - then disappeared... She was bounding up and down like a jack in the box, unable to climb over. As the boy watched this comic spectacle, a wide

English

grin spread over his face. He let out a little snigger. And another. He broke out into one of those little-boyish laughs, making no attempt to hide his laughter or to help the girl, who was still trying to haul herself up. He was clearly 11 years old or thereabouts: it is the age when children, particularly boys, believe that their age makes them far older than they actually are. The girl, on the other hand, was about 7 going by her small size and inability to scale the wall.

'Come you lump!' the boy managed to say through his laughter, 'It's so easy!' he sniggered again, 'I mean, how stupid are you?'

The girl said nothing as her little face appeared again with considerably more pink in her cheeks. With what looked like every muscle in her body and a rather unattractive grunting sound, she just managed to drag herself up so that she was lying precariously across the wall on her tummy, facing the boy. Her eyes were wide and solemn as she stared at him, keeling over in hysterics at her weakness. Her big round eyes looked sad but her absence of tears said otherwise. She turned herself round so that she had a leg on each side of the wall, then again so she had her back to the boy and her little red shoes were about a metre from the ground. The boy grinned again as she began to slide herself slowly down. He stepped forward silently and without warning grabbed her armpits. As he swiftly jumped away laughing, she lost her grip in fright and hit the ground with a dull thump.

'Ha!' the boy jeered at her, 'Got you!' he began to back away, slowly at first then faster. Still laughing, he called out, 'Now, are you going to get me?'

Yes.

'Thought not! Oh well catch me if you can!' he turned and started into a steady run, 'But you can't catch me can you, stupid!' he laughed and then darted through the trees out of sight.

The girl stood up and looked, unblinking, in the direction the boy had run. She

rubbed her lower back and winced in pain - but again she had no tears in her eyes. Brushing the messy curls off her face with her hand, she began to plod along, heading towards the trees that the boy had disappeared behind.

The boy let out a long sigh as he rested on the trunk of a tree. He peered round behind him and saw his little sister trudging towards him. Looking at her in annoyance, he thought how infuriating it was that she was so quiet. It was no fun for him. Angrily, he pounded the ground with his fist.

'Why is she so bloody boring?' he muttered crossly to no one in particular. He wiped his hot, wet hands on his cotton shorts and then used the tree to pull himself up. Glancing about him, he noted with great frustration that the little figure in the red dress was hardly any closer to him. It was so hot he felt as though he was being pushed into the ground and he looked up at the sky accusingly as if he was blaming it for all his frustrations. As he looked up at the sky between the upper branches of the high trees, a twinkle of an idea flashed across his eyes. He headed to the next nearest tree and quickly and easily positioned himself almost two metres up on large branch that was directly over the path of the girl.

The girl mopped her brow and continued slowly forward under the insufferable heat. It was worryingly quiet yet her dark wide eyes showed no sign of worry. No sign of anything really. Her face was blank. She was almost directly below her brother now. With a sharp, fast movement and a boisterous roar he jumped down from the branch barely more than an inch in front of her face. He was about to start laughing again, when he saw her fall backwards in shock but changed his mind when he saw her expressionless face gazing up at him. "She ruins everything that's meant to be fun", he thought to himself, staring back at her menacingly.

'Right then, stupid. What are we going to do, eh?'

English

I thought I was going to get you.

He inhaled very loudly to try and show her he was raging, 'No ideas up there, stupid? Is your brain really that... that... miniscule?'

He grinned again, pleased at his intelligent word choice that he knew she wouldn't understand.

Didn't you say I was going to get you?

'Ok, that's fine.' he declared looking down at those empty eyes, 'I guess I'll be decision making as usual.'

He paused for a moment then said, 'Ok let's go for a swim then.'

She stared at him earnestly. Then she spoke out loud for the first time since they'd entered the forest, 'I thought we had to get flowers for Mummy...'

Once again he inhaled loudly. Typical that the first words she said would be something goody-two-shoes and boring he thought.

'No, stupid. You thought wrong. We're going for a swim because I want to. Let's go.'

No.

She remained perfectly still as he began to walk away. He turned back to her and said with more menace than intended, 'Get up now, stupid, or I'll throw you into that river from the top of the cliff.'

I hate you...

Emma Robertson S4

Revenge

The argument had been over nothing important. He had shouted, she had retaliated, her voice rising to an almighty yell. Well, she had gone too far this time. She thought she had got away with it but he knew better. It was time for revenge.

He laid the motionless body on the floor of the clammy, dimly lit room. The old carpet was completely cluttered and the curtains hung miserably, still unopened even though it was the middle of the afternoon and the sun was blazing down outside. He looked at her olive-coloured skin and her face, her perfect face: that gorgeous gleaming mouth still smiled and her eyes the size of saucers continued to stare. Her yellow hair, which shone brighter than the sun, lay crumpled beneath her.

"Now this is going to be fun", he thought.

He felt confident that he could leave her alone for a few minutes while he fetched his supplies. After all, she couldn't exactly scream for help and there was no way she'd try to run away. He crept out of the room and crossed the shadowy hallway to where his toolbox lay open, waiting. He rummaged through it – the wrench? The saw? The spanner? No, none of these would be suitable. He knew there was only one more option. It was risky, but he was sure he could pull it off. He padded along the corridor until he reached the top of the stairs and descended slowly, the tips of his fingers trailing along the wall as he went. He reached the kitchen, and from one of the drawers he drew the largest carving knife and held it up to the light. The sun glared through the garish curtains, and glinted off the metal, showing off the sharp ragged edge of the knife.

"Yes", he thought deviously. "Yes, this will do nicely."

He made his way back up to the room, unsurprised to see her lying there in the same motionless position he had left her in. He knelt down beside the body, lifted his weapon above his head and took a deep breath. With a swish, he brought the knife down and began to saw through the neck, severing it. As he continued to saw,

English

her eyes continued to stare, and eventually the head detached and the golden mass rolled across the floor.

"Wonderful", he breathed, malice glinting in his black eyes, as he raised the head above him like a trophy, grabbing on to a scruff of the straw-like hair.

But the deed was not over yet. He picked up the body and gingerly carried it downstairs, out the back door and into the garden. There was no one else at home, and the garden was surrounded in tall, intimidating trees so there was no risk of him being seen. He laid the motionless body down on the back step and fetched the shovel that was leaning against the door of the shed. He chose his spot and began to dig.

Digging the grave was tiring work and beads of sweat began to appear on his forehead and upper lip. He paused for a second to wipe away the moisture and then carried on digging.

When he finally finished, he dropped the spade with a clunk on the concrete path and made his way over to the lifeless form. He lifted it and carried it over to its final resting place. The last covering of soil was just being sprinkled on top, with just a few strands of golden hair to be seen, when suddenly he heard a click. Someone was coming through the back door into the garden.

He slowly turned around, and found himself face to face with someone he desperately didn't want to see.

A gasp. Her eyes widened in horror as she realised what he had done, dropping the ice-lolly she was holding on the path, with a plop, in shock.

"Mum!! Ben has killed my Barbie doll!"

Ben turned away from his sister and stooped to pick up his carton of Ribena, taking a sip. He sniggered, that devious glint still in his eye.

"Aah..." he thought to himself, "Revenge is sweet."

There's no art...

The rain pounded off of the rough farmac as Stavros Pericles drove his way home along the winding coastal road. Fifty metres below him the Mediterranean waves were battering against the Greek cliffs in perhaps the worst storm of that year. He was tired – the clock on the dashboard read two am - and stressed – these late hours at the embassy were killing him. He felt the car slide as he drove round the next hairpin, when suddenly the headlights fell upon a drenched figure at the side of the road. The car slowed...

Officer Veros stepped out of the sweltering sun into the cool shady police station. The low murmuring of the air conditioning was twinned with the whispers of her colleagues. This case they had been working on was very high profile – a high-ranking politician had driven off of a cliff two weeks ago and it was looking more and more like suicide. Already she saw the constable approaching her.

"This Pericles case. We had a team checking for skid marks on the road and... it looks like he drove off deliberately. There were no signs of braking. Chances are suicide. Have you been to see the car wreck?" he asked.

Finally after two weeks someone had managed to unfix the burned out car from the rocks at the foot of the cliff.

"Yes it was just a shell. His body was like charcoal. There's no point getting a post-mortem - it would be a waste of time. If the fall didn't kill him the fire did."

As she turned to leave, he called after her, "Em, Veros, Kropolos is waiting in the interrogation room. He seems to have a shepherd with him."

Pericles pulled over to offer the man a lift when he saw he had a goat with him.

"Can I help?" he called.

The man hobbled over to the car. "My goat has fallen." He gestured towards a

steep embankment by the road. "I think he has broken his leg."

Pericles pulled his car into the side and disembarked.

"I live up there," the shepherd told him, pointing slightly further up the hill from where the goat had fallen.

Stavros picked up the goat's stomach and the shepherd held onto the chest. Together they carried the struggling creature round to a less steep part of the rise and up into a grey valley. They slipped and scrambled their way up the slope as the rain washed the loose mud from around their feet. The gorse bushes dotted on the hill shook in the wind as if gorging on the rain. The great boulders loomed ahead of the two men, some further away crashing down into the shadow of the valley below. Finally through the mud and rain the three bodies made it to the shepherd's cave.

"...so I went down the hill after the noise. The other goats were asleep. The poor thing had fallen by the road and was bleating. When I went down this car came round the corner."

"And that was Pericles?" Veros looked doubtfully at the tramp in front of her. He was rather dirty and had a smell of goats. He obviously had not washed or shaved in weeks. He sat playing with his beard.

"Yes. Well he pulled over and helped me take the goat back."

"What happened then?" inquired Kropolos.

"Well I offered him a drink. We talked for a while; I walked him to his car – it had stopped raining by then - and then he left."

"And that was it?"

"Yes. Well until today when I came back and was arrested." He glowered at Kropolos.

"As I told you sir, you are not arrested - you can leave whenever you like."

"Well then..." The shepherd stood up to leave.

"But...just one more thing. What did you talk about?"

"He told me of his job at the, eh, embassy"

"Anything else?"

"He talked of the riots. I think he was pretty stressed about the whole thing. He told me he had finished work at half one! In the morning! That must have been a strain on him."

"You said you gave him a drink," The man nodded, "How much?"

"A bottle of Mythos."

"Are you sure?"

"It's all I have to drink."

"Thank you for your time."

Veros smiled at him before showing him out. She turned to Kropolos, "Strange." She paused, waiting for him to say something but he did not. "How did you know to bring him in?"

"He's the only person who I knew lived out that way...We've had a few brushes with him in the past – mostly his goats wandering onto other people's property, things like that. I didn't expect him to have all that..."

"It must have been suicide. The man was under a lot of pressure. Go tell the constable to close the case. I'll have to call the family." She sighed before moving to the phone. She hated this bit.

The two men walked together down to the car. The shepherd grinned at Stavros. This man was obviously very isolated from society and had enjoyed his company.

"Thank you so much."

"No, no. Thanks for the beer."

They stood looking across the sea, two silhouettes against the dark sky, with the horizon resting on their hips and the sea

English

stretching like a great cloth flowing and dancing with the wind. Stavros picked up a rock at his feet and turned away. The shepherd stayed still gazing out to the great vista before him.

"It's..." he began but never finished as Stavros turned and bludgeoned the back of his neck with the rock. The man collapsed unmoving. Stavros undid his shirt and trousers and stripped the other man. He stood naked in the moonlight hurriedly dressing the corpse in his clothes and putting the shepherd's rough garments on himself. He put the body in his car and drove round the next few corners before stepping out and dragging the lifeless figure over to the driver's seat. Turning the engine on again and sitting on the body, he put the car in first. He held onto the open door and manoeuvred round so that his right foot was on the accelerator and his left leg was supporting his weight on the door ledge. Slowly the car gathered speed until Stavros jumped out rolling along the ground just before it smashed through the rusting barrier plummeting down to the awaiting rocks.

Stavros Pericles glanced round nervously before laughing spontaneously, his cries echoing through the hills of the man whose life he had just stolen.

P. Ciaran O'Kane S4

Mathematics

With the step up from Intermediate 2 to Higher continuing to take the students aback it is always a great sight for teachers when they see positive exam results come August time. There was a slight improvement in the Higher pass rate which is very pleasing as it is the benchmark that Universities are looking for. When pupils take responsibility for their own learning then they do reap the benefits. The earlier they are able to do this the better and it is essential that the Higher pupils, in particular, apply themselves from the start of the course.

Students that certainly did this include Ross Jack in S6. He deserves a special mention for attaining a remarkable 100% in the Higher maths paper. Only 20 candidates managed this in the 2008 exam and it shows the talent he has for the subject. Sean Bourelle and Catherine Lovegrove produced the same feat in the Intermediate 2 exam and I really must commend the 3 of them for this achievement.

Pupils were entered again for the Mathematical challenges this year. S1 and S2 in the Junior, S3 in the Intermediate and S5 and S6 in the Senior categories. S4 were out on prelim duty when the Intermediate challenge took place so unfortunately could not take part. At the time of writing the Junior results had just been received and I am delighted that I am able to report on them. The students have done extremely well with 5 Gold, 15 Silver and 15 Bronze awards. A fabulous performance.

The S2 winners were Ellen Anderson, Megan Welsh, Sarah Drummond, Emma Jones, Amy Grant, Katie MacKenzie, Heather Stewart, Ellen Logan and Liam Henderson all achieving the Bronze award. Zoe Strong, Sally Andrews, Rosanna McDermott, Rachel Paterson, Zak Howie, Katie White, Lewis Parker, Alex Patterson, Duncan Thomson and Blair Johnston did really well with Silver awards. Peter Bruce-Wootton and Liam Roberts were superb with Gold awards and finally, Emily Dick, who also attained a Gold award and the 'Best in School'

Mathematics

certificate. She has qualified to take part in the Junior Mathematical Olympiad which is a fantastic achievement.

The S1 pupils coped very well with the same challenge yielding the following results: Cameron Menzies-Runcimann, Gavin Tainsh, Hannah Gauld, Emily Graham, Euan Flett and Andrew Aschaber were all awarded Bronze certificates. Sophie-Ann Ross, Sophia Findlay, Adam Davie, Isabel McDonald and Ellie Goddard attained Silver awards. Fiona King and Calum Brown achieved fantastic Gold awards which is always a wonderful achievement for S1 pupils. The future of maths at Morrison's is very encouraging.

In the Intermediate challenge, Erin O'Kane was the 'Best in School' winning a bronze award along with Murray Low, Emma Thomson, Benjamin Duncan, Nicola Suiter and Clare Ratcliff. Clare also took part in the Scottish Mathematical Challenge, middle division, and won a silver award in the Central and Eastern Region which is an excellent achievement.

Leo Webster in S6 achieved the accolade of being the best in the school when he won a Silver Award in the Senior Mathematical Challenge. The other noticeable results were Arthur Learoyd, Katie Souter, Peter Salmond, Ross Jack and Claire Beattie who all achieved bronze awards.

The team challenges proved to be a very enjoyable day for the pupils and accompanying staff with a day of mathematical activities at Edinburgh University. Other schools from the region, state and private, compete against each other in a variety of activities with the winners progressing to the Scottish finals.

The junior team competitors were Fiona King and Sophia Findlay in S1, alongside Sally Andrews and Katie White from S2. The senior team comprised of Katie Souter and Euan McSorley from S6 and S5's Sean Bourelle and Catherine Lovegrove. Although neither team was

victorious, the experience for both teams was very worthwhile.

A group from S3 and S4 also took part in the Enterprising Mathematics Competition at George Watson's in Edinburgh. Erin O'Kane, Clare Ratcliff, Hugo Fairclough and Callum Strong represented the school. They finished a commendable mid-table with scalps including Robert Gordon's and the High School of Dundee.

I Barnett



Science

Biology

As in previous sessions, pupils studying biology have been involved in a number of trips.

At S6 level these included a trip to Kindrogan Field Centre, Enochdhu, a visit to the Scottish Crop Research institute at Invergowrie & a visit to the Sports Physiology Lab at Abertay University. In addition to these trips, S4 visited Comrie Croft.

Kindrogan Field Centre (S6)

In the autumn we took our S6 Advanced Higher biology students to Kindrogan Field centre near Enochdhu for a three day residential field course.

This year ten pupils made the trip. The main aim of this trip is to provide an opportunity for these pupils to carry out an individual study, which can then be used by the pupils in the investigation unit of the Advanced Higher Biology course. It is also an ideal opportunity for the class to come together as a group and work collaboratively

The course was led by Rich who, as always, provided excellent support for our pupils throughout their time there - a big thanks to him. It was a very intensive course with some of the pupils literally working morning, noon and night. The

first day was spent with the pupils familiarising themselves with techniques they may be using during the course of their individual investigations. That evening was spent by the pupils planning their individual investigations prior to the next couple of days of data collection.

Over the next two days, a variety of investigations were carried out by pupils. Adam Stone, Grant Russell, Claire Beattie & Kate Greenlees donned waders, spent many hours in the river kick sampling various invertebrate populations; each pupil looked at a different factor that might affect their distribution and diversity. John Comrie looked at the effect of grazing on species diversity in grassland. Joanna Beedie and Ross Jack headed for the woods, studying the effect of rhododendrons on native species in woodland areas and the effect of conifer plantation on species diversity. Jemma Paterson also looked at the effect of exotic species, Snowberry, on species diversity. On Kindrogan Hill, Duncan Stewart looked at the effect of trampling on species diversity. Last but not least was Ronald Guthrie who struggled through the mud of Kindrogan pond to study succession.

Follow-up work was carried out in the evenings after a day in the field. All the pupils stuck to their respective tasks very well despite, in some cases, lukewarm enthusiasm for the realities of ecological fieldwork and, at the end of the three days, the pupils had all carried out enough practical work to return to school and complete their report. I am very pleased to say that, as with previous years, the centre staff were extremely complimentary about attitude and approach shown by our pupils.

Scottish Crop Research Institute (S6)

In November a group of S6 AH Biology students visited The Scottish Crop Research Institute at Invergowrie. SCRI run a number of Advanced Higher theme days for biology and chemistry. The AH Biology days are linked in to the Cell Biology topics of the Advanced Higher course.



Science

In the morning the pupils heard a number of speakers whose talks covered a range of topics. These included the biology of Antarctica, soil biology, & DNA sequencing.

In the afternoon they had the opportunity to visit the labs to see and participate in some of the techniques used at the Institute.

University of Abertay Visit (S6)

In the Spring term, the S6 Advanced Higher Biology and Higher PE class visited the Sports Physiology Department at Abertay University. The pupils were involved in a number of activities assessing different aspects of their physiological fitness.

The tests started with a gentle walking shuttle test then a static bike test: both tests were used to predict their cardiovascular fitness and their bodies' ability to take up and utilise oxygen efficiently. The pupils were given the opportunity to calculate their Body Mass Index, & measure their body fat content. They also looked at how blood pressure and E.C.G. were affected by exercise. A short but severe bike test demonstrated how much muscle fatigue affected the power output of muscle. Finally Grant Russell and Duncan Stewart carried out a maximal test where they were asked to work to exhaustion on a treadmill in order to obtain an exact measurement of their bodies ability to take up and utilise oxygen efficiently: their vO_2 max .

The session by was again led by Andrea Cameron. Her expertise and enthusiasm were very much appreciated by the pupils as was the opportunity to make use of Abertay University's facilities

Comrie Croft (S4)

In September the S4 biologists spent a day at Comrie Croft activity centre. The trip allowed pupils to get "hands-on" experience of a range of environmental sampling techniques, which are used with ecological investigations. The pupils used these techniques in two main areas, mixed woodland and pond. They



looked at the adaptations shown by the organisms they sampled in relation to their habitats and the factors that affected their distribution. In the woodland they caught a number of large exotically coloured beetles and they also caught a surprisingly large variety of aquatic invertebrates in what is a relatively new pond.

It was due to the generosity of the Centre Manager, FP Andrew Donaldson that we were allowed to use the centre's facilities. He could not have been more obliging or helpful, so many thanks to him.

J Beedie
S Harper

Science



Chemistry Department

Top of the Bench Quiz

This session, the chemistry department entered the Top of the Bench national competition for the second year in a row. After last year's encouraging performance by Awena Sangster, Callum Strong, Emily Coffey and Alastair Hamilton, the team was itching to jump back into the fray.

This year's team comprised of Callum (S4) and Alastair (S3) returning for a second time, with newcomers Lindsay Duncan (S3) and Katie White (S2), completing the line-up.

With Callum and Alastair's experience from last time, we had high hopes of making further progress in the competition. In the end, the team was knocked out of the competition by a very strong team from Perth Academy in the second round of the competition – exactly the same round that we finished last year...deja-vu?

The pupils all performed to a high standard against Monifieth High School, Dundee in November and Perth Academy in December. This year was slightly different as we did not have to participate in a qualifying round, but went straight to round 1 against Monifieth High (away). With the

enthusiasm of our new members tempered by the experience of the 'old hands', the team convincingly won against our opponents, with a score of 42 points to 20 points.

Talking earlier of "deja-vu", we were thrilled that Callum had lost none of his killer instinct from last year's competition, in which he regularly 'prowled in the wings' waiting for an opportunity to pounce on an opponent's mistake to claim a bonus point or two – well done!

Once again buoyed with success, we made the fatal mistake of talking about the finals, tempting fate...

Our second round match against Perth Academy, on home ground, was a much tougher experience, with the questions asked being of a very high degree of difficulty, sometimes beyond the experience of the squad. The pupils performed heroically against our opponents, but it was not to be. Roll on next year!

Many thanks to Alastair, Lindsay and Katie for showing great confidence and knowledge over the two matches of the competition and a special thanks to Callum who will be unable to compete next session as he will be in S5.

Perhaps Callum will agree to help in coaching next year's squad, passing on a few tips about poaching bonus points from opposing teams?

S4 Seeing Chemistry at Work

All S4 chemistry pupils attended the "Chemistry at Work" event at St Andrew's University in September. The event was organised by the Royal Society of Chemistry to give pupils some insight into how chemistry is used in a range of careers. Exhibitions and workshops explored the application of chemistry to forensic science, soft drink manufacture, pharmaceuticals, pigment synthesis and agriculture. Pupils asked exhibitors some probing questions about their work, in particular about how forensic chemists assist in arson investigations and drug raids. Pupils readily volunteered to try on

the safety suits worn by some of the pharmaceutical chemists and to help the food scientists by sampling and evaluating potential new soft drinks.

Advanced Higher Chemistry Practical Workshops

For the second year in a row, the Advanced Higher pupils in the Chemistry department attended a two-day workshop at the University of Dundee during December in order to complete the remainder of their Prescribed Practical Activities. Whilst the pupils could have completed all of these practical techniques in our own labs, the opportunity to gain experience in a large, well-equipped laboratory was too good to pass up.

Our pupils liked the idea of working in different laboratories and enjoyed all of the equipment being set-up for them on arrival! There was excellent support available from the technicians, which enabled the students to quickly master some complex pieces of apparatus, obtaining the desired results for their reports.

Apart from the half-dozen PPA's that our budding chemists had to complete over the two days, there was also a demonstration workshop involving analytical techniques, which is covered in the final unit of the course.

The informal atmosphere throughout the workshops perhaps surprised our pupils a little, although they quickly realised that they could not relax too much as they had to complete each practical session within a limited period of time.

With their results successfully collected, our Advanced Higher students could turn their minds towards the Spring Term practical investigation unit. One pupil, Jemma Paterson, journeyed back to the labs at Dundee to build on her experience of the analytical techniques demonstrated during the December sessions, using some of the equipment to enable her to correctly identify an unknown compound for her project.

Hopefully, these experiences will have given our students a better idea of what large-scale laboratories will be like for them at university next year.

Brownies Visit

The 1st Crieff Brownies visited the chemistry department for a science evening in September. The Brownies, with some help from Higher Chemistry pupils, made fireworks, solved a crime about a chip thief and made slime. The Brownies were very enthusiastic about all of the practical work and impressed the senior pupils and staff with their inquisitive questions. Some of the girls showed some real flair suggesting that the pack could contain some budding scientists of the future!

M McKeever
M Kilken



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 $-220\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$. 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.

In July 2008, Sarah Stephen attended a week's residential course in The Petroleum Engineering and Geology Departments at the University of Aberdeen. This course was organised by the university and Headstart, who are part of The Engineering Development Trust. Sarah was able to experience life as an undergraduate and participated in practical problem solving activities and attend lectures and seminars as well as visits to local companies.

Arthur Learoyd attended the Institute of Physics Conference at The University of Stirling in June 2009. This is an annual event attended by physics teachers and lecturers from all over Scotland to celebrate excellence in physics education. Arthur received a prize for his excellent grade in the higher physics exam. He achieved 99% in the SQA exam and was the second placed student in Scotland. Excellent Arthur, well done.

Sophie Equi will attend The Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Edinburgh for a six week placement during the summer break. The placement is funded by The Nuffield Foundation and will provide Sophie with an insight into the world of scientific research and development in Physics and Astronomy. Sophie will have the opportunity to work alongside physicists at the top of their field: they are involved in the particle physics projects at the Large Hadron Collider at CERN.

S Hill

CIVICS



Civics

The Civics programme is an innovative curricular development that is intended to provide core learning not covered elsewhere in the curriculum. Its planning involved all of the teachers and is experienced by all pupils, P1 – S6.

Civics supports the ethos of the school in instilling values of honesty, tolerance, respect for others and a willingness to co-operate and to share. The programme aims to encourage and support the personal development of our pupils and is concerned with: self esteem, self awareness, social development, interpersonal relationships, independence, interdependence and the development of skills which help pupils to work independently, participate effectively in groups, make their own decisions and access their own abilities and capabilities. Civics is designed to meet our aim of "developing the whole child". It relates to our developing status as a health-promoting school and a rights respecting school.

