



Introduction

Happy New Year and welcome to Campus Connections! We hope the festive season has been enjoyable for all and that our pupils are settling back into lessons after the break.

This will be the last Campus Connections as it appears in its current format.

Going forward, we will distribute a more condensed publication for parents on a monthly basis which will include sections on school improvement and parent council, information on how parents and carers can support the school and updates from Kinross High School.

We will continue to produce a more lengthy publication to cover school news, campus events and pupil achievement which will be distributed once a term.

Update

Staffing Updates

Congratulations to Ms J Mackenzie and Mr J Blyth who have been appointed as Principal Teachers of Modern Languages and Performing Arts respectively at the new Bertha Park High School in Perth. They are expected to be with us until the SQA exam leave in May. Although we are sad to lose these two incredible teachers, we recognise how much they both deserve the promotion and wish them the very best of luck in their new roles.

We have welcomed Miss Fell to the Home Economics Department. Also, we have been joined by two student teachers; Miss Webster (Business) and Miss Auchterlonie (Physical Education).

Parents Evenings

We have found that the majority of Parents Evening appointments are made in the first part of the evening. In order to ensure staff are available at the time parents wish to meet with staff, our Parents Evenings will start earlier at 17:30 and our S2 evening will start at 17:00.

Parent Survey

Thank you to parents who completed the survey at our recent S1 and S5/6 Parents Evenings. From this survey it is clear that you want more information about tracking and reporting and advice on how to support your child in their learning. In partnership with parents we will be working to better understand the advice required so that we can find the most effective media to share this.

School Improvement

We are currently undertaking a review of our school vision, values and aims. We want to ensure that these are relevant to our young people and underpin our commitment to improving the school. We have completed a review with staff and will shortly undertake a similar activity with our pupils, parents and partners. There will be an opportunity in the New Year for you to contribute to this work.

How Parents/Carers Can Support the School

Thank you for your continued support of our school uniform which all pupils wear to school. This helps to create a sense of identity with, and pride in, Kinross High School. The uniform consists of black school trousers or skirt; a plain white school shirt with collar, sleeves and buttons to the neck; the KHS School tie which is available from the school office £5 for a Junior Tie (S1-S4) and £9 for a Senior Tie (S5-S6); a black jumper or cardigan; comfortable black footwear.

In addition to the above, our KHS purple blazer. Please note that Blazers must be worn by all sixth year pupils who opt to become prefects. We are keen, however, to encourage all pupils to wear a school blazer. These can be obtained from the Kinross High School Parent Council KinrossHSParentCouncil@gmail.com.

Some parents ask us for clarification about items such as jeans and leggings and whether these can be worn. These items are discouraged. A minority of pupils wear grey jumpers as a uniform item, and this will be removed as an option from August 2019 to improve the uniformity of appearance of young people. Parents should ensure that any jumper worn to school has a neck line that allows the school tie to be visible.

From the Parent Council

The Parent Council have had several meetings since August. With a number of new members, we have been focusing on finding out more about how we can work together with a particular focus on communication between parents and the school. This included a review of the school website – we now understand the lengthy process behind making improvements to this! We will be feeding into the process of gradually updating it so it is more relevant and useful.

The Parent Council had excellent presentations from the Heads of both Maths and English at their last meeting, and copies of the information covered in their presentations will be available shortly via the Minutes and Agendas section of the Parent Council website.

Until this year, there was an Events and Fundraising Team which was separate from the Parent Council. The parents originally involved with this no longer have children at the school, and so this role is likely to be incorporated into the Parent Council. We have been fortunate enough to have spare funds this year which enabled us to donate money to a number of school projects, from Forensic Science equipment to a Studio Quality Microphone. If we want to continue to be able to do this, we will need to fundraise– if you might be interested in helping with this, please get in touch via KinrossHSParentCouncil@gmail.com.

School News

Equestrian News

The Equestrian Team has been very successful recently with a number of excellent performances at Strathallan Schools Show Jumping Team Event at Howe Equestrian Centre. The team competed in jump from 55cm – 1m. The 75 and 85cm jumps were fantastic rounds for everyone but the competitors really shone in the 55cm where Maisie Price came 6th with the team placing 2nd overall. Team 2 placed 5th in the 85cm. The highlight of the event was winning the 1m round and Anna Casasola being placed first in the individual competition too! Also, in their final competition of the year, Sophie Normile competed as an individual, coming 6th in the 85cm and first place in her first ever attempt at the 95cm class! Well done girls.



