

Campus Connections



Issue 13; March 2018

Introduction

Welcome to this edition of Campus Connections. In this publication I am delighted to share the very positive conclusion of our recent Extended Learning and Achievement Visit (ELAV) and details of how you can give your views about the school through our annual parent questionnaire.

There has been plenty going on at Kinross High School since our last edition. Read on to find information about some of our events and the successes of our pupils.

Sarah Brown
Headteacher /Campus Leader

Updates

Staffing

At the end of last term David McKay (PE) left us to take up a new role as House Master at Queen Victoria School. David was with us since August 2005 and although he was sad to leave, he is very excited about the new opportunities that this promotion will present.

Bryan Innes and Graeme Lavery have joined us from Levenmouth Academy as permanent teachers. Bryan is a very experienced teacher of Maths and Graeme worked with us in 2015/6 as an excellent student teacher. Sarah Henderson from Breadalbane Academy has also joined us as temporary teacher of Drama.

Jennie Mears (Care and Welfare Officer) also left at the end of last term. She is taking an opportunity to develop her career by training as a Careers Advisor. We have welcomed Sharon O'Neill to our team. Sharon is an experienced Care and Welfare Officer who has come to us from Perth High School.

We have recently said farewell to Simone Purves and Darren Leslie who have taken up posts at Balwearie High School and Lornhill Academy. We are undertaking recruitment to fill both posts.

School Improvement

Professional Learning Conference

The In-service day in February was our second Professional Learning Conference for teaching staff. This conference focused on the *Responsibility of All*, which aims to develop the literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing in young people. The conference Keynote speakers were Dr Carol Craig and Dr Bill Paterson. Dr Craig, is the author of a number of books and is the Chief Executive of the Centre for Confidence and Wellbeing. Dr Bill Paterson was responsible for successfully writing and managing the delivery of a community model of mindfulness training designed to support the mental health of children, parents, carers and all staff engaged in supporting young people in Fife Schools. We were delighted to be joined at the conference by members of our primary cluster, Navigate and Dundee City Council.

Extended Learning and Achievement Visit (ELAV) from Education and Children's Services

In October 2017, a team of officers from Perth and Kinross Education and Children's Services (ECS) visited Kinross High School to undertake an *Extended Learning and Achievement Visit* (ELAV). They undertook a range of classroom visits, met with staff, pupils and parents and reviewed the school's self-evaluation processes.

The ELAV team have recently published their report which concludes that *"Kinross High School provides a safe, respectful and productive environment for young people with learning and wellbeing at the heart of it. Staff, pupils and parents have a sense of pride and ambition for the school. There is a shared approach to working to get it right for the young people in their care and to make sure they all reach their full potential."*

We were delighted that the strengths of the school were highlighted and include:

1. The teamwork and commitment of staff to ensure continuous improvements for young people.
2. Confident and respectful young people, who are proud of their school and who, in the main, engage enthusiastically in their learning.
3. The wide range of experiences and opportunities available to pupils within the curriculum and the wider life of the school which support them in their learning and in their personal and social development.
4. The inclusive and supportive ethos across the school, built on positive relationships where the majority of young people feel supported and enabled to improve and participate.

Next steps will be included within the Improvement Plan for 2018/19 and the full report is available to parents by clicking this link:- <http://kinrosshighschool.org.uk/parents/policies-and-reports/>

How Parents/Carers Can Support the School

Parental Feedback

Feedback from parents is very important to us and we seek it in a number of ways. As you will be aware we run i-pad surveys at parent's nights, parent focus groups as part of our self-evaluation process and an annual parent questionnaire. Examples of things that we have taken forward in response to parental feedback are in the table below:

You Said

The school should continue to develop its range of courses

Provide better advice to pupils at times of curriculum choice

Improve communication

We Did

- Introduced Spanish earlier in the Broad General Education.
- Reviewed timetabling arrangements for Senior Phase so that S5/6 pupils can also choose from some S4 options.
- Included new courses e.g. Photography and Fashion, Mandarin, Practical Electronics.
- All pupils now have the entitlement of a 1:1 course choice interview.
- Introduced a triage system to manage House e-mail accounts for prioritising parental enquiries.
- Worked with the Parent Council to consider the best format for the website, this is due to be upgraded in Autumn 2018.

Parental Feedback (continued)

You Said

Improve the behaviour of pupils

Delay the parent survey so that parents new to the school could contribute

We Did

- Worked with staff to ensure consistently high expectation of all pupils
 - Clarified behaviour expectation with pupils and introduced classroom and social focus areas
 - Observed a decline in the number of behaviour incidents that have required intervention.
 - Shared classroom and social focus areas with parents via Groupcall and the school website.
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- Parent survey has been moved from August 2017 to March 2018.

Parent Survey

Please find a link to the parent questionnaire for this session. Results from this questionnaire are used to help us to identify improvement priorities that will be taken forward as part of the improvement plan for next year. Parents may complete a questionnaire for each of their children attending the school.

Link as follows:-

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HZCDMVT>

School Calendar

Dates for March/April

15/03/18	KHS Careers Fair
26/03/18	S4/5/6 Third Tracking Report Issued
27/03/18	KHS Spring Concert
30/03/18	Spring Holiday Starts
16/04/18	In service day
17/04/18	Summer Term Starts
26/04/18	S2 Take Your Child To Work Day
27/04/18	S6 Leavers Days
07/05/18	May Day Holiday

A full calendar is available at
<http://kinrosshighschool.org.uk/news-and-events/calendar/>

Campus Opening Hours

Easter

30/03/18	Normal opening hours
31/03/18	Normal opening hours
01/04/18	Normal opening hours
02/04/18	Normal opening hours

School News

Confucius Hub

On 21st February the school celebrated Chinese New Year with a special show to launch the Confucius Hub. The Nanjing Little Red Flower Dance troupe from China along with pupils from Kinross High School entertained with music, dance and stories of living and working in China. We have two Mandarin teachers based at the school and the Hub provides a unique opportunity for people in Perth and Kinross to not only learn the language but also Chinese customs and culture.



Careers Advisor

Rona Neilson, our Careers Advisor is available at all Parents Evenings. She also attends the Positive Destination Evening, S2 Subject Choice Information Session and the Kinross High School Careers Fair which will be held on Thursday 15th March in the Assembly Hall from 18.00 – 20.00.

She is always happy for parents to contact her through the school and is available during the holidays, especially for parents who may wish to speak to someone at exam results time. Outwith school, she can be contacted on 01738 637639 or via email at rona.neilson@sds.co.uk

School Show 2018!

Rehearsals are under way for a fantastic production of 'Little Shop of Horrors' for Kinross High School's performing Arts faculty 2018 show!

A cast of 70 pupils are involved in acting, marketing, costume design, make-up and hair design and prop making in preparation for our school show.

Remember to buy your tickets for 19th 20th and 21st of June!!

Foundation Apprenticeship

Jack Johnson (S5) is getting prepared for the world of work by undertaking a Foundation Apprenticeship as one of his subject choices this year. Foundation Apprenticeships are open to pupils in the senior phase of secondary school and usually take two years to complete. They combine learning at a local college with a significant work placement – all resulting in a qualification at the same level as a Higher.



Jack goes to college one day a week and in class he's been covering topics like child development and communication. In the second year of the programme, he'll go out on placement to a local childcare establishment, such as a primary school or nursery.

Jack is doing his Foundation Apprenticeship in Social Services Children and Young People at Perth College UHI, with the hope of picking up some skills, knowledge and experience that will set him up for a successful career in the future.

Perth College has been offering Foundation Apprenticeships to pupils across the region for four years now, after taking part in the pilot programme in 2015. Pupils can choose to do a Foundation Apprenticeship in S5. More information about Foundation Apprenticeships can be found on the Perth UHI website or by following this link:- <https://www.perth.uhi.ac.uk/school-college-partnership/foundation-apprenticeships/>

School News (cont)

Spring Concert

Our Annual Spring Concert will be held on Tuesday 27 March 2018 at 7pm – School Assembly Hall. Tickets £6 (£4 Concession) available on Parent Pay from 12 March 2018.

Expressive Arts - Miss Saigon Trip

The expressive arts held a very successful trip to see Miss Saigon in the Festival Theatre in Edinburgh on Tuesday 6th February, with over 40 pupils attending. All those who came reported that they had a fantastic time and at least half of the pupils were in tears by the end of the show (along with the majority of accompanying staff)!

Pupil Achievement

Rotary Young Musician Competition

On Wednesday 13 December we held our second Rotary Young Musician competition. We were delighted to host an evening of music by some of our most talented students. The overall winner was electric guitarist Garry Simpson (S4) and the vocal winner was Euan Alexander (S4). Both pupils went on to take part in the regional heat in February.

The music department would like to congratulate both Garry Simpson and Euan Alexander for their brilliant achievement in reaching the District Final of the competition with competitors from all over the north of Scotland. Both pupils performed to an extremely high standard, with Euan coming third and being highly commended for his vocal performance.

Euroscola

Here's our own Gracie Lee at the European Parliament in Strasbourg on 15th February having been successfully selected by the Rotary Club to attend the Euroscola event. They pay for a pupil who is fluent in French to visit the European Parliament in Strasbourg to become a member of the European Parliament for a day! The visit is without doubt a fantastic opportunity for the pupil to use their language skills in a meaningful, realistic context and meet young people from all over Europe. It develops cultural awareness, understanding and gives



an opportunity to learn about European integration by experiencing it first-hand. As this opportunity is only made available to EU member states, it is likely to be the last trip in which the UK can participate.

Pupil Achievement (cont)

Badminton

Callum Flockhart competed at the U17 Gold Leigh competition in Lancaster on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th of March winning Gold in the U17 Mens Singles.



Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)

Thank you to all who applied for this one week adventure in the Highlands in July with all expenses paid by Rotary. We had 12 brilliant candidates and it was very hard to choose, but we picked the following terrific candidates:

Boys - Robbie Harvey and reserve Cameron MacFarlane

Girls - Olivia Morgan and reserve Abi Watters

Thanks to Mr Dolan for being enormously helpful in the process.

Springboard Futurechef and Rotary Club Young Chef Competitions

Two pupils from the Home Economics department have been competing in national young chef competitions recently.

Rory Maddock (S1) took part in the Rotary Club Young Chef Competition held at Dundee College, which was an experience he thoroughly enjoyed. Rory was mentored by Derek, Head Chef from the Courthouse, to whom we are grateful for committing his time and expertise to working with Rory.

Freya Conway (S2) represented the school in the Regional Final of Springboard Futurechef Competition in Glasgow. Freya was the youngest competitor and showed great skill in the dishes she made – starting with a wild pigeon – feathers and all! Freya was mentored by David Ward from Sodhexo, and produced dishes of an exceptional high standard.



These competitions demand a huge amount of hard work and commitment from pupils, mentor chefs and parents but give the pupils a great experience of working with a professional chef in professional kitchens.

And Finally.....

Intermediate Maths Challenge

The Intermediate Mathematical Challenge (IMC) is run by the UK Mathematics Trust. The IMC encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. It is aimed at S3-4 pupils in Scotland. The problems on the IMC are designed to make students think.

This session Kinross High School entered 13 S4 pupils and 14 S3 pupils to undertake this challenge. We attained 2 Gold awards, 4 Silver awards and 8 Bronze awards. Gold awards went to Callum Shah and Olivia Kuijpers from S3. Silver awards went to S3 pupils Ben Volland and Sarah Young and S4 pupils Anna Casasola and Duncan Crawford. Bronze awards went to S3 pupils Joel Dyer, Coco Ramponi, Ailsa Bennet, Benjamin Surtees and Jack Muncey and S4 pupils Eleanor Baughan, Kayleigh Husband and Ruth Duthie.

Career Ready Student of the Year

Congratulations to Craig Moffat who has been awarded the Career Ready Student of the Year Award for Perth and Kinross Council. Craig will now be interviewed for the Scottish student of the year. Craig has worked with Perth and Kinross Council for his internship. He has received extremely positive feedback from both them and Career Ready. Well done and good luck for the next round of interviews.

Scots Verse Speaking Competition



Every year the English Department runs a verse speaking competition, in conjunction with a unit of work which looks at the poetry of Robert Burns. Each pupil has to learn a poem to recite to their class and then they have the opportunity of entering the Scots Verse Speaking Competition. This year it fell on the Bard's birthday on 25 January and that made it even more special!

We had twenty pupils gather in the English "break-out" area, along with members of our Senior leadership team, who also entertained us with their recitations. The pupils' performances were of a very high standard and the judges had a very difficult decision. Mrs. Brown was our Head Judge, ably abetted by Ms. Gallagher of the English Department and Edie Urquhart, one of our Advanced English students, who herself had taken part in the competition when she was in S1. We were also entertained with Scottish music by a group of S1 musicians and Mr. Becher (an Ayrshire man) from Modern languages entertained us with "Rantin' Rovin' Robin."

After much deliberation, Laura Schofield was declared the winner with her rendition of "Address to the Haggis."

It was a lovely occasion and a very fitting way to celebrate the influence of our National Bard.

