

# Achievements!

## Govan High School

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**NHS**  
Greater Glasgow  
and Clyde

ISSUE 5



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## UK Parliament hears how we are preparing our future

THE Scottish Affairs Select Committee of the House of Commons has been holding an inquiry into skills and recruitment for the defence industry in Scotland.

The committee is chaired by Mohammed Sarwar MP and includes local MP for Govan, Ian Davidson.

In March, the committee held a session at Thales Optronics to hear evidence from relevant educational institutions, including Govan High School, which was represented by head teacher Iain White and depute head Kevin Sweeney.

The committee was so impressed by their contribution that Iain was asked to submit further written evidence and Kevin was invited to present evidence to a full committee hearing in Westminster.

Kevin went to London and appeared as a witness to the



Kevin Sweeney (inset) spoke at Westminster

committee on 14 May. The questions ranged from Govan High School's implementation of its new skills-based curriculum, to the impacts of regeneration in the Govan community.

Again the select committee was impressed by the contribution from Govan High,

so much so, that it has decided to launch the report on its findings in Govan High School on 23 June.

That event will take place after the publication of this newsletter - but you can expect a full report in the first newsletter of the new session.

## Our survey says Govan has a great school for all pupils

GOVAN High is leading the way for S1 school attendance in Glasgow.

Our figure of 92 per cent attendance is five per cent higher than the city-wide average and proof, if it were needed,

that Govan High is a great place for children to learn.

As our recent S1 parents' survey in April has shown, there is an excellent level of "customer satisfaction".

The positive findings from the survey included satisfaction

over the curriculum and senior management of the school.

Comments included: "Since my daughter has been at Govan High I have seen a big change in her. She comes home HAPPY!"

The full survey results and comments can be viewed at: [www.govanhigh.glasgow.sch.uk](http://www.govanhigh.glasgow.sch.uk)

■ More survey news on page 8

## Victoria is a real high flyer

VICTORIA Keir is in S5. Last year she achieved nine Standard Grade Credit passes - eight of them at Grade 1 and



this year she has been studying for five Highers in business management, chemistry, English, mathematics and physics.

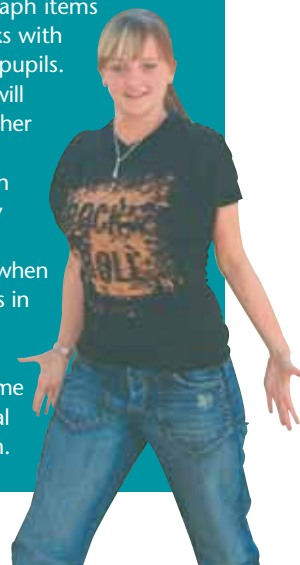
She got A passes in all of these at the preliminary examinations and we look forward to further success from Victoria when the final results are announced in August.

## Emma Kirkbride - a success story!

THE Theatre Arts programme has produced a future star in Emma Kirkbride.

Emma, who is in S6, is the dance captain and helps choreograph items and works with younger pupils.

Emma will continue her studies at Edinburgh University after the summer when she enrolls in the BED (Hons) programme in physical education.



## From the heidie's office

THIS is a very exciting time for Govan High, and apart from being in the school itself, there is no better place to see that than this Achievements Newsletter. We are able to celebrate so many stories where pupils

have been successful in a variety of different learning experiences and have developed many skills as a result – skills that will benefit them as they seek employment.

This session, attendance has improved, pupil behaviour has improved with 25 per cent fewer incidents referred, exclusion incidents are down by 32 per cent, and we are predicting tremendous success in National Tests for S2 pupils.

Estimates indicate that Level E performance will have improved by nine per cent in maths, six per cent in reading and 11 per cent in writing.

These S2 pupils have been following Access and Intermediate courses in all of their subjects and we are expecting them to do very well with National Qualifications too, two years ahead of pupils in many other schools!

The most important indicator of how we are doing are the Leaver Destination figures. In recent years, we have reduced the unemployed figure from 32 per cent to 21 per cent and expect to reduce that further.

Just this week, our Positive Destinations team reported six young people leaving to start jobs in motor mechanics, construction and the law.