This programme is very much in line with the national review of the curriculum: A Curriculum for Excellence which has as its aim that all young people are enabled to become confident individuals, successful learners, effective contributors and responsible citizens. National priorities such as enterprise, financial education, citizenship, sustainable development and the global dimension all form part of the Civics programme.

Civics comprises of eight spines: Relationships, Health, Religious and Moral Education, Outdoors, Society, Careers, Enterprise and Miscellaneous. In most years, pupils experience elements from each of the eight spines. We view this as a central part of a Morrison's education as it offers diverse opportunities and experiences such as climbing, sex education, political education, involvement with charities, developing study skills, team building, considering higher education and future careers, learning about nutrition, biodiversity, personal finance, world

religions and human rights.

All teachers are involved in this project. We are also fortunate to have the school nurse heavily involved in the lessons relating to health and relationships. Outside speakers supplement staff expertise, particularly in the form of lectures to senior pupils. A variety of teaching methods are employed through the Civics programme such as working in pairs, group and whole class discussion, individual research, note taking from videos, debate, practical activities, role playing, presentations and lectures.

One governor recently described the Civics programme as "the most exciting change at Morrison's in the last ten years". The HMIE inspectors were also impressed with this "imaginative new programme" when they visited the school. Being new, it still has lots of room to develop and evolve and pupils have recently been consulted about their ideas for this. They have told us that they really enjoy the lessons in which they are active, particularly those in our Outdoors spine such as kayaking, climbing and cycling.

We all look forward to taking the programme to the next level and developing it further so that the learning and experiences of all pupils in these important areas continue to grow.

S Mackenzie



Civics



SPORT



Rugby



1st XV Rugby

There were so many good things about this season but I am left with a sense of immense frustration – this team was not seen as often as it should have been and there were large gaps when no games took place. This was not entirely due to the weather; too many teams were unable to honour the fixtures they had made – this started with the traditional season opener against Queen Victoria School which we missed as their pipe band was playing at the Leuchars Air Show. This team had a large capacity for work in practice asking for extra sessions at the start of the second term in preparation for a cup game against opposition who had a much postponed previous round. The leadership of Graeme Clow and Adam Stone was immense; they maintained the great team spirit that has been obvious over the past 5 seasons. The thought that went into their games deserved more actual match performances. 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 again very good and not just prior to the Italy tour but throughout till March.

One of the main focuses for the team was the joint tour to Italy during the October holiday. We played two games there and had two comprehensive wins. In the first game v Western Verona Rugby Union we won 74 – 0, a good run around against opposition of limited experience – the real concern was the standard of the very bare hard pitch. All survived with a few cuts and grazes. We came up against larger and more physical opposition in our second game v CUS Verona. We gave one of our better performances of the season here and again ran in 11 tries. This CUS team would have easily defeated the Western Verona side - it demonstrated that our boys could raise their game considerably.

Domestically we started with a good home win against Kelvinside Academy and an away win at Linlithgow Academy. These were two good performances where we showed the strength of this side – a forward unit that was rarely bettered all season. However a trip to Glenalmond at the end of September brought us back to earth. A wee bit of complacency and lack of concentration found us 17 points down. Determination saw us claw our way back with 14 points but we could not get the decisive score; with our superior fitness it may well have come if the game had been five minutes longer but...

After the tour we defeated Queen Victoria School and then had our biggest loss of the season against Howe of Fife – yet the scoreline did not reflect the game. We had the bulk of the first half possession but could not convert that into points. The bigger and older team wore us down in the second half as they played down the Duffus Park slope.

We only played two rounds of the cup this year – a revision of the rules to try and rid the competition of too many one sided games in the early rounds meant

Rugby

we did not play our first game till late November against Madras College in St Andrews. Here we again came from behind to win a close game and displayed our ability to close a game down with the forwards retaining possession successfully. After Christmas we played the next round against Hutchesons' GS and lost a close game. The highlights of the rest of the season were two close home games where we defeated Lomond School and St Aloysius College by one point and two points respectively. In the former game we had the boot of Graeme Clow to thank for victory – a long range penalty sealed the win in similar manner to the way brother Duncan had done to the same opposition three years previously. Lomond will be glad there are no more Clows to come!

The team's strength was undoubtedly in the forwards where for once we had a group of forwards who were only outsize by The High School of Glasgow. The back row consisting of Joey Thomas, Adam Stone and Euan MacSorley was a very combative unit. Craig Smith made great progress over the season – not just as a lineout jumper but also as a mobile attacking and defensive force. The front row of Peter Salmond, Euan Campbell and Callum Brock were solid and gave us a good set piece platform. In the backs Graeme Clow took the brave decision to play stand off and his decisive rugby brain and performance were an inspiration to all around him. Young Ross Johnston at full back produced many good performances and several one on one try saving tackles will stick out for all who saw them. Again we are grateful for the tremendous support we received from the boys' families and also from former players

and former parents who still have a strong interest in rugby at Morrison's.

Ross Johnston was selected to play for Caledonia Under 16 in the inter-district tournament and the cross border fixtures.

At the conclusion of the season colours for rugby were awarded to: Euan MacSorley, Graeme Clow, Craig Smith, Adam Stone and Joey Thomas.

N Pennie



Rugby



2nd XV Rugby

The fates conspired to produce an extremely disjointed season for the Second XV. A combination of a reduced fixture list, opposition call offs and cancellations due to the weather meant that the season was slow to get going and even then was bedeviled by long gaps with no regular fixtures. So, despite a bright start in our first three matches, this made it very difficult, nigh on impossible, to build up any momentum as a team.

From the coaching perspective the lack of competitive matches provided few reference points for identifying the relative strengths and weaknesses of the team. It was then difficult to decide on areas of focus to work on in training. Time for team preparation was also reduced as a consequence of changes to the school timetable. Indeed so much so that I would say that my role this year has been not as a 2nd XV coach but more as an organiser and a selector of teams.

This year's squad of players was, over the piece, considerably younger than in the last two seasons so, therefore, it was with some trepidation that we embarked on our first fixtures. Pleasingly this group of boys demonstrated they were prepared to get stuck in on the field and possessed a fair degree of talent. In these first three matches we recorded victories against Linlithgow Academy, Glenalmond College & Howe of Fife.

As a group, however, several of these boys, while demonstrating encouraging levels of ability, were not willing to commit to extra fitness and team practices. This is essential if true improvement as a team is to be made and these practices are as much about developing an esprit de corps as they are about improving skills and fitness. As mentioned earlier, it was frustrating that these pupils were denied so many opportunities to play competitively as a team and build that togetherness.

In our remaining matches we were a clear second to a well organised and committed Lomond School side. We played well but suffered narrow defeats against Glasgow Academy & Stewart's Melville College. We played Glasgow High 2XV in what should have been a bit of a mismatch but performed creditably in what unfortunately was an ill-tempered game which quite literally left a nasty taste in the mouth. We also recorded victories against St Leonards School and Stirling High School.

Amongst the "newcomers" there were severable notable performers amongst S4 pupils. In the backs Robbie Hutton showed a lot of potential and an impressive range of all round skills in the matches he was available for. Shane Campbell displayed a potent blend of pace, balance and elusiveness in his running. Callum Flett was a combative scrum half and excelled at disrupting opposition ball at scrum time. Late-comer Graham Smith also showed promise, running with pace and determination.

Rugby

In the forwards Iain Savage was an intelligent and consistent performer who almost always chose the correct option. He was ably supported by Crawford McLaren, Callum Gibson, Ewan Smith and David Comrie. Michael Lafferty put his athleticism to good use both in the line out and in open play. Chris Carling, who worked very hard in matches, was always prepared to roll up his sleeves and do the dirty work. Finally Alex Samson worked selflessly and showed real appetite for the fray: he popped up all over the park making telling contributions, another player with considerable potential.

Turning to the "veterans": Andrew Tainsh showed an impressive turn of speed and elusiveness going forward and on one or more occasion a real relish for the tackle situation. Stewart Easton and Jamie Duncan grew in self-belief throughout the season. Robbie Tarran continued to show great enthusiasm and versatility, playing in a number of positions along the back line. James Purdie was a hard working and honest player who unfortunately was plagued by a neck injury throughout the season which limited his contribution. Duncan Campbell and David Maitland-Gardiner were both solid and reliable performers who gave 100% each time they played. James Thomson, who played the majority of his rugby for the 1st XV, was a strong runner from full back and his positive approach brought a lot to the team when he played. Finally, the side was captained by Alastair MacFarlane. He led by personal example, was always competitive and tried to drive the team forward either from scrum half or from stand off.

My thanks to all of the boys who played for the team and represented the school during the season. Congratulations to those who went on to represent the 1st XV. Finally my sincere thanks must also go the parents and friends who supported the team throughout the season.

J Beedie

Colts XV

In the end this was a disappointing season for a group of boys who have much individual talent. However they did not come together as a team – too many egos tried to dominate and many were not prepared to put in the practice hours. Compounding this problem was the fact that some of the most talented boys in the year group elected to play football on a Saturday instead of representing their school. This severely reduced both the quality and quantity of the player pool.

Attendance at training was spasmodic – a core attended on a regular basis and worked hard to try and develop their individual skill levels and fitness. Mr Barnett took these extra sessions and generated a lot of team spirit but full team practices were a rare occurrence and this was evident on match days when enthusiasm did not manage to carry the day. This was a shame for those boys who did work hard at training and wanted to improve their game.

In the backs there was individual talent with Jonathan Priestly and Duncan Harrington being strong runners who posed problems for most oppositions but the defence was not so secure. In the forwards Andrew Blair, Chris Andrew and Lindsay Duncan were a useful unit in the back row with able back-up from David McLeod and the vastly improved Reece O'Hara.

The side recorded good wins against Lathallan School, Crieff HS and Hamilton College where the strong running backs capitalised on the ball that the forwards were able to win when they were in parity contests. Too often the forwards were outgunned by bigger and sometimes older boys.

I would like to thank Mr Barnett for the time that he gave to the side and for the enthusiasm and team spirit that he generated in the core of the group. The boys and myself are also grateful to Mr Ian Low for the help he gave in preparing the boys on match days.

There is a lot of potential amongst these boys and hopefully they will fulfil this in the senior teams in the next three years.

N Pennie



Rugby



S2 Rugby

After a rather mixed season of S2 rugby last year, I was looking forward to working with this year's S2 squad, many of whom I knew from joint coaching sessions. With many strong personalities within this squad, I was sure that season 2008-2009 was going to be a more fruitful experience, in terms of results and practice. With coaching underway towards the end of August 2008, I was confident that this year's S2 XV would rise to the many challenges that we would inevitably encounter throughout the session. Similar to last year's S2 squad there was a fairly small pool of players that were available for Saturday fixtures. It is to the S2 boys' credit that we never cancelled a game due to a lack of players and I would commend them for their unswerving commitment throughout the year.

With the season underway, the squad experienced a very narrow defeat by Queen Victoria School in our first fixture, losing by a single try in the dying minutes of the match! Despite feeling that we had been cheated out of a draw, the team looked forward to the next run of matches which would take us up to the October holiday.

Unfortunately, our optimism took a severe battering with our away match against Kelvinside Academy in which the squad suffered a bad defeat: team

captain Marcus Mollison was injured minutes into the second half. Unfortunately, this poor streak continued all the way to the October holidays, losing badly again against Linlithgow Academy at home and against Lomond School, also at home. However, the S2s were re-thinking some of their tactics and despite the setbacks, the players' attitudes were hardening with a determination to win matches at the forefront of their minds. The match against Lomond was not a bad defeat and with the almost month-long break over the October holiday, the team regrouped, ready for their first win of the season.

The anticipated success took shape in the first match after the October break which was the return game against Queen Victoria; the boys had a lot to prove and were determined to avenge themselves against QV for the narrow defeat at the start of the season. The boys played tremendously well. Although the final score was close, the S2 XV thoroughly deserved their much anticipated win.

The efforts of both our team captain and vice captain, Marcus Mollison (scrum-half) and Peter Bruce Wootton (fly-half) respectively, was tremendous throughout the whole season. Marcus was Mr Motivator for every match, spurring the boys on with his unlimited enthusiasm for the game! Later in the season, he also contributed to team talks at half-time. Peter's manner was a little quieter compared to Marcus' but the confidence he brought to each game filtered through to the other members of the squad. Special mention should be made of Ben Vardi who was captain of the squad in S1. Ben's tackling throughout the season was second to none, with some memorable bone-crunching tackles being put in. Again, his performance enthused the other players to also improve their tackling skills.

All members of the squad brought their own talents to practices & matches, and it would be unfair to single-out

Rugby

certain members of the squad compared to others. In terms of team play, the squad's greatest advantage was the players' close-knit relationships with each other. Most players were also comfortable with their designated positions throughout the season, which made arguments a rare occurrence. Both tackling and passing improved gradually, although after the Christmas break they had improved a great deal. Mention should be made of the greatly appreciated help offered by Iain Paterson's father in both coaching and support during the last few matches. Mr. Paterson's expertise was of great benefit to our forwards in particular and the squad performance took on a new dimension in February and March.

Overall, the S2's final tally for season 2008-2009 resulted in several solid wins.

For me, this season was a mostly enjoyable experience, especially when working with a motivated and settled pool of players. There is a very strong core of experienced and dedicated members in the centre of play who will undoubtedly guide the team to success next season when they become the Colts XV squad. Hopefully, the S2 boys have enjoyed the ups & downs of the season and can look forward to improving their tally of wins as the Colts squad next session.

M McKeever

S1 Rugby

The last three games of the season brought the high flying S1 squad back down to earth. The High School of Glasgow quickly took advantage of weak tackling and their full back broke through a number of times. The usual players stood out with Lloyd Waller, Gavin Tainsh, Euan Flett and Connor Holmes putting in great but last minute tackles. John Morton and Andrew Aschaber also showed they are much improved players. Against St Aloysius College the boys struggled with their very large winger before a cracking fight back led to John Morton getting an

excellent last minute try. Fraser Kennedy was the star that day with a huge effort. The final game was against the form west coast team of Glasgow Academy and nothing was going to stop them, even some excellent efforts from Matthew Tait and Lloyd. Connor ran hard but as soon as the ball was turned over the Glasgow boys swung the ball wide.

These last three games were a bit of a wake-up call but should not detract from an excellent season where we have seen 23 boys represent the School and a squad that quickly picked up complex moves and usually utilised them in games. Tough games were won by determination and effort, notably the game at Lomond School.

The team was very well led by the Captain they chose and Calum Savage has been one of the stars of every game he played in. Fraser established himself in the front row and always had an encouraging comment. Gavin yet again showed what a talent he has particularly with the boot and, on many occasions, he cleared pressure giving the squad time to organize themselves. Euan and Lloyd worked well together and with the power and pace of Connor the trio made an impressive midfield. Their best performance was possibly the one against Kelvinside Academy. Andrew and John Morton established their places with speed and, particularly towards the end of the season, some excellent tackling. Charlie Grimson and Giles Harker competed for the position of hooker and both were

impressive. In the boiler house, Ben Speck, Stewart Carling and Matthew Scott worked with quiet determination. Donald Strathie stepped up in confidence and linked well with Matthew Tait - especially with their 98 move! The two Sams - Greenlees and Dillon; two Camerons - Turner and Menzies-Runciman; John McFarlane, Lewis Ross, Noah Parker and Adam Davie all figured at some point and made valuable contributions to the squad.

It has not been a totally smooth ride but once the whole S1 squad started to work together they gelled and produced some excellent rugby which they enjoyed. A lot has been learned this season and it has been a pleasure to be part of that process and see a cracking set of players progress and work together. I wish them all the best in their future school rugby and remember - enjoyment is the main aim!

L Howell



Rugby



Primary Rugby

This season saw another large group of Transitional and P6 boys taking part in games lessons and often as many as thirty participating in the extra practice session on a Tuesday afternoon. There was always a very positive feel to the practices with everyone contributing and eager to be considered for team selection for the Saturday fixture.

A number of boys were involved in last year's matches which meant there was a strong core of players ready for the challenge. Henry Morshead took over the captaincy of the side and was fortunate enough to have a number of good players around him to share the load and give him plenty of encouragement.

With eight wins from eleven matches the season proved a great success. The most memorable were those against The High School of Glasgow and Daniel Stewart's and Melville College. The High School of Glasgow game, in particular, was highly contested before the boys ran out 8-3 winners. The Quadrangular Tournament held at Dallerie went well. After beating Belmont House and a High School of Dundee A/B team the boys went on to give their A team a run for their money, finally losing 4-12.

Throughout the season the boys played a committed and free flowing brand of rugby and on the whole showed good sportsmanship throughout. They never shirked a challenge nor failed to dig deep when up against the stronger sides.

The forwards had some strong ball carriers in Oscar Schad, James Ewart, Michael Galloway and Ruaridh Lauchlan. Christopher White was a pivotal force at scrum half while the centre partnership of Andrew Campbell and Henry Morshead was strong in defence and with Jed Chalmers, hard running in attack. With a little more work on presenting the ball in the tackle the team should enjoy longer spells of retaining possession.

This year we held a celebration party at the end of the season where Oscar Schad was awarded Most Improved Player, Andrew Campbell Best Tackler and Henry Morshead Most Effective Contributor. This latter award was voted on by the squad so it was a fine reward for Henry's contribution both on and off the field. My thanks must go to Miss Dick who organised the presentation and the catering staff who prepared the food.

The squad should be very proud of the manner in which they trained and played. They were always hugely appreciative of the great support of those on the touch line during match days and a special thank you to Mr Robertson who refereed many of the games and helped with training whenever possible.

Squad: Daniel Bremner, Richard Byers, Andrew Campbell, Jonny Carswell, Jed Chalmers, Dhillon Clarke, Hamish Cox, James Ewart, Michael Galloway, Richard Hammond, Ruaridh Lauchlan, Cameron Lee, Henry Morshead, Robbie Robertson, Oscar Schad, Alastair Scott, Christopher White and James Wyllie.

G Chater

Hockey

1st XI Hockey Report

On reflection the girls have a lot to be proud of. Their effort and attitude throughout the season have been very good; they were led well by Christie Fraser and at times produced some scintillating pieces of play that ripped teams apart. For a few of them they can thank the woodwork for coming to their rescue. Statistically the results read as played 17, won 9, drew 4, and lost 4. However things in sport are never black or white. So where did the memorable moments occur?

The season got off to a flier with convincing wins against The Mary Erskine School & Robert Gordon's College. This cemented the girls' confidence and helped to set the benchmark for the rest of the season which I and their loyal band of supporters came to expect. If anything, they exceeded the benchmark in late September at the Midlands Senior Outdoor Tournament. The girls progressed to the semi final where they played an enthralling match against the High School of Dundee, unfortunately losing 2-0 - ruing chances not taken. But on reflection the girls had a lot to be proud of, especially the 1-0 victory over Dollar Academy in the pool section.

In the next three games we suffered losses. However, in our 3-1 defeat to the High School of Dundee, the score line doesn't tell the tale of a goal that shouldn't have been awarded, a spirited fight back and shots missing by a matter of inches. But it is the old tale of missed chances coming back to hurt you.

The girls managed to pick themselves up and went on a very good run beating St. George's School 2-0, George Heriot's School 4-0, St. Leonards School 3-1 & Kilgraston School 2-0 in the U18 Knock-out Cup competition. In the subsequent round we were beaten by a very slick Strathallan School team 2-0. In amongst this was a hard fought 0-0 draw away to St. Aloysius College where Harriet produced a number of fine saves to keep the opposition out.



Unfortunately for us, their goalkeeper had a particularly fine game herself. She needed to since in recent matches we had started to take our chances.

The harsh weather in December and January forced most of our matches to be cancelled until the 31st January when The High School of Dundee paid us a visit. The girls were extremely focused and determined to avenge the two previous defeats they had suffered earlier on in the season. From the first

Hockey



season came at Madras College. We had lost earlier on and desperately wanted a win. It turned out to be an epic encounter with the score line changing, Kate Greenlees coming to the rescue of Harriet to clear the ball off the line. With a couple of minutes remaining we were 2-1 up; however the final whistle didn't come soon enough and Madras managed to squeeze home an equaliser to break our hearts (though I think the tears from the sixth year girls were from knowing that their school hockey career had just come to an end). They had had a season they can be very proud of. Well done!

Colours have been awarded to Christie Fraser, Ailsa Guntley, Harriet Smythe, Madeline Riddell & Catherine Lovegrove

D Nesbit

whistle we attacked with pace and power, putting their opponents on the back foot. They could only muster occasional forays into our half of the pitch during the first half. In the second half things were a bit more even; however luck was not on our side. Firstly from a super cross in from the right one of our strikers connected with it beautifully sweeping it over the goal keeper only for it to come crashing down on the underside of the cross bar and land an inch in front of the line. A quick thinking defender managed to clear it. Minutes later their right hand post came to their rescue as a fierce shot cannoned off it and behind their stranded goal keeper who was relieved to watch it go safely out to the left. At the end of the match the team, our supporters, their coach and I couldn't understand how we hadn't managed to win. It had, however, managed to raise the heart rate and noise level ten-fold at Dallerie. Truly a memorable match!

Unfortunately the following weekend's match against Dollar was cancelled so we were unable to see if we could manage a second victory against them.

The final run-in saw the team defeat Glasgow Academy for the first time since I have been at the school, thanks to a decisive strike from Ailsa Guntley. We also recorded victories against Queen Victoria School and Mary Erskine School again. The final game of the

Hockey

2nd XI Hockey Report

This season the 2nd XI has been a very young and inexperienced team that started the season knowing they had a tough act to follow. In the couple of sixth years that were present in the team, Joanna Beedie brought a calming organised approach to the captaincy and Sarah Stephens' motivation and commitment were invaluable.

We got off to a wonderful start with a 7-0 victory over Mary Erskine's school. This gave the girls great confidence which only grew as they continued their winning ways throughout September where, in each match, the girls managed to secure at least a 2 goal margin of victory. Unfortunately at this stage in the season we lost our GK Katherine Kennedy to illness and had to seek a volunteer from the team. Luckily for us Jasmine Thomas was prepared to kit up once again and she did a good job for us throughout the rest of the season.

October didn't start off well with two losses to the High School of Dundee and Glenalmond. I was slightly concerned how this would affect the girls' confidence but I shouldn't have because in the very next game the team came roaring back with a 4-0 win against St. George's, then a very hard fought 0-0 draw against George Heriot's.

At this stage in the season I was pleased with how the team was playing and it was good to see a number of 5th year players start to take on more responsibility and play in a more authoritative manner. Certainly Alice McLeod had become quite a commanding figure in the centre of defence and was willing to run the ball out of defence. Then there was Alisa Cox in midfield. She was regularly beginning to make fools of the opposition with her stick work skills.

November through to the end of January was very frustrating. During this time they only managed to play 2 matches and training at Dallerie started to become a rarity because of the



weather. Tuesdays always seemed to be wet days. It was no surprise that when we finally managed to take to the field we were a bit rusty but their enthusiasm to be back playing helped them to avenge their defeat earlier in the season to The High School of Dundee and gain a 2-1 win.

Our next two matches were cancelled which didn't help with maintaining our focus. We then had a home fixture against Glasgow Academy. This was definitely a match we should have won instead of drawing but we just didn't take our chances. With some of them it seemed to be harder to miss than score - or they possibly were saving them all up for Mary Erskine's the following week. Even though we were without any subs for this match, the girls managed to smash 6 past them without reply.

The final match of this weather-interrupted season came away to Madras. You could sum up the match as being frustrating. We had so much of the possession and had shot after shot but we could not find the back of the net, unlike Madras who twice hit us on the break. The final score line was a very disappointing 3-1 loss.

In summing up the girls played well, we created plenty of chances but we just didn't always convert them. I am optimistic for next season as this young team has gained valuable experience which will stand them in good stead.

D Nesbit



Hockey



S3 Hockey

The season started on a very positive note with the third year hockey team posting wins over The Mary Erskine School and St George's School. All the girls were delighted with these scores and it really boosted their confidence as a team. This self-belief was evident in their next match which was against Robert Gordon's College. Pressure from the whistle was absorbed and dealt with very confidently and despite the game finishing 0-0, it was a very exciting and nerve-wracking watch for the parents on the sidelines. Goalkeeper Hayley McDermott was in excellent form and sweeper Hannah Lauchlan made some excellent tackles in the circle, inspiring and enabling the defence and midfield to clear the ball effectively out of the danger zone. All the team contributed and the girls were justifiably proud of their efforts as was their teacher!

Unfortunately a run of defeats followed but the girls responded well in that they worked hard at practices on improving both individual skills and team play. The Junior Outdoor Tournament took place at Glenalmond College and we finished third in our section which was a good effort especially as the games were played on astro. Our next game was against George Heriot's School and, despite losing 1-0, the team played with

much confidence and showed some good attacking play. Nicola Suiter provided some great balls down the left, linking well with Erin O'Kane and Marianne Inglis to create scoring chances. Similarly against Queen Victoria School, we played some lovely hockey and were unfortunate to concede a goal late in the second half. Bad weather then resulted in a string of cancellations so it was the end of January before we took to the field again against Dundee High School. Having lost 4-0 earlier in the season, it was pleasing to see the team really take the game to the opposition and despite a 2-1 loss, an improvement in play was obvious. A closely contested match with Queen Victoria School followed in which we, despite being in control for much of the game, frustratingly lost.

However better things were to come with a good win over Glasgow Academy. Lots of goal scoring opportunities were created and converted which was great to see. Our final match of the season was against Madras College and the team played with much enthusiasm and spirit. It would have been lovely to finish with a win but it was not to be and Madras won 2-1.

Throughout the season the girls were captained by Jenny Lovegrove who led by example, never giving up and always looking to improve both her play and the team's. An excellent spirit was evident throughout the season and this was complemented by the ever present parents on the sidelines whose continued support was greatly appreciated and valued by all! I would like to thank all those involved for their commitment and enthusiasm as it was an enjoyable and rewarding season with improvements in all aspects of the game.

