

# Achievements!

## Govan High School



ISSUE 6



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# A message from the Heidie's office

What a wonderful time it is for Govan High!

Our stated objective as a school is to get each of our pupils into a positive destination when they leave us.

Our dream is that nobody who is available for work fails to find it and we are getting ever closer to seeing that dream come true.

This year, our positive destinations figures are 12 per cent better than our previous best, which was last year.

Our first-year pupils are settling in very well and there are so many positive things happening in the school.

When we checked some statistics, we found that compared to last session (for August till the end of November) attendance is up



1.8 per cent, exclusion incidents are down by 65 per cent and openings lost because of exclusions are down by 76 per cent.

Recently, I was at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall watching our dancers participate in the dance festival and competition run through

the Celtic and Rangers education partnership. All the schools' team members had been trained by choreographers supplied through the football clubs.

We were all very proud when the Govan High team won the top prize, bringing a trophy back to the school. This is further evidence of the value of the work done by our dancer in residence Gavin Dorrian in our Dance Studio.

I am delighted to be able to highlight this good news and the other great achievements that you will be able to read about in this newsletter.

Please enjoy it and be happy with us!

**Iain White**  
Head teacher



## Captain Barry on the ball

Local MP Ian Davidson dropped into Ibrox Stadium recently to collect some football kit for children in Malawi. Rangers captain Barry Ferguson was on hand to help Ian, and to show his support for the initiative that is helping less fortunate children enjoy the Beautiful Game (more on page 3).

## The parents' view



The latest Positive Destination statistics highlight the excellent achievements of pupils and staff at Govan High School.

We parents have to up our game too – Govan High is no longer allowing pupils to leave to go to unemployment, but providing young adults with

skills and qualifications to go on to universities, colleges and apprenticeships. Our kids are set to leave Govan High with an education and knowledge for the 21st Century.

Proud as we all can be of the hard work going on in the school, there is still so much we can all do to create a better future for Govan's children.

The easiest way is to tell everyone you know how well

your child is doing at school.

Ask at work about what skills they look for in school leavers and tell the school.

Another way to help the school is joining the Parent Council, either as a committee member or as a helper. The Parent Council meets once a month. For more information, contact Depute Head Kevin Sweeney.

**Parent Council**

## Exam joy for Victoria



In our last issue, we reported Victoria Keir gaining nine standard grade credit passes.

This year, Victoria also achieved great success in her exams, leaving Govan High with A passes in Higher English, maths, physics, chemistry and business management.

She also took part in Scottish Power's 'Looking Forward to Work' event, and scored some of the best marks ever seen.

Victoria has now gone to the Metropolitan College to study an HND in Business Management and plans to enter second year Economics and Business Law at Strathclyde University in 2009.

## Stars of DVD

LAST term, a group of pupils worked with Govan-based film production company, Plantation Productions, for 12 weeks.

The pupils created a DVD about the transition from primary to secondary school. The DVD is aimed at primary school pupils.

As a reward for all their hard work making the film pupils went on a tour of STV studios and met newsreader and journalist Louise White.



## Granddad would be proud!

Stephanie MacPherson celebrated her 18th birthday recently by becoming the first female steel fabricator to work at the Clyde shipyards.

She follows in the footsteps of her late grandfather Johnny Neill, who was also a fabricator in the Govan yard.

Stephanie (pictured above) said: "Granddad would talk about life in the yard to my gran and she's spoken to me about it too. I'd like

to think he'd be proud of me."

The former Govan High girl is one of five girls to be taken on as apprentices by yard bosses at BVT Surface Fleet Solutions – the new name for BAE Systems.

Stephanie will join 600 male fabricators at the Govan and Scotstoun yards, piecing together the masses of steel that make up ships.

Training officer John Burnett said: "We're delighted that

Stephanie is following in the footsteps of her grandfather. Years ago it used to be the tradition of sons following their fathers into the yards.

"The tradition is not as strong today but, where possible, we are more than happy to encourage it."

The Clyde is building six Type 45 Destroyers. Three are finished, while another is due to be launched in November.