Interact Group Shoebox Appeal

For a number of years now, Kinross High School have taken part in the Rotary Club's Interact initiative which brings together young people ages 12-18 to develop leadership skills while discovering the power of Service Above Self.

The school are working with the Rotary Club of Kinross to deliver the Interact programme for students in S5 and S6 and as part of the programme we decided to run the Shoebox appeal within school.

Rotary International and the Kinross High School Interact Group would like to thank all who contributed to our Shoebox Appeal. The Rotary Club of Kinross collected a total of 364 boxes which will be delivered to Eastern Europe in time for Christmas. Your very kind gifts are going to brighten the lives of children who have so very little to look forward to over the Festive period.



Fencing

The Scottish Schools Individual Fencing Championships 2018 annual competition was hosted by Linlithgow Academy at the end of November and included all three of the weapons that are used in the Olympic sport of Fencing. Participants compete in three different age categories (Under 14, Under 16 and Over 16). Fencing has been shown to improve,

self-discipline, confidence and courage, qualities we aim to encourage in our pupils, as well as improving reaction times, mental agility, balance and hand-eye coordination.

Well done to Caitlin Quinn who was placed 10th. Also, congratulations go to Charlotte Wilson-Smith and Sam Freeman who both came 1st.

S2 Digging In Trip



On Wednesday 5 December, 35 pupils across S2 travelled to Pollok Park in Glasgow to visit a series of World War One trenches that have been recreated by Digging In. They spent 90 minutes exploring the trenches before heading back to the school and creating presentations which they have been presenting to their

classes over the last 2 weeks to be able to share their experience across the whole year group.

Pupils were able to handle a broken bayonet and a piece of tin helmet which were once part of a soldier's required kit. They also dressed pupils up in the full wool uniform and showed them various stages of gas masks used. The main focal point were the trenches themselves and pupils were guided around these and took part in various tasks before having some time to explore them on their own. Although the weather was bitterly cold, pupils appreciated that soldiers fighting on the Western Front would have faced identical and worse conditions with less equipment.

One S2 pupil said "although it was cold, we learned a lot and we were able to take part in various re-enactments including dressing up in soldier's clothing, handling artefacts and learning how to use signal flags. I found it incredibly fun and it was worth being out in the cold".

Staff vs Pupil Bake-off

Staff and pupils went head to head on Friday 14 December in our second bake-off competition. The challenge was to create a tray bake and the results looked and *tasted* amazing. Mr Bain was forced to hand the trophy over to our new winner Mrs Prentice who wowed the judges with her The resulting treats were sold in the staff room with all proceeds going to Kinross First Responders. Well done to everyone who took part.

Broke Not Broken Christmas Appeal

Dr Armstrong and his team of hardworking Christmas elves would like to thank all the TSG classes and the office staff who collected a huge amount for the Broke Not Broken Christmas Hamper Appeal. We were able to fill 23 hampers and had seven boxes full of extra donations which are sure to have brought a bit of Christmas cheer to local families.



Duke of Edinburgh Newsletter

The Duke of Edinburgh groups have had an amazing year. Follow the link to find out more about what they've been getting involved in:

<https://sway.office.com/39RVaRAEOZDaBceA?ref=Link>

Campus Events



Mrs Brown has “wheely” enjoyed being taxied around the campus on the new trishaws. The Trishaws Project is led by Kinross-shire Community Sports Hub and aims to support elderly people in Kinross-shire to remain a central part of society by reducing social isolation and loneliness, increasing social connections, support inter-generational contact and enable those participating in the bike rides to feel the wind in their hair.

The sport hub raised £17,000 and has purchased two trishaws. Rides will initially be offered to Ashley House Nursing Home, Whyte Court and Causeway Court Sheltered Housing and Kinross Day Centre with plans to expand this. The project encourages the wider community to come together supporting our elderly population with local volunteers becoming ‘pilots’ and ‘co-pilots’ for the rides. Elderly people will have the opportunity to get out more often, have something to look forward to, have new experiences to discuss with family and friends and the opportunity to engage with passers-by when out on the trishaws.