J Lee

Hockey

S2 Hockey

The S2 hockey team has had a really good season this year and are a group of girls who show a lot of potential for the future. In training, the girls have worked hard to improve their basic skills and games' sense and, as a consequence, have developed into competent hockey players. The most enjoyable training session, however, was developing the girl's teamwork and communication skills under the guise of a touch rugby match. Lots of laughter and hilarity ensued with many of the girls scoring some great tries! But back to hockey,

It was a bit of a slow start to the season with our first two games being narrow defeats to St. George's School and Robert Gordon's College. However, in our first home match the girls turned on the gas and were victorious 2-0 against Madras College. The following weekend the girls faced Dundee High School in a game of two halves. After a great first half from our girls, where we took a 2-0 lead through two Krystina Stickland strikes, Dundee High made some great attacking substitutions which allowed them to even the match by the end of the second half. If it had not been for the tireless efforts of Sally Andrews in defence and some great saves from Sally Gourlay, the score line might not have been quite so favourable.

The girls bounced back and played some fantastic matches against George Heriot's School and St.Leonards School winning both matches 1-0. In these matches Rachel Paterson established herself as a strong member of our attack with a great change of pace – this, more often than not, allowed her to pass opposition defenders with ease. A great 4-0 win against Queen Victoria School followed with Ruby McKinnell, Rachel Paterson, Amy Grant and Ellen Anderson all scoring. Our final match before Christmas saw the girls face a strong side from Trinity Academy. The girls struggled with the pace of the game on the Astroturf and lacked the determination required in one-on-one situations to win the ball and take control of the match. As a result the team lost 2-1 despite excellent performances from Ruby

McKinnell and Ellen Anderson in our mid-field.

In the New Year Krystina Stickland, Katie MacKenzie and Danielle MacLarty set the standard for the rest of the team with their efforts on the pitch against Dundee High School. Although losing the match, these three girls were solid and determined in defence and sought to pass the ball efficiently up the pitch to their team mates in attack. Krystina completed a great attacking move in the second half with a great goal to ease the team's disappointment at losing.

The girls finished the season with a further win against Queen Victoria School (1-0) and defeats against Glasgow Academy and The Mary Erskine School. The highlight of the season, however, came in our final match versus Madras College. The girls put on a great display, demonstrating great team work allied to skilful, determined and exciting hockey to win 5-0. A great performance and a great end to the season which made me a very proud coach!

The girls have been a pleasure to work with this year and have undoubtedly benefited from Sally Gourlay's calm and organised leadership as team captain and star goal keeper! I would like to congratulate Krystina Stickland for being player of the season whose efforts on the pitch this year have, at all times, been excellent. Finally, good luck to you all next season in S3. I look forward to seeing you fulfil that potential!

E McCormick



Hockey



S1 Hockey

The S1 hockey team has been a lovely group of girls to coach this year. Their enthusiasm and effort cannot be faulted and as a result there has been a lot of competition for places in this year's team which has allowed me to develop a strong squad of girls gradually.

The girls had a good start to the season with a hard fought 2-2 draw against St. George's School with Holly Boag and Amy Smart both scoring. Thereafter the hard work started and the girls' lack of experience compared to strong sides from Robert Gordon's College and Craigclowan began to show. I decided to take them back to the drawing board and after lots of work on improving their basic skills and positional awareness, I began to see the girls develop into increasingly competent and knowledgeable hockey players. Consequently, we began to see our results improve with draws against Madras College and a well-deserved 1-0 win against Queen Victoria School – our first win of the season and a great competitive match!

The last game before the Christmas break was away against Trinity Academy which was to be the team's first 11-aside match on a full-size all-weather pitch. Needless

to say I was interested to see how they would get on and they did not disappoint! From the outset the girls played with determination, purpose and skill and, most importantly, worked fantastically as a team. It was great to see Sophie Ann Ross and Ellie Goddard, who were new to hockey this year, play with great confidence and ability and prove themselves as valuable members of the team. The result was a fabulous 3-0 win with goals from Holly Boag, Amy Smart and Isabel MacDonald.

It was the end of January before we had our first match of the New Year and Dundee High School was the opposition. In defence, Claire Tong, Gabrielle Aitken, Hannah Gauld and Kate McCallum managed to play solidly under a lot of Dundee High pressure and worked tirelessly to keep the ball at bay. The star of the match however was our goalkeeper Naomi Gillies who made a number of fantastic saves to keep the score down to a narrow 1-0 defeat.

The highlight of the season for me was the away leg of the Queen Victoria School fixture in February. Having narrowly won the first fixture, the girls were ready for QVS to come out fighting and consequently our girls approached the match with determination and spirit. Morrison's took control of the match early on with a great lifted strike from the season's highest goal scorer Holly Boag. QVS, however, were quick to come back and even the score. Chances at both ends followed and had it not been for Hannah Gauld defending three QVS players on her own at one point, it might have been the opposition's match. However in the very last minute Lauren Strickland took control of the ball in our attacking circle and played what was easily the goal of the season by lobbing the ball over the keeper's head! Fabulous!

It has in some ways been a tough season for the girls and while there have been some great highlights the girls have at times also had to deal with some difficult defeats. They have dealt with these admirably and shown their determination to succeed by continuing to work hard in

Hockey

practices and through some great results as the season progressed. The team captain Gabrielle Aitken has at all times led by example through her efforts on the pitch and also by her encouraging attitude to her team mates.

Well done to all the S1 girls who have represented the school this year but particularly to our two most improved players Melissa McDonald and Sophie Ann Ross. I look forward to working with you all again next year!

E McCormick

Primary Hockey

The Primary 6 and Transitional hockey squad can be nothing but delighted with their very successful season. Only three matches were cancelled this season and the girls did not lose away from home. Their team spirit shone throughout the season and this has been the key to their success.

Their individual skills have developed throughout the season and their ability to read a game has improved with every match. Thanks to Miss Nesbit, Mrs Lee and Ellie Wagstaff for their commitment to helping the girls' development.

Two matches that stood out this season were the 5-5 draw in Aberdeen against Robert Gordon's. This was a very long way to travel for a match and the girls came out fighting in the second half after being 3-1 down in the cold and windy weather.

The home match against Craigclowan, on the savannah, was a real battle. The girls worked very hard to keep their 1-0 lead in the second half as they were up against strong competition. It was a game where the girls showed real spirit and communicated with each other very well.

Our last game of the season saw the girls play St George's for the third time. Previous results against them had been excellent and the girls wanted to end

their last match on a high. The squad were split into two teams and, once again, the girls showed their individual skills and their determination to do well for their team mates. Both games were wins: 5-0 and 2-0.

A big thank you to captain Rebecca Coffey, who led by example and showed great enthusiasm and determination to succeed. A special mention must also go to Ailsa Clifford, who scored 29 out of a total of 33 goals; to Julia Barrie who was voted Effective Contributor by her team mates; and of course, our team mascots Morrison and Megan's lucky bear.

Well done girls and good luck next season.

N Dick



Athletics



Girls' Athletics

This year the after-school athletics practice was well attended, particularly with girls from S1 and 2. Hopefully they have enjoyed it enough that they will continue to participate throughout secondary.

Unfortunately we lost our only full secondary fixture against Dollar Academy due to poor weather. The S1/2 triangular with Dollar Academy and George Heriot's School did go ahead only after we stepped in and hosted the match after Heriot's found they were unable to host the match this year. The format of the match is that each school enters two athletes for each event. The S1 girls' team competed admirably but did struggle. A couple of notable performances came from Holly Boag who finished third in the 100m and Claire Tong who finished third in the shot put. The highlight of their afternoon came in the 4 x 100m where they finished 2nd and ahead of Dollar. The S2 girls had a more successful afternoon. Ruby McKinnell won the shot put and the high jump competitions, Danielle MacLarty won the long jump with an impressive jump of 4.11m and Katie MacKenzie finished second in the 800m with just a second splitting her and the first place runner from Heriot's.

This year our sports heats went ahead largely unaffected by rain which is

always a huge relief. On these days some of the events are decided prior to Sports Day.

There was concern over whether or not Sports Day would go ahead but luckily the rain passed and it turned out to be a lovely day. In the primary championship Penny Morton made an impressive start winning the high jump and long jump. So too did Georgia Birnie who took second in the high jump and third in the long jump. Neither girl challenged in the ball throw, which was won by Louise Hally. On sports day, Penny Morton reigned supreme in the 100m and 200m though she was pushed all the way by Julia Barrie. With four wins under her belt, Penny Morton was crowned a well-deserved primary champion.

In the junior championship it was a three way battle between Katie MacKenzie, Danielle MacLarty and Rachel Paterson. On the track Rachel proved herself to be the quickest over 100m, 200m and the 75m hurdles with Danielle finishing second and third respectfully. Katie MacKenzie won the 800m followed by Danielle. In the high jump Emma Jones won after clearing 1.25m. Katie and Danielle both managed 1.20m but failed at 1.25m so on count back, Katie was awarded second as she cleared 1.20 on her first attempt unlike Danielle who required two attempts. In the long jump Danielle went into the event as favourite after her impressive jump in the triangular match but it was Rachel who performed best on the day. Other notable successes came from Sally Gourlay winning the shot put and Lauren Strickland beating Danielle in the ball throw by 3cm. How important would an extra 4cm have been for Danielle to push Rachel for the championship?

In the intermediate championship it was once again the Rachel Adamson show. She won every track event plus the long jump. If that wasn't enough she broke the school intermediate high jump record which had stood at 1.46m since 1981. Rachel had bettered her competitors with a height of 1.35m but knew she could still go higher. She



Athletics

steadily progressed through 1.40m and 1.45m. At this point she took the gamble to try to beat the record and went for 1.47m. A failure on the first attempt only added to the tension but she kept her concentration and cleared it on her second attempt. She had set a new school record but could she go higher? Yes she could. She cleared 1.48m. She attempted 1.49m but was unsuccessful. So can Rachel Adamson hold this record for the next 28 years like her predecessor? The challenge has been set.

We must not forget the other competitors. Emily Coffey won the discus, came second in the 100m, 200m, 300m, shot put, high jump, long jump and third in the 800m. It was a very impressive achievement by anyone else's standards. These two did not take all of the titles. Vicky Tomlinson won the shot put and Katherine Turnbull won the javelin.

The senior championship was a more open contest with no fewer than eight different girls sharing the spoils. However the majority were shared by two. In the 100m Kate Kennedy just managed to hold off Melanie Stephen and win the by 0.02 of a second. Melanie was not disappointed for long as she won the 200m and came second in the 800m. Catherine Lovegrove won the 800m and took second place in the 200m and 300m. Megan Redden put a cat amongst the pigeons by winning the 300m. The senior champion was Melanie Stephen and the runner up was Catherine Lovegrove.

D Nesbit



Cricket

Cricket 1st XI

Again the vagaries of a Scottish summer meant that we did not see the best of this group of players. The damp of April and the middle of May meant that we did not do ourselves justice. Practice was limited to nets where even full out run ups were not possible and square practice was not possible.



Our first two games took us to Goldenacre and Countesswells where we came across well prepared and hard tracks. We were not used to these conditions and were unable to adapt and as a result post scores that troubled the opposition. Fielding and bowling were to be the strengths of this team. Jamie Duncan took several wickets with canny disguised flight and Graham Smith's left arm bowling proved difficult for batsmen to get away. Captain Simon Edwards was hampered by a bad back but could still bowl spin that fooled many. To quote one opposition batsman, "I didn't realise a ball could move that far". This spearhead of the attack was backed up by Douglas Marshall, Lewis Mackie and Ross Johnston.

The games against Dundee HS and Kelvinside Academy fell victim to the mid May rains but we did manage a home game with Lomond School, although it did finish in a steady drizzle. We batted first and the top order of Duncan, Edwards, Mackie and Smith accumulated enough runs to give us a good target to bowl at. Our attack managed to cut through the opposition batsmen to give us victory by 90 runs just as the heavens opened. We entertained Comrie CC in the next mid week and in another entertaining and extremely sporting game we won by eight wickets. We again bowled well with Graham Smith being the pick although he did not get his just reward with wickets - the batsmen were just happy to keep him out while trying to hit out at the other end and losing their wickets.

We returned to Helensburgh for the return match with Lomond in June with a weakened side and it was a nailbiter. A one

Cricket

run victory off the last ball was amazing. Our batting again did not do itself justice; nobody really got settled and we were all out for only 71. Maybe the local 12th men of "man eating midges" spoilt our concentration. This was a disappointing total as a lot of runs did look available - mention should be made of Robbie Tarran's 12 in his first 1st XI match - he did look comfortable and was willing (sometimes too willing) to take the quick single. One crazy episode should have seen Douglas run out but the Lomond fielding fell apart - this was to prove a match losing mistake. The Lomond innings started badly as Jamie Duncan picked up two quick wickets but the game then swung either way till excitingly we reached the final over with three results still possible. Lomond required four to win with their last pair at the wicket. Douglas had the unenviable task of bowling this over. His first five balls produced no score - a wild swing at the sixth sent the ball towards the boundary littered with our fielders but it was cut off. A gentle throw in to Douglas saw him run out the striker as he went for the third run and a tied game. Victory by one run had been hard-earned but was delightfully accepted.

The Morrisonian Club match was also a nailbiter. Their hastily arranged team contained three former captains but I think we were too complacent after our recent good run. We batted first and posted a score of just over a hundred - it could have been better but we had lent them S2 player Liam Roberts who returned the extremely impressive figures of 5 wickets for 11 runs from five overs. For once our fielding and bowling did not stand up and it looked as if defeat was a distinct possibility as they eventually required nine runs from 5 overs with 3 wickets remaining. But concentration returned and we snatched a most unlikely victory by seven runs. Captain Simon Edwards had the final say with a neat caught and bowled.

It was again another 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.

N Pennie

Junior Cricket

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

The S1 squad took on Lomond away for their first game. The team played well but faced a junior opposition team comprising of S1- S3 players. Noah led his peers well but the very accurate bowling of the older home team destroyed the batting. The return match was more equal but we still played with only one S3 boy and balanced Lindsay Duncan's might with the smooth and precise play of Chris White. In a thrilling game the result was in the balance until the last few balls. Lomond managed to just beat the score set by the junior Morrison's team and all agreed it was a thrilling game.

The rest of the season was a wash-out with cancelled games and little opportunity to use the excellent facilities at Dallerie. The boys were keen to train and with more games they would have been very competitive. It is hoped they all have better luck next year.

L Howell

Primary Cricket

There was an enthusiastic and very able squad of players who met every Tuesday and Wednesday for practice. This year, however, saw all of the matches cancelled due to the inclement weather conditions.

As captain, Christopher White would have had a good all round team with plenty of depth, a team which I hope will prove themselves in the coming years.

Squad: Daniel Bremner, Richard Byers, Jonny Carswell, Jed Chalmers, Matthew Cook, James Ewart, Jamie Goodban, Ruaridh Lauchlan, Cameron Lee, Henry Morshead, Hamish Riddell, Robbie Robertson, Oscar Schad, Alastair Scott, Christopher White

G Chater

Tennis

Senior Girls' Tennis Report

It has been an encouraging and enjoyable season for our 1st and 2nd VIs. A good number of girls committed themselves to playing tennis this year and with strong players currently in the junior teams there is definitely a lot of promise to look forward to in the next couple of years.

The 1st VI played some really exciting tennis on occasions and consequently produced some very good results. Unfortunately, however, we could not always apply our good form consistently to the duration of every match and must endeavour next year to improve on this if we are to compete more successfully.

The season started for the 1st VI with a 6-3 loss to Glenalmond in the midst of a heavy downpour! This was certainly an improvement on previous year's results with many of this year's matches closely fought contests and narrow defeats. Alice McLeod and Hannah Lewis played particularly well winning two of the three matches they played. The team then suffered a dip in form against George Heriot's suffering a convincing defeat against a strong team on a difficult surface. The highlight of the season however was a 5-4 victory against Mary Erskine School, a great result for the team and some fantastic attacking tennis from Katherine Turnbull and Erin O'Kane. Sadly the team could not match this fine form in our final matches against George Watson's College and Strathallan.

In June, two of our couples travelled to compete in the annual Kilgraston Tennis Tournament. Hannah Lewis and Alice McLeod produced some good play against challenging sides from Glenalmond, Fettes and Strathallan although failed to qualify for the knock-out stages of the Senior tournament. In the under 16 tournament Rachael Jones and Katherine Turnbull produced excellent wins against Fettes and St. Leonard's to leave them winners of their section and qualifiers for the knock-out quarter-final stages. With a great 6-4

victory over Kilgraston the girls qualified for a difficult semi-final match against St. Catherine's school who had travelled from Northern Ireland. Katherine and Rachael however faced strong serving and excellent net play from their opponents and unfortunately lost 6-1.

The 2nd VI suffered changes in personnel on an almost weekly basis due to the many other commitments of our girls. As a result we struggled against strong teams from Glenalmond and George Watson's College. The 2nd VI team's performance however did peak towards the end of the season against Mary Erskine School. A contest which had been neck and neck all the way through relied on the outcome of the final match to determine the winner. In a very tight match that could have gone either way the girls were unlucky to lose 5-4 overall. I would like to thank Sarah Stephen and Christie Fraser for all their efforts this year in the 2nd VI and also for the occasions when they were promoted up to the 1st VI.

A huge thank you to all those girls who have been involved in senior girls' tennis this year and to those devoted parents who have supported on Saturday mornings! I would finally like to thank the 1st VI captain Ailsa Laird for all her hard work and efforts on the tennis courts as well as the encouragement and support she gave to her team mates over the course of the season.

E McCormick

Junior Tennis

After a few weeks of practices the junior tennis team season opened with an away match against George Heriot's School which the S3 team narrowly lost 5-4 but the S1/2 team played with great enthusiasm and determination and won their match 6-3. Ruby McKinnell and Sally Andrews showed some lovely attacking tennis which looked promising for the matches to come.

Next we played The Mary Erskine School at home and the S2 team lived up to



Tennis

expectations and won convincingly 8 - 1. The S1 team unfortunately lost but as happens a lot in tennis the score did not reflect how close the games were. All the girls were showing improvement in their game play and tactics so it was with high hopes we set off to George Watson's College. Everyone played with much determination and both matches came down to the last set which, in both cases, we unfortunately lost. It was exciting to watch and the standard was very pleasing.

A nail biting match against Glendalmond College followed with the match being all square at four sets and the final game five games apiece, deuce. As it was a short set and sudden death deuce we all held our breath as Glendalmond served to Morag Ritchie. Completely calm, unlike Miss Nesbit and Mrs Lee, she returned the ball and Erin O'Kane then hit the winning shot to claim the match. A great result!

The girls performed very well at The Kilgraston School Tournament in all age groups. Amy Smart and Christie Carswell reached the quarter finals in the Under12 section and Erin O'Kane partnered by Gemma Ives played some lovely tennis and reached the semi finals in the under14 section.

Throughout the season all those who attended practices and played in school matches did so with much enthusiasm and determination to improve their standard of play. It was a successful season in terms of play and enjoyment and both Miss Nesbit and Mrs Lee would like to thank all those who attended practices and played for the school for their contribution.

J Lee

Swimming

The swimming season started early on in November with the Tayside Schools' Swimming Championships. The level of competition is always very high with many swimmers seeking to gain qualification for the Scottish Schools' Championships as a result of their performances in Dundee.

In the 12 and under age group, Jemma Murphy (S1) and Penny Morton (P7) both competed in the 50m backstroke and 50m freestyle. The girls competed admirably and were able to finish close to their personal bests and were unlucky not to qualify for either of the finals. Josh Murchie (S2), swimming in the 13/14 boys' age group, was however the star of the show with a fantastic performance in the 200m freestyle. Josh won the race comfortably in a time of 2 minutes 19.46 seconds - easily 6 seconds ahead of his nearest competitor! This performance allowed Josh to qualify for the Scottish Schools' Championships in which he faced some very tough opposition but managed to finish a creditable 15th place overall.

This year we had two matches against Glendalmond College in which a total of twenty of our swimmers from primary 7 to S6 were involved. The senior boys once again proved to be the stalwarts of the team with Nathan Thomson (S4), Paul Ramsay, Jamie Duncan (both S5) and Graeme Clow (S6) all victorious in their individual events. Their good form was also demonstrated in the 4 x 25m medley relay which they won convincingly in both matches. The senior girls also performed well with the team of Ellie Wagstaff, Jemma Paterson (both S6), Ailsa Laird (S5) and Sami Murchie (S4) equally successful in their medley relay and in many of their individual events. The junior teams also swam well in both matches with excellent performances from Josh Murchie in the 50m back crawl; Jonathan Priestly (S3) in the 50m breaststroke; Lindsay Duncan (S3) in the 50m freestyle and Krystina Stickland (S2) in the girls' 50m freestyle. Unfortunately Glendalmond narrowly beat us on both

Swimming

occasions; however I think revenge will be sweet when we meet again next year!

School Swimming Championship Results

Primary Girls Swimming

Winner: Penny Morton
Runner Up: Rachael Love

Primary Boys Swimming

Winner: Henry Morshead
Runner Up: Chris White

Junior Girls Swimming

Winner: Jemma Murphy
Runner Up: Katie White

Junior Boys Swimming

Winner: Adam Davie
Runner Up: Josh Murchie

Intermediate Girls Swimming

Winner: Sami Murchie
Runnerup: Hannah Logan

Senior Girls Swimming

Winner: Ellie Wagstaff
Runner Up: Sarah Stephen

Senior Boys Swimming

Winner: Graeme Clow
Runner Up: Paul Ramsay

Individual Medley Winner

Paul Ramsay

My thanks go to all those pupils who have represented the school this year and commend you on some great performances. Finally a big thank you in particular to Graeme Clow and Ellie Wagstaff who captained the teams and, along with Jemma Paterson as leaving seniors, will be missed greatly next year!

N Pennie

Badminton Club

The Badminton Club continued to thrive this session after school on a Wednesday. The club attracts a wide variety of player from those who enjoy a run around the court to those who are developing their range of shot and technique. Many pupils completed the Physical aspect of their Duke of Edinburgh Award through the club this year. This season saw the inception of school competitions for boys' and girls' singles. There were good numbers of entries for both competitions although some players could not make it on the day. The girls' competition operated on a round robin format, with Katie MacKenzie S2 winning all her games. The boys' competition followed a traditional tournament knock-out format and produced a good standard. The final was played between Fergus Robertson S5 and Andrew Paterson S4, with Fergus coming out on top. Two beautiful trophies, The Cairns Quaich and The Litster Quaich, have been donated to the school for these competitions which will no doubt continue to grow in size and competitive nature. Well done to all the pupils who took part in the competitions and the club, and enjoyed playing badminton this year.

S Mackenzie



Mountaineering

This has been another busy year with a large pupil input both senior and junior.

Daniel Mestecky and David Frost attended Glenmore Lodge and became the youngest climbers to take the new Climb Wall Supervisor's Training Course. A large number of girls are now heavily involved with Amy Tait, Louise MacKenzie and Emily Harrison prompting and encouraging younger climbers. The Lairds (Joe and Sam) and Luke Goddard are talented climbers showing their abilities outside as well as on the wall and not far behind are Ellie Goddard and Isobel Macdonald.

Mr Speck also achieved some notable awards, namely the Single Pitch Supervisors award and the Summer Mountain Leader Award. He has enabled the club to move forward and develop climbing for a larger range of pupils.

The links with Perth and Kinross Council have continued and now their staff are being helped and developed to enable them to encourage all young people in the region to participate.

It is hoped that the club will be able to organise a trip to either Romania or Bulgaria for summer 2010 and pupils who are interested should see Mr Howell early in the 2009/2010 session for details.

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

L Howell

Basketball

It is the proud boast of the Basketball Club that we are the only school club with a one hundred percent record this session. We won our friendly fixture against Dollar before retiring to rest on our laurels.

It has been a year of re-invention for the club with a healthy crop of younger students choosing to come along after school on Friday. Their enthusiasm is infectious and each week they eagerly await Fridays for something more than the obvious reason.

I am indebted to Adam Stone and Oliver Jones for their interest over the year. They have assisted me with the coaching and also provided valuable role models for the younger players. Callum Airey's return to the school brought a talented and confident player into our midst. He is a quick witted player of the game, but is also keen to share that enjoyment with the rest of us.

Other regulars have included Eden Bowers, Gregor Cox, Ben Duncan, Stuart Johnson, Jamie Macdonald, Rosanna McDermott, Reece O'Hara and Joe Speck, all of whom had a run out against Dollar earning the club its unbeaten status. Well done to all and I'm looking forward to next season.

R Anderson

Golf

It was evident from the start of the season that we did not have the same quality of player this year as we have had for several years. However this did give us the chance to blood several younger players and give them the experience of match play.

The summer season started with the Belch cup being played at Crieff GC with Jamie Duncan winning the trophy and Andrew Turnbull in the runners' up spot for the second year.

The league this year continued the round robin format and we played five games in it - Kinross HS failed to arrange a date for us to play in this increasingly congested summer term calendar. We struggled for wins in this league - the standard in the county is very good presently - the county team did win their Scottish Schools championship in June. However, our home game with Strathallan School gave us our only win of the season and 4 - 0 at that.

New fixtures this year were played against Beaconsfield School both home and away; although both were lost they were competitive and we look forward to further visits to Stirling GC.

Some of the younger players show a lot of promise for future seasons and hopefully they will come through next year and the one thereafter. Marcus Mollison showed remarkable form in his games and has a calm approach to the game which will be of benefit to him. His wins will give him confidence.