## Former pupils – getting on in life



"I FINISHED MY COLLEGE COURSE, HND CIVIL ENGINEERING, WITH 30/30 CREDITS AND THREE MERITS. I AM NOW WORKING FOR AN ENGINEERING CONSULTANCY IN MOTHERWELL, MAINLY DESIGNING TIMBER KITS FOR HOUSES."

JOHN GLASGOW

"I HAVE JUST PASSED MY COMMERCIAL LICENSE AND NOW HOLD A COMMERCIAL PILOT LICENSE WITH INSTRUMENT RATING." MARTIN WILLIES

MALCOLM MCLEAN, NOW A FIRST YEAR BVT APPRENTICE, WAS INVITED TO CARDONALD COLLEGE FOR THEIR ANNUAL PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY IN OCTOBER. MALCOLM WON THE JOHN MATHER TRUST AWARD FOR HIS ENDEAVOURS DURING THE 2007/2008 YEAR AT THE COLLEGE. THE EVENT TOOK PLACE AT HAMPDEN PARK, GLASGOW AND MALCOLM RECEIVED HIS AWARD FROM SCOTLAND COACH GEORGE BURLEY (RIGHT).



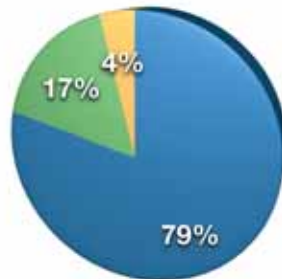


## S1 reception survey

Parents' evening  
23 Sept 2008

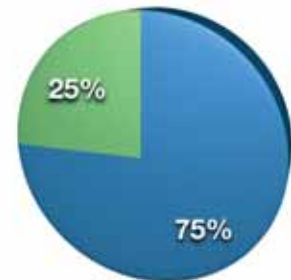
Since starting in Govan High, I think there are good opportunities for my son/daughter

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree



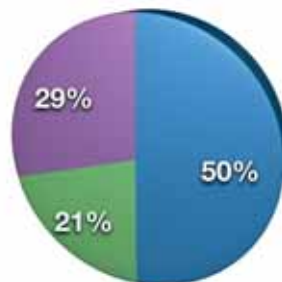
I am happy with the courses my son/daughter is following

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree



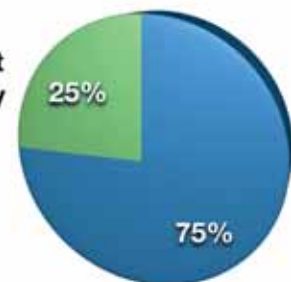
If I have had to contact the school, staff had responded quickly and properly

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I haven't had to contact the school



I think that the staff in Govan High do their best to find out what skills my child has and work hard to improve them

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree



## Football visit scores in Africa



RANGERS' captain Barry Ferguson, and the Ibrox club's youth team, presented Ian Davidson MP with a selection of gifts for football-crazy schoolchildren in Malawi recently.

Ian was then part of a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association delegation that visited the African state in August.

He said: "During the trip I visited the Milonde Community Day Secondary School which is twinned with Govan High.

Rangers, through the club's Charity Foundation, have donated strips, tracksuits, drinks bottles, and boot bags for the Milonde pupils. The children there love their football and were delighted with these gifts from Rangers.

The pupils at Govan High have formed a very close bond with the school, and there is also a growing link between Hills Trust Primary and the local primary in Milonde.

Barry Ferguson said: "The Charity Foundation has done a tremendous amount of work in giving kit to children in countries around the world, and as a club we are delighted to be sending this kit to a school which has got such close links to our local community here."

Connal Cochrane, Rangers Charity Foundation Manager, added: "We are delighted to supply children in Africa with some Rangers kit and hope this further helps the good relationship the Milonde School has with Glasgow."

## School chosen to launch report

THE pupils and staff at Govan High were delighted to host a high profile Westminster delegation during the final week of last term.

The Scottish Affairs Committee launched its Employment and Skills for the Defence Industry in Scotland Report at the school in June.

The Committee's Chairman, Glasgow Central MP Mohammed Sarwar MP, gave an overview of the inquiry and other committee members – Ian Davidson MP, Jim Devine MP and Angus MacNeill MP – were also present to give their views on issues raised in the report.

Govan High itself gave evidence to the Committee on the training it provides to prepare its pupils for a career in the defence industry.

Depute Head Teacher Kevin Sweeney said: "We're obviously delighted that this major report is being launched in our school, and we're very happy that we

were given a chance to contribute to it.

"This report explores key areas of employment which we hope will bring future benefits to a significant number of our pupils.

"It's an honour to welcome such a high profile delegation, and to show them what's on offer here at Govan High."

Areas explored by the inquiry include the Future Carrier programme, the sustainability of the defence industry, and the challenges it faces.

The report launch was featured on the STV news programme Scotland Today.



## Young managers get with the programme

THE school is once again taking part in the prestigious Scottish Power Young Managers programme.

A group of third-year pupils began the programme in October with a day visit to the offices of Scottish Power in Cathcart.

The programme gives young people an insight into the real

world of work and management by placing them in real life situations in a real life work place.

Pupils involved are: Demi Graham, Christopher Campbell, Scot Morrison, Chloe McGowan, Zoe Love, Kirsty Donnelly, Danielle Mason, Amanda Murray and Kayleigh Robertson.

# Happy 60

## Govan High is on hand to help local hospital mark the birthday of the National Health Service

THE Technical Department pulled out all the stops to build NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde's float for this year's Govan Fair.

To celebrate the NHS's 60th Anniversary, the department created a birthday cake themed float, complete with candles.

At six metres long, the plywood cake was finished by the school's Art Department who provided the trimmings.

The Govan High logo was complemented by pictures from the history of the Southern General and future images of the New South Glasgow Hospital.

Staff and volunteers from the Southern General Hospital, including young patients from Yorkhill who have been involved in the development of the new children's hospital on the Southern site, came dressed in nurses and doctors uniforms from different eras to complete the float.

The float really came to life when they were cheered through the streets of Govan by enthusiastic well-wishers along the route.

As in previous years, the Govan Fair raises funds for the Southern General Patients' Welfare. The people of Govan have always been generous in supporting the hospital and this year was no exception.

Bryan Bannerman, Voluntary Services' manager for the Southern General Hospital has



been organising the Southern General's float for the past eight years.

He said: "Staff and pupils put a lot of hard work and effort into building and organising the float, but the evening itself is worth it, it's a great night and a good atmosphere.



# 60th birthday NHS!



“It’s also a good opportunity to create and strengthen links with the local community.

“Many of the people supporting the fair were born at the Southern, so it’s fitting for the hospital to take part and enjoy the evening.

“The people of Govan Fair

give generously to the Southern so it’s nice to give our support to the Fair in return.”

After a successful evening all the blood, sweat and tears (literally) from Andy Holtham and the pupils paid off, with the float awarded third prize in the procession.

MANY OF THE PEOPLE SUPPORTING THE FAIR WERE BORN AT THE SOUTHERN, SO IT’S FITTING FOR THE HOSPITAL TO TAKE PART AND ENJOY THE EVENING.

# The Positive Destinations programme

SINCE returning to school in August, the Positive Destinations team have been busy checking which pupils have also returned and those who have moved on to employment, further or higher education.

It's a big priority at Govan High that everyone who moves does so to a positive destination and we are working hard to ensure this happens.

At the end of September, the Government receives information from

December this year. We have held meetings with Paul Burns of Con Sol Services Ltd. to discuss a programme to train some of our young people. They will get basic qualifications or certificates in construction and hospitality, guaranteeing six months work from January and preparing them for apprenticeship applications in the summer.

We also organised a second breakfast meeting with local employers, to discuss with them how the school and employers can work with youngsters to prepare them for the world of work.

Meanwhile, funds allocated to the Positive Destinations programme are supporting a wide range of vocational courses. Already we have bought welding screens for the metalwork class, practise heads and smocks for hairdressing, microphones for music and dance and more.

Finally, Positive Destinations supported the superb summer show, Midsummer Madness, performed by our dance group and supported by a number of other pupils in backstage and front of house duties. The showcase was a resounding success over two nights in June and was enjoyed by parents and guests of the school.

**Jim Rafferty**  
Positive Destinations  
Programme Co-ordinator

Careers Scotland about the number of pupils who have not yet managed to get a job or a place in college or university.

The figures are not finalised, but it looks likely that the number of pupils from Govan High who will be classed "unemployed" will be a lot lower than last year.

This is largely due to a lot of work and support from a number of staff in the school. Work has also started with those pupils who could potentially leave school in



# The pride of



Ashleigh Dykes and Torgi Squire

GOVAN High's annual 'Oscar' ceremony was again a glittering success in October.

The Oscar's, the school's annual prize-giving event, celebrates the achievements of many young people during the course of the year.

The event was hosted by S6 student Ashleigh Dykes and teacher Torgi Squire of the Technology department. The

entertainment, a French-style cabaret, was provided by the dance troupe of the school's Theatre Arts Programme.

Keynote speaker, Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, commented on how she is always delighted by the high level of professionalism at Govan High events.

She said: "I love coming to Govan High School.

## International School Library Day – bookmark project

THE school was recently featured in Synergy, the magazine of the School Library Association of Victoria, Australia.

GHS teamed up with University High School in Melbourne, to co-operate in the International School Libraries Day (ISLD) bookmark project.

A group of first-year pupils, working with art teachers Andrea

Scott and Yvonne Nicholl and Learning Resource Centre manager Ian McCracken took part in the project.

They created a short design brief that demonstrated what thinking pupils had gone through before starting their bookmark, what materials they were using and so on.

The pupils of University High in



# Govan



Nicola Sturgeon



## The Oscar winners:

- Communicator:** Shannon Murray
- Connector:** Linda McCann
- Contributor:** Kirsty Fraser
- Excellence in Music:** Natalie Deans
- Decider:** Austin Sheridan
- Doer:** Shauna Glancy
- Originator:** Scott Morrison
- Sorter:** Stephen Bradley
- Football Prize:** David Wilson
- Former Pupil Prize:** Ross White
- Eilidh White Memorial Prize for spreading joy and happiness:** Lauren Shaw
- Govan Band Prize:** Victoria Keir
- Maths & Science Award:** David Whitten
- Best S1 Boy:** Kaloch Man
- Best S1 Girl:** Emma McLachlan
- Govan High School Dux 2008:** Victoria Keir.

"It impresses, enthuses and inspires me every time I come here and see young people being given opportunities to use their talents."

In his address to the audience, Head Teacher Iain White spoke about the school's commitment to the skills curriculum and the importance of equipping young people with employability skills to ensure

a positive destination of further education or employment after leaving school.

This year's Dux, Victoria Keir, who achieved five Highers all at grade 'A', described how Govan High had supported her in her journey towards extraordinary examination success.

Victoria made a special point of naming and thanking her subject teachers.



From left, S3's Chloe McGowan, Zoe Love and Kayleigh Robertson, who helped on the trip

## Go outward bound

"The top half of Scotland is heavy beautiful!" according to Coregh McCullagh, S1.

The S1 and S2 pupils have just returned from the extraordinary experience of a week's outward bound activities in the heart of the Scottish Highlands – a few miles from the breathtaking train journey Harry Potter makes to Hogwarts and scenes filmed from Mel Gibson's Braveheart.

A group of 33 pupils made the trip to Loch Eil near Fort William to have the experience of a lifetime.

At the beautiful, purpose-

built outward bound centre our young people experienced a range of activities including gorge walking, orienteering, climbing Ben Nevis and zip sliding.

The staff from Govan High and the centre had nothing but praise for the brave spirits of the school's young people.

Special thanks for making this week possible has to go to Bernie Templeman, Nicola White, Eddie Grady, Jim Rafferty and the Reed Partners team who sponsored the event.

Hopefully, Govan High can make outward bound a regular part of our school calendar.

Melbourne also made Australian-themed bookmarks.

The finished bookmarks were then swapped by post and every pupil involved got a bookmark from the other country.

Dylan Ramsey, S1 said: "I am glad that someone in Australia will get the chance to see my design and use it if they are reading a book."

Rob Castles, a teacher in University High said: "We really



enjoyed the email contact we had with Govan High School and organising the details of the project. It's a contact we hope can be continued again this year."

## Reed in Partnership

ARE you a single parent looking for work?

Reed in Partnership can help. We specialise in helping single parents find work, by breaking down the barriers to employment that single parents face such as lack of childcare options, transport issues and training.

Although based in Govan Shopping Centre, Reed in Partnership operates across the Govan, Cardonald and Pollok areas so we can come and meet with you locally.

When you register with us, you'll have your own Personal Adviser who will take you through our unique range of services, including:

- Access to different vacancies
- Help with basic skills qualifications
- Advice on money matters
- Flexible financial support to assist with transport, childcare, tools, clothes, training and more.

To learn more, call us on 0141 445 1117 or text info, to 07818004407.



## Govan Autism Unit news

### ■ AU leavers - Another year of 100% Positive Destinations

This year was another success in terms of Positive Destinations for the pupils who left the Autism Unit (AU) this summer.

All six have moved on to college courses. We wish Andros Withers, Zeeshaan Tayab, Ian Kernohan, Sean Dillon, Lloyd McKay and Darren McKay all the best for the future.

### ■ Work experience

Our work experience programme is under way, with three pupils – Gary

Adams, Ryan Kelly and Denise Boyle – already on placements.

Denise, who loves animals, has a placement at the Reptile House in Queen's Park which she really enjoys.

The pupils are supported on their placements by mental health charity, ENABLE.

### ■ Pre-vocational courses and college - school Link Courses

Once again our pupils are involved in courses outwith the AU which help to prepare them for their future and get them used to different settings



and meeting new people.

This year, 14 pupils are involved in the courses which include construction, furniture assembly, cake decorating and sport and fitness.

### ■ Visit by Normandy veterans of the Second World War

Veterans visited the AU to talk to the pupils about their experiences. The pupils were really interested to hear first hand their experiences of the D-Day landings.

The veterans brought their collection of medals and also presented a commemorative plaque to the AU.

## The great outdoors

FIFTEEN pupils from the Autism Unit spent two nights staying at Loch Lomond Youth Hostel and two days of activities with Can You Experience, a company that provides canoeing, team building and bushcraft training.

The Scottish Youth Hostels Association have joined with Provident to provide 'Give us a Break' funding for groups in danger of social exclusion.

This was a wonderful opportunity for the pupils to build relationships with peers and staff, to share an experience and to encourage independence.

And did it succeed in these aims? "Yes" was the resounding reply from all!



## Bank on the future pupils learn finance facts

PUPILS from the Autism Unit have launched a new school bank in partnership with The Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS).

Financial education experts from the RBS worked closely with teachers and pupils from the school to launch the bank.

The new bank is part of a programme developed by RBS called: "School Money – the school bank from RBS" which helps teachers and pupils set up a school bank in primary and secondary schools.

The school bank is one element of Moneysense for

Schools, formerly known as Face 2 Face With Finance, the financial education programme developed by RBS for schools.

Students who are working in the school bank have received training in reading financial documents, listening to instructions, completing pay-in slips and keeping accurate financial records.

Students are encouraged to plan ahead and save through their account.

For more information on this scheme, go to: [www.rbs.com/schoolmoney](http://www.rbs.com/schoolmoney)



## Stop Press!

### Young Glasgow musical treat

A group of first-year pupils year pupils attended a concert at the City Halls in September to hear the Glasgow Schools Symphony Orchestra play music by Schumann, Verdi, Tchaikovsky and Sibelius.

### Johnny Ball at the BBC

IN our last issue we featured an article about our S2 Intermediate Physics class meeting TV legend Johnny Ball at the BBC.

Now everyone can share this experience because the Johnny Ball article and video clips are published on the BBC Scotland Learning homepage: [www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/learning/news\\_views/2008/08/01/johnny\\_ball/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/learning/news_views/2008/08/01/johnny_ball/)

Louise Thornton from the BBC said: "It was a great session and thanks again to all for attending."