

Achievements!

Govan High School

ISSUE 7



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Downing Street visit for Stephanie

STEPHANIE Dykes (S6), was recently invited to No 10 Downing Street to meet Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

Stephanie was there as a Princess Diana Award holder. She was the only Scottish one present.

She received the Princess Diana Award for her work supporting younger children in the Govan High School Theatre Arts Programme.

Accompanying Stephanie was the school's theatre arts teacher, Mrs Alba.

After a whistlestop tour of the sights, including the Houses of Parliament and the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace, they went to Downing Street to meet other award holders from all over the

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We're helping make the good times roll

SOME of you will know the old song 'Let the Good Times Roll'.

If we were looking for a musical anthem for Govan High, it would be a strong contender!

We had our follow-up inspection visit from Her Majesty's Inspectors last month. While the report is yet to be published, the feedback that we got from the inspection team was very positive and the draft report reflects this.

It is an affirmation of the changes that we have made in Govan High and our desire to realise the dream of all our leavers going into positive destinations in jobs, training, college or university.

The report will also commend the quality partnerships we have forged with employers, colleges, universities and other providers to help develop young people's learning.

Glasgow City Council has also recognised the success of this model and we are now working together on its proposal to create a community campus at Govan High School.

The active involvement of Anniesland and Cardonald Colleges in discussions ensures that our existing partnerships with these and other colleges will be enhanced. This is potentially a very exciting prospect for the school and the Govan community.

We recently had a visit from Fiona Hyslop (Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning) and Nicola Sturgeon (our local MSP, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing).



Head Teacher Iain White

I CAN HONESTLY SAY THAT I HAVE NEVER BEEN HAPPIER WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING

The purpose of the visit was to hear more about our Future Skills programme and how it is delivering a curriculum for excellence, achievement and attainment.

Soon, I shall have been Govan High's 'Heidie' for 15 years.

I can honestly say that I have never been happier with the way things are going in the school, and the impact we are having to enable pupils to find employment and be responsible citizens.

Downing Street visit



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UK and also Maggie Turner, chairperson of the Diana Award.

Maggie came up from London to do a talk at the school's celebration assembly the week after the visit.

Stephanie and the other award holders were congratulated by the Prime Minister, who gave them a tour of 10 Downing Street.

Then Stephanie and Mrs Alba headed back to catch their flight to Scotland – at the end of a long but exciting day.

Stephanie said: "It was a really long day for us.

"We were on the 8 o'clock flight in the morning and didn't get home till after midnight.

"But it was definitely worth it. It was an amazing experience."

Lessons from Leo on business

LEO McKee, Glasgow-born CEO of national retail chain Brighthouse, paid a visit to our higher Business Management class earlier in the term. Leo spoke about making it to the top in business and spent time answering questions from students.

The education



WE currently have 20 pupils involved in a national football coaching project backed by British Telecom, and Rangers and Celtic football clubs.

The project, called Communication for Success, aims to excite and involve young people to engage with education by using football as the context.

The project was launched at Hampden Park and Scott Miller, Claire McCafferty and Jan Gardiner of fourth year attended.

Also there were Paul Hartley of Celtic and Sasa Papac of Rangers. The pupils met the national spokesman for BT

'COMMUNICATION FOR SUCCESS' AIMS TO EXCITE AND INVOLVE

THE school recently hosted a breakfast meeting for local employers and training providers.

The meeting was attended by 13 pupils, and 11 employers and providers, and was very successful.

This was the third such meeting organised to further develop our existing strong partnerships with local employers who have given their time and experience for the benefit of the young people of Govan High.

A wide range of employment types was represented at the meeting including car repairs,

Employers' breakfast

suppliers to the roofing industry, security systems, graphics and design and print, answering services, office and administration together with representatives from the Pearce Institute, and the Glasgow South-West Regeneration Agency,

who have contacts with a wide range of employers in this part of the city.

Members of the Leadership Team and Pupil Support staff also attended.

The purpose of the meeting was to bring pupils and potential employers together to discuss things like employability skills and what employers look for at interview.

Everyone enjoyed the experience. Both groups said they had learned from it and would be happy to do it again.





n game

An innovative scheme is using football to encourage pupils to communicate better and to build self-esteem, fitness and health

Vision, Martin Keown, the former Arsenal and England player.