N Pennie

Fun Run

Morrison's Academy held its annual Fun Run at Dallerie on a cool but dry June Saturday morning this year. Competitors enjoyed a selection of distances (500m to 5000m), with t-shirts, prizes and spot prizes being awarded to most runners. 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	H Morshead	14.83 secs
2	M Laird	
3	A Campbell	

400 Metres

1	H Morshead	1 min 14.25 secs
2	A Campbell	
3	R Robertson	

Cross Country

1	C White	7 min 02 secs
2	A Campbell	
3	C Campbell	

High Jump

1	M Cook	1.2 metres
2	T Whitfield	
3	H Richards	

Long Jump

1	H Morshead	3.44 metres
2	M Galloway	
3	A Campbell	

Cricket Ball

1	W Waller	39.37 metres
2	M Galloway	
3	S Geeyl	

Relay

1	Murrays	1 min 3.65 secs
2	Grahams	
3	Campbells	

PRIMARY GIRLS

100 Metres

1	P Morton	15.23 secs
2	J Barrie	
3	M Bell	

200 Metres

1	P Morton	32.15 secs
2	J Barrie	
3	L Hally	

Cross Country

1	P Morton	7 min 12 secs
2	L Hally	
3	M Airey	

High Jump

1	P Morton	1.20 metres
2	G Birnie	
3=	J Barrie	
3=	J Roberts	

Long Jump

1	P Morton	3.31 metres
2	K Jones	
3	G Birnie	

Cricket Ball

1	L Hally	23.31 metres
2	E Deans	
3	R Dye	

Relay

1	Campbells	1 min 4.97 secs
2	Grahams	
3	Murrays	

JUNIOR BOYS

100 Metres

1	C Holmes	13.03 secs
2	I Paterson	
3	P Bruce-Wootton	

200 Metres

1	C Holmes	27.53 secs
2	I Paterson	
3	P Bruce-Wootton	

800 Metres

1	B Johnston	2 min 30.37 secs
2	P Bruce-Wootton	
3	I Paterson	

Cross Country

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

75 Metre Hurdles

1	I Paterson	13.06 secs
2	C Holmes	
3	P Bruce-Wootton	

High Jump

1	C Holmes	1.45 metres
2	I Paterson	
3	L Parker	

Sports' Day Results

Long Jump

1	I Paterson	4.33 metres
2	B Vardi	
3	L Parker	

Shot Putt

1	L Henderson	8.30 metres
2	S Rowley	
3	I Paterson	

Discus

1	S Rowley	19.43 metres
2	I Paterson	
3	E Flett	

Javelin

1	M Ferguson	19.05 metres
2	M Tait	
3	Z Howie	

Relay

1	Drummonds	55.72 secs
2	Grahams	
3	Campbells	

JUNIOR GIRLS

100 Metres

1	R Paterson	14.23 secs
2	D MacLarty	
3	H Boag	

200 Metres

1	R Paterson	29.32 secs
2	D MacLarty	
3	H Boag	

800 Metres

1	K Mackenzie	2 mins 51.60 secs
2	D MacLarty	
3	H Gauld	

Cross Country

1	K Mackenzie	7 mins 46 secs
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75 Metre Hurdles

1	R Paterson	14.67 secs
2	H Boag	
3	D MacLarty	

High Jump

1	E Jones	1.25 metres
2	K Mackenzie	
3	D MacLarty	

Long Jump

1	R Paterson	3.98 metres
2	D MacLarty	
3	H Boag	

Shot Putt

1	S Gourlay	7.39 metres
2	C Tong	
3	K White	

Cricket Ball

1	L Strickland	32.02 metres
2	D MacLarty	
3	E Anderson	

Relay

1	Murrays	1 min 0.79 secs
2	Campbells	
3	Drummonds	

INTERMEDIATE BOYS

100 Metres

1	M Lafferty	12.29 secs
2	M Ewart	
3	R McLellan	

200 Metres

1	M Ewart	25.48 secs
2	R Hutton	
3	R McLellan	

400 Metres

1	L Duncan	1 min 1.54 secs
2	C Strong	
3	M Lafferty	

800 Metres

1	J Murchie	2 mins 23.45 secs
2	M Lafferty	

100 Metre Hurdles

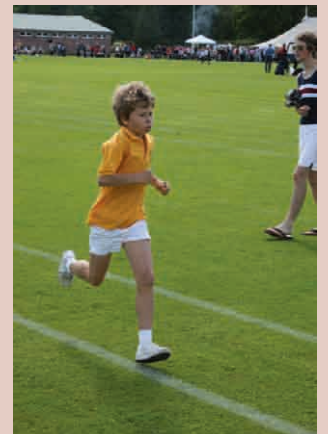
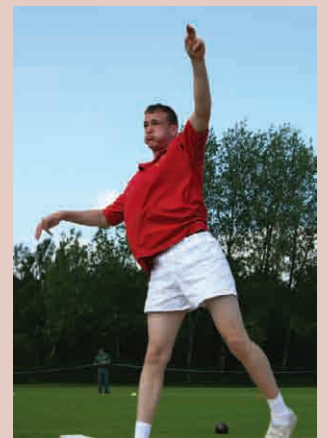
1	R Hutton	16.14 secs
2	M Lafferty	
3	R McLellan	

Cross Country

1	M Lafferty	15 mins 48 secs
2	L Duncan	
3	C O'Kane	

High Jump

1	R Hutton	1.65 metres
2	M Lafferty	
3	C Carling	





Sports' Day Results

Long Jump

1	L Duncan	4.63 metres
2	M Lafferty	
3	R McLellan	

Triple Jump

1	M Lafferty	9.93 metres
2	R Hutton	
3	L Duncan	

Shot Putt

1	M Lafferty	10.53 metres
2	C Carling	
3	A Samson	

Discus

1	A Samson	25.83 metres
2	R McLellan	
3	R Hutton	

Javelin

1	M Lafferty	37.68 metres
2	A Samson	
3	L Goddard	

Relay

1	Murrays	53.09 secs
2	Grahams	
3	Drummonds	

INTERMEDIATE GIRLS

100 Metres

1	R Adamson	13.97 secs
2	E Coffey	
3	S Murchie	

200 Metres

1	R Adamson	28.63 secs
2	E Coffey	
3	V Tomlinson	

300 Metres

1	R Adamson	44.53 secs
2	E Coffey	
3	E O'Kane	

800 Metres

1	R Adamson	2 mins 30.67 secs
2	E O'Kane	
3	E Coffey	

Cross Country

1	R Adamson	11 mins 57 secs
2	E O'Kane	

75 Metre Hurdles

1	R Adamson	13.62 secs
2	N Suiter	
3	E O'Kane	

High Jump

New School Record

1	R Adamson	1.48 metres
2	E Coffey	
3	N Suiter	

Long Jump

1	R Adamson	4.54 metres
2	E Coffey	
3	L Macdonald	

Shot Putt

1	V Tomlinson	7.14 metres
2	E Coffey	
3	H McDermott	

Discus

1	E Coffey	14.62 metres
2	K Turnbull	
3	V Tomlinson	

Javelin

1	K Turnbull	14.85 metres
2	R Adamson	
3	L Macdonald	

Relay

1	Drummonds	1 min 6.37 secs
2	Murrays	
3	Campbells	

SENIOR BOYS

100 Metres

1	A Tainsh	12.28 secs
2	F Robertson	
3	=J Thomson	
3	=G Clow	

200 Metres

1	A Tainsh	24.65 secs
2	F Robertson	
3	J Thomson	

400 Metres

1	J Thomson	58.51 secs
2	R Jack	
3	R Guthrie	

800 Metres

1	J Thomson	2 mins 25.43 secs
2	M Kesson	
3	R Jack	

Sports' Day Results

1500 Metres

1	J Thomson	5 mins 15 secs
2	M Kesson	
3	P Salmond	

Cross Country

1	J Thomson	24 mins 42 secs
2	O Penny	

110 Metre Hurdles

1	J Thomson	17.83 secs
2	F Robertson	
3	A Stone	

High Jump

1	A Stone	1.63 metres
2	J Thomson	
3	R Jack	

Long Jump

1	J Thomson	4.84 metres
2	F Robertson	
3	A Stone	

Triple Jump

1	J Thomson	10.70 metres
2	R Jack	
3	F Robertson	

Shot Putt

1	A Stone	11.21 metres
2	J Thomas	
3	F Robertson	

Discus

1	J Thomas	23.60 metres
2	A Stone	
3	S Bourelle	

Javelin

1	A Stone	31.25 metres
2	F Robertson	
3	J Thomson	

Relay

1	Campbells	51.07 secs
2	Drummonds	
3	Murrays	

SENIOR GIRLS

100 Metres

1	K Kennedy	14.84 secs
2	M Stephen	
3	C Lovegrove	

200 Metres

1	M Stephen	30.79 secs
2	C Lovegrove	
3	K Greenlees	

300 Metres

1	M Redden	52.64 secs
2	C Lovegrove	
3	M Stephen	

800 Metres

1	C Lovegrove	3 mins 11.32 secs
2	M Stephen	
3	A Guntley	

Cross Country

1	C Lovegrove	19 mins 40 secs
2	K Greenlees	

80 Metre Hurdles

1	M Stephen	14.83 secs
2	K Kennedy	
3	A Laird	

High Jump

1	M Stephen	1.38 metres
2	C Fraser	
3	E Wagstaff	

Long Jump

1	M Stephen	4.23 metres
2	K Kennedy	
3	C Lovegrove	

Shot Putt

1	A Laird	7.33 metres
2	C Suiter	
3	S Stephen	

Discus

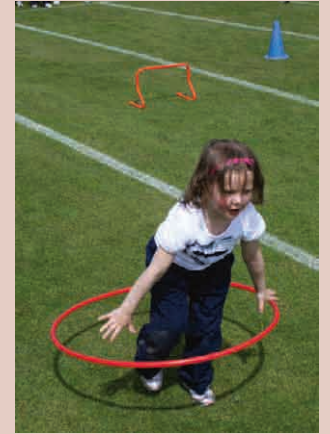
1	A Laird	16.68 metres
2	A Guntley	
3	E Wagstaff	

Javelin

1	M Stephen	14.98 metres
2	M Redden	
3	A Guntley	

Relay

1	Campbells	1 min 0.73 secs
2	Drummonds	



Sports' Day



Sports' Day



Sports' Day



MUSIC



Music



The Music Department has had another active session, its tuneful tendrils constantly winding through the Morrisonian undergrowth and indeed frequently basking in the warm sunlight of the public gaze above the forest canopy. No idle sloths here – only busy worker ants and rapidly blossoming musical plants growing before our very eyes!

SCHOOL FUNCTIONS

From the Primary Harvest Assembly in September, through 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. The boys are joining in more and more and losing any inhibitions they may once have had.

The Pipe Band / Chamber Choir Burns Supper, January

Another glittering event in aid of Pipe Band and Chamber Choir funds. A star-studded line-up of speakers, entertainers and musicians contributed to a magnificent evening which raised a lot of money, even in these cash-strapped times.

OUTINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Inaugural Recital on the new Memorial Hall organ, September

Through the generosity of Mr Ian Garrie

we now have a new Allen electronic organ in Memorial Hall, replacing the vintage Compton instrument which had just reached its 50th birthday before being decommissioned. To celebrate the new installation, Mr Duthie put the newcomer through its paces in a varied recital, playing music ranging from the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy to chorale preludes by Buxtehude and Flor Peeters, with an irreverent Sailor's Hornpipe for a finale.

Prep Schools' Choral Day at Glenalmond College, October

It is some years since we were last involved in one of these events, so it was good to renew our link. Our S1/2 Choir (which has been particularly strong of late) joined forces with many of Glenalmond's "feeder" Prep Schools for a day which involved not only uplifting singing under the direction of Ben Parry but also a chance to sample some of the many non-musical activities offered by the College.

THEATRE AND CONCERT VISITS

Groups of Secondary pupils enjoyed "Mary Poppins" at the Edinburgh Playhouse in November and "Oklahoma!" at the King's Theatre in Edinburgh in March.

Primary Boys' Singing Day, May

A small group of P6 boys went to the Perth Concert Hall in May to take part in "Only Boys Allowed", an event run by Christopher Bell and the National Youth Choirs of Scotland and featuring over a thousand Upper Primary boys from local schools raising their voices in song. Inspiring and thoroughly enjoyable stuff.

RSNO Primary Schools' Concert in Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, June

All of P5, P6 and Transitional were taken to this concert, which was preceded by preliminary workshops and rehearsals in school in preparation for participating in "Supersonic", a new piece specially written for performance by the orchestra and all 2,000 audience members. Wow!

Music

The concert also introduced the pupils to well-known classics of the orchestral repertoire and went a long way towards de-mystifying the whole business of concert-going and making it approachable by all.

VISITING MUSICIANS AND GROUPS

Scottish Opera For All with P4 ("Way Out West"), November

This session, after many years of involving P5/P6/Tr, we gave the opportunity to P4, who teamed up with their counterparts at Ardvreck and became Native American Indians, Cavalry and White Settlers for the day under the guidance of a group of professional soloists from Scottish Opera. The usual slick performance was conjured up within two or three hours and a great time was had by all.

The Fell Clarinet Quartet (Strathearn Music Society Schools' Concert), March.

Our local music club always goes beyond the bounds of string quartets and piano recitals to bring in interesting and different performing groups, and we are fortunate that they are generous enough to share their guests with local schools. This ensemble was a particular hit with pupils.

COMPETITIONS

Inter-House Talent Competition, March

Now in its second session occupying the end-of-term spot in Term Two, this annual extravaganza is still struggling to rise above the less-than-mediocre standards of previous years. Things are slowly improving, but ALL Houses need to make the effort in order to make the event worthy of its name (NB Murrays!)

Christmas Charities Entertainment, December

This different approach to the traditional end-of-term letting-down of hair, introduced two sessions ago, was adapted to make use of acts previously

seen and heard at a Charities Evening held earlier in the term. But we still had "Flayed"! (now in their fourth season, and on to their third drummer.....) Age has not (yet) wearied them, or their rapturous supporters.

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 Mrs. Audrey Mattner announced her decisions as follows:

Luke Scott

David Comrie trophy

Hannah Boag

A.B.Hunter Quaich

Hamish Riddell

David Comrie Trophy

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 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 Martin Neilson, formerly Head of Music at Perth Academy.

Primary 3:

Joseph Dillon

P4/5 Piano:

Alicia Boyle, Sarah Neill, Cameron McDonald

P4/5 Instrumental:

Hannah Boag, Lucy Whitaker, Lauren Burrows

P6/Tr Piano:

Libby Dillon, Christopher White, Rebecca Dye



Music

P6/Tr Instrumental:

Rebecca Coffey, Libby Dillon, Penny Morton, Alex Equi, Holly Smith

S1/2/3 Piano:

Lindsey Macdonald, Sarah Drummond

S1/2/3 Instrumental:

Lindsey Macdonald, Andrew Blair, Amy Smart

S1/2/3 Singing:

Annabel Brooks, Holly Boag, Kirsten Jack

Open Piano:

Claire Lorden, Rachael Smart, Adam Kilgour, Ruth Thomson

Open Instrumental:

Rachael Smart, Emily Harrison, Emma Robertson

Open Singing:

Emma Marnoch, Emily Harrison, Rosie Beech

Rachael Smart

**Knox Trophy
Best Instrumental Performance**

Hannah Logan

**A.B.Hunter Trophy
Scots Song**

Rebecca Coffey

**Ferntower Trophy
Most Promising Primary School
Musician**

“Perform in Perth”

**Perth Competitive Music Festival,
March**

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

Chamber Choir

**1st place (Honours Cert)
Scots Song, S3-6 (Wedderburn Baton)**

Chamber Choir

**1st place (Honours Cert)
School Choirs S3-6 (Methven Trophy)**

String Quartet

**2nd place (1st Class Cert) in Advanced
Class**

Amy Smart

**1st place (1st Class Cert) in
Intermediate Cello Class**

Rachael Smart:

**2nd place (1st Class Cert) in Open
Recital Class**

Lindsay Macdonald

**1st place (1st Class Cert) in Advanced
Flute Class**

**Larg Rosebowl for Best Advanced
Instrumental Solo overall**

**Stuart McNab Memorial Trophy for
highest mark in all Flute classes**

**Lewis J Barnett Memorial Trophy for
highest mark in all Advanced and
Open Solos**

Emma Robertson

**2nd place (1st Class Cert) in Advanced
Flute Class**

Joseph Dillon

**1st place (1st Class Cert) in Beginners’
Piano Solo Class**

PERFORMANCE AND ENTERTAINMENT

Primary Christmas Concert, December

With the customary class contributions from every single pupil in the Primary School, as well as Orchestra, Choir and readers, this was a thoroughly uplifting show (it always is, of course). The Lower Primary’s fully-costumed, all-singing, all-



Music

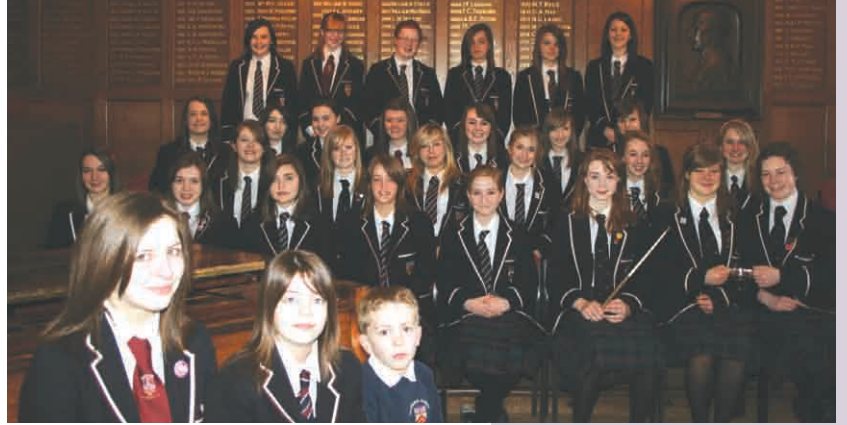
dancing Nativity drama this year was "Jesus' Christmas Party" which told the story of an irascible and sleepless Innkeeper (Angus Grierson) and his long-suffering wife (Elsbeth Stuart) kept from their well-earned night's slumber by an endless procession of exotic personages knocking at their door demanding to know where the party is ("it's round the back...!!). The rest, as they say, is history. The Twelve Days of Christmas, in the hands of P1, was slick and polished (this sounds like, and is, a compliment, but if we're honest we all prefer it when it doesn't quite go to plan) and the entire P1-Transitional population performing "Reindeer on the Roof" in Glorious Sensurround brought the proceedings to a smile-raising and feel-good conclusion.

Rector's Invitation Recital, March

The list of winners at the School Music Competition will reveal the identities of those who took part here – an impressive parade of players and singers who all, having emerged successful from the competitive arena, 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 Luke Scott (P2) singing "Katie Beardie had a coo" to Claire Lorden (S6) playing Debussy's "Doctor Gradus ad Parnassum" on the piano.

Spring Concert, March

Although the Secondary School can't quite claim the level of participation achieved by the Primary at Christmas, there can be few able-bodied Senior musicians who didn't play some part in this. We now have a very presentable and ever-improving 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 Rossini, Handel and Beethoven, with Offenbach's Can-Can to sign off. The rest of the programme represented a more or less complete review of all the groups and ensembles that are currently active in the Senior School – the String Orchestra, String Quartet, Flute Group, Junior String Ensemble, S1/2 Choir, Chamber Choir, Boys' Choir, Senior Choir, Swing Band, "Band Substance", Pipe Band and full Drum Corps – a programme so full that on this occasion, unusually, there was simply no time to feature any solo items.

OUTSIDE GIGS

Swing Band and String Quartet at the Hydro, November and February

"Pre-prandial entertainment" is becoming a bit of a speciality now. There were dates with the Perthshire Chamber of Commerce and the Scottish Fire Conference this session, and although these are background music gigs rather than concerts we can be sure that we are appreciated by the fact that both of these were return invitations.

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

Now very much a regular fixture of our musical calendar, this was the Chamber Choir's first outing under the direction of Mr Beetschen. A full programme including solos and ensemble items was much appreciated by the full house of parents, friends and members of the congregation. The Choir is plainly in a very safe pair of hands!

Music



Trinity/Guildhall Scottish Showcase Concert in Perth Concert Hall, March

Having previously provided "Foyer Music" with the Swing Band at this event, we were invited this year to take the main stage. The Pipe Band and Drum Corps did themselves proud, opening both halves of the concert, which also included an impressive variety of national and regional groups from across Scotland.

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

Once again, Morrison's was fortunate to be allotted a date for this annual concert on which most pupils were free of exam commitments and more than fifty of our musicians were able to take part. The event inevitably relies on re-runs of repertoire performed at previous concerts but is actually all the better for that; despite the general hurry and scurry of putting it all together at an impossibly busy time of year there is invariably a feeling of confidence about the singers and players which they don't have earlier in the year.

External Examinations and other Pupil Successes

The Department continues to present candidates for Trinity/Guildhall qualifications as well as Associated Board exams. By the time this issue of 'The Morrisonian' goes to press, over 60 pupils will have passed exams for both

boards. From the results currently available, special mention goes to Rachael Smart for passing Grade VIII Violin (AB) with Distinction, and to Andrew Blair for achieving Merit in his Grade VII Trombone (AB). Other AB Distinction level passes were achieved by Holly Boag (Singing Grade III), Rebecca Coffey (Flute Grade I) and Libby Dillon (Piano Grade I).

Claire Lorden has won a place to read Music at Edinburgh University. Being on the receiving end of offers from four other university music departments, she was spoiled for choice! We wish her all the best in her future studies.

Rachael Smart continues to establish her position in NYOS (National Youth Orchestra of Scotland). She also continues to attend the Junior Academy at RSAMD in Glasgow every Saturday. Congratulations to Andrew Blair who has gained a place in the trombone section of the National Children's Orchestra of Scotland (NCOS). Amy Smart is following in her sister's footsteps and has already attended two NCOS Training Courses with her cello. Emma Marnoch has recently been accepted to study singing at the RSAMD Saturday morning Junior Academy in Glasgow and will start in September 2009. Emily Harrison, Rachel Cram and Hannah Logan have continued to sing with the National Girls' Choir of Scotland.

The Perth Youth Orchestra has had another exciting season, including touring Poland last summer holiday and playing alongside the RSNO in concerts during January as well as their regular concerts and camps nearer to home. Morrisonians involved include Rachael Smart and Emily Harrison (violins), Harriet Smythe (viola), Amy Smart (cello) and Lindsey Macdonald (flute)

Department News

Mrs Susan Smart has rejoined the department as a full-time class teacher in succession to Joan Taylor. Since first coming to Morrison's in 1987 Mrs Smart has never been far away from the musical centre of things in the Crieff

Music

community. Serving as assistant to Mrs Alison Hunter until 1993 she then devoted herself to the worthy cause of producing and bringing up two Morrisonians-to-be whilst still retaining her connection with the school as visiting teacher of cello and piano and latterly resuming an increasing amount of class teaching. Things have now come full circle and we are all delighted to have her back where she undoubtedly seems to belong.

We also welcome Mrs Anne Holland, to do part-time class teaching (one day per week) as well as a day of piano teaching. Mrs Holland began her music teaching career in Midlothian before moving to Angus where she taught both Primary and Secondary music for almost 20 years. Relocating closer to her home she has, for the last 8 years, taught piano at Strathallan School. In addition to her teaching commitments, Mrs Holland is also very involved in a wide variety of music making in the local area.

There has been an unexpected but welcome upsurge in demand for piano lessons of late, to such an extent that it has taken three extra teachers to fill the gap left by Mrs Smart's return to the classroom. In addition to Mrs Holland we have also been pleased to welcome Mrs Alison Hogg and Mrs Barbara Murray to our peripatetic instrumental staff. Both have a wealth of experience, having taught in Perth and Kinross schools for many years, and we have been fortunate in securing their services.

Next Session

Morrisonians the world over will probably already be aware that next year (2010) is the 150th Anniversary of the foundation of the school. The Music Department would like to give generous advance intimation that a concert of lavish proportions is being planned for the Perth Concert Hall on Sunday June 20, 2010.

The intention is to involve as many as possible of the School Community in this event. We plan to perform John Rutter's beautiful Mass of the Children, chosen

because it involves two choirs (one to be made up of Primary + S1/2 and the other of senior pupils and adults) as well as orchestra.

All former pupils, parents, staff and friends of the school are invited to sing, and details about rehearsals will be published on the School website early next session. Competent string players are also asked to contact the department if they would like to be considered for a place in the orchestra for this piece. Our soloists will be Graeme Danby (principal bass at English National Opera) and Valerie Reid.

In addition, we have commissioned a set of Scots Song arrangements for the Chamber Choir from Michael Neaum.

The concert will also feature the Orchestra and Pipe Band performing together in magnificent harmony, so all in all this promises to be an occasion to remember.

H Duthie



The Munich Music Exchange



For the second year running, the week before the October Half Term echoed to the sounds of Bavarian voices and music being sung and played with a German/Scottish accent. Two home fixtures in a row have now not only redressed the balance of hospitality between Morrison's Academy and Louise Schroeder Gymnasium but also put our own pupils favourably in phase with our bi-annual Hockey and Rugby trips, enabling sporting musicians in future years freely to indulge both of their passions.