Our dream is that someday all leavers will someday go to a positive destination and we are moving towards making that dream come true.

Enjoy the read!  
Iain White – head teacher

## School leavers given help

THE Positive Destinations Programme aims to make sure that every pupil who leaves school has a job, college or university place

For this, we have received and will receive additional funding, from the Scottish Government, Glasgow City Council and the Hunter Foundation.

We are working with a number of pupils in their applications for

apprenticeships with BAE Systems, Thales Optronics and City Building.

Our additional careers adviser, Fiona Fleming and our youth support workers, Derek Montgomery, Stewart Macgregor and Jacqui Fitzpatrick work with about 34 of our senior pupils to prepare them for Get Ready for Work courses, and Youth Employment and Training Schemes after they leave school.

## Learning is a real Diamond



### Pupils at a Determined to Succeed event

As a result of our continuing work with Determined to Succeed, Govan High received the highest awards in all areas at this year's Glasgow Education Awards.

We achieved a Diamond Award for enterprise in education and working along with our partners in the learning establishments within Govan Learning Community, we were also awarded the New Learning Community Award and the New Learning Community Business Engagement Award.

Determined to Succeed is the Scottish Government's strategy for enterprise in education to help young people develop

self-confidence, self-reliance and ambition to achieve their goals – in work and in life. Examples of Determined to Succeed events we have held over the past year include our Christmas Coffee Morning, S3 Business Week, Fashion Extravaganza, Annual Talent Show, Financial Education DVD, Fair Trade Day and our student exchanges to many different European countries.

If you would like to know more about Determined to Succeed, please contact employability and enterprise officer Susan McAuley, on: 0141 582 0090 or at: [smcauley@govanhigh.glasgow.sch.uk](mailto:smcauley@govanhigh.glasgow.sch.uk)

## Govan High student council gets under way

A student council has been established again this term for pupils and staff at the school and Autism Unit.

The council post holders are: president Austin Sheridan, vice president Zara Savage and treasurer Deborah Mullholland.

The council is already considering:

- an outdoor learning centre to get people

out of the classroom more

- toilets improvement
- a water machine for the Autism Unit.

If you have questions or suggestions, email: [austinsheridan@govanhigh.glasgow.sch.uk](mailto:austinsheridan@govanhigh.glasgow.sch.uk)





## Former pupils get to work

KERRY Porter, Ross Caw, Colin McEwan and Simone Brown have all secured jobs at Corrie's Solicitors in Glasgow.

Gareth Ware, one of the senior partners at Corrie's, interviewed the candidates and confirmed that they were successful for the available positions.

The young people will be working as part of a team, and their role will be to support the firm with basic administration duties.

The former pupils all started their first day in May.

The busy salon



## Our hairdressers are a cut above

LECTURER Isabella Morrison, who works with several classes in the Govan High School salon, has supplied figures indicating that the hairdressing course has a 100 per cent success rate for Positive Destinations.

Every one of this year's 24 senior hairdressing students has stayed on at school, gained a college place or got a job in a hairdressing salon.

Since the salon was opened at the beginning of the school year it has been a great success.

This session an S2 group and two upper-school groups have gained modules in hairdressing.

Another group have gained a module in presentation skills and two students, Grant MacAskill and Raymond McArthur, have also successfully overtaken a module in barbering.

# Kids doing it for kicks

KICKS 'n' Tricks is a partnership between Glasgow South West Regeneration Agency (GSWRA), Strathclyde Police, Rangers Football Club and Culture and Sport Glasgow. It is supported by the Big Lottery, Communities Scotland, Glasgow City Council and Glasgow Housing Association and was launched in August 2006.

The project aims to reduce antisocial behaviour, crime and the fear of crime through structured activity. Kicks 'n' Tricks is a portable soccer arena and in along with with CRE8, a mobile internet learning facility, is deployed on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at three local



The CRE8 mobile learning unit

hot-spot areas of Govan.

A dedicated football development officer, who is employed by Rangers Football Club, is seconded on a full-time basis to the project.

The project has been a huge

success with more than 100 young people taking part on a week-to-week basis. It will now also be deployed at secondary schools where young people will be able to access it during the school curriculum.

## Engineering given boost



THIS year we have seen the introduction of Engineering Craft Skills which involves the completion of three units and a final project.

This course involves students using a wide range of machinery, tools and equipment.

This course is assessed internally, where the level of accuracy and assistance required will determine the level (Intermediate 1 or 2) and grade achieved by students.

From August 2008 we are entering a partnership with Stow College, Anniesland College and BAE Systems.

Classes will take place in the school's Technical Department and in Stow College. Pupils can then progress to heavier engineering in a course run jointly by the school and Anniesland College. BAE Systems will be supporting development of these courses.

To find out more, contact the Technical Department.



Employers enjoy breakfast

## Morning meeting is a big success

Our breakfast meeting for employers took place in May, with 20 local employers enjoying a healthy breakfast prepared by June Alba and Anne Keay.

The range of companies included building and construction, scaffolding, painting and decorating, catering, hairdressing, metal fabrication and graphic design. The guests watched a DVD and heard about the different ways in which the school and local employers can work together in partnership.



**Greater Glasgow  
and Clyde**

*1948-2008  
60 years of the NHS*

# New South Glasgow

## Investment

The redevelopment of the Southern General site is not only about new healthcare facilities, it also represents an investment in a £1.2 billion pound proposal for the new health campus representing services ever undertaken in Scotland. Investment in the new hospitals, maternity unit, together with a new laboratory building in Govan, become home to the largest, most advanced services in the country.

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde looks forward to working with the High School and other local partners to make this investment a success for the local community.

### **New Children's Hospital**

By 2013, the New Children's Hospital will provide 240 beds offering A&E services and the full range of in-patient and day case paediatric services - for Glasgow, the West of Scotland and nationally.

Children are integral to the design of the new hospital. A Youth Panel is working with the architects and planners to make sure that the needs of teenagers and young people are central to the plans.



# Listening



# New Hospitals

## Investing in Govan's future

Not only an investment in modern  
healthcare for Govan's future. The multi-million  
pound is the largest investment in health  
care in the new adult and children's  
hospital facility will see Glasgow, and  
the single NHS development in the

Working in partnership with Govan  
investment work for Govan and the



### New Adult Hospital

The new Adult Hospital will consist of 1109 beds, providing the full range of acute adult care for South and West Glasgow, all in single rooms with en-suite facilities. The new build is due for completion in 2014.

The renowned Spinal Injuries and Neurosciences Units will be retained on site.

**Informing Involving**  
community engagement

[www.nhsggc.org.uk](http://www.nhsggc.org.uk)



Monika Dlaska (centre)

## Welcome for learning visit

THE Learning Resource Centre recently played host to an Austrian guest, Monika Dlaska, who is studying a degree in information literacy. Monika said: "I was very impressed with the work that is being done within the Scottish information literacy project. It will inform my future work."

## Fashion Extravaganza



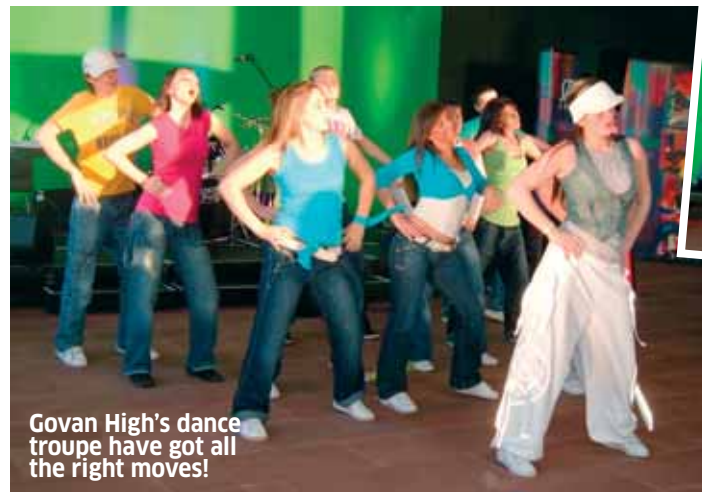
Dressed for success

GOVAN High took part in "Fashion Extravaganza", a Govan Learning Community Determined to Succeed event. The extravaganza involved pupils from other schools and nursery schools in the community.

## S1 Kelvingrove visit

S1 pupils visited the Centre for New Enlightenment at the Kelvingrove Museum in May – supporting the Curriculum for Excellence.

# A great night to remember



Govan High's dance troupe have got all the right moves!

IN April, Hair Razin' Records, our S5/6 Enterprise Through Music class, took over the BBC at Pacific Quay to hold the launch party for this year's release – a CD of cover versions called "Wannabeez".

Enterprise Through Music is a business studies course where its students can learn real business skills.

During their course the record company "discovered" the artists (pupils and teachers from school), negotiated for copyright on backing tracks,

recorded them at Splash Productions in Johnstone and manufactured the CD in London.

The launch party was hosted by the BBC's Bryan Burnett and featured a speech by Stephanie MacPherson – this year's company manager – and performances by the artists.

The show included



performances from Hannah Brown, Emma Farrell and Courtney Hamilton, school band "Badly Put Together", GHS Performing Arts dance troupe and Daniel McInnes, who must be Scotland's youngest Elvis impersonator.

Ewan McLeod, of Influx Records, spoke about the course as did Alex McLean, vice principal of Stow College.

To top the night off, the audience were treated to an excellent performance of "Islands In The Stream" by Graham Robertson and Philip Graham from the school staff.

A BUSINESS STUDIES COURSE WHERE STUDENTS CAN LEARN REAL BUSINESS SKILLS

# Introducing the next class

THIS year, the two-day event to introduce P7 pupils to the secondary school, took place on 29 and 30 May.

This event is part of our commitment to ensure the transition from primary to secondary runs as smoothly as possible.

It works alongside our Primary Liaison Policy, with primary and secondary teachers working together to encourage a deeper understanding of the learning and teaching which takes place within each

other's establishments.

This eases progression for children both educationally and socially.

This two-day programme has been created based on the objectives of the Scottish Government's "Determined to Succeed Policy", whilst working towards the criteria of Curriculum for Excellence, as well as our own Future Skills Policy.

The itinerary involves one day of active outdoor learning in Pollok Country Park and one day's

familiarisation at Govan High.

The activities the pupils undertake are based on effective team working to work and socialise with the pupils who will eventually attend with them in their year group.

The activity also gets them familiar with the school in terms of procedures and layout of the building.

The event also incorporated a parents' information evening on 28 May at the school.





## Pastoral Care

PASTORAL Care's Mrs Morgan and Mrs Templeman, took 30 S1 pupils to Xscape (pictured below) for a game of tenpin bowling as a reward for high attendance, good timekeeping and good behaviour. Needless to say Mrs Morgan was the overall winner!

## Attendance and timekeeping

A NEW text service is now in place to inform parents if their child is absent or late. If your child has not arrived in school by 9.30am, a text will be sent directly to your mobile. If you have changed your contact details please let us know.



## Franz for the memories



ALEX Kapranos, lead singer with Franz Ferdinand, popped in to oversee our School of Rock project with pupils recently.

## Johnny Ball at the BBC

LAST month S2 Intermediate 1 Physics class visited the BBC and met TV legend Johnny Ball.

Johnny was presenting on maths and physics, and explained lots of interesting maths and science concepts with clarity – and plenty of jokes thrown in for good measure.



Johnny Ball with some future scientists

For the class, it was almost like a revision lecture for their exam. It's also worth noting that everyone in the class has passed all the unit NABS (SQA National Assessment Bank Tests) at Intermediate 1 and have all made excellent progress.

## Former pupils

### Chloe Ferns

Chloe Ferns is about to finish her HNC in Dance at Anniesland College and will return next session to do the HND.

She will be spending this summer in London at the University College Laine Theatre Arts summer school.



### James McKenzie

James is working with One Stop Roofing Supplies in Govan. He began on a work experience placement. James did so well during his placement, and impressed his employers so much, that he has moved into full-time employment ahead of schedule. A local lad doing well at a local company!

### Lesley Davies

Lesley Davies, came to school and gave a talk to our Business Management classes recently.

Lesley spoke about life since leaving school and studying accountancy at Glasgow University, before working at KPMG then joining National Group Australia, where she works today.

### Liath Harrison

Liath Harrison, has completed her applied music degree at Strathclyde University.

A number of pupils attended her outstanding final recital at the Jordanhill Campus on 16 May, when Liath sang, played saxophone, piano and guitar.



## What a load of rubbish!

SOME S1 pupils took part in a litter pick project in Elder Park recently, as part of the Keep Scotland Beautiful National Spring Clean Campaign.

Pupils armed with black bags, high visibility vests, gloves and litter pickers set off around the park – practically fighting over the rubbish, such as the eagerness to win the prize (and of course tidy up the park!).

The pupils collected almost 25 bags of rubbish as well as eight traffic cones, a shopping trolley, baseball bat and a hammer – to name but a few of the random things!





## Ladies run for charity and fun

STAFF and S5/6 pupils trained extremely hard for the women's 10k which took place in May – raising money for Malawi as well as the School Fund.

Well done to the budding athletes listed below!

Andrena Fatkin, Carla McCracken, Stephanie McPerson, Stephanie O'Neill, Miss Bonner, Mrs Kerr, Miss McNaught and Mrs Morgan.

## Clothing grant information for next session

SCHOOLS will no longer be provided with a supply of Clothing Grants/Free School Meals application forms for the next school session.

With effect from 6 May 2008, Clothing Grant/Free School Meals application forms for next session will be available to download directly from the Council's website (see below).

Only new applicants are required to download an application form. Forms will be posted in April/May to all previous applicants.

Application forms for over 16s will only become available to download from the website when pupils return to school in August 2008. Visit: [www.glasgow.gov.uk/en/Residents/GoingtoSchool](http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/en/Residents/GoingtoSchool)

# The girls are having a ball

THE senior girls football team has had a superb season taking part in the Glasgow "Soccer G" league at Glasgow Green. The girls have performed very well beating Holyrood, Hillpark and St Andrew's.

Well done to Stephanie Dykes (captain), Natalie Deans, Kellie Harvey, Natalie Hunter, Danielle McDonald, Jenni Melvin, Zara Savage and Shaunie Fleming for their footballing efforts.

The S1/2 team was established in January and has already proved itself, by conceding only one goal at the Coca-Cola 7s tournament in February.

Well done to Lauren Shaw (captain), Jennifer Ferguson,



Can we kick it? Yes we can!

Lauren McCann, Chelsea Mills, Jodie O'Donnell, Siobhan Smith, Teejay Tinney, Sarah Wilson.

## Helping US out

American student McKenzie Dove (above right) has been taking S1 girls for football, which is teaching them football skills, teamwork, respect, and communication.

## Autism Unit wins Diamond Award for Enterprise

THE Autism Unit (AU), in its fifth year of operating, has succeeded in gaining a Diamond Award for Enterprise from Determined to Succeed.

This session pupils have been involved in the AU Enterprises Company (a committee elected by the pupil and staff shareholders). They have organised an annual pool tournament and all pupils have had the opportunity to



design motifs for either T-shirts or mugs, which were then produced and sold.

Pupils also organised a raffle and stall at the Govan High Christmas Coffee morning and continue to run a Fair Trade

stall each week.

And staff have forged links with organisations, ranging from private businesses to charities. As a result, fourth and fifth-year students had the opportunity to take up a variety of supported work-experience placements.

Finally, third and fourth-year pupils are set to participate in a residential opportunity, thanks to Scottish Youth Hostels Association and Provident.

## Our survey says Govan has a great school for all pupils

### From page 1

IN the Govan High S1 Parents Survey, we gave out a series of statements and asked whether respondents agreed or disagreed.

The questions included:

- The school is right to involve colleges and employers as well as staff with my child's

education – 100 per cent agreed.

- I think that the curriculum in Govan High is right for my child – 90 per cent agreed

- I am confident about my child's education at Govan High School – 100 per cent agreed.



- I think the school is well led by the senior staff – 90 per cent agreed

- I have opportunities to be involved in discussions about

education and improving the school – 90 per cent agreed

A full list of the survey results and comments can be viewed at:

[www.govanhigh.glasgow.sch.uk](http://www.govanhigh.glasgow.sch.uk)