BT Vision aims to develop core skills, particularly IT literacy, communication, teamwork and problem solving. It will also involve enterprise skills and develop coaching and leadership skills.

The course aims to improve levels of healthy activity, self-esteem and confidence in the participants.

The pupils taking part in BT Vision have been working with coaches from Rangers Coach Education programme through the Rangers Study Centre.

Another group of pupils at All Saints Secondary are working with coaches from

Celtic. The programme will culminate in the secondary school pupils organising a football festival for primary pupils at Hampden Park.

Pupils taking part in the programme also get places in the Celtic and Rangers study centres and get to attend the Old Firm Coach Education course at Easter, where they will eat, train and play like a professional footballer.

Participants qualify for match day tickets, a stadium tour and free football kit.

At the end of the programme the pupils will attend a graduation ceremony at Hampden Park.

Achievements will report on this in our next issue.



Faites des crêpes!

FOR Candlemas, S1 pupils were given the opportunity to eat a typical French snack.

At the beginning of February it is a French tradition to make crêpes (a thin pancake).

To order their pancakes, pupils had to ask in French. "Je voudrais une crêpe au sucre." Anyone?

Get ready for engineering

THE school is currently developing a new course to raise awareness of career opportunities in engineering.

The course will begin in August for S4, 5 and 6 students with good grades in technical subjects, maths or physics.

The course is sponsored by British Airways and Rangers Study Centre and supported by Glasgow Science Centre and the University of the West of Scotland.

The course will be based in Rangers Study Centre and Glasgow Science Centre, with engineering site visits arranged.



Ian cheques in again

LOCAL MP Ian Davidson raised £100 for Govan High recently to help pay for essential travel costs to college.

On hand to receive the cheques were fifth-year students Steven Lyon, Shauna Glancy, Garry MacPherson, and Neil Dowling.

Shauna Glancy said: "We'd like to thank Mr Davidson for the cheques to help pay for our travel to college."

Mr Davidson has also arranged a link between Govan High and 3M (Hillington) to support Higher chemistry pupils.

Darcy Davies and Zara Savage (pictured above) have been going to 3M on a fortnightly basis for mentoring assistance with their studies from chemists in the 3M laboratory.

National careers initiative

OUR Learning Resource Centre Manager Ian McCracken has been devising units to help pupils' with their career choices.

The units are known as "identifying my skills", "which careers match my skills?", and "what am I good at?"

Each unit included aims, learning outcomes, resource needs, instructions for use and the activities themselves.

Teachers would be able to use the units with pupils, students or adults without having to do any additional work.

The units have now been professionally polished, and should soon be in use in schools, colleges and careers offices throughout Scotland.

Student Council news

THE Student Council has been spending time establishing itself and making helpful connections with other schools and organisations like the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce.

Council president, Austin Sheridan, said: "We have spent time establishing ourselves and 2008 was the planning year.



"We now need to make 2009 the action year."

If you have any questions you can e-mail Austin Sheridan at: austinsheridan@gmail.com

Former pupils

IAIN MACFADYEN is a former pupil who has distinguished himself through his skill on the bagpipes. A former World Champion solo piper, he has been awarded the ceremonial Balvenie Medal for his lifelong services to piping. A retired schools' piping instructor, Iain now lives in Kyle of Lochalsh. Last year, he was inducted into the Scottish Traditional Music Hall of Fame.



GORDON LENNON, captain of Dumbarton Football Club first team, recently became a dad when partner Kelly gave birth to son Kai in January. A product of Harmony Row Football Club, Gordon has played for Partick Thistle, Stenhousemuir and Albion Rovers.



ASHLEY CAREY has graduated from Central College with a HND in Accounting.

Govan High School is diggin it!

M74 COMPLETION PROJECT

IN 2007, our S2 English class was asked to investigate and document the history of four historical sites being covered over to make way for the M74.

The sites were:

- **Pollokshaws Tenements:** Once filled with tenement housing, churches, pubs and industrial units and continuously active until 1960.
- **Caledonian Pottery Site:** Excavation there was still visible, such as kilns.

■ Govan Ironworks

(Dixon Blazes): Prominent in the Scottish iron industry.

■ **Falfield Mills:** Well known for their tablecloths.

Those involved wish to thank Becky and all the people who helped us from HAPCA, The West of Scotland Archaeology Service, Transport Scotland, all the sponsors and teacher Ms. Lowe, who helped make this project possible.

Visit the project website at: http://web.mac.com/mediama/M74/Welcome_M74.html



Samantha McColvin (left) and Kayleigh Robertson with the M74 display

We are still making

Our pupils are leading the way into employment among Glasgow's secondary schools. That's something for all staff, pupils, parents and carers to be proud of...

OFFICIAL Government statistics for School Leaver Destinations in Scotland confirmed that numbers of young people leaving Govan High last session – who were registered as unemployed – continued to decrease and was at its lowest level ever.

In fact, the percentage of pupils from Govan High going into employment was the highest among all of Glasgow's secondary schools.

Something to be proud of!

The Positive Destinations programme is now in its final year of additional funding. This does not mean that the support for the various initiatives introduced over the last three years will cease.

A Positive Destinations Core Team of staff has been formed to review what's been done and what needs to be done to support pupils prepared for life after school.

We are particularly pleased

with the high percentage of our fifth and sixth-year pupils from last session who are now in further education, and of those pupils who were successful in gaining apprenticeships with BVT Shipbuilding and Thales electronics.

This session, we have supported pupils who left school in December.

Five of those pupils joined a community programme called Tomorrow's People – which prepares them for life after school.

A group of six boys and two girls were successful in gaining certificates and qualifications which will help them into the construction and hospitality industries. Particular mention goes to Conor Oliver of fifth year who was successful in gaining an apprenticeship with City Building, and Ashley Magee who was successful in

Living in Scotland event

TWO senior pupils, Marlena Rzepus and Angelika Rudnika, were recently involved in an event organised by Glasgow University's Centre for Russian, Central and East European Studies.

The event for migrant schoolchildren, titled 'Cultural Connections: migration, identity and integration',

was held at Glasgow University in March.

It was sponsored by the UK's Economic and Social Research Council.

The event was an opportunity for young people from these communities to share experiences of life in Scotland and their changing identities.





making a positive impact

Meeting potential employers has an impact on pupils' futures



SUMMER LEAVERS WERE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AND TALK WITH LOCAL EMPLOYERS

gaining an office junior position at PowerJet Hire.

Her employer was very pleased with the way Ashley presented herself at interview and with her progress so far.

We also arranged a breakfast meeting in February where a number of our possible summer leavers were given the opportunity to meet and talk with local employers.

Our Core Team members also met a representative from Careers Scotland to discuss ways in which both the school and Careers Scotland can work more effectively together for the benefit of the young people, their parents and carers.

The Core Team will continue to carry on the work of Positive Destinations, which is a priority at Govan High.

Jim Rafferty
Co-ordinator
Positive Destinations

Some of our recent success stories

IT'S official! Govan High is now one of the most successful schools in Glasgow for getting young people into Positive Destinations. Here are some recent leavers and their Positive Destinations:

- Ashley Mackenzie – Cardonald College course
- Paige Connell – Glasgow South West Regeneration Agency
- Ashley Magee – PowerJet Hire office junior
- Lauren Mulvey – John Wheatley College course
- Waqar Nabi – Nautical College course
- Conor Oliver – City Building apprentice joiner
- Chloe Platt, Danielle McNair, David McKay, Shauna Glancy, Demi Campbell – Tomorrow's People Training programme
- Jamie Wilson – Consol construction programme
- Neil Dowling, James Mehigan, Declan McLaughlin and Ryan Livingston – have all passed CSCS tests in the construction industry and have been working on different sites since January.

GoDance 09

THE Youth Dance Company recently took part in GoDANCE '09 at the Theatre Royal in Glasgow. Groups from all over Scotland took part from Tuesday through until Saturday.

Govan High School was featured in the closing Saturday night Gala.

All pupils taking part deserve praise for their effort.

Friends of Elder Park

TWO senior pupils, Stephanie Dykes and Natalie Hunter, have been invited to join the events management committee of The Friends of Elder Park.

The organisation is involved in the refurbishment and regeneration of Elder Park as a community resource.

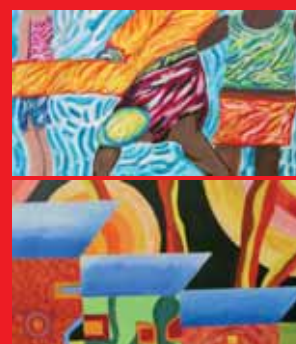
We're very proud of Stephanie and Natalie for their contribution to this cause.