The project addresses a community need that goes beyond this area. Across Scotland, more than 80,000 people aged 65 and over said they always or often feel lonely with 350,000 people saying TV is their main form of company, that they feel cut off from society, and would like to get out more. Rides will be available seven days a week and all rides will be free. Please give a wave and say hello when you see the trishaws out and about. For further information, please email Kirsteen Ross at KinrossTrishaws@gmail.com

Kinross Kacophony Orchestra

The Campus has hosted KLEO’s Kinross Kacophony Orchestra for two sessions now and on 14 November they showed off what they’d been rehearsing to friends, family and members of the community in an informal ‘open rehearsal’. Lead this time by conductor, Tom Smith, they opened with a majestic festive fanfare and the theme from *Thunderbirds* to much applause. The orchestra also debuted a ‘work in progress’ called *Edinburgh Suite*, an upbeat piece to brighten up the dark winter nights. The audience were then treated to a rousing and ethereal arrangement of Holst’s *Planets*. Rounding off the evening in spectacular fashion, the Kacophony Orchestra reached dizzying speeds to delight their audience with a toe-tapping medley of *Lord of the Dance*. Overall, the applause and smiling faces attested to a successful evening and we cannot wait to have the Orchestra back!



Hairspray

Director and choreographer Lucy Duffy visited the Campus on 16 November with the cast of her 5th Winter Festival production, *Hairspray*. The two night extravaganza transported the audiences back to the 60s with big voices and bigger hair! The young cast kept everyone captivated with songs from the hit musical and dance moves to match. It truly was an event for all ages.

Winter Revue

Several of the Winter Festival events have been hosted by Loch Leven Community Campus not least the Winter Revue. Kinross High School pupil Guy Bathgate organised the event as part of this Baccalaureate qualification and the eagerly anticipated event lived up to expectations with a spectacular variety of performances from pupils.

Pupil Achievement

Sam Freeman has been selected to compete for Great Britain at the 2019 European Fencing Championships in Foggia, Italy in February. This is a great achievement as he has worked so hard both in training sessions and competing on the cadet European circuit in the last few months. Well done!

Congratulations to **Freya Conway** who was successful in representing the school at the Future Chef Competition at Perth College. Freya will now go onto the Scottish heat in Glasgow in February. Well done to **Millie Prentice** who also took part. The judges were absolutely blown away with the standard shown by both competitors.

Well done to **Abigail Mann** (S1) who won 1st place at the Rotary Young Chef competition on Monday; she will go onto represent the school in Dundee later this month. Well done to the other competitors – **Louis Johnston** (S1) came 2nd; **Sarah Rapley** (S2) and **Adam Gallagher** (S1) came joint 3rd.

The Pupil Support Department have been working hard to bring the Folly Café to members of the community. The pupils make cakes and bakes from scratch, assist customers in the café and even tidy up at the end! Come along on Thursdays between 10am and noon.

Well done to **Juliette Stevenson** who placed in the top three of the staff vs pupil Bake Off. All the goods were sold in school with profits going to Kinross First Responders.

Former pupil Beth Farmer is representing Scotland at the World Junior Curling Championships in Finland. The team have won every game they have played this tournament. She's doing KHS proud!

Spring Term Calendar

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| 14 January – 28 January | S5/6 Prelims | |
| 15 January | Parent Council Meeting | 19:15 |
| 21 January | S4 Secondary Tracking Report Issued | |
| 24 January | S4 Parents Evening | 17:30 |
| 11 February | S2 Reports Issued | |
| 12 February | S2 Course Choice Information Evening | 19:00 |
| 13 February | In-service Day | |
| 14-15 February | Mid-term | |
| 18 February | S5/6 Secondary Tracking Report Issued | |
| 19 February | Parent Council Meeting | 19:15 |
| 20 February | S5/6 Course Choice Information Evening | 19:00 |
| 27 February | S2 Parents Evening | 17:00 |
| 4 March | S3 Secondary Tracking Report Issued | |
| | Careers Fair | 19:00 |
| 7 March | S3 Parents Evening | 17:30 |
| 19 March | Parent Council Meeting | 19:15 |
| 26 March | Spring Concert | 19:00 |
| 28 March | S4/5/6 Final Tracking Report Issued | |