Whereas the 2007 exchange was built around a Swing Band / Big Band theme, choirs were the focus this time round. On astonishingly little rehearsal time Mr Beetschen succeeded in coaxing some

extremely polished results from an enormous combined group of boys and girls from both schools, with both managing to sing more than convincingly, unaccompanied, in Scots and German. We don't usually print complete concert programmes in the Morrisonian, but on this occasion it must be justified in order to demonstrate the huge variety of accomplishment that is generated by this international gathering of young musicians:

First Half

Pipe Band

Choirs: Mairi's Wedding; Abschied vom Walde; My Heart is Like a Singing Bird

Drum Fanfare

Duet: LSG Girls singing Mendelssohn - Herbstlied

Band Substance: Big Spender, Hernando's Hideaway

String Quartet: Mozart - Menuet and Trio from Eine Kleine Nachtmusik

LSG Choir: The Lion King

Choirs: The Rhythm of Life

Second Half

Bands: Burritos To Go; Fly Me To The Moon; Take Five)

Choirs: Flying Free; The Man I Love

Duets: Morrison's Girls singing Ye Banks and Braes; Vivaldi - Laudamus Te

Chamber Choir: Elgar - Fly, Singing Bird, Fly

Band Substance: Swingin' Safari; There's No Business

Flute Duet: Bizet - Intermezzo from Carmen

Violins: Bach - Double Vln Concerto, 2nd mvt.

Bands: Night Train, Discover the Blues, Gimme Some Lovin'

The Munich Music Exchange

Rehearsing and performing all this was evidently the main thrust of the week but as usual, time was also found to put on a (less formal) hour of music in the Hydro Ballroom and to revel in the customary Ceilidh in Academy Hall (itself a pretty impressive display of all the performing arts: Proclaimers, beware!)

Another International Quiz session, organized by Mr Coffey, yet another Farmyard Party hosted by the endlessly-hospitable Tainsh family, a visit to Stirling Castle and the Wallace Monument and countless other educational and social happenings great and small – all these went to make up a memorable week.

Twenty-nine Morrisonians will be returning to Munich in October 2009 to carry on and build on this wonderful partnership. On the menu will be Handel's Messiah and a Haydn Symphony, but Jeremiah the Bullfrog will certainly feature strongly as well, and the skirl of the pipes will undoubtedly resound through the foothills of the Alps when we again visit the Bayerische Musikakademie at Marktoberdorf. Can't wait.....

H Duthie



Oklahoma!



What the papers say!

Rodgers and Hammerstein's 'Oklahoma!' is one of the best known musicals of all time. It has delighted audiences since its first performance over 65 years ago and Morrison's Academy's up-tempo production which filled the Academy Hall for three nights last week did not fail to capture the essence of this well loved classic.

The enthusiasm and energy of the young cast quickly rubbed off on the packed house to create an electric atmosphere from beginning to end.

Filled with toe-tapping favourites, 'Oklahoma!' is a superb choice for a school production and Morrison's pulled out all the strings to set the scene before the show even began.

Members of the audience entered the venue through a stunning wooden 'Oklahoma!' arch, similar to those found on a ranch and, once in the hall, were welcomed by cowboys and girls (hired in from the PSA) who were serving up Wagon Wheels and Vimto to all.

They say true love never runs smoothly and this is certainly the case for 'Oklahoma!'s' central characters Curly (David Innes) and Laurey (Mel Stephen).

Despite the optimism of the opening number - 'Oh What A Beautiful Morning', sung with great confidence, Curly finds himself knocked back by Laurey who opts, somewhat stubbornly to agree to go to the box social dance with the sinister and dark-natured farmhand Jud (David Maitland-Gardner).

Their relationship is mirrored in some ways by the flirtatious and refreshingly honest Ado Annie (Rachel Cram), the girl who "Can't Say No" and her fiance, the lassoo spinning Will Parker (Andrew Tainsh) and her other love interest, the comical Persian Peddler Ali Hakim (Stephen Lafferty), who had a twang of Navid from 'Still Game'.

Then there is Aunt Eller played by the fantastic Harriet Smythe, who, despite her youthful years, assumed the role with ease.

Mention also to Emma Robertson, who mastered the irritating laugh of Gertie Cummings to a tee; Duncan Stewart as Andrew Carnes, Ado Annie's ever patient father; along with David Macdonald, Rachael Smart, Emily Harrison, Ronald Guthrie and Ross Jack, who all played their roles well.

They were accompanied by some fine singing from the chorus of 16 plus a guest appearance from the "Magnificent Seven" (they know who they are - let's just say the teachers showed off their talents too!).

Artistic Director Mrs Longmuir, assisted by Mr McMillan and Musical Directors Mr Duthie and Mrs Smart, should be very proud of their cast.

Mr Duthie's obvious enjoyment was there for all to see as he conducted the orchestra which was made up of talented pupils and augmented by teachers.

The set designs were simple but stunning. I especially loved the smoke house scene, which was appropriately claustrophobic and the use of the timber frame during the auction. Lighting and costumes were also spot on helping to create the mood. As for the gunshots - how loud were they?

This was a stunning production filled with beautiful singing (the full ensemble singing of the song "Oklahoma" made the hairs rise on the back of my neck), some great choreography and a cast and crew brimming with talent. Well done to all involved.

Caroline Boxer
Strathearn Heard

Oklahoma!



Oklahoma!



CO-CURRICULAR



Combined Cadet Force (CCF)



As Morrison's Academy CCF approaches its centenary in 2010 the Contingent remains in fine fettle. This report aims to give an overview of the wide range of activities undertaken by the cadets and hopes to explain why the CCF remains the largest extra-curricular club in the School.

Summer Camp 2008

During the first week of the summer holidays, 76 intrepid cadets headed to Nesscliff Camp in Shropshire. That number accounted for over 80% of all pupils in the CCF and pays testimony to the popularity of the event. They were about to embark upon an action packed week of varied activities. On Sunday they deployed into the field to begin a two-day training package. The first day had been planned by Morrison's Academy staff and comprised of section attacks and ambushes. The skills were taught by Cadet Sergeant Major Vicki Henderson and Cadet Colour Sergeant Sandy Jackson. The audience was then given a demonstration of how to undertake the various tasks by the Military Skills Squad before being given time to rehearse them in their individual sections. In both cases the sections then had the chance to carry out a blank firing run through of the task. On Monday, 32 Cadet Training Team laid on an outstanding and innovative package which covered arrest

techniques, hostage rescue drills and vehicle check point drills. For many this was the high point of the week.

By Tuesday the temperature was starting to rise and the day was split between paint-balling at nearby Rednal and canoeing on Ellesmere. The paint-balling gave the cadets the chance to shoot members of staff legally. However, they did find out that the staff shot back! On Wednesday the Contingent split into four-man Fire Teams and undertook a competition that had been planned by the School's staff. They were tested on a variety of subjects including shooting, First Aid, orienteering, command tasks and observation. In a very closely fought competition, James Thomson managed to lead his team to victory.

On Thursday the second day of Adventure Training began and abseiling and rock climbing were the order of the day. The abseiling was a true test of nerve as cadets descended a one hundred metre cliff. From a staff point of view, it was interesting to note how some of the normally vocal cadets became suddenly silent. The final day saw an Inter-School competition which had been organised by 32 Cadet Training Team. Morrison's entered both a girls' team and a mixed-sex team. Throughout the day the cadets gave it their all and were rewarded by winning the prize for both best girls team and the best mixed team. As well as this, they won the assault course, gun-run, tug of war and map reading stands. The Contingent was piped to the prize giving ceremony by Andrew Tainsh and received their medals from the General Officer Commanding 5th Division. This was a fitting end to an outstanding effort over the course of the week.

On the final evening Duncan Campbell was made the Cadet Sergeant Major for 2008-9. In addition, five other fifth years were promoted to Cadet Sergeant in anticipation of their work next academic session.

Final thanks must be made to 2/Lt Mark Philp (ex-Morrisonian and now member

Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

of Oswestry School CCF) and WO1 (RSM) Craig Derrigan of Shropshire ACF who gave up their time to assist Morrison's Academy CCF throughout Summer Camp.

Autumn Term

The year began with a bang as the Contingent had to prepare for the forthcoming Biennial Inspection in mid-September. The inspecting officer was Colonel Jim Wilson, TA Colonel of 51 (Scottish Brigade). He was piped into the School by Andrew Tainsh and given a series of presentations about CCF activities by a select group of senior cadets. Thereafter, the Colonel was taken to Dallerie playing fields, where the rest of the cadets were partaking in an Inter-House competition. He was guided around the various stances by Duncan Campbell, the Cadet Sergeant Major. All the various stances were run by S6 cadets who were able to brief their visitor on the nature of their individual task. The day finished on a high with the hotly contested tug-of-war: this marked the end of the inspection. The Contingent received a clean bill of health in the form of a glowing report which gave particular praise to the enthusiasm of the cadets and adult staff.

Over the first weekend in October a group of cadets drawn from S3 to S6 competed in the annual inter-schools Military Skills Competition. They lived out in the field and over two days completed eleven different events. Despite some horrendous weather on Saturday the team gave a very credible performance, winning the map reading stand and narrowly losing out in the final of the shooting competition. In the end they missed out on medals and had to content themselves with the knowledge that they came fifth out of the seventeen CCFs who are eligible to compete.

At the start of November, Mr Buchan took all the S4 cadets to Dunkeld Weekend Training Centre for their Methods of Instruction course. This highly

successful weekend marks the start of their formal training as future leaders. Whilst all the subject matter is based around military subjects such as weapons training or drill instruction, the aim of the weekend is to develop each cadet's ability to communicate with confidence and teach others a skill. This is truly a life-long skill. Over the same weekend the remainder of the Contingent joined the British Legion's Remembrance Day parade in Crieff. With in excess of 50 cadets participating, the CCF was the largest body on the parade and played a significant role in what was a fitting ceremony.

Over the course of the term a small group of S6 cadets had been undergoing a weapon training package in order to allow them to instruct the S2 recruits in the Spring and Summer term. They were to be put in sole charge of a squad of eager new cadets and were prepared in a thorough manner by Lt Zoe Scott.

The S3 and S4 cadets followed their own respective training packages with as much of the instruction as possible given by members of S6. The topics varied from basic fieldcraft, to map reading and first aid. The S6 cadets rose to the challenge and produced high quality results.

The main highlight in December was the move into the new stores building. The rather dilapidated original building had been bulldozed and, phoenix-like, a new made-to-measure construction gradually appeared. Mr Buchan now luxuriates in a building which does not leak, has purpose built storage facilities and even has running water! Despite all this excitement he still managed to run an expedition training day for his Gold Duke of Edinburgh group. On a more serious note it did mean that the indoor range was now available for .22 shooting as it has been temporary home to all the stores.



Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

Spring Term

On the first Sunday after the holidays 38 S2 recruits embarked on the career in the CCF. They undertook an induction day which gave them an introductory shoot with the .22 rifle in the indoor range, saw them attempt to come to grips with foot drill, get taught how to care for their uniform and begin their training package with the cadet rifle. The main focus of the term was the completion of their weapon handling tests. This ensures that they have reached a mandatory level of competence before being allowed to fire their rifles. The fact that such a large group completed this process, in a relatively smooth manner, is down to the competent instruction given by the S6s responsible for each squad.

The remainder of the Contingent were gainfully occupied in a wide variety of activities as the term progressed, under the watchful eyes of their S6 instructors. In mid-March the CCF competed in the Country Life Shoot, a national small-bore shoot which is open to any cadet organisation. The shooting teams had been prepared by Mr Buchan throughout the term in his after-school shooting club. The results were as follows:

First Team – 10th Place

Second Team – 14th Place

Third Team – 20th Place

In total 84 entered the competition. The Second Team won the Gordon Winter Salver for the top Second Team outside the top three places in the overall competition.

Just before the Easter holidays Mr Buchan and Lieutenant Barr ran the second expedition training day for the Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. This year will see four separate Silver groups going on their expeditions and three completing the Silver expedition. The Scheme remains highly popular in the CCF and the vast majority of S5 cadets received their Silver Award and the S6 matched this with an impressive haul of Golds.



Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

Summer Term

The summer term proved to be a hectic time with two main areas to focus on: the first being the traditional Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. This year saw record numbers going out on the Silver expeditions. The practice expedition took place in glorious sunshine and both Mr Black and Mr McKeever looked like well cooked lobsters afterwards! Mr Buchan's Gold group endured a wet and windy practice expedition near Bridge of Orchy and certain cadets, who will remain nameless, learnt the importance of waterproofing their rucksacks. The final expeditions took place in June with Lieutenant Barr's Silver group heading to Loch Laggan and the Gold group going to the Cairngorms. In both cases the cadets encountered stunning scenery, learnt about themselves and their colleagues and got to operate in a very remote environment.

The other main activity during the term was the conversion training that all cadets and adult instructors alike underwent on the new cadet rifle. It is based on the standard issue rifle that all service personnel use and has a self-loading capacity. What this means to cadets is that it is a lot easier to use and fire. To achieve this conversion many of the normal summer term activities like S2 rock climbing were cancelled and Sergeant Belsham, from 21 Cadet Training Team, and I tested over 100 cadets on a continual rolling basis.

90 cadets have signed up for annual camp at Wathgill in North Yorkshire and the programme looks varied and exciting. This is the largest ever number of cadets that Morrison's has taken to camp. This accounts for over 90% of those who will be in the CCF next year. During the summer holidays, Oliver Jones is going to join a RN CCF expedition to Andorra and cover the Second World War trans-Pyrenees escape route that British servicemen used to escape from Nazi occupied Europe. Another group of other cadets is heading to one of the centres for cadet



adventure training in Cumbria to complete a series of activities ranging from caving to kayaking. All these activities are heavily subsidised by the MOD.

Hopefully you have gained a good idea of the wide variety of activities in which our cadets are involved. All of this is down to the support and time that they are given by 21 Cadet Training Team, Mr Buchan, Captains McDermott and Willmore, Lieutenants Barr and Scott and the soon to be Second Lieutenant Black. Duncan Campbell, the Cadet Sergeant Major, has given me a huge amount of support, as have all the S6 cadets. Without this large team, the CCF would be unable to function.

M Clayton
Officer Commanding Morrison's
Academy CCF

Duke of Edinburgh Award



“Our Numbers Keep On Climbing”

It might become the new D of E slogan, but in the meantime it applies to what we are achieving at Morrison’s.

At the end of his first official visit in February, Barry Fisher, the Award Director for Scotland, extended his congratulations to all the participants for their enthusiastic involvement in the Award. In particular he was impressed by the number of completions at all levels. They stand up well when compared with most other centres. It is inevitable that circumstances vary and change, so that some drop out. However, it is a real credit that so many keep up their different activities – even though it is a struggle at times.

To prove the point, out of 43 non-CCF participants who could have finished a particular level, only 12 are still completing. Of the 33 in the CCF groups completing Silver or Gold, it looks as if only 5 are unlikely to finish for one reason or another. This shows incredible commitment from parents and helpers too.

In July 2008 another large number of certificates was handed out at Holyrood Palace. Photographs of this event were taken by Mr Gray, Catie’s father. In July 2009 yet another record will be set with 26 Gold Awards being presented.

The end of term presentations have also included 14 Bronze and 11 Silver Awards. As always, the range of activities continues to amaze, with tae-kwon-do and mountain biking entering the equation. There is also a huge range of skills like singing, bag-piping and cookery. What a happy kitchen that must be!

Barry Fisher was also highly complimentary about the commitment of so many members of staff. Once again everyone participating in DofE is grateful to the many helpers in the school and beyond who make the activities possible.

D Allan



Chess Club

The chess club has again run fairly successfully throughout terms one and two.

The Secondary group has been well attended and produced good results from a wide range of S1 to S5 pupils. There is keen competition amongst these pupils.

The Primary group has had its diehards throughout the two terms, but again numbers have been a little disappointing. A large number of Transitional pupils began the year, but regular attendance was thereafter quite limited, as pupils had to choose between chess and a number of other opportunities which came their way.

Taking pupils in from P5 helped to swell the group and some made real progress. This should help encourage the growth of the overall club next session.

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 good spirit.

Primary Competition

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

Secondary Competition

- 1st Grahams
- 2nd Drummonds
- 3rd= Campbells
Murrays

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

A Law

The Escape Committee

The sheer variety of activities that the members of the Escape Committee have turned their hands to this session continues to build. Surfing, cycling, archery, quad biking and extreme ironing have all featured at some point.

The Escape Committee exists to offer our students an opportunity to apply the skills they learn in a variety of clubs around the school by journeying to and through remoter areas of Scotland.

This summer we have added a charitable effort to our ventures by completing a relay cycling journey attempting to get as far away from school as possible during hours of day light on, or nearly on, the longest day of the year. The sponsorship funds raised will be added to the school's Malawi project.

But most of all The Escape Committee is there to offer the opportunity for our young people to learn something rather different about themselves and each other while going places and doing things they otherwise would not normally do. When is it your turn?

R Anderson



Debating



Debating Society

In praise of the spoken word

In this year of inspection, minds have been focused on the question of how to measure success, by quality, attainment or participation. Morrison's debaters have scored very highly on each of these indicators. We have talented teams at all levels: we have broken to finals and more pupils have been involved in debating that at any time in recent history. At all levels throughout the secondary school, debating is thriving.

One of the most pleasing aspects of the work of the Debating Society this year has been the involvement of so many S1 pupils. They are a loyal and supportive group, and have developed skills which we would not normally expect to see until S3 or S4. Naomi Gillies, Adam Davie, Katie Hiscocks, Rosie Beech, Kirsty Dick, Ellie Goddard, Christie Carswell, Jemma Murphy, Lauren Strickland, Alison Christmas and Emily Graham have all made our Friday lunchtime sessions fun and thought-provoking. From these foundations they have sallied forth into the world of competitive debating, with Naomi and Ellie arguing in the Courier competition first round for a ban on all mainland domestic flights in the UK. Some of these speakers also made their mark at the Glenalmond Cup, with Katie and Lauren earning a place in the final.

In S2 we have seen Sally Andrews and Katie White hone their analytical skills and successfully challenge more experienced teams. In the Courier

competition they proposed the abolition of all laws prohibiting cruelty to animals, and opposed the lifting of all embargoes on Cuba. Their run ended though in the semi-final with their valiant attempts to remove public funding of the BBC. They also made their mark in the English Speaking Union Juniors' Competition, opposing a ban on smoking, and then supporting the election of police chiefs. Their achievements for an S2 team have been exceptional and this is a pairing to watch next year.

In S3 Marianne Inglis and Alex Johnston worked extremely hard with some tough motions and might consider themselves unlucky not to have broken to finals. Amongst other motions, they argued for a ban on the physical punishment of children by parents, and a ban on music which glorifies crime. Their run in the Courier competition was derailed by the fiendishly difficult motion that Jerusalem should be made a UN Protectorate. Solving the Middle East crisis in two five minute speeches is a tall order for anyone! Both speakers successfully tested the waters in senior competition, with Marianne almost qualifying for Oxford Finals Day. As they continue on their debating journey, we are sure more of this will follow.

This moves us towards the senior end of the school. The main difference between junior and senior debating is that whereas juniors have the luxury of researching a motion and preparing a case over several weeks, seniors are given just fifteen minutes preparation time. It takes nerve, confidence, strategy and not a little bluff. The Society has a wealth of talent in these most demanding of skills. Emma Robertson and Ruth Thomson of S4 are astonishingly good and were one of two Morrison's teams to break to the Glasgow University Schools final. They also established their reputations on the senior circuit by their performances in the Durham University Schools competition.

Pride of place, however, must go to Arthur Learoyd (S6) and Catherine Lovegrove (S5). This pairing broke to Finals

Debating

Day at both Oxford and Cambridge Unions, a first in recent history. They competed at the highest level in the UK and can take pride in their final placing of 9th in Cambridge having competed against the 32 best teams. Elsewhere they argued that the London Olympics should ban athletes who represent dictatorial regimes, and also proposed the patient's right to die. In a year where we have entered fewer Scottish competitions than normal, Catherine's development this year has been exceptional and she is fulfilling her potential as a top speaker in competitions by qualifying for the finals of each short preparation competition that she has entered.

This academic year saw two world championships. Former pupil Sandy Jackson and the Scottish team had an excellent run in Washington, reaching the semi-finals of the World Schools' Debating Competition. Arthur Learoyd was then selected for the Scottish team in Athens. Arthur underwent intensive training before the competition and played a key role in the success of the Scottish team who progressed to the quarter-finals of the competition. He has been an inspiring role model to junior pupils, showing that it can be cool to be bright. As the school's Captain of Debating he has played an important role in training our junior teams particularly with his memorable performance in our Christmas debating assembly. Thank you, Arthur.

We very much hope that all of our speakers continue the proud tradition of international honours which is developing at Morrison's. Catherine Lovegrove and Emma Robertson have both been selected in the top 16 speakers for the 2009-2010 development squad. This will give them the opportunity to train with the current World University Champion Will Jones, and from this distinguished group five will be chosen to compete in the 2010 World Championships in Qatar.

Competitions and participation aside, one of our proudest moments this year has to be the visit of Lord Robertson of Port Ellen to the society. After a light lunch

with members of the society Lord Robertson, former Secretary General of NATO, and Emma Robertson went head to head with Catherine and Arthur in Memorial Hall on the motion "This House believes that international interventions should be avoided at all costs". Lord Robertson and his partner won the day as one might expect, but not before the Morrison's pair had rigorously tested the case for international intervention. This was a fabulous opportunity for all the senior school to experience debating of the highest standard and to face up to the difficulties of international politics.

The year ended with another high point - a training day led by James Dray, current University World Champion debater. He is a celebrity in the debating world and it was inspirational for our speakers to work with him. For a society which spends so much of its time focusing on the structure and analysis of a speech it was refreshing and very helpful to have a day dedicated to style. We would never advocate style over substance but it is important to recognize the power of a well-presented speech.

So the inspectors came and went. Debating earned praise in their final report. All the talk now is of "A Curriculum for Excellence". As a society we stay determined to work towards success in quality, attainment and participation. Debating has a clear role in the future development of Scottish education and its value should never be underestimated.

P Lovegrove
P Boal



Debating



World Schools' Debating Competition

Athens 2009

Debating is only one part of WSDC. It's possibly the most important part, given that it was why we were there, but there was much more to the experience than just that. But let's start off there: it was demanding, especially since the competition coincided with prelims, making January a pretty tiring month, but mostly because the format differed from what I was used to by more than I had initially thought (slower delivery – though thankfully in English; more rebuttal; more examples). It was also enjoyable though, with a more diverse set of arguments and styles arising from the international nature of the competition. Looking for an overriding theme across the range of motions would be difficult, but I guess it all boiled down to 'big' questions in ethics, politics, economics and the like, rather than the more specific issues that often crop up in domestic competitions.

Competitively, we reached the quarter-finals, which was a great achievement; all the more so because we had serious worries about even reaching the knock-out stages after a string of losses in the latter half of the preliminaries.

But as I pointed out earlier, WSDC is not just about debating, and neither should this piece of writing be. There was

definitely a 'cultural-experience' aspect to it: Athens itself was a fitting venue, given its ancient past and the links between what we were doing and the politics and philosophy of that period. This, and other aspects of Greek tradition – most frequently dance – were the thrust of the opening ceremony and the pre-debating entertainment put on by the (very accommodating) host-schools, at which the rounds took place. As a city, it was not really what I had previously imagined, being much more modern, though with pockets of ancient architecture being powerful reminders of its history.

The most striking thing about WSDC was not that it was intellectually or culturally stimulating, though it was both of these things – it was that the 10 days I spent in Athens were really fun. This was largely a product of the company we were in – debaters tend to be interesting people, and the conversation was never boring. Our team of five knew each other from the outset, because the Scottish debating circuit is pretty small, but debating and preparing alongside, rather than against, each other was an entertaining new experience. This was coupled with meeting lots of new people from all over the world, who were all incredibly friendly.

I hadn't previously been to an international event like this, and the opportunity to enjoy all of these new experiences was phenomenal. It was a brilliant 10 days, and has also helped my debating back in Scotland too, since the training we received from our coach before and during the championships was tremendously helpful.

Arthur Learoyd S6

Debating

World Schools' Debating Competition Washington 2008

One of the greatest honours a person can achieve is to walk out and represent their country. In September 2008, I had the exceptional experience of doing this at the World Schools' Debating Championships in Washington. This may not have quite the same glamour as the Olympics or the football World Cup but it still proved to be a valuable and worthwhile experience.

As with so many other new experiences, I was somewhat unsure what to expect but the competition delivered on many fronts. Clearly the debating was excellent with a chance to debate at a very high level against some excellent opposition and with high quality judging. To reach the semi-finals and for Scotland to have a place in the top four was a dream come true.

However, for me it was the social aspect of the competition which will provide my enduring memories. It offered a unique chance to meet people from all over the world who all shared a common interest and I made friends from all corners. I now feel that wherever I travel in the world, I have a better understanding of the people and, in many cases, a friend to drop in and visit. This is what I will really take away from the championships and will hopefully hold onto for many years to come.

Sandy Jackson
Former Pupil

My Debating Experience

In a recent lunchtime meeting for the junior debaters, Mrs Boal asked them what their favourite, and least favourite, aspects of a debate were; the situations they most enjoyed and those they feared. This got me thinking about what my own answers to those questions would be now, and what I would have said when I first began debating, all those years back, in S2. It is striking how much has changed, and the best, most fascinating thing about being captain of debating is seeing people's debating develop as mine did over the years. Watching the S1s debate during their lunchtime sessions, and offering feedback, blurs the lines between debater, judge and coach, which provides a thoroughly different experience. It's nice to feel like you're helping people, even if only slightly, become better at this pretty daunting activity.

My first debate was a real in-at-the-deep-end experience: I was asked a couple of days before the event if I would do a debate on an EU constitution - I wasn't even sure what a constitution was. It was pretty nerve-wracking, and I remember being thrown by an obscure point of information from another speaker. I suppose that my first few years as a debater were characterised by a lack of confidence (well, that and a lack of knowledge, general or otherwise, which extended



Debating

beyond my school subjects). A response to the question about my biggest fear would have been epic in scope, if nothing else: from coming up against the behemoths of the great debating schools on the circuit to being confronted with a motion about current affairs (I remember imploding when, in Durham one year, I had to ask Sandy, "What is Hamas?" when the motion was announced); all of it scared me.

Now, things are different, at least in terms of how I think about debates. Rather than going into competitions, let alone finals, filled with dread, I look forward to them. I no longer worry about speeches, but instead feel comfortable delivering them, even writing them during the debate itself, if we have to follow another team on our side of the table. This is because debating builds confidence, or at least gives us the tools to mask over a lack of it - it takes a shy, introverted boy like me, aged 14 and with a generic short haircut, and turns him into someone with a frankly ridiculous haircut who, if still somewhat shy and introverted, is much less visibly so. And it's not all scary, trial-by-fire stuff - the judges at competitions, some particularly so, are usually very helpful, offering criticism that is always constructive. Indeed, competitions for the first few years of someone's debating career are not really about winning or losing, but about acquiring the skills and experience so that you can then go on to focus on that stuff. At least that's how I looked at things.

Likewise, debating has made me more informed. I now know a little about a lot, and though Mrs Boal still questions my grasp of economic theory and knowledge of football, I at least know what an oligopoly is, so won't respond with vacuous and generic waffle if I ever hear it in a debate again. Partially that's because success ultimately demands that you be well-read, particularly about political and economic issues (there's a reason that every team at competitions wields an issue of 'The Economist': it's our oxygen, our water, our food - we need it to survive on the table). More

than that, though, it fosters interest - I now care about these issues. If you had told me even two years ago that I would do a degree in history and POLITICS, I would have never have believed it.

So debating has had a pretty major, transformational impact on my time at school. But it's also meant a lot of other things. Most importantly, it's pretty good fun to go to debating competitions. The actual debating can be pretty entertaining - there's a real sense of achievement when you make an argument that just works, and it's pretty satisfying to unleash that point of information that shatters the opposition case. If only that could happen more often, I'd have been set. Coming up with a case is an interesting challenge - the 15 minutes of prep time amount to a mad frenzy to get down as many ideas as you can (or, more realistically, to wrack your brain and, if you're lucky, get the barest bones of 2, maybe 3 points that you have to turn into 10 minutes of speech). Speaking first on the table sounds great initially - no other teams stealing your beautifully-formed points - but there's a good reason that it's considered, almost universally, to be the most frustrating position: you have to write your speech as well as come up with points in the 15 minutes, so I have found that it is inevitably incoherent. When you get good at it though, like everything else in debating, there's a great sense of accomplishment.

You get to travel all across the UK and go to some really great places: Oxford, Cambridge, Durham, and these tend to be the highpoints of the year, being big competitions with teams from all over Britain (and sometimes even further beyond). This ties into the fact that you meet some great people, and gradually become absorbed into this culture of debating.

The fact that debating is not at all boring is something I have tried to emphasise to people at school who are not involved with the society. Sure, it can get pretty nerdy, though in an

Debating

endearing way (I remember going to a debating party, yes, a debating 'party', at which the conversation did at one point turn to different tabbing systems and the relative merits thereof) and, both on and off the table, it can be fun and sometimes hilarious. I tried to emphasise this in an assembly before Christmas, which placed the emphasis on humour - perhaps unrealistically so, but it got the point across: debating is not all big words and intellect (though that's still a pretty big part of it). Bizarrely, that was well-received.

It's probably one of my better debating memories. This year alone, though, there have been some pretty impressive highlights: WSDC, debating with Lord Robertson, but the best all-time moment was the one time that Sandy and I actually won something (Glasgow University Union schools competition, when I was in S5). The thing is though, that I could write a whole report just listing good things and bad things, but the 'experience' is rather more holistic. It's about the more general enjoyment we gain both in the debate chamber and outside it. As it turns out, there's quite a lot of it to be gained.

Thanks are owed to Mrs Boal and Mr Lovegrove, whose support, encouragement and willingness to endure excruciatingly long train journeys over the past 5 years has been so essential to me enjoying and benefitting from debating as much as I have.

Arthur Learoyd S6
Captain of Debating



Eco Group



This year we established an Eco Committee with representatives from every class in the Primary: one member from the P1, 2 and 3 classes and 2 members from each P4 to Transitional classes. This meant a committee of 19 pupils – which explains how we managed to achieve so much this year! Everything, of course, was kicked off by our inaugural Green Day which involved litter picks around Crieff, dressing up in costumes made from recyclable materials and workshops led by environmental experts.

The committee have been working in 3 separate groups on different areas: School Grounds, Health, and Waste Minimisation. Each group created an Action Plan of jobs they wanted to tackle, when they would be done and who would do them. They met every Wednesday during form time and often in their own free time too, in order to work through their Action Plans. In addition to this the whole P5 year group and the P1 and P2 Committee members took responsibility for overseeing any Litter issues, as well as the Eco Club exploring a range of environmental issues and activities.

The School Grounds group, helped by Mr. Speck, have ensured the maintenance of the Quiet Area, organised for vegetables to be planted out (which some P1s and 2s got involved with) and will continue to work on plans to make further improvements to the campus, having spoken to the Bursar to present their ideas. These ideas include a bird bath and bat box for the Eco Garden, friendship benches under the trees on the knoll, and hopscotch and snakes and ladders games on the tarmac.

The Health group, with Mrs. Dickinson helping, worked hard to achieve the installation of water fountains around the campus. Initially, they carried out a survey of the primary children to ascertain whether or not water fountains would be used. Next, they collated the results and prepared a presentation for the Bursar and delivered it to him. Finally, the water fountains were ordered and installed in March. They are now working on improving the choice and variety of extra healthy options at refectory. Megan Airey, T.A, explains, "We want there to be quite a few different fruits to choose from every day. We would like to be served fresh fruit juice and have researched the cost of buying an orange juicer so the refectory staff can prepare it on the premises."

The Waste Minimisation group, helped out by Miss Harvey, have been responsible for the maintenance of the Primary Recycling Station and the introduction of the Weekly Recycling competition. This competition has been a favourite with all pupils of the primary because the class which wins each week earns 10 minutes of extra playtime on a Friday. The group have noticed a huge increase in the amount of items being recycled. Jamie Coupland, P5H commented, "Before the competition, hardly anything was ever put in the bins. Now they need emptied every week!"

The Waste Minimisation team also researched the benefits of composting, the cost of a compost bin and enquired who would use a bin for composting their waste. Mrs Farnan and Mr McDermott

Eco Group

were both keen to have the use of a compost bin for somewhere to dispose of the waste generated in their departments. Advised by Mr. Speck, the compost bin has been placed next to the new vegetable patch.

This group are also responsible for the continuation of the paper recycling collection whereby one class each week is responsible for collecting all paper to be recycled and taking it down to the paper bin.

Primary 5 carried out a litter audit of the whole school campus back in October and found that on the whole, there was very little litter. However, in order to become a Green Flag school, Morrison's cannot have any litter whatsoever, so P.5 devised an Action Plan to aim to eradicate litter from the campus completely. The most significant measure they have implemented so far is the litter picking rota which is similar to the paper collection, except each class takes a turn to do a quick litter pick of the Primary playing areas to make sure everything is nice and litter free. The children prepared an explanation of the scheme to present at assembly so that all pupils knew what their aims were.

Harry Bath, P1, and Robbie Loudon, P2, our youngest committee members conducted Friday litter audits of the infants playing areas with Miss Harvey. This job was made all the easier by the large number of extra helpers who wanted to lend a hand! Each Friday lunchtime, they had a close look around for any litter, counting each piece as it was put in the bin bag. The total was recorded and displayed on the Eco Wall. The idea was that the total number would gradually reduce, and guess what? It did!

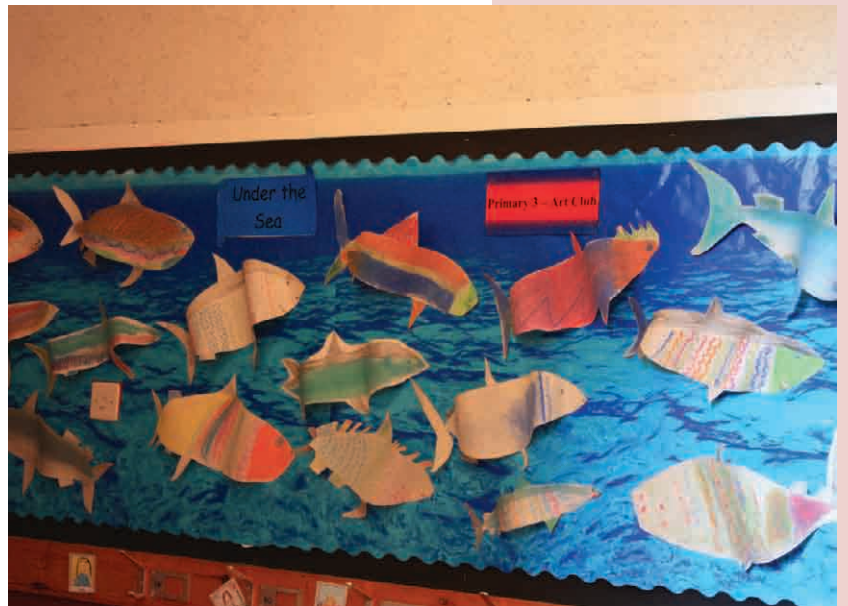
Our Eco Tree is blooming with each leaf representing a job done by members of the committee. All their efforts have been rewarded with special 'Eco Walks' led by Mr. Speck. All committee members are invited and they are encouraged to bring family members, friends and dogs!

F Harvey

Primary Art

The lunchtime Art Club aims to foster in pupils the enjoyment of art. This year, with Primary 3, emphasis has been placed on developing drawing, painting and paper skills. Activities included: making bookmarks, using glass paints to personalise pencil cases, making 3-D cards, creating dolphin mosaics, origami and painting pottery. Pupils worked together and provided each other with inspiration, whilst enjoying the variety of art techniques on offer.

G Wilkie
K McCain



Pipe Band



The Pipe Band 'year' got off to a very positive start at the parents' evening on 26 August when 11 new pupils registered with Scott Murray for chanter lessons and Michelle Stewart welcomed another 4 new drummers proving that enthusiasm for the band continues to grow, providing further encouragement and possibilities for future development and expansion.

The band, in full or in part, performed on no fewer than 19 occasions during the year. These included customary performances at school events such as Founder's Day, the MAPA Christmas Fayre, The Morrisonian Club Reunion, Sports' Day and Speech Day and the now traditional involvement in Crieff community events such as the Remembrance Day Parade and switching-on of the Christmas lights.

Further afield, on 14 November, David Maitland Gardner, Ben Vardi, Andrew Tainsh and Douglas Guthrie competed in the annual Quartets & Trios Competition

at George Heriot's in Edinburgh acquitting themselves well in the face of very strong competition.

Edinburgh was also the venue for the annual Independent Schools Pipe Band Beating Retreat where, on 21 May, the band joined eight others to participate in this impressive spectacle on the Castle Esplanade to the obvious delight of the many spectators and the warm spring evening helped to make the event a memorable occasion.

Whilst these annual events provide regular occasions for the Band to play together in public, it is always good to have the challenge of new opportunities and this year has provided a wealth of those.

Certainly the biggest opportunity of the year came on 24 January when a hugely successful Burns Supper, with the support of so many parents and friends, raised over £6,000. It was a very enjoyable evening, due mainly to the enormous amount of work done by the organising committee and thanks to their efforts, the band now has four much-needed new No.1 uniforms.

On 1 March, both halves of the Scottish Schools Showcase in Perth Concert Hall concert were opened with separate and combined performances from the pipers and the drum corps. A very appreciative audience enjoyed the spectacle of the drum 'salsa' and a spine-tingling performance of MacPherson's Lament by the pipers. This was not just a musical challenge, as the band were obliged to march both up and down steps through the audience whilst playing just to reach the stage; but happily it was carried off with aplomb thus providing early, positive experience of the venue in anticipation of the School's 150th Anniversary concert there next year.

Just two days later, on 3 March, the Drum Corps and the competition quartet were in action again, this time at the Rector's Recital in Memorial Hall. The Band does not normally perform at this event, it being principally for orchestral instruments, but, as the School was in the midst of inspection by Her Majesty's

Pipe Band

Inspectorate of Education, it was an unmissable opportunity to demonstrate such a vibrant aspect of the School's co-curricular activities.

The band were on stage again on 17 March, this time in Academy Hall performing as part of the Senior School's Spring Concert and again delighted the audience with performances by both the pipers and the Drum Corps.

31 May saw another first as the Band performed at Perth Racecourse on Gold Cup Day, playing both in the Winners' Enclosure and also through the long-grass on the course in front of an estimated attendance of 12,000 as they waited for the day's racing to begin. This was a 'hot gig' in every sense as the temperature on this beautiful sunny day reached 26oC.

It transpired, however, that summer had not quite arrived as, the following week, the band performed in rain and driving wind at the opening display of the Heart of Scotland Airshow at Perth Airport. This event was perhaps the most memorable of the year as we all enjoyed 'front-row' seats for the second display item which just happened to be the RAF Red Arrows.

On 12 June, the annual Pipe Band competition saw continued high quality performances with many new aspiring drummers and pipers displaying their developing skills alongside the more experienced players. A total of 40 competitors took part with some demonstrating their broad-ranging abilities by competing in both piping and drumming categories. Once again, the players were supported by a large number of parents and friends who witnessed keen competition for prizes which were awarded as follows:



The Philip Cann Memorial Quaich (Chanter):

Hamish Riddell

The Campbell Cup (Novice Piping):

Cameron Lee

The William McKay Cup (Junior Piping):

Douglas Guthrie

The Robertson Dobie Memorial Trophy (Senior Piping):

David Maitland Gardner

The East of Scotland Schools CCF Trophy (Beginners' Drum Pad):

Matthew Tait

The Stewart Cup (Novice Drumming):

Richard Hammond

The Taylor Quaich (Junior Drumming):

Robbie Robertson

The McGregor Cup (Senior Drumming) (Shared):

Lewis Ross / Gavin Tainsh

The Logie Quaich (Pipe Major):

David Maitland Gardner

The Anderson Scott Memorial Quaich (Drum Major):

David Innes

It was heartening to see the wealth of talent and enthusiasm from every year-group from P4 to S6 taking part in this competition and to be reassured that the future of the band, with the invaluable teaching and leadership of our tutors, Michelle Stewart, Morag Campbell and Scott Murray, remains in very good hands.

A Beaton



John Muir Award

One of the challenges of the John Muir Award is to share with others the experiences gained during the Award. John Muir wrote 10 books and over 300 articles in his life. They highlighted the need to conserve 'wild' places. With this in mind, our five 'Explorers' decided to organise an outing up the Knock, early in the session, for their friends and family. During the walk the pupils talked of their personal experiences of the John Muir Award and pointed out the plants and animals which they could now easily recognise.

Our final outing was to Glen Lednock on a beautiful, autumnal day. The colours were spectacular and we were treated to a view of over 50 red deer on the hillside. The enthusiasm and commitment of the five pupils who achieved the Explorer Award is to be commended. Congratulations go to Reece O'Hara, Alex Johnston, Marianne Inglis, Lauren Houston and Lindsay Duncan.

The summer term saw the start of another Discovery Award, with fourteen S1 pupils taking part. Our first outing was to the Knock. The day was lovely and,

as always, the pupils enjoyed taking the time to appreciate and discover the woodland and views from the Knock. We enjoyed taking photographs with our new digital camera which we hope to display on the John Muir notice board.

Our second trip took us to Comrie and the Mill of Fortune, in search of osprey, alas with no joy, although we did see many oyster catchers and geese. We then walked towards Comrie and visited Donald and Mary McGillivray at Ruchilside with their Eriskay ponies. Eriskay ponies are a rare breed, categorised as being 'critical' by the Rare Breeds Survival Trust. The McGillivrays have worked hard to promote this versatile pony and the pupils enjoyed learning about the origins of this ancient breed as well as meeting them in the flesh.

A special thank you to Margaret Kihlken for all her help with us on the John Muir Award. We wish Margaret well as she leaves us to go to pastures new. We are also grateful to John Speck for his continued support of the Award.

S Harper



Young Enterprise

iKon

iKon has embarked on a variety of successful, if random, enterprises, which have resulted in a fantastic business year for us. The first few months were a tad bumpy, with some members leaving because of the demands of school work, yet iKon endured and we remained unfazed. All of our members have managed to get involved and, as such, we've made quite a profit.

Ailsa has organised us all into an effective working team, Christie's managed to re-organise us when Ailsa hasn't and Joanna has worked out all the finances, bank statements and minutes of the meetings for the whole year. Claire's managed to make sure we're all working to maximum efficiency by firing those who lagged behind, and Euan managed to get us discount Easter eggs, while Dave Mac was our technology whiz kid before he went into hibernation at the beginning of December. Kate has been the silent puppet master behind the brainchild that is the 6th year yearbook, while Ronald's managed to nag and annoy the whole of 6th for money for their yearbook.

After a month of planning, we set up a guitar hero competition at the Christmas Fayre, which had more customers than the rival Sonic and Mario's Olympic Games projection downstairs in the 6th year study room. We even managed to feature in the paper (see Mr O'Kane's room). In keeping with the festive mood, we sold Christmas decorations and cards, along with classic Christmas candy canes. We managed to sell all 120 and gave some of the proceeds to the school's charity for the Malawi appeal. At Easter time, iKon held a small Easter egg raffle which was announced at Interhouse music, and raised a bit of cash. But our main success of the year has been the production of the 6th year yearbook. Although every yearbook produced in the past has had advertising in it, iKon has been the first Young Enterprise group to be invited by the Crieff Rotary to have dinner with



them and give a presentation of our plans. With Rotarian businessmen and other local businesses which we canvassed sponsoring us, including the respected establishment that is Subway, we've added to our profit. All in all, the yearbook is a product which has required an enormous amount of sustained effort which hadn't been tried for several years. Although it started out smoothly, there were a number of more than minor hiccups throughout the process, from technical difficulties (resolved with the much needed help of the Art Department), to 6th years seeming to not know the meaning of "deadline", to issues with spelling (we shall mention no names....you all know who you are). Suffice to say, we were glad to see the back of the original copy when they were sent to the publishers. However, when we give out the final product on the last day, we hope that it'll inspire more yearbooks to be written by other years in the future, and that everyone in our own year will be proud to put our masterpiece on their bookshelves alongside Harry Potter.

When it came to the crunch at the AGM, it was officially confirmed that iKon was the best Young Enterprise group to have been formed at Morrison's within



Young Enterprise

the past 10 years. Rather than simply being a reflection of our success as a money making business – although, our not inconsiderable salaries do speak for themselves – it was the quality of teamwork within iKon which really made the group. There was no back-stabbing. No diddling the salaries. No mini fascist regime. No uprisings or rebellions. Everyone did their fair share, and we all reaped the benefits. With a hugely complimentary speech from Archie Burdon-Cooper, without whom our meetings would have descended into chaos and candy canes, out of the six book awards for Y-E, four went to members of iKon (Ronald Guthrie, Ailsa Guntley, Joanna Beedie and Kate Kennedy), as well as Ronald earning the much deserved Belch Cup. Archie's after-party barbeque was a great way to round off the year, with his loch, boats, croquet set and sauna used to great effect. And, of course, we mustn't forget the steak and sausages, as well as the champagne which flowed in celebration of iKon's success. All in all, we must extend our thanks to everyone who contributed to our projects, from our advisers, Nino and Archie, and our link teacher Mr Mac, to everyone out-with the group who made everything possible.

Ronald Guthrie S6
Kate Kennedy S6

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. This year the council's proceedings involved splitting its members into sub-committees, each of which was given a particular area of focus.

Rights Respecting School

David Maitland-Gardener and his group took charge of the initiative to turn Morrison's into a rights respecting school.

They devised posters and questionnaires for the school to complete. These were then brought back to the school council meetings with feedback from form classes.

The main findings from David's questionnaire showed that most pupils didn't know what rights they have. This was rectified when David took an assembly in order to further promote this cause. This was well received and prompted pupils to get involved.

Healthy Promoting School

Ronald Guthrie and his group took charge of the initiative to turn Morrison's into a health promoting school. They created another questionnaire to gather pupils' thoughts on how to promote Morrison's as a healthy eating school. The most popular choices seemed to be to introduce a healthy tuck shop for the senior school and to try and fit in more PE time wherever possible.

Overall, the council has had a very successful year with all the members contributing to the final decisions that have been made.

I'm sure this will continue into next year.

Ellie Wagstaff S6

HOUSE COMPETITION



Interhouse Results

Junior Girls' Athletics

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

Intermediate Girls' Athletics

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

Senior Girls' Athletics

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

Junior Boys' Athletics

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

Intermediate Boys' Athletics

1st =	Murrays
1st =	Grahams
3rd	Campbells
4th	Drummonds

Senior Boys' Athletics

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

Junior Girls' Badminton

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

Senior Girls' Badminton

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

Junior Boys' Badminton

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

Senior Boys' Badminton

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

Senior Boys' Basketball

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

Mixed Basketball

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

Chess

1st	Grahams
2nd	Campbells
3rd =	Murrays
3rd =	Grahams

Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

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

Girls' Cross Country

1st	Campbells
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Boys' Cross Country

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

Junior Football

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

Intermediate Football

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

Senior Football

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

Interhouse Results

Junior Hockey

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

Senior Hockey

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

Junior Hockey Skills

1st	Drummonds
2nd	Campbells
3rd =	Grahams
3rd =	Murrays

Senior Hockey Skills

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

Music - Choir

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

Music - Ensemble

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

Music - Solo

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

School Music

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

Junior Netball

1st	Campbells
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Senior Netball

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

Photography

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

S1 & S2 Quiz

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

S3 – S6 Quiz

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

Junior Rugby

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

Senior Rugby

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

Junior Girls' Swimming

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

Intermediate Girls' Swimming

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

Senior Girls' Swimming

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

Junior Boys' Swimming

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

Interhouse Results

Intermediate Boys' Swimming

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

Senior Boys' Swimming

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

Junior Girls' Tennis

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

Senior Girls' Tennis

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

Junior Boys' Tennis

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

Senior Boys' Tennis

1st	Drummonds
2nd	Grahams
3rd	Campbells

Tug of War

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

Final Results

1st	Campbells	123.5 points
2nd	Drummonds	119 points
3rd	Grahams	101 points
4th	Murrays	93.5 points

House	Staff	Captain	Vice Captain
Campbells	Miss McCluskey Mr Hill	Christie Fraser Graeme Clow	Ailsa Guntley David Maitland-Gardner
Drummonds	Dr Kihlken Mr Law	Sarah Stephen James Thomson	Claire Lorden Joseph Rasmussen
Grahams	Mrs Harper Mr Coffey	Kate Greenlees Andrew Turnbull	Claire Beattie Ronald Guthrie
Murrays	Mrs O'Kane Mr Mackenzie	Kara Stickland Leo Webster	Joanna Beedie Kara Stickland

CHARITY



Charity



“You Can Count on Us”

Once again the penny counters have been hard at work. The Charities’ Committee has spent many a happy Friday lunchtime counting up the piles of cash collected by every form class to fund Mr Nayambalo in Malawi. It was a relief to achieve the first target of £1200 which was his original salary, and an even greater relief to meet his pay rise of £200. Discussions are under way to extend our links with Nansato Primary School.

The range of causes and ways of helping them have been as varied as always. Pupils skipped and tucked into Healthy Tuckshop snacks for the British Heart Foundation and Primary pupils read copiously for a sponsored Readathon. Others sold ice cream for the Scoliosis Association. The “Wear Glasses Day” raised over £500 for Sightsavers International.

The Christmas Carol service kept up a long tradition of raising a very large sum. This year about £800 was split between UNICEF and the new Maggie’s centre in Dundee.

It is always amazing to have unexpected small groups and individuals turning up to say what they have done. The Elite Young Enterprise Group donated £60 of their profits to CLIC Sergeant, while Douglas Guthrie and David McLeod blew their pipes and raised £50 for Sightsavers in the process.

Other activities have inevitably been missed out, but the Charities’ Committee is grateful for everyone’s support in all their endeavours. Thanks to everyone. Well done.

D Allan

Charity

Big Bike Breakout

The 14th June was a mild, clear (and perhaps a little misleading) morning, when six boys and three teachers embarked on the 'Big Bike Breakout'. This particular day, being only seven days from midsummer, the object of our somewhat optimistically conceived adventure was to cycle as many miles as possible from school in daylight hours. The expedition – organised through the Escape Committee – succeeded in raising over £500 for the Morrison's Academy Malawi Foundation.

And so, as we assembled for a team photograph, after a night on the gym mats, even the interminable yet amusing snores of a certain member of staff failed to dampen the sense of anticipation! Sunrise at 0427 found the first relay on its way and – comprising of Mr. Anderson, Ciaran and Crawford – steady progress was made to Gleneagles where the support minibus was ready with the second relay. Soon to be known as the 'A-team' - despite chronological order - Mr. Lovegrove, Oliver and Callum sped off down Glen Devon completing their eleven mile leg in record time. The metaphorical baton was passed to Mr. O'Kane, Gregor and I who – after drawing the short straw length and gradient-wise - embarked upon our stretch over the Dunfermline hills and across the Forth Road Bridge,

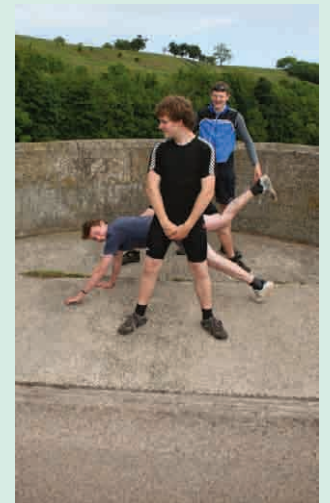
the weak sun playing over the water to our left providing a momentary lapse to the day's exertions.

This relay process continued enthusiastically and unabated around Edinburgh and Musselburgh before tackling a gruelling climb over the Lammermuir hills. However, it soon became apparent that the fine weather would not hold and (almost in retribution for their notoriously easy and flat stretches) the first team incurred a healthy soaking during their next leg...

The border was soon reached and, after a few silly photo opportunities were dutifully exploited, the journey continued. And, after a few navigational mishaps in the Northumberland Wilderness and countless, witless jokes derived chiefly from the 'Lesbury' destination, the light began to fade over our (weary) band of brothers. Due to heavy clouds, visibility soon became limited earlier than hoped and by 2115 our trek had come to an end.

And so, two hundred and nine cycled miles from Morrison's Academy our travels ended at the Roman's Temple of Mithras on Hadrian's Wall. After a hard day we collapsed gratefully onto the minibus, tired and happy.

Hugo Fairclough S4



Charity





SCHOOL TRIPS



CCF Norway Expedition

Exercise Viking Ski Trek

During the Easter holidays Captain Tony Willmore and Major John Patchett, both ex-regular army officers who support the school's training, took 12 lucky CCF cadets for a ski-touring expedition to the Hardangervidda Plateau in Southern Norway. This is the second year that this venture has occurred and truly puts "adventure" into adventure training.

On the morning of Sunday 29th March we were up early to leave on the coach from school for the drive to Edinburgh airport. All of us were still feeling very sleepy because at midnight the clocks had been turned forward an hour. One hour less in bed - could we survive the journey? Those of us who had attended Ex Viking Ski Trek 08 knew we had a long trip ahead of us. With the coach fully loaded and our goodbyes said, eleven cadets (omitting one who forgot that the clocks went forward) and three Officers, Captain Tony Willmore, Major John Patchett and Lieutenant Zoe Scott, loaded onto our transport and headed, with great excitement, to Norway.

Before long we had reached the airport and soon we were boarding the plane that would take us to Oslo. We then had a five hour coach trip to Haugastol to look forward to. On the coach, Tony the ageing rocker gave us a blast of the Phil Collins 'Live in Paris' DVD followed by Zoe's really 'cheesy' American film about Football Team Cheer Leaders.

This had the desired effect as we were soon all fast asleep! Late at night our destination was reached. Having been fed and watered by Eldbjorg, the hotel owner, we were soon tucked up in our comfy accommodation dreaming about what was to be the following morning.

We awoke, bleary eyed and still a bit sleepy to bright sunshine and very cold temperatures. After a very filling breakfast, the experienced skiers, Jamie, Roy, Duncan and Oliver were issued with their skis, boots and poles and accompanied Tony to the technique area where together they prepared the training tracks for the beginners to use. While this was going on John was issuing Murray, Alex, Louise, Hayley, the two Calums, Graham and Luke with their equipment. We were split into two groups, the experienced skiers who would be with Tony, and the beginners who would be with John. Zoe would move between each group as required. This allowed for the beginners to be taught the basics of ski touring and the more experienced skiers to build on their experience gained the previous year. For the better part of the morning we had ideal conditions, though as the day progressed the winds increased to such a level that any skiing was going to be nearly impossible. We did attempt a small tour but having realized that it was only going to have an adverse affect on our skiing experience, Tony and John made the decision that we should call it a day. We prayed that this wasn't going to be a sample of what was to come. That evening, the beginner group was given a lecture by John on mountain safety. After supper we were fortunate that Hannah McKeand, the explorer, offered to give us a talk on her trips to the South Pole, both as part of a team and then on her subsequent solo trip where she broke the world record. She briefly mentioned her solo attempt to reach the North Pole that had sadly ended with Hannah falling into one of the many ice holes that are the bane of North Pole explorers. The fall resulted in Hannah dislocating her shoulder and she had to be rescued by the



CCF Norway Expedition

Canadian Air Force. Her current venture is to kite-ski across Greenland and she was training for this at Haugastol.

The second day our learning experience continued with the John's group learning essential ski touring techniques, while Tony's group built on experience from last year and dug snow caves and emergency snowholes. After lunch it was John's group's turn to dig snowholes, while Tony's group left to do a short tour. During the tour, Tony explained that he had a surprise for us. While we were thinking about the possibility of the surprise being an afternoon spent in a cake shop, Tony had a very different idea. As we were the group that was going to attempt an overnight tour, we had to be fully aware of any dangers that could affect us. As we had already experienced the wind of yesterday we realized that being caught out on the Hardanger Plateau ill prepared could have all kinds of repercussions and so we had to be ready for whatever nature could throw at us. Therefore Tony's surprise was to produce an Emergency Shelter from his day sack and instruct us on how to survive with it. Having had a good day's training, both groups returned to Haugastol tired and hungry. Tony's group was excited at the prospect of its forthcoming overnight tour and John's group was going to venture up towards the Hardanger plateau with the daunting prospect of skiing back down at the end of the day. Again, after supper, John gave a talk, this time about climbing two peaks in Ladakh, and about his time as a Company Commander in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in Northern Ireland, the USA and UK.

On Wednesday the weather forecast showed a high pressure system over our area of the Hardanger that was to last for a couple of days. So it was decided that Tony's group of Oliver, Duncan, Roy and Jamie would attempt an overnight at the Tuva Turisthytte and return the following day. The first leg was thoroughly enjoyable albeit mainly uphill for 19km, with the odd 'mumble' from Roy and a few face plants made,

except for Tony, of course! With stunning scenery, a slight breeze and blazing sunshine we were very fortunate to experience ski touring at its best. The only downside was that the previous night the route had experienced strong winds which had blown the snow into drifts across the tracks which made our progress slightly more difficult. That said, we did make very good time and shortly after 2 o'clock in the afternoon we arrived at Tuva having completed just over 19 km of mostly uphill terrain. Tuva is a small group of lodges, perfectly situated in the middle of an isolated valley. The current owners are the fourth generation of the same family to run the hut. You couldn't ask for a nicer couple and they ensured our short stay with them was enjoyable, providing the most wonderful homemade waffles. After dinner we met two women who arrived at the hut by dog sled. They asked us if we would like to meet the pack so out we went and we were introduced. After helping to feed the dogs, we retired to our beds and it wasn't long before we were all sound asleep.

John led his group on a tour leading them up from the lake at Haugastol along a picturesque route that took them up towards the plateau. They ascended the hill slowly with some falling over but they reached the



CCF Norway Expedition



plateau in good time and had a leisurely lunch break. There they enjoyed the view and the sunshine before venturing downwards to do some more falling over. With no accidents, apart from Graham giving his old war wound (his knee) a wrench, the group headed home. At this stage, the sun was so hot it was melting the snow and ice, which caused some parts of the lake to become unstable and the ski tracks paths to become slippery and wet. This added to the excitement of coming downhill! In the evening John gave a final slide talk on two trips to the Himalayas he made in 2007, a trek in Ladakh and an ascent of Mera Peak.

Next day at Tuva Turisthytte and due to the very bad state of the track back to Haugastol, Tony decided that we would travel on to Geilo some 16 km to the East. The tracks were in good order, the terrain mostly downhill and with the wind behind us it was an excellent day's touring. In addition to the fantastic conditions, the final part saw the group being chased by some Norwegian schoolgirls, all charmed by Oliver's extensive use of the native language. (He still owes Tony for these no-fail chat up lines). Having said goodbye to the girls we finished the trip by descending the plateau via the Geilo downhill ski run, so the best part had been saved until last. Here we were able to test our abilities and the hardness of the ground. John's group had a slightly less eventful day with a long trek across the lakes behind Haugastol to give Graham's knee a chance to recover and also to put in some distance to improve overall technique.

On the last full day of skiing we were split into two groups, six in each. We all climbed up from the lake steeply to the North onto the plateau and the track that led to Embretstolen Hytte. Tony's group continued to Ustaoset, where they waited nearly two hours for the bus back to Haugastol, while John's group had lunch at the Embretstolen Hytte and then returned the way they had come. For the whole day we were blessed with amazing weather. We must admit to

the occasional face plant with a couple of Tony's group receiving some freeze burns and chin damage!

The final day was split in two. Half the day we spent doing a ski race. Oliver's group ended victorious over Jamie's. However, Oliver still had to complete his forfeit - to jump topless into the snow - for being the first to fall over in the snow earlier in the week. After a quick lunch, and some hasty packing, we took our hired ski kit back to Geilo and went for a swim in the spa at the Doctor Holmes Hotel. After some enjoyable relaxation, we went for a meal at the town's best restaurant, Peppe's Pizza. There we stuffed our faces with massive, oversized pizzas before heading back to the hotel for traditional waffles, with cream and jam. After some more packing, we went to sleep awaiting the 4.30 alarm that was to be the start of our long journey back to Crieff, via Oslo and Edinburgh.

When Captain Willmore earlier gave a short talk to the Contingent on Ski Touring he made it clear that it wasn't for the faint hearted. He was right. We were all tested, both physically and mentally. But by giving us the knowledge and by careful encouragement by both John and Tony, we all coped well. We now feel more confident to deal with life's physical and mental challenges and relish the chance of doing similar expeditions again.

A final word of thanks and huge appreciation to the Ulysses Trust, The Highland Reserve Forces and Cadets Association, The Berlin Trust and The Army in Scotland Trust Fund for their very generous grants without which we would not have been able to mount such an ambitious expedition. Additionally the Cadets would like to thank Captain Tony Willmore, Major John Patchett and Lieutenant Zoe Scott for having the patience to put up with us and giving up their time to mount a quite exceptional expedition.

Jamie Duncan S5

WWI Battlefields

My reflections on the Battlefields of WWI

When I heard of the "experience", as Margaret our guide insisted we called it, I was thinking of war-torn muddy fields with shells and weaponry strewn across the fields. This was not at all what I found. Instead what I found was lush green peaceful French and Belgian countryside.

Our first visit was to a site called "Pool of Peace". This is a huge crater created by the British who tunnelled under the German lines and blew 60 000 tonnes of explosives under their feet. It was so peaceful and serene there was no way I could contemplate that it was effectively a mass grave. There were 5000 people under this serene and calm pool of water.

On the second day we headed about 100 miles south to the battlefields of the Somme. We visited Newfoundland Park first. This was where the Canadian regiment of Newfoundland had been ordered to go "over the top" on the first of July 1916. At the end of that bloody and horrific day 95% of the Newfoundland regiment had been killed. I found this site the most moving because we could walk through where the men had lived, fought and died. This, I think, was where the realisation of what these men went through to save us really did sink in.

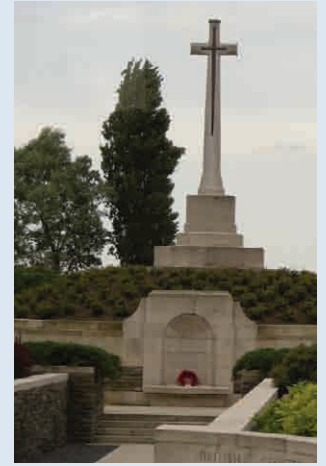
On that same day we went to Thiepval. This is the largest monument on the Somme. 73,000 names of the missing British are recorded on the 16 pillars of the monument. Thiepval is situated at the point where the British and French armies met. Ben, our resident piper, played two songs, the "Mist Covered Mountains" and "When the War is Over". Mr Lovegrove read a passage from 'The Morrisonian' from the time which was about the fallen soldiers who came from the school. This was written by the Rector in 1916.

On the last day we went to Passchendaele, Tynne Cot and Langemark. Langemark is one of four

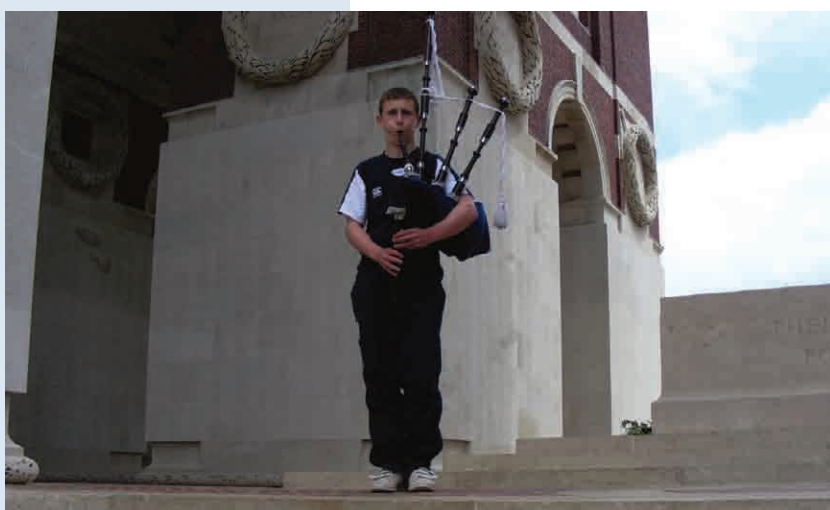
German cemeteries on the western front. There were 40000 men buried in this cemetery and half of these were in one mass grave – the missing. This was very different to the allied cemeteries because it was a very dull and eerie place. It was not kept well and the headstones were just slabs in the ground. When we visited Tynecot, Howard, our bus driver, dropped us on Passchendaele ridge and we marched to Tynne Cot. This is the largest British war cemetery outside of Britain. We waited outside as Margaret recited the poem, "In Flanders Fields", and we turned to look down the hill which the allies had to advance up all those years ago. Most of the men who had gone missing here had either drowned in the deep mud or been blown to pieces from a direct hit by a shell.

I found the trip very moving and I think I will look on WWI very differently now that I have been to the places where the Allies fought and died for us.

Liam Roberts S2



WWI Battlefields



Sanctuary Wood

Sanctuary Wood. That's what our soldiers called it - and it was fitting at first.

Sent there on leave, the first sections of the British army found solitude among the silent trees. Their Sanctuary, however, was not to remain this peaceful. When the German army marched on Belgium, the British found themselves on the defensive and in many places, pushed back beyond the French border before the Germans were halted and dug in. If precious ground was to be retaken, we had to dig in as well. And so trenches were dug in Sanctuary Wood, the German trenches directly opposite them.

Trench warfare raged. Chunks of wood splintered and flew, trees cracked and toppled as mortar and machinegun obliterated the cover, the sanctuary, they had previously provided. Within weeks the only evidence that anything had ever grown in the barren wasteland that the sanctuary had become, were the splintered remains of the protective trees.

Patrick Bowtle S2

Reflections on Thiepval

We stepped out of the bus and through the doors of the Visitor Centre, a noisy rabble of school kids: laughing, smiling, happy. As I turned the corner and walked through the gates, I stopped suddenly, shocked at the enormity of Thiepval. I was simply stunned at the mass of the missing 73000 men who ceased to exist. My shock soon turned to sadness as I walked round the memorial gazing in disbelief at name upon name: each man a father, brother or son of somebody.

The search then began for the names of former pupils who had fallen at the Somme and with each we found, the sadness came closer to home. Before leaving home I had asked my grandparents whether we had any relatives who died in the First World War and discovered that my great great uncle, a Private R. Gooda was recorded on Thiepval. I thought that finding his name would upset me but in a way, I felt relieved that I finally knew where he was resting.

The beauty of the countryside, once a battlefield now returned to nature, had a surprisingly peaceful feel. By the time Ben had played the bagpipes and Mr. Lovegrove had read an extract from the memorial version of 'The Morrisonian', everyone was silent - quiet in respect and realisation of the pointlessness of the cause they died for. Another quick glance at R. Gooda's name left me in tears as I walked away from the memorial, deep in remembrance.

Back on the bus I felt we were changed people; we had matured enormously in the space of half an hour and as we drove away I knew that none of us would forget this day.

Katie White S2

Comrie Croft

On the 11th of June 2009, P6 set out on a hike to Comrie Croft. We were driven to the dam at Loch Turret and began our walk. Our first activity was to estimate how far 100 metres was along the dam. Once we had completed the task we made our way along a winding path. We stopped occasionally to identify various types of plants. When we reached a certain point we began to make our way up the hill. We reached an area of rocks and had to pick a largish stone. We then carried on to a huge boulder to rest and have a snack. After our small rest we began to make our way across a bog.

On the other side of the bog we reached a cairn onto which we placed our stones. We then sat down to eat our lunch. After we had eaten, we had some fun going under a storm shelter which Mr. Speck had brought with him. Mr. Speck then told us a story that started several million years ago.

After our lunch stop we progressed down the hill. We crossed many other bogs on our way. Soon we were almost there but first we had to go through a deer enclosure. We had to climb over a deer fence. On the other side we crossed through a field of sheep. We met Mr. Robertson and Mrs. Longmuir on the other side of the field.

Comrie Croft was soon in sight. When we arrived we went to our rooms and made our beds. We had a bit of free time before we had a dinner of spaghetti bolognese and berry crumble. After dinner we had some more free time before playing some games which included Giants, Wizards and Dwarfs, Catch the Flag and Shibann.

We then went back to our rooms to have our showers and get ready for bed. We then went back downstairs to tell scary stories. Afterwards we went back up to our beds. It had been a tiring day so we went straight to sleep.

The next morning we got dressed and packed our bags. Soon we had had our breakfast and were making our pack

lunches. After we had made our pack lunches we put on our sun cream and midge repellent and set off. We went back through the deer enclosure and went to a waterfall. We climbed up the side of the waterfall.

At the top we stopped to talk. Then we set off through a wood. Some of us tried a plant that looked like three leaved clovers. It tasted a bit like apple.

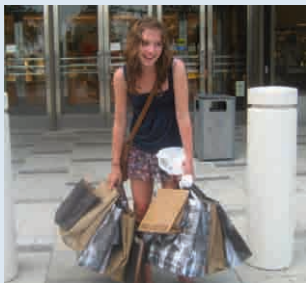
We reached a bridge and sat down for our lunch. We then walked back through the deer enclosure and climbed back over the deer fence. Back through the field of sheep we went down the hill leading back to Comrie Croft.

Back at Comrie Croft we played Giants, Wizards and Dwarfs and Shibann. By this stage the mums and dads were arriving. When the games were over we got our bags and went to our parents. Some of us showed our parents around Comrie Croft. We were all very sad to leave because it had been good fun.

[Neve McGregor and May Appleby P6](#)



Florida



Last summer two Morrison's Academy pupils - Emma Robertson and Ruth Thomson - enjoyed the trip of a lifetime to Florida as their prize for winning The Courier CIOB Debating Competition. The following is Emma's recap of the fun and adventure that they enjoyed ...

This time last year I was desperately trying to think of arguments for and against in-vitro fertilisation. I had no idea that, if they were good arguments, I would be meeting Mickey Mouse in the summer.

Thanks to The Dundee Courier, I spent 10 days on an all inclusive trip to Florida this July after winning The Courier debating competition in February last year. After the rollercoaster that was the debates leading up to that final, I was obviously very excited to have the chance of going on some proper rollercoasters in Orlando - the theme park capital of the world!

Actually, if I'm completely honest, that's a lie: before I went to Florida I had a long list of rides that I was not going to be persuaded to go on by the unlikely daredevils Mrs Boal and Ruth! However, I am very proud to say that I went on all of the 'Top 6 Biggest Thrills in Orlando', along with many other hair-raising rides, and I too have been converted to a daredevil.

We started in the Magic Kingdom with the Thunder, Splash and Space Mountains. They now seem like kiddy-rides compared to the mighty Kraken at SeaWorld - which was our final ride on our final day. This 'nearly-floorless coaster' inspired by the legendary sea beast had

no less than 8 inversions (upside-downy bits). As if that wasn't scary enough, we suddenly stopped dead on a vertical slope 50 feet up just before the first huge drop. The clever 'dude' who came up with the idea of 'floorless' wasn't so clever after all - this 'innovation in rollercoaster design' meant we had no way of getting down. That was one ride where I religiously followed the advice of the permanently-smiling woman to 'keep arms and legs inside the cart, hold on tight, keep your head back' that we heard all week... It certainly didn't help that Mrs Boal wouldn't stop saying 'We're going to die. We're going to die!'

Despite this experience and many other equally frightening incidents (including the 'tallest, fastest freefall flume in the world'), I am still a newly-converted-thrill-seeking-adrenaline-junkie!

When we weren't scaring ourselves silly (only one day of the holiday!) we hit the shops. This was heaven for me, a compulsive shopper and self-confessed shoe addict. Sadly, it was in Orlando that I discovered the negative effects of shopping... Firstly, there was the insane amount of money I spent - a number which I can't possibly admit here! Then, there was the fact that my bags were so stuffed with American clothes that they literally burst while we were standing at the bus stop - the American onlookers were very amused at the numerous Abercrombie and Fitch hoodies flying across the street! To top it all off, the weight of all my purchases squashed on to my knee on the bus caused me to sprain my ankle and gave us an extra trip to Disney hospital the next day!

The whole experience was quite surreal: I'd never been so far away before; I'd never been on holiday for so long without my family; and I'd never imagined my first visit out of Europe would be with my debating coach! However, nevertheless, I wouldn't have changed a thing. What I've described is just the tip of the iceberg of a jam-packed 10 days. It was an exhilarating, yet thoroughly exhausting trip - I believe Mrs Boal is still recovering!

Emma Robertson S4

And then the dolphins came...

It must be in the nature of things that you can never know when life changing moments will happen.

The Escapees did not feel any such thing looming as we loaded the minibus early on Saturday morning at the Laundry Gates. "We are off surfing on the west coast," we happily told enquiring away fixture rugby and hockey parents as we stacked our rather different kit into the bus.

It was every minute of the predicted trying four hour drive to Mackrehanish. Was any Escape Committee project ever billed as easy? Rarely have we been to such a remote location that is otherwise so lush and rural, but the Kintrye peninsular is not lightly reached. Our instructor, Jamie, was waiting and we were late.

Wetsuits hurriedly donned outside our village hall accommodation, it was a bare footed dash to the beach there to pick up boards and marvel, in ignorance of the real thrills to come, at the breaking waves. Swell after swell broke up the sand with a compelling rhythm. Basic class was quickly followed by a rush to the surf. It could hardly have been better set up.

Perfectly timed breaking swells that beginners could catch, the sun shining from beautiful blue skies, brilliant white sands that stretched to the distance, a gentle off shore breeze, child-like energy that knew no bounds and an afternoon that would last hours until a gloaming that would see the young people dragged tired from the sea: it all seemed too good to be bettered.

And then the dolphins came.

I saw them first through a long lens as they breached just beyond the surf line. Individuals first, but then twos and threes, mothers and calves, bursting out of the water, arching and splashing in what could only be a cross between showing off, play and curiosity about their human guests. It was hard to believe what I was seeing.

Jamie also had seen them and, shouting while waving madly to be understood above the crashing of the breakers, he

herded our young people out beyond the surf line towards the playful pod.

For more than an hour I expected him to shepherd the class back in, but the quiet patience of our folk seemed to entice the dolphins. Breathlessly snapping from the beach I was trying so hard to capture the moments as pairs of dolphins leapt out of the water clean over the heads of our young people. Two more dolphins bow wave rode a swell yards to the left of one of our students delicately riding her board. Bursting through the crest of the wave, without actually breaching, they seemed to be trying to show her how it could or should be done.

There was so much more child/dolphin connection happening than I could ever hope to record from the beach with a camera.

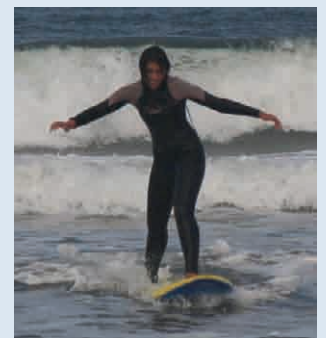
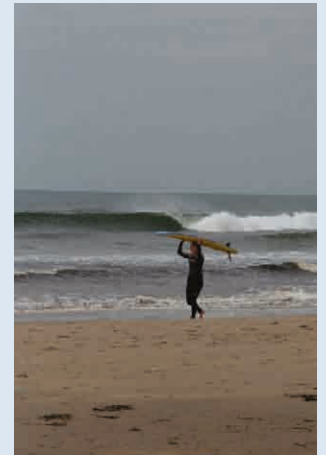
To have it on film was exhilarating, but to have lived it was life defining, even life-changing. Much later that evening we sat about on benches outside the village hall, students and adults alike, in quiet admiration of our sunset-gold, glad environment. We tried in vain to find words for what had happened.

What had happened? Good question. Tough ask. If we go there a thousand times again it will never happen like that again.....but if it did?

Bring on the Sunday morning experience!

The trip home seemed altogether shorter, and the Monday morning to follow all the more mundane; what could possibly follow our weekend?

R Anderson



Kindrogan Field Centre



This year, the three Transitional classes took a trip to Kindrogan, near Pitlochry. We took a bus to the big white house which would be our home for the next four days. The girls would sleep in the main house while the boys would sleep in the steading.

On the first day we were shown our rooms, and then rushed to our new classrooms. In them we learnt about many living things and the countryside around us. Our new tutors were Duncan, Rhianna and Rich. They showed us the beautiful countryside, especially on the walk up to Kindrogan Hill. There we built shelters, then tested them against the weather. When we got back we did a night trail.

The next day we did a low ropes course. It was challenging as we had to work with a partner who would catch us if we fell. It was very enjoyable. Our tutors then showed us how to trap animals with a metal box with a little triggered shutter.

The next day we finally had to face what many of us had been dreading all week: the high ropes course. First of all we did the leap of faith, where we had to climb a thin pole and then jump from the top. We were soon attached to a harness and sent up. Many of us conquered it, but unfortunately some didn't. After that, we did the crate climb, where we had to climb many crates stacked by our team members, attached to a harness.

On the last day we did the zipwire. It was a great element of fun compared with the challenging tasks beforehand. Soon everyone was speeding down the zipwire, having a terrific time. Then we were quickly carted onto the buses with our luggage. It was time to say goodbye to Kindrogan. We were on our way back to our homes in Crieff.

Elsie Haldane TD

Lake Garda Hockey and Rugby Tour

Unlike ski trips, this trip departed mid morning - a far more civilised time for the first morning of the October holiday. Edinburgh was our UK departure point for Milan where we met our escort for the tour, Nicole; then we had the two hour transfer to Hotel Gardesano, Bussolengo. That evening we sampled our first Italian meal - by the end of the trip several said they never wished to see pasta again.

Saturday saw our first action in Italy as the girls were to play their initial game in Padova against CUS Padova. However first of all we had to sample Gardaland - Northern Italy's number one theme park. A good selection of rides was available for all tastes from the daredevils to the pure chickens. The day flew by and soon it was time to get on the coach and leave for Padova. We played at one of the university pitches - in the stands the boys supported the girls ably. The girls played extremely well and were unfortunate to lose a very close encounter, 1 - 0 the decisive goal coming from a penalty stroke. They attacked throughout the game but just couldn't get the final touch to produce the required goal. Abi Ross had an excellent game as did Morag MacGregor and Alice McLeod who had been "loaned" to the opposition who only had 9 players for this early Saturday evening game. No doubt they were trying to prove to the coach they did not deserve to be given away.

Sunday morning saw the first action for the boys on the pitch - a bit of a dust bowl at the home of Western Verona. We watched a junior club game prior to our game and it was obvious that we required to change our game slightly and avoid too much contact with the ground! Fortunately we managed to come away with only a few scrapes and bruises but Joey's boots did not fare so well as the sole and upper parted company! We had a comfortable win against an inexperienced side who never gave up; we ran in eleven tries. Everyone got onto the pitch and again some played for both sides as the opposition ran out of replacements. In

the afternoon we went to Lake Garda and were able to see the beauty of the area we were visiting.

Monday morning saw us depart for Venice and our day there - a lifetime's ambition for Kate Greenlees was about to be fulfilled. Arriving in the city by boat is an amazing experience. We had the morning to explore and have lunch before having a guided tour in the afternoon. This was a truly memorable day from seeing the canals and all the famous sights, to the girls in their masks and a certain pigeon fancier trying to catch one outside St Mark's!

Tuesday brought our second and final games but unfortunately we were playing at the same time as the girls in Brescia against Cuscube Brescia while the boys were in Verona against CUS Verona.

First of all we had the bulk of the day in Verona. This time we had the guided tour in the morning - probably the better way to do it because in the afternoon you could return to see bits you already knew. Again this was a great experience - seeing this Roman town and all the sights plus all the connections with



Lake Garda Hockey and Rugby Tour

Romeo and Juliet. Evening came and the boys were left in Verona as the girls headed west. Again the girls played well against an older and more experienced team and were well worth the draw that they achieved. Morag scored the goal but we were unlucky not to score more.

Meanwhile the boys were playing against a more experienced and more physical side in Verona. Again we scored eleven tries but this time we had to play as a unit and actually played some of the best rugby of our season. Youngsters Michael Lafferty and Ross Johnston both had good games with one memorable try saving tackle from Ross. We returned to Bussolengo tired but happy - having now to pack prior to our early departure for home the next morning.

Italy 2008 was a memorable trip for all. All the participants would like to thank the four members of staff who made the tour possible - Mr Beedie, Miss Nesbit, Miss McCormick and party leader Mr Pennie and also Mrs Riddell for all the work she did for the fund raising-ceildih in June. Her efforts allowed us to purchase the smart kit that we were all very proud and happy to wear.

Graeme Clow S6



Vars

Six days of ski school, off-piste powder, deserted alpine runs, staff v pupils snowball fights, Mr Howell's singing challenges, the familiar Hotel Franou, table football, pool competitions, thrills, spills and helicopters: Vars 2009.

On the first morning of our second stay at the Hotel Franou, we pulled back the curtains to see a couple of feet of fresh snow. Over breakfast the excitement and nervous anticipation in the air was contagious – I could barely force down my warm, fresh croissant due to the butterflies that had taken flight in my stomach!

We trooped up the hill with skis, boots, poles and precious ski passes to meet the Ski School instructors. With the experienced groups heading straight for the chair lift to take them to the top of the resort and the beginners tentatively riding the button poma to the top of the nursery slope, we, the staff, took off to

play in the inviting powder. Watching the beginners from the chair, we hollered encouragement as their balance and nerves stabilised. Further up, the intermediate and advanced groups whizzed by underneath us, strengthening our own determination not to show ourselves up in front of them!

The snow continued to fall throughout the morning and as we skied back to the bottom, we were half expecting complaints from the children of the cold and relentlessly falling white stuff. But we were met with big smiles, stories of accomplishment and, for certain members of staff, teasing.

As the week progressed, so too did the children's abilities, not to mention their confidence (bravery?) and hunger for skiing off-piste and snow-park fun. On day five Lewis Ross had an extra special adventure. Having had a morning of tumbles, Lewis' knee began to cause



Vars



him severe discomfort in the afternoon. His instructor decided to have him taken off the hill. However, because of where they were, the only option to get back to the bottom was to be airlifted. As we had met up with the group, I was asked to accompany him. In true 'E.R.' fashion, I scrambled aboard the helicopter with Lewis on a stretcher. Our four minute flight over the valley and down into the village was breathtaking – the views were spectacular too! Luckily, Lewis hadn't done any serious or long-lasting damage and, according to the doctor, he had come off the hill just in time.

Thanks to the Ski School instruction and the way the children supported and encouraged each other – regardless of age and stage - all children improved immensely and were able to navigate their way down red runs at least.

The weather throughout the week was changeable - just ask Jamie Stewart about his day three sunburn or Miss Nesbit and myself about spending an afternoon waist-deep up an unpisted red run. However, the somewhat challenging weather conditions were no deterrent to us all having a great week of skiing.

The behaviour of the children was excellent, as commented by Ski School and hotel staff.

Besides the skiing, the pupils enjoyed good food, good service, cosy bedrooms and the independence of venturing up to the village for goodies and souvenirs.

With this and the level of achievement of everyone, in sum, it was a fantastic week.

F Harvey

STAFF



Staff Joiners



Anne Holland



Jane White



Fraser Black



Nadine Leonard



Natalie Dick



Susan Smart

Anne Holland

Anne Holland has joined the music department, teaching classes one day per week and, additionally taking some piano pupils. For the past eight years, Anne has taught piano at Strathallan, but her class teaching career began almost thirty years ago, the bulk of which was spent in Angus. Outside school, music has always played a large part of Anne's leisure time: orchestral and chamber music playing, accompanying a variety of music groups and some years as MD of a musical society.

The number of children taking part in music in the school, and the quality of the music making, has impressed Anne. She has enjoyed the variety of classes she has taught this year from nursery through to S5, helping with the senior boys' choir and she is looking forward to joining the orchestra for Oklahoma!

Jane White

In November 2008, we were delighted to welcome Mrs Jane White to the Modern Languages Department. Having studied Modern and Medieval Languages at Newhall College, Cambridge, she embarked on a career in International Marketing. She lays claim to having invented Cheestrings and Mini-cookies before becoming a Marketing Manager with Dulux Paints, proof indeed that a degree in Languages can lead in many directions!

After training to become a teacher, Jane spent 3 years at Strathallan School where she set up a successful German exchange with a school in Trier before being tempted to move to Morrison's.

When her duties as a Guide Leader afford her some free time, she lists her interests as walking, canoeing and reading. She is clearly someone with a creative mind and with her personal motto of 'Bringing Languages to Life' we look forward to working with Jane and we hope that she finds her stay at Morrison's Academy both enjoyable and rewarding.

Fraser Black

Fraser joined the Physics department last August, previously having taught at Arbroath High School. He has very much enjoyed his first year at Morrison's and as well as his teaching commitments, he has become involved with the school cadets.

Nadine Leonard

Nadine joined the school in April 2009 as the Director of Development and Alumni Relations. She has been given the task of raising funds for the school and connecting with and engaging former pupils, parents and staff. Nadine has over twenty years of experience as a professional fundraiser and has worked in the arts and education sectors, most recently at Loretto School in East Lothian and the Erskine Stewart's Melville Schools in Edinburgh. Nadine is married and has three children, aged 4, 7, and 10 all of whom have now started at the School.

Natalie Dick

Natalie graduated from Edinburgh University and completed her first teaching post at a primary school in Perth. This year she has enjoyed teaching Transitional and coaching the primary hockey team.

Susan Smart

Mrs Susan Smart has rejoined the department as a full-time class teacher in succession to Joan Taylor. Since first coming to Morrison's in 1987 Mrs Smart has never been far away from the musical centre of things in the Crieff community. Serving as assistant to Mrs Alison Hunter until 1993 she then devoted herself to the worthy cause of producing and bringing up two Morrisonians-to-be whilst still retaining her connection with the school as visiting teacher of cello and piano and latterly resuming an increasing amount of class teaching. Things have now come full circle and we are all delighted to have her back where she undoubtedly seems to belong.

Staff Leavers

Steve Firth Head Groundsman

When Steve and his wife Trish came to Morrison's in 1986, Harry Beattie Snr had just started the School Fencing Club and, being a fencing instructor, Steve was pleased to give him assistance and eventually ran the club on his retirement, helping many pupils understand the art of fencing. Archie MacIntyre was the 'Sports Master' and the railway embankment still crossed the playing fields. The Town Lade came through a tunnel under it and made a bend directly into the playing fields, eventually exiting via the hockey pitches. New pitches were laid and new cricket squares created. There were no hedgerows, the area being completely open and even the New Pavilion was still new!

Also at that time, in addition to the upkeep of the main campus, he was also responsible for the maintenance of the grounds surrounding seven boarding houses. Clearly he has seen a few changes over the years but Dallerie has always remained one of the jewels in the Morrison's crown and continues to provide playing fields that are the envy of many schools.

The ecology of Dallerie has also changed during Steve's 23 year stewardship and he has derived great pleasure from studying the now-resident peacock and orange-tip butterflies, long-tailed tits, finches, buzzards and many other species, all where there were none before, and are now living in 20ft high trees he planted as seeds.

Steve describes Dallerie as a stunning location (few would argue with that) and has very much enjoyed the privilege of working in such an attractive setting. There can certainly be very few jobs which provide, as a 'perk' of employment, access to your very own airfield.

In 1993, after a period as a glider pilot, Steve became the first and only microlight pilot in Perthshire and, having first secured the agreement of the Board of Governors, made his first take

off and landing across the rugby fields in 1994. His aircraft was so light that it could take off in the width of a rugby pitch and be over the surrounding trees in seconds with the whole of Perthshire and beyond available to enjoy his love of flying.

Having grounded himself, Steve is now very involved with radio controlled model aircraft at his new club so he still considers himself to be an aircraft owner and very much relishes the equally difficult skill of flying an aircraft whilst still having two feet on the ground.

As for the future, he hopes to continue flying with friends, but as a passenger, following another hobby, as cameraman taking aerial movies and creating aerial DVDs of the part of the country he loves.

As the Morrison's era closes for both Steve and Trish, who has helped to keep the pavilions ship-shape over the years, a new era of travel, family and adventure starts for them. We wish them both many happy years in their new home in Bankfoot.

Fiona Harvey

Fiona Harvey joined the primary School at Morrison's for session 2006 – 2007. From the outset she threw herself wholeheartedly into the life of the school. Fiona is a dedicated and highly motivated classroom practitioner who has fully supported the pupils in her classes. Beyond the classroom Fiona has actively involved herself in many school activities. She has enjoyed taking to the ski slopes and had memorable days walking to Comrie Croft. It is however, in her work with the Eco Club and Eco Committee where Fiona has made a significant contribution to the Primary School. She has driven our Green ethos forward and promoted environmental awareness across the school. Indeed it is fitting that as she leaves us the Primary has attained Silver Eco status. I know that she will be listening carefully to hear when we finally attain the Green Flag.



Steve Firth



Fiona Harvey



Margaret Kihlken

Staff Leavers

Fiona is now moving to a teaching post in Abu Dhabi where her fiancée Tom has also taken up a job in industry. We wish Fiona all the very best in the future both in her job and when she gets married.

Good luck and Bon voyage!

Margaret Kihlken

Margaret Kihlken joined Morrison's Academy three years ago as a Teacher of Chemistry. She joined us an NQT and Morrison's was her first teaching post. At her interview she made an immediate impression and we were delighted she chose to accept an offer of a post in the school.

She impressed at interview with her poise, her professional manner and the rapidity with which she struck up a rapport with her pupils. They quickly realised that here was a teacher who knew her subject, could put it across in a clear and enthusiastic manner and was able to engage with the pupils both as a class but also as individuals. First impressions did not lie: Margaret went on to demonstrate that she had all these qualities in spades and indeed many more besides.

Margaret's classroom manner was excellent, providing a natural focus for the class.

She created a well disciplined and hard working environment for her pupils. She worked very hard to engage all the pupils in the class. The pupils responded very well to her teaching. Margaret was both well-respected and well-liked. Pupils found her both approachable and helpful if they sought assistance with any difficulties. She devoted countless hours to assisting pupils out-with the normal timetabled lessons.

Her background and experience in research also proved an invaluable asset in providing Advanced Higher

level students with advice and assistance with their individual projects.

Margaret has been at the heart of number of innovations that have been introduced to broaden the pupil experience. These range from involvement in national quiz competitions to running science-related trips and developing new links with Universities and Industry. She has been a very significant factor in the increased uptake of chemistry over the last few sessions.

As a colleague, she has proved a real asset to the science department in general and the chemistry subject area in particular. She has brought intelligence, maturity, humour, common sense and a huge degree of commitment to the department. She was very much a "can do" person who was prepared to "roll up her sleeves" to ensure tasks are completed.

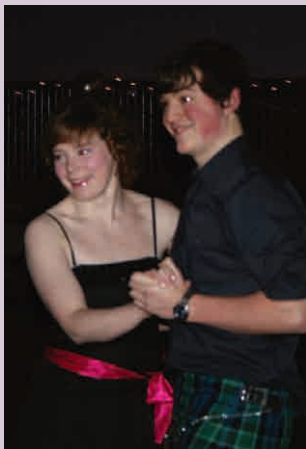
Margaret was also involved in the co-curricular life of the school, assisting in school productions, accompanying school trips e.g. John Muir. She was Head of House for the Grahams and also assisted with CCF to provide female cover at Annual and weekend camps.

In her relatively short time at Morrison's, Margaret has contributed a huge amount and we thank her wholeheartedly for all she has done. All of us in the Morrison's community; pupils, parents and staff alike are very sorry to see her leave and we wish her all the very best in her new position.

HEAD BOY AND HEAD GIRL



Head Boy and Head Girl



I first started my school career at Morrison's Academy in 2002, aged eleven. I joined Mr Chater's P7 class, TC, and have spent the last seven years working my way up the school to S6.

I was talking to Adam a while ago, and he estimates that, altogether, we have spent roughly 2500 days at Morrison's! This puts into context just how long we've been here. However, this can only be approximately half of the time that the few 'lifers' of S6 have been here! Nevertheless, the time has flown by and it seems a rather frightening, but exciting, prospect at finally moving on to face the outside world.

Out of all the things I have taken part in over the years, two activities have played a huge part in my life: Chamber Choir and Hockey. I joined the choir in S3 and haven't looked back since. We have taken part in a few competitions, the most memorable being Coleraine in 2007 when we won the Youth Category. I guess all the stress we gave Mrs Taylor was worth it in the end! All that said, I have never been to choir and not laughed or smiled... this can only be down to the jokes and banter we have as a group and I know I will miss all of the girls very much.

The other half of my time has been spent on the hockey pitch. This was an entirely new experience for me as I had never seen a hockey stick before, let alone lifted one! This is probably the reason for my bad luck in reaching the team in P7; however by S3 I had firmly secured my place on the team as a

midfielder and was surprised but thrilled to be chosen for the Hockey/Rugby Tour to Barcelona in 2006. It was an amazing experience with plenty of laughs along the way. I started off senior hockey in the 2nd XI but was delighted to be moved up to the 1st team this year. We have had a really successful session, another highlight being the Hockey/Rugby Tour to Lake Garda, Italy. This too was a great laugh and we played some of our best hockey this season! Unfortunately, hockey is one of those sports that brings with it with injury so occasionally the mouthguards have come in useful! Nevertheless, being part of this sport has really been a highlight of my time at Morrison's and, like Choir, I will miss all of the girls enormously.

Being Head Girl this year has brought a lot of responsibilities which has kept me on my toes. However, I've enjoyed the challenges it has put in front of me and I'd really like to thank S6 for all their help this year.

Although it appears to be a daunting prospect going into the outside world, I feel I am ready to face those new challenges. My time at Morrison's has prepared me for what life is like, but I will miss it greatly. All the support I have received over the years has been of great value and will be useful in later life. I'd just like to wish everyone all the very best and will never forget my experience or the lasting friendships I have made.

Ellie Wagstaff S6

SPEECH DAY



Prize Winners

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Erin L. O'Kane
Girls Senior Tennis
Champion
The Tony Armstrong Trophy

T. James Duncan
Individual Golf Champion
The Belch Cup

Rachael L. Smart
Music – Best Solo Performer
The Knox Cup

Hannah J.W. Logan
Music – Solo Scots Song
The A.B. Hunter Prize

Emma Marnoch
Music – Vocal Excellence
The Garrie Quaich

Rachel F. Cram
David J. Innes
Senior Drama
The Isobel McGregor
Trophy

Ronald M. Guthrie
Young Enterprise
The Sir Ross Belch Cup

Joanna L. Beedie
Ailsa M. Guntley
Ronald M. Guthrie
Kate L.G. Kennedy
Katherine L. Souter
Kara Stickland
Young Enterprise
Burdon-Cooper Enterprise
Award

Catriona A. Bell
Consulate General Prize for
Excellence in German

Rachael L. Smart
Rector's Award for
Outstanding Achievement
in Music

SPORTS CHAMPION

Rachel A. Paterson
Junior Girls

Iain Paterson
Junior Boys

Rachel C. Adamson
Intermediate Girls

Michael G. Lafferty
Intermediate Boys

Melanie E. Stephen
Senior Girls

James D. Thomson
Senior Boys

SPORTS CHAMPION

The Campbells
Girls Sports Championship
The Scott Cup

The Drummonds
Boys Sports Championship
The Scott Cup

The Drummonds
The Supreme House Award
The Mrs. Thomas Bolton Cup

THE INTER-HOUSE AWARDS

The Murrays
CCF
The Finch Cup

The Drummonds
Talent
The Russell Cup

The Campbells
Rugby
The Marr Cup

The Campbells
Hockey

The Murrays
Tennis (Senior Girls)

The Drummonds
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 Grahams
Badminton (Senior Girls)
The Ashmall Cup

The Campbells
Badminton (Senior Boys)
The Ashmall Cup

The Campbells
Inter-House Challenge Shield

SECONDARY SCHOOL PRIZE LIST

Secondary One

Adam I.E. Davie
Sophia A. Findlay
Katie M. Hiscocks
Fiona E. King
Lauren A. Strickland

Secondary Two

Sally E.N. Andrews
Emily Dick
Rachel A. Paterson
Megan J. Welsh

Secondary Three Governors' Subject Prizes

Andrew A. Blair
Geography, Music

Graham R. Campbell
Hospitality, Physical Education

Alastair A.M. Hamilton
Computing

Marianne L. Inglis
Biology, French, History

A. Jamie MacDonald
Spanish

Lindsey M. Macdonald
Art

David J.A. McLeod
Business Management

Hayley R. McDermott
Practical Craft Skills, Chemistry,
German, Physics

Erin L. O'Kane
English

Claire Ratcliff
Mathematics

Secondary Four Governors' Subject Prizes

Kirsty E.M. Bennett
Information Systems (Shared)

Prize Winners

Shane C.M. Campbell
Practical Craft Skills

Emily S. Coffey
German

Rachael A. Jones
Business Management

Hannah J.W. Logan
Music

Christopher McDougall
Information Systems (Shared)

P. Ciaran O'Kane
English

Emma K. Robertson
French, History, Mathematics, Spanish

Iain G.J. Savage
Accounting, Chemistry

Callum M. Strong
Art, Geography, Physics

Anna E. Tong
Biology

Secondary Five Subject Prizes

Sarah E.M. Bowers
University of Dundee Prize for Business
Management (Shared)

Sophie M. Equi
Governors' Prize for Human Biology
(Shared)

Kyle A.G. Grant
Howard Baker Prize for Information
Systems

Stephen A. Lafferty
Taylor Prize for English
Governors' Prize for Music
Robert Laurence Prize for German

Catherine E. Lovegrove
Governors' Prize for Biology
Philip Cann Memorial Prize for
Chemistry
Charles A. Thomson Prize for
Mathematics
Philip Cann Memorial Prize for School
Activities

Alice C. McLeod
Governors' Prize for History
University of Dundee Prize for Business
Management (Shared)

Alan J. Ratcliff
Governors' Prize for Spanish
Palmer Valentine Prize for Physics

Madeline R. Riddell
Sanderson Prize for Art

Melanie E. Stephen
Kennedy Prize for French
Governors' Prize for Human Biology
(Shared)

Jonathan L.C. Wilson
Governors' Prize for Geography

Secondary Six
Subject Prizes

Eve H. Bramley
The Stewart Award

Duncan H. Campbell
Valentine Prize for Geography

Rebecca E. Dickie
Governors' Prize for Spanish
Governors' Prize for Business
Management
The Roy Scholarship for Business
Subjects 2008-2009

Kate S. Greenlees
The Governors' Scholarship 2008-2009

Ronald M. Guthrie
Rebekah M. Price Science Essay Prize
The Governors' Scholarship 2008-2009

Ross M. Jack
Moffat Prize for Biology
John Smith Prize for Chemistry
The A.M. Wilson Scholarship for Science
2008-2009

Kate L.G. Kennedy
Palmer Valentine Prize for Art
Palmer Valentine Prize for French
Governors' Prize for Modern Studies
The McKenzie Strickland Architects
Award (Expressive)
The George Strathairn Scholarship for
Modern Languages 2008-2009

Arthur W. Learoyd
Strathairn Prize for History
A.D. Kippen Prize for Physics
John Smith Prize for Mathematics
The John Williamson Memorial
Scholarship for History 2008-2009

Claire C. Lorden
Mrs Alston's Prize for Music

Joseph Rasmussen
Governors' Prize for
Photography

Harriet E.E. Smythe
The McKenzie Strickland
Architects Award (Design)

Sarah A. Stephen
Valentine Prize for
Accounting

Leo Webster
Clark Prize for Senior Maths
Challenge

Ellen S.F.W. Wagstaff
The Stewart Award
Valentine Shield for Head
Girl
C.A. Thomson Prize for
Head Girl

Adam T. Stone
Valentine Shield for Head
Boy
C.A. Thomson Prize for
Head Boy

Kate L.G. Kennedy
The Governors' Bursary

Arthur W. Learoyd
The Dux Medal

2009-2010 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Stephen A. Lafferty
The George Strathairn
Scholarship for Modern
Languages

Catherine E. Lovegrove
The A.M. Wilson Scholarship
for Science

Alice C. McLeod
The Roy Scholarship for
Business Subjects

Sophie M. Equi
Emma Marnoch
The Governors' Scholarship



The Dux Medallist

Arthur Learoyd

Arthur has exceptional ability which he knows how to use. He has wide ranging knowledge, a dry, natural wit, and is a critical thinker with very good communication skills. This, coupled with an excellent work ethic, resulted in eight A grades at Intermediate 2 in 2007, five passes at Higher with A band one in 2008 and three predicted A grades in Advanced Higher History, Maths and Physics. He won prizes in 2008 for the best performance in his year in all five of his Higher subjects, scored eighty nine marks out of ninety in the Higher Physics exam and was awarded the John Williamson Memorial Scholarship for History.

Arthur's Maths and Physics teachers comment on his mathematical skill, his excellent powers of reasoning and analysis and his ability to use both imagination and logic when solving problems. He has the confident ability and maturity to pursue a line of thought independently, considering every aspect of a question before committing himself to an answer, yet seeking clarification should he need it.

His genuine interest in Physics and these highly developed skills could have steered him towards a Physics course, but Arthur has chosen to study History and Politics, an area in which he has already demonstrated analytical ability of the highest order. In the personal statement section of his university application he comments on his interest in history as "an interpretation of the past," enjoying in particular his investigations into "the purposes underlying historical critiques" and the variety of arguments which emerge. In the field of politics he enjoys International Relations, in particular "how political theory manifests itself in policy". His History teacher comments on Arthur's meticulous attention to detail and yet his quick ability "to see the bigger picture and the implications behind the detail", adding that "his essays are a delight to read, demonstrating a lightness of touch and

the ability to convey complex ideas intelligibly." Arthur reads widely and independently for pleasure. In his personal statement he refers to a number of texts by A.A.M. Duncan, G.W.S.Barrow, Chang and Halliday's "Mao", Kennedy's "The Rise and Fall of Great Powers" and Tansjo's "Global Democracy: The Case for a World Government", works he discusses in detail and with insight.

These interests, skills and abilities come together in debating. His wide general knowledge, considered opinions, ability to think on his feet, to analyse and then explain complex ideas articulately, have made him one of Scotland's leading young debaters and this year, captain of the school's successful debating team and a member of the Scottish team who competed in Athens in the world championships. In addition, he thoroughly enjoys the opportunities for very different public performance and creativity presented by his involvement in school musical and drama productions. His excellent leadership was complimented by the visiting course leader during a Business Dynamics course, and this with his participation in the Pupil Council has allowed him to demonstrate and develop his ability to listen, adapt his views, and work with others, mediating, persuading, using humour to good effect.

Arthur could be successful in many fields and his analytical ability and quickness of thought will be appreciated by any university department. He has been offered a place at Merton College, Oxford, conditional on the results of his Advanced Highers.

A Allan

MORRISON'S ACADEMY

Developing the whole child