City artists

WE are currently involved in Stage 2 of an exciting new project to celebrate 18 years of St Enoch's shopping centre in Glasgow.

Pupils' artwork will be displayed in the centre for four weeks from 30 March.

Please support our pupils by placing a vote for your favourite artwork. We think you'll be impressed!



(Top) 'Street Dance' by Courtney Wilson, and 'Wild In The City' by Lauren McCann

Following the success of last year's event it was time to encourage healthy living for pupils, parents and carers – and staff!

OUR second annual health event took place in March.

Parents and children from all the associated nurseries and primaries came along to the school to enjoy an evening of fun and entertainment.

Following a very successful event last year, when parents had the opportunity to attend workshops on various topics such as breast cancer awareness, first aid and stress management, this year's focus was on fun and physical activity.

Working in partnership with Culture and Sport Glasgow, there was dance and fitness-based activities that are all currently running in Bellahouston Sports Centre.

This meant that if you enjoyed an activity on the night, you could access it in your local community.

We also had carpet bowls, circus skills and magicians.

In a demonstration of real community spirit, parents had

Getting healthy can be **LOTS** of fun for all



the opportunity to take part in these activities with their children and also attended a disco provided by our DJ in residence, Bobby Coates (Faculty Head of Aesthetics in Govan High).

Young children of nursery

age were catered for too, as Culture and Sport Glasgow provided a physical activity session specifically designed for that age group.

Very young children were catered for by the in-house crèche where

they all had a fun time.

Finally, as we recognise the need to balance physical activity and diet, there was an appearance by a local chef who demonstrated how to cook a healthy two-course meal for less than £5.

It's just The Place

HAVE you got a health query and don't know where to go for advice?

Then pop into 'The Place' at Hills Trust Learning Academy.

This is a free health advice service for young people aged 13 to 19 (both male and female) where you can get advice, information, treatment and support for a wide range of health issues.

These include:

- relationships
- stress

- alcohol
- spots
- bullying
- drugs
- smoking
- sexual health.

The Place, which is based at 121 Langlands Road, Govan, is open on the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 5-7pm.

There's also The Place at Pollok Health Centre, 21 Cowglen Road, Pollok (near Silverburn Shopping Centre), on Mondays from 6-8pm.

New Hub to serve you

IF you need information, help or advice about your local health or social care services, Rowan Park Hub is your new 'one-stop-shop'.

You don't need an appointment – just turn up during opening hours (8.45am to 4.45pm Monday to Thursday and 8.45am to 3.55pm on Friday) or call 276 8700 to speak to staff.

There is information on a wide range of health and social care services.

Rowan Park Hub is based at 5 Ardlaw Street, Glasgow G51 3RR. The Hub serves people living in Bellahouston,



Cardonald, Craigton, Crookston, Govan, Hillington, Ibrox, Kinning Park, Mosspark, Shieldhall, South Cardonald and Tradeston.



Languages could be the key to your future success

RECENTLY, some second-year pupils went to Glasgow's City Chambers to learn about different languages and how they can help in everyday life. The people that went all said they enjoyed it and thought it was something different from anything they had experienced before.

"It was very interesting, I learned a lot I didn't know before," said pupil Richard McPherson.

For example, you don't need to travel to use languages. You could become an official Scottish guide and earn up to £150 a day. For information, contact the French department.

We're out making music

MUSIC pupils have been performing at various venues recently including the school coffee morning, Govan Cross Centre with 'Scotland in Europe' and at our annual visit to the Spinal Unit at the Southern General Hospital.

Recently, singers and soloists performed at the Southside Businessman's Burns' Lunch at the House for an Art Lover, and 20 pupils went to the Royal Concert Hall to see Quebec's 'La Bottine Souriante' as part of Celtic Connections.

It's Govan High's turn again

FOR the fifth year in a row, Govan High has secured places for five third-year pupils on the prestigious 'Your Turn' programme.

This project aims to develop citizenship and leadership by

involving pupils in studying, discussing and taking part in, community issues.

This year's 'Your Turn' pupils are Ryan Jackson, Lauren Shaw, Siobhan Smith, Alexander McGuire and Pamala Galloway.



Investigating history

SOME first-year pupils have been visiting Govan Parish Church, the site of one of the earliest Christian settlements in mainland Scotland – dating back to before the 9th Century.

The present church was built in the late 19th Century, but excavations have shown there was a medieval church which was on top of earlier remains.

Inside the church is an amazing collection of early Christian carved stones. Our pupils were amazed at all the artefacts within the church and the graveyard in front of the church.



Youngsters are learning vital work skills

Bright young sparks at ScottishPower

SINCE September 2008, seven of our young people have been participating in the ScottishPower Young Manager Programme.

Each month Demi Graham, Kayleigh Robertson, Scot Morrison, Chloe McGowan, Danielle Masson, Zoe Love and Amanda Murray attended sessions at ScottishPower locations.

At each session there were many fun and interactive activities, but pupils were also

given information about the skills required by employers, including presentation skills, problem solving, team skills and communication.

This culminated in February 2009, with our pupils making a presentation to a large group of people including representatives from ScottishPower and Govan High.

All the pupils took part with enthusiasm and they were a credit to our school.

Internet joy for Scott's review

MRS LOWE'S Film Club, which meets every Wednesday after school, has scored a success with Scott Morrison's review of the movie Donnie Darko. Scott's film review has been accepted and published on the Filmclub website.

The full review can be seen on the website at www.filmclub.org

Scott said: "Donnie Darko is a strange disturbing film with twists, turns and tricks around every corner. The film was hard to follow at times and the plot became obscure at one point, so I think you have to watch it several times to fully understand it!"





Matchday menu is 'muy bien!'

THE Autism Unit's Access 3 Spanish class were invited to translate Celtic FC's matchday menu last December. The occasion was the visit of top Spanish club Villarreal in the Champions League.

The boys worked hard putting their dictionary skills into action to produce the menu before the deadline.

The menu was then emailed to Celtic and the boys are to be rewarded for their efforts with a trip to the club's Parkhead stadium. The pupils involved were Grant Morris, Steven Paterson, Andrew May, Darren Anderson and David Kelly.

Govan rocks!



Officers Gary Harrison (left) and Graeme Gallie join pupils and staff to record 'I Can Be So Good For You'

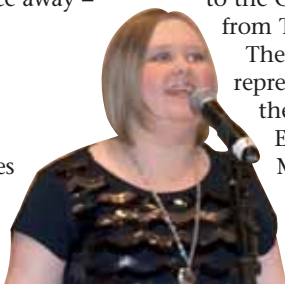
PUPILS from the Enterprise Through Music course contributed to Stow College's graduation ceremony at the Royal Concert Hall for the third time recently.

Just before Christmas, four members of the class, Shauna Glancy, Demi Campbell, Jade McGinty and Jan Gardiner, attended the ceremony.

Hannah Brown (pictured below) from the Autism Unit performed during the event, singing 'I Can Hear The Bells' from the musical Hairspray.

Hannah's performance blew the audience away – you could hear the clapping at Govan Cross!

The Enterprise Through Music course encourages pupils to learn more about commerce and how



the marketplace works.

Students are responsible for the production of a music CD including auditioning potential artists, production and marketing of the CD, working to budget and distributing the final album.

The 2009 Govan High class are called Starstruck Records, and the CD they are producing features youngsters from Govan High and Drumoyne Primary.

Starstruck Records have been supported financially by Strathclyde Police – and two officers also contributed a track to the CD – the theme tune from TV show 'Minder'.

The Starstruck crew also represented the school at the national launch of Enterprise through Music at STV studios in March.

The CD will be launched at Govan High on 23 April.



Hoop, hoop hooray

GOVAN High had three matches recently, including one against an experienced Bearsden side.

The players who have taken part this season are: Alistair Orr, Jamie Wilson, Steven McCall, Connor Skivington, Gary McPherson, Stephen Lyon, Ahsan Afzal and Kris Brown.

Basketball team results 2009:

Bearsden Academy	39
Govan High	23
Lenzie	20
Govan High	21
Hillhead	27
Govan High	14
Bearsden Academy	30
Govan High	33



Football news

THE girl's senior team got to the final of the 'Soccer G' annual Christmas tournament at the Kelvin Hall in December, where they beat Lochend 8-3. Well done to Stephanie Dykes, Natalie Hunter, Danielle McDonald, Jan Gardiner and Claire McCafferty for this excellent performance.

And in February, the under-13 boy's and under-14 girl's football teams took part in the 'Coca-Cola 7s' in Glasgow.