

Achievements!

Govan High School

November 2011

Issue No. 14

Sponsored By
DixieHouse



Oscars 2011



NHS Day



Govan High Trip to Cambridge

IT'S MY GREENER GLASGOW – ST ENOCH ART COMPETITION

For the past few years pupils in Govan High school have participated in an initiative run by the St Enoch Centre which aims to improve links with people in the wider community. This year's competition was called 'It's My Greener Glasgow' because the organisers wanted pupils to consider the impact that our lifestyles have on the environment – in particular, issues relating to the city of Glasgow.

So a group of our young talented artists rose to this challenge. Each pupil researched environmental issues and then created artworks which communicated a message to the public. Our artists were Siobhan Smith, Sean McQueen, Samantha McColvin, Stephanie Reilly, Courtney Early, Emma McLachlan, Caitlin McCrindle, Kirsty Donnelly, Samantha Galloway, Lynne Fraser & Cameron Davies. Five schools took part and each school received awards for their top three pupils. The judges voted Govan's first prize to Caitlin McCrindle, second prize to Kirsty Donnelly and third prize to Emma McLachlan.

However we were delighted to find out that Caitlin McCrindle's mixed media artwork inspired by the contamination caused through illegal dumping in the River Clyde won her the overall top prize in the Expressive category and she received £150. Also Kirsty Donnelly's work which highlighted the loss of the '50 Pitches' land to make way for the M8 (junction 23), came third overall giving her a personal prize of £50. In addition to this fantastic success Govan High School was awarded £600 in total for winning the top school's prize.

This was an absolutely amazing achievement for our young people and we are so very grateful to Mr Bob Baldry of Ocean Blue Consulting and Ms Susan Nicol and her team at St Enoch's for giving our pupils the chance to take part in such a wonderful project.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who took the time to visit the exhibition held at the St Enoch centre, to vote for their favourite artwork....we are extremely grateful for your support!



Excellence in International Education

Govan Autism Unit were awarded their Certificate for Excellence in International Education for using eTwinning to develop International Education among the pupils. Links were established with schools in Spain primarily for pupils to practice their Spanish language skills, ITC skills, learn about another culture from their peers in Spain, inform their peers in Spain about Scotland. International Education and in particular eTwinning has a lot to offer in terms of a Curriculum for Excellence.

Top Left: Spanish Teacher Frank Hughes(Govan High Autism Unit) with Award Certificate for Excellence in International Education



Top Right: S3 pupil Rikki Cameron with Award Certificate for Excellence in International Education in the City Chambers.



1st place winner of St. Enoch's My Greener Glasgow Competition.
by Caitlin McCrindle



A Day in S1 Life

Hi, I am Rhiannon and I moved to Govan High School in August 2011. I came from Pirie Park Primary School. I had an idea what it would be like in high school as I came here as part of school visits when I was in primary. Now I am here, I have enjoyed my first couple of months in Govan High.

One of the main differences is the number of subjects we can study. In Pirie Park we were in the same class most of the time, with the same teacher. Now we move from class to class, with many different teachers and subjects. My favourite subjects so far are Technical, Home Economics, English and Art but I like all of my other subjects as well. Subject wise, my favourite day is Monday. On Mondays I have Technical, Art, Science, Home Economics, Spanish and Music.

A typical day starts at 8:50. I usually walk as I don't live far away. Each lesson lasts 50 minutes. We have two periods before a 15 minute interval, then another two periods before a 45 minute lunch. We have another two periods before home time at 2:50 on a Monday and Friday or three periods before a 3:40 finish on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Since I have been here everything has been great. I was nervous, at first, as the school was so big, there were so many new faces and teachers and I thought I would get lost every day. However, there was no need to be nervous. Since I have been here I have made many new friends and I soon found my way around the building!

There are some people I would like to thank. First of all Miss Wlosinski for helping me write this, Mr Thomas for choosing me to do this and my friends Jolaine McGeown and Toni Stewart for encouraging me to write this article.

- Rhiannon Lewis, S1

KEEPING CONNECTED DESIGN CHALLENGE / DESIGN COUNCIL



As many of you will already know last session a team of our young Art & Design students entered a national competition run by the Design Council in London called the 'Keeping Connected' Design challenge which set our young people the task of designing a service using technology. The aim was to ensure that older adults were kept better connected to young people and their local community. With the help of our appointed Design Ambassador Jen Stewart, our students put a great deal of hard work and effort into the challenge which involved a lot of research, working with older adults and developing design solutions which met the demands of the brief. We submitted our creation - the 'CONEKT 2 U' - to the Design Council and we were delighted that we were selected as one of the top five schools in the UK!

Four members of our design team i.e. Dylan McGartland, Georgie Crawford, Caitlin McCrindle and Courtney Early were invited to London during the summer holidays to present their pitch to a panel of prestigious judges in a 'Dragons Den' type event. Sadly we did not win the top prize however

the experience was amazing and it was a real boost to our talented young design team. They were featured in the 'Evening Times' in an article titled 'Bright Students Celebrate Success at Design Awards'. This recognition attracted many other interested people and we even had a visit from Professor Alastair Macdonald who is the Senior Researcher in the School of Design at the Glasgow School of Art who took a great interest in the methods that we used to develop our product and passed on his 'Congratulations' to everyone involved.

Our talented design team consisted of - Emma McLachlan, Courtney Early, Steven Cassidy, Caitlin McCrindle, Dylan McGartland, Szymon Skopinski, Kamil Zdunczyk, Michael Cassidy, Georgie Crawford, Aaron Campbell and we would like to take this opportunity to say a very special 'Thank you' to each one of our older adults who helped us throughout the challenge.

So very many thanks to Paul Cathcart, Angus Edward, Jean McFarlane, June Little, Issy Nicholl and Robert Preston as we are very grateful for all the time that you gave supporting and working with our young peoplewe truly hope that you all stay connected to Govan High School !



Gavin Dorrian – A Life



The school community was shocked and saddened by the sudden death of our Dancer in Residence, Gavin Dorrian. Gavin (11.12.49 – 13.9.11) had been directing the Dance Programme for five years and co-produced all of the school's recent productions.

Gavin was born in Glasgow and studied at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. Concentrating on Dance, Gavin moved to London for a period of three years with Ballet Rambert, after which he joined Scottish Ballet where he remained for four years. Gavin was awarded a Scottish Arts Council Bursary to

study Classical Ballet in New York at the School of American Ballet and Contemporary Dance with the Alwin Nickolaïs Dance Theatre.

He then joined the Iranian National Ballet and spent further time studying in Paris with Gilbert Mayer of the Paris Opera. Returning to Britain, Gavin joined the Royal Opera Ballet and, on completion of a six month tour of Italy with Balletto-Classico, Gavin joined the ballet company of the Teatro alla Scala, Milan, dancing Soloist roles.

In 1984, Gavin joined the contemporary dance company Ballet-Theatre Russillo. A founder member of London City Ballet, Gavin returned to the company in 1985/87, touring Britain, Finland, Jordan, and Cyprus. In October 1986, Gavin guested with the Charleston Ballet (U.S.A.) in *Beauty and the Beast*.

Gavin then joined Vienna Festival Ballet as Soloist Dancer/Ballet Master. This was followed by television work, guest-teaching in Ireland and an extensive tour of Europe with Wiener Ballett-Theater. In September 1990, he joined the faculty of the College of Dance, Dublin, as Principal Male Teacher on the Professional Diploma Course in Dance, teaching Contemporary and Classical Ballet Technique. In 1995, he assumed the post of Artistic Director.

As Artistic Consultant to Ballet Promotions Ireland Ltd, Gavin co-ordinated the 1995 European tour of the Tatarstan State Ballet of Russia. In 1997 and 1998, at the invitation of the Russian Ministry of Culture, Gavin represented Ireland at the prestigious annual Rudolf Nureyev International Dance Festival in Kazan, capital of the Republic of Tatarstan, in Eastern Russia. During 1998/99, as Company Teacher/Rehearsal Director to the European Ballet he toured the U.K. and Ireland with *Cinderella*, followed by guest-teaching in Italy.

Gavin was in demand as a guest-teacher, working with companies like Ballet Gulbenkian in Portugal, The Charleston Ballet in the USA, the Dance Foundation of the Northern Netherlands and Ballett-Basel, Switzerland. Gavin recently worked with The Curve Foundation and The Diana Princess of Wales Memorial Award for Young People. He was also currently appointed Specialist Advisor in Dance to the Scottish Arts Council and Dance Artist in Residence on the Enterprise/Outreach Programme at Govan High School.

Gavin will be sadly missed in the Govan High School community. The high esteem in which he was held was amply demonstrated by the high attendance at his funeral, including the presence of a large number of former pupils. His huge contribution to the life of the school will be remembered by his legacy: The Gavin Dorrian Dance Studio, which will be graced by a framed T shirt, created by a parent of one of the current dancers, with the words "fly with the angels, dance with the stars" – words of inspiration brought back from the USA by Gavin and posted on the dance studio wall.

FROM THE HEIDIE'S OFFICE



As ever, so much is going on in Govan High that is exciting, creative, vibrant and different. In this regard, session 2011-12 has been just typical of Govan High. You will get a flavour of what we are up to in the content of this newsletter. What you cannot directly see is the way in which the culture of our school becomes ever more positive, inclusive and nurturing because of the way we do things. I hope that this will shine through, in some way,

the contributions in this edition. The hard measures tell us that our pupils are attending better, applying themselves better and achieving more.

We have been seeing year on year improvements for some time now and anticipate that these will continue in session 2011 – 12. It is now 6 years since we took the brave decision to do things in a radically different way from the approach being expected of schools in Scotland. We recognised that this was necessary to meet the needs of our pupils and the expectations of our community. With the support of the Education authority then, we embarked on a journey that has taken us to where we are today with ever more successful pupils thriving in the learning environment we have created. We always believed that our radical approach would be successful. Now we know, from the results, that 'it only works!'

The new educational approach in Scotland, Curriculum for Excellence, should fit exactly with how we do things around here with its emphasis on personalisation, choice and skills development. Our radical approach anticipated the national reforms and puts us well ahead of the field in its implementation. Provided we are able to continue to develop our radical approach in the context of Curriculum for Excellence then even greater days lie ahead for Govan High and its pupils. We know that our new approach works for our pupils. The previous approach did not and we should all rejoice in the change that we have made to remedy this situation.

In loving memory of Gavin Dorrian

*It's so sad to see you go
You've taught us all we know
You'd make us stretch on ballet bars
Now you're dancing with the stars
You were so loving and so kind
And always spoke your mind
Now you're gone you'll never be replaced
We're all hurt we'll never see your face
We always wait for you to walk through the door
Its never the same without you watching us on the floor
We love you more than you know
And now we wish that we did show
Can't get over that you're away
We think of you everyday
Govan High misses you so much
We just want to feel your loving touch*

- Mairead Linning, S6



NHS Careers Awareness Day

“A Glasgow school was set up with a mock hospital...to encourage pupils to consider a career in the National Health Service.” (Caroline Wilson, the Evening Times, October 6 2011).

In October Govan High School made the news for all the right reasons again with features in The Evening Times and The Herald on our National Health Service Careers Awareness Day.

In effect the school became a hospital for the day with more than 100 NHS personnel offering 24 workshops and presentations. Six career zones were set up across the school, with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde staff conducting activities, doing presentations and providing advice on everything from science and medicine to podiatry, administration and plumbing. The idea of the day was to dispel the stereotyped view that the NHS just means doctors and nurses.

The NHS is the UK’s largest employer, with around 1.3 million people working in at least 350 different careers. The Careers Awareness Day is one of a series of events organised in the school to highlight employment possibilities. The last such day focused on the hospitality industry and turned the school into the Gleneagles Hotel for a day. This event took place against the background of the £842 million South Glasgow Hospital in Govan which will provide maternity, children’s and adult care on one site as well as housing the biggest medical laboratory in Europe. The project is expected to create about 2500 jobs and is scheduled for completion in 2015.

Kevin Sweeney, DHT, who helped to organise the event said, “The point of the event was to show that the NHS is not just about nurses and doctors. Behind those jobs are at least a hundred invisible professions that are all positive career options.”

Councillor Jean McFadden, Glasgow City Council’s head of education said, “With the new hospital being built just a short distance from the school, the pupils have the added bonus of seeing the job prospects available on their doorstep in the next few years.”

The NHS also made a film of the careers event. This will soon be available to view at the website: www.nhsggc.org.uk.

We would like to offer a big thank you to Mark McAllister and Noelle Mackay and their team, based at the Victoria Infirmary, for all their work in helping to organise the event and a HUGE thank you to all the NHS staff who gave their time and energy and expertise for the benefit of the young people of Govan High School.



Former Pupil News



Emma Kirkbride, GHS class of 2008, spent the summer teaching dance to girls aged 6-16 at a Camp Timber Tops in Pennsylvania USA. Emma spent 8 weeks stateside and led an extensive dance programme, teaching girls new

moves and organising competitions against other camps in the area. She also took charge of a group of 15 year olds, looking after them all summer. It was a great and thoroughly rewarding experience for Emma.

Leigh Probert’s Mum came in to tell us that Leigh is now studying Psychology at Edinburgh University! Leigh left us to go to Clydebank College from where she gained an A in her course when she only needed a B to get to Uni. Leigh is the only member of her college class to go on to Higher Education

Jennifer Rankin was selected to receive a commendation in the Journey and Achievement Award for the Glasgow City Council Leaders Awards. The Council received so many nominations that they decided to select a winner and a commendation for each category. Jennifer received her award

at a ceremony in the City Chambers in June.

First Autism Unit pupil to go to University: Andrew Cowan left the AU in June 2010 and went to do an HNC in Social Subjects at Langside College. Andrew will be starting Glasgow University in October to study for a degree in Psychology.

John Paul Franchi, the owner of The Soul Spa, approached Govan high school looking to recruit trainee hairdressers. The Soul Spa is a new and exciting business opening up on Sheildhall Road in Govan. The salon is looking for young, enthusiastic and talented young people to join their team. The salon is equipped for ladies Hairdressing, Barbering, Beauty and also has crèche facilities.

John Paul had a meeting at Govan High with Jacqui Fitzpatrick, hairdressing teacher, to organise for some of our talented young people to be interviewed for positions as trainee stylists.

Megan Love and Maryellen Kirkwood, who have both gained the Intermediate 1 Hairdressing qualification at Govan High, have been offered positions as trainee stylists with Soul Spa.





Outward Bound



We went to school on Monday morning like any normal day apart from we had to lug our cases about everywhere. We got on the bus and set off on our two and a half hour journey.

We arrived at the Outward Bound Centre at Loch Eil at about twelve o'clock.

We were met by our instructor for the week, Lisa, and we had a welcome presentation in the 'Scott room'.

At the presentation, we were told about what we were going to do that week. We also met two apprentices from Rolls Royce, Paula and Lauren. Rolls Royce was our sponsor for the week at Outward Bound.

The purpose was to get more girls into engineering. After the presentation, we had a tour round the complex. We were shown the dinner hall, where to put our keys during the day, the boot room (where we'd meet to put on equipment), the kit cages (where the equipment was kept) and the Clan room (where we'd meet every morning to discuss our plans for the day and talk over our experiences and what we were gaining by being at outward bound and the positive attitude we should have). After the tour, we were giving our walking boots and water proofs. Then we were given our keys.



We were given the best rooms in the Centre because we had an en suite. We did a jog'n'dip, which included running to the loch and jumping in freezing cold water. We jumped in 6 or 7 times each. Then we went home, had our showers and met for dinner. The rules at Outward Bound are that you do everything as a team. So we had to all meet for dinner on time, so if one person was late we were all late.

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During the week we did lots of different activities. We did raft building, bridge building, Zip Wire, Nightline (when we were blind-folded and led round a forest with a rope through loads of different obstacles), team games, crate stack (stacking crates on top of each other and climbing on top of them), and last but definitely not least, we did the expedition. We had to walk for five hours to our campsite with very heavy rucksacks, build our tents with the rain pouring down and sleep in our tent which was drenched and we were all freezing. There was also a storm that night and the majority of us never got a wink of sleep. I'm not going to lie - it was a terrible experience but I got the biggest sense of achievement from it.

On our last day we had to perform a presentation to representatives from Rolls Royce and explain to them what we've done, our perception of engineers before and after this week, and what skills we have gained. They said they were very impressed by what we said.

- Jennifer Baird, S3

Brighthouse Business Simulation

Earlier this session the school's Intermediate 2 and Higher Business Studies class spent 2 days working on a business simulation with senior staff from Brighthouse.

The first day explored the world of work and was designed to tease out an understanding of the skills valued by employers. It also examined appropriate workplace professional behaviours.

The second day involved the class, split into three groups, running three rival companies in competition with each other. The day comprised a series of simulation exercises in which the three companies had to respond to business challenges, come up with a business strategy, work out the financial implications of various strategies and then apply their approach to the problem. Throughout the day Brighthouse staff sent the three companies' figures off over the internet to be "number crunched" by professionals and the results came back by return. Then a debriefing session was held where the results were announced and each company's performance was assessed. Then the process was repeated with a different business scenario.

Sonja Kerr, Principal Teacher of Business Studies said, "It was a great experience for our students. The simulation was so realistic. The students learned a lot and had a lot of fun."

Holly Spence of S6 said, "It was great. I'll be able to use this to answer a question in my Higher exam." (Which must have come true as Holly is now studying business at Cardonald College).

We would like to offer a big thank you to the several senior Brighthouse staff who gave their time, effort and expertise for the benefit of Govan High School's young people.





Oscars 2011

This year's Oscar Ceremony, held in October, was the now familiar all singing all dancing 'Hollywood' production. The presenters were Jennifer Baird and Graham Robertson, whose professional, light hearted banter set the tone for an enjoyable evening.

First up was Iain White with his annual Head Teacher's report. Once again Iain was able to report on a successful year in the life of the school, with great progress being made by our young people now that the Future Skills curriculum is fully implemented and exam results continuing to improve.

Then came the first part of the Oscar awards: the skills prizes. The Communicator was won by Richard McPherson, The Connector went to Dylan Bolam, The Contributor was lifted by Melissa Taylor, The Decider by Ryan Alexander, The Doer was won by Chloe Todd, The Originator by Siobhan Smith and the Sorter went to Shannon Murray.

The Excellence in Music prize was won by Kirsty Donnelly, followed by a fantastic performance by the school vocal group doing "I Just Wanna Praise You" and the school band playing "Misty".

The keynote speech by Tom McNally, former pupil and Managing Director of McNally Associates, took as its theme the contribution of the school to the wider community. Tom said that when young people work hard and "chase their dreams", their success will help in the regeneration of the greater Govan community.

The Former Pupil prize was won by Demi Jo Hickey. The Angus Johnston Memorial prize for football went to Christopher Airdrie. The Eilidh White Memorial prize for spreading joy and happiness was awarded to Collette Rinaldi. The Govan Band prize for music was lifted by Kristopher Shaw. The Alan McKay Trophy for meritorious work in mathematics and science was won by Asfand Tanwear.

There was a quiet, respectful moment as the presenters said a few words in memory of our Dancer in Residence, Gavin Dorrian, followed by two performances by his students. First a solo piece by Michaela Love, then an ensemble performance by the middle school dance troupe.

This led the final group of awards. The S1 Great Start awards were given to Graham Hendry and Rhiannon Lewis. The Brighthouse Skills Champion Award, presented by Helen Swann of the sponsoring company, was given to Kirsty Donnelly. Finally the Dysart Trophy & Whitelaw Prize for Dux of the School was awarded to Jodie Gardiner who, in her acceptance speech, thanked the school formally, on behalf of all the evening's prize winners, for all that the school had done for its young people.

As the audience dispersed, the parents and photographers moved in to record the evening for posterity and, in true Hollywood style, the 2011 Oscars Ceremony went out in a haze of happy smiles and flashbulbs.....





Govan Pupils visit Hamilton Park Racecourse

Normally when pupils are told they have a day out or excursion, they think “Yes! No classes for me”. Well this trip was different and made a point to cover all aspects of the curriculum.

The group began in the weighing room where the pupils found out the minimum and maximum

weight for a flat race Jockey and a jumping Jockey. They found out how the Jockeys lost and gained weight for each race.



The pupils then investigated the Jockey equipment and dressing room. They examined all the equipment and tested it for safety.

Pupils also found out about a handicap system that applies and how adding weights to more experienced runners and removing weights for less experienced runners is the norm. The weights which are used are lead. The pupils were asked why lead was the most suitable. The chemists in the group were able to answer the question and explain that lead is a malleable metal, meaning it can be moulded and if placed under a saddle, the metal would mould to the shape of the horse therefore not hurting the horse.

After the break, the pupils had the chance to see the race course and again using their numeracy skills they converted the length of the course in Furlongs into Miles. With the average speed of the horse noted, the pupils could also work out roughly how long the race would take using the $Speed = \frac{Distance}{Time}$ formula.

The pupils were then introduced to the parade ring where the horses were displayed to the public prior to the race. The pupils were given the dimension of the horses and minimum distances each horse must have in front and behind to move around safely, and asked to investigate, using a trundle wheel, how many horses could safely be on display. This activity made use of the pupils numeracy skills again as they worked out

the three types of averages (Mean, Median and Mode) in order to give more accurate results.

After lunch, pupils had to consider the diet of the jockey and compared this



to that of a professional cyclist. They were given a list of foods with calorie contents on them and advised to create a balance diet totalling 800 calories for the Jockey and 5000 calories for the cyclist. When the pupils understood each athlete had to eat all the correct food groups (carbohydrates, fat, protein and vitamins and minerals) within healthy ranges they had fun planning the diet but also began to realise how unhealthy their own diets were.

After all the learning activities, the pupils were invited to observe two races but just prior to this, they were taught how to read a race card. This gave them the understanding of how to spot a good horse and why betting based on a name is not always the best method of winning.

After the race four pupils were interviewed by the Race course event team in front of all the spectators and asked about their day. They spoke about all the learning opportunities they have had and thanked the events manager for inviting Govan High to the Hamilton Park Race course.



Govan High School is different – in a good way!

I did first and second year in another secondary school before I came to Govan High in the middle of third year. It was really easy settling in because I had been at primary school with a lot of people and the teachers were very welcoming.

I soon found that you get more opportunities here because of the Future Skills curriculum. Govan High does lots of subjects that I didn't get a chance to take in my old school, such as hairdressing, communication and dance.

I like it better here than in my other school because there's a nice atmosphere and it's always calm. The teachers are nicer here, they mostly don't shout at you but they still make you follow the rules. Govan High does great events like the Oscars and school shows. I was in both this year because I am in the dance class. They were really fantastic nights and I really enjoyed them.

I will be coming back for sixth year because I want to add Spanish and Travel & Tourism to my qualifications. That's because I want to work abroad in the travel industry, maybe somewhere like Ibiza.

- Carly McNair S5



MacMillan Coffee Morning

The Intermediate 1 Craft Baking Class (S2/3 students) in Home Economics baked various cakes and scones for the MACMILLAN'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING on the 30th September. They set up and decorated the staff room and then served the guests tea, coffee and cakes.

This was their first catering event and the students involved all worked to a professional level. Govan High School, through ticket sales and a raffle, raised £219.14 for MacMillan Support. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this happy day.

The baking class also had a cake competition for Hallow'een on 27th October. They all had to make a victoria sandwich and then use their own ideas to decorate it. They used thick water icing and spooky sweets. Veronika Piturnaita was awarded 1st prize. Caitlin Martin was second and Laura Campbell third.

Well done Girls! Come on the boys - Make it your turn next year!!!

Photographs of all their work can be viewed outside Ms Baxter's kitchen



GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART - ACES Programme

The Art department has established very strong links with the Glasgow School of Art and we have delivered many great art experiences and workshops to our pupils with their support. We have also managed to secure places for some of our senior pupils on their 'Access to Creative Education in Scotland' scheme which enables our young people to get all the support and advice that they require if they wish to pursue a job in any of the creative industries.

Pupils registered on the programme are given the opportunity to attend specialised painting & drawing workshops, open days, folio preparation classes and can request one-to-one support and advice about courses and UCAS applications.

Graduate Visit to Cambridge University

In May Govan High School launched its highly successful, innovative initiative "The Graduate". Loosely based on TV's "The Apprentice", the programme took 14 of our high achieving S2 Pupils and sought to set their sights on Higher Education when they finally leave Govan High School. As a prize for these 14 Graduates, the group went on an all expenses paid trip to Selwyn College in arguably the most famous University in the world: Cambridge.

The Porters at Selwyn College made it clear to us that Govan High School were the best school they had ever worked with.

Harrison Connie, one of the Graduates has submitted this report.

"As part of the S2 Graduate programme we all went on a field trip to Cambridge University. We left Glasgow Central bright and early on the train



to London. As we approached the excitement grew. When we finally got to Selwyn College we were surprised at the magnificent sight of the college. Firstly we arrived at the Selwyn College welcome session; this made us feel right at home. It was great fun meeting different people from the University. As the night came to an end we all went back to our rooms for a good night sleep after the long train journey despite hearing about a creature that roams the College grounds during the night which answers to the name of Gus, which turned out to be the Selwyn College Tom Cat.

The next morning we woke up bright eyed and bushy tailed and got ready for a day of fun activities and sightseeing. We learned about student life in University and that you don't need to be rich, posh or have someone famous in your family to go to Cambridge. We were lectured by two of Selwyn's admissions tutors - Dr Sewell and Dr Keeler. All you need to get into Cambridge is brains! After hearing this from Laura, a former student and Selwyn's School liaison officer inspired us all. Not least because she got a much coveted First!

Our afternoon activities included a sightseeing tour around Selwyn College which included a visit to the University library, which was fascinating as we were informed it holds every book that has ever been published since the 18th century. It was massive! We also went into town to do a spot of shopping and had some free time, but the day didn't end there; we all then had a guided tour of the Pembroke College where the tour and admissions person told us that the Pembroke is the third oldest College in Cambridge. That evening ended with a debate on the good and bad points of the internet. Laura told us we were excellent debaters - who knew?

On the day of departure we took some final photographs before getting prepared to return home. Over all we learned that everyone at Cambridge are not snobs and posh rich people, they are just normal people like you and me who work hard. On behalf of all of the GHS students on the trip, we would like to thank the school for this eye opening experience."

Please visit <http://www.GHS100.org.uk> for more details and some more photographs!



British Sign Language

This session Govan High's curriculum contains British Sign Language for a second year in a row. The course is taught by Anniesland College lecturer, Sandra Boyle. Last year's class had a one hundred per cent success rate in passing BSL level 1 and several of these students have stayed onto study for BSL level 2 along with a new crop of S4 recruits to the BSL level 1 course.

The benefits of this qualification in terms of employability skills and making Govan High school leavers attractive to potential employers are obvious. It is also a very active and enjoyable (literally hands on) course of study. Samantha McColvin S6 said "I really enjoyed learning how to communicate in a different way". Fakhirah Nabi S6 already uses it in her part time job at McDonald's where she signs with customers who are deaf or hearing impaired to take their orders.



Hola España!

In September 15 pupils from a variety of year groups had a busy week in Spain. Pupils from the Autism Unit and the mainstream school took part, accompanied by Spanish Teachers Catriona Reoch and Frank Hughes. Pupils on the trip were Jennifer Baird, Scott Blain, Dylan Bolam, Rikki Cameron, Connie Harrison, Paul Devlin, Robyn Foley, Chloe Gardiner, Chloe Harley, Connor Hughes, Katie Hughes, Jamie Lee Imrie, Cameron Robertson, Kristofer Shaw and Aaron Machon.

The trip was an experience on every level, from the flight (Dylan Bolam: It was my first time abroad and I really enjoyed flying for the first time) to sharing rooms (Paul Devlin: I fell asleep first and got covered in shaving foam!). The group visited Port Aventura, which is an amazing theme park. Kris Shaw said 'The best thing about Salou had to be Port Aventura and the best ride had to be Dragon Khan' which is a roller coaster. Many of the pupils improved on their Spanish and Dylan was even bartering with shop keepers over prices by the last night.

The group also visited Camp Nou, La Sagrada Familia and Parc Guell in Barcelona. They also met Miss Reoch's Spanish friend who speaks no English. Jamie Lee Imrie said 'the best part was being abroad with my classmates' which made the trip a truly memorable shared experience.

"A few pictures stick in my mind as symbols of the trip," said Ms Reoch. "Scott Blain's smiling face at the top of 'Drop Zone' - by far the scariest ride. All the kids drinking in the atmosphere of Camp Nou Stadium, base of the best football team in the world. The whole group paddling in the sea as the light went down and Cameron, Scott, and Dylan wearing huge sombreros as they shopped at night."

"The group from Govan High would have made anyone proud as they conducted themselves brilliantly in every situation," said Ms Reoch. "It was a privilege to be part of this Spanish adventure with 15 pupils who really made the most of every moment and who were so much fun and just enjoyed the whole experience. I would also like to thank the Marshall Trust for helping to fund our trip, in particular, our day trip to Barcelona."



A Visit to Stirling Old Town Jail

Four of our Religious, Moral & Philosophical Studies students, who are studying Crime and Punishment as part of their Higher course, went on a visit to Stirling Old Town Jail with their teacher Mrs Lewis as part of their learning experience on how we used to punish criminals in the past.

The tour of the jail starts with a greeting by the rather fearsome character of Jock Rankin, chief executioner from the Old Tolbooth jail. The fearsome role of Jock and the other prison characters are played by actors who stay in character throughout the tour.

Jock is "replaced" by Mr Hislop, the Victorian warden of the jail. Mr Hislop is a no nonsense character who introduces you to your life as an inmate.

The girls then asked question and were given time to explore the cells and the rest of the prison.

Our higher RMPS pupils will visit Barlinnie Prison in the New Year to gain an insight into a more modern view of how our present day prison system and crime and punishment works.



Dissections in Biology – gruesome but educational!

In Biology, each level investigates the function of organs in the body. The heart is looked at in details and the blood vessels which transport blood to and from the heart are closely examined. This activity allows pupils to see and feel the tissues which they may not normally have the opportunity to do. They can compare the difference in the thickness of each side of the heart and often correlate this to the distance the blood has to travel.

The pupils have the opportunity to blow up the lungs and see how an inflated lung looks. They also examine the wind pipe structure and on a few occasions the oesophagus is present, which gives the pupils a spatial awareness of the organs in their own body.

“Prior to the dissection,” says biology teacher Laura Timpson, “I often find pupils are a little doubtful of seeing the organs but as the photos show, pupils soon ask if they can touch it and dissect if further on their own. Let’s hope they will be as keen for future dissections”.





All the fun of the fair

Blackpool Trip 14/10/11

On the perfect day for a seaside trip – 45 brave souls headed off to Blackpool. That breaks down to 39 new S1 Pupils, two seniors and four lucky staff. While the trip was a complete blast it also had an educational focus! The entire event from original idea, to filling up black bin bags at the end of the bus trip, was organised by Govan High School Senior Pupils. The Pupils in Mr Robertson's Core Skills Group put the trip together; got permission from the Head Teacher; collected money; contacted the Pleasure Beach and arranged the bus! Now that's skills development. You'll see from the photo that everyone had a great time!

Jamie Love, member of the Core Skills Team had one thing to say; "It was Amazing!"



Govan High School pupils have been busy!

As part of the South West Environment Education Project (SWEEP), pupils have banded together to organise lunch-time litter picks.

Graham Robertson, the school's head of pastoral care, said he was delighted with the efforts made by its young people.

"SWEEP really focused pupils' thoughts on the impact of litter, fly-tipping and graffiti on their community," he explained.

"We recently held an awareness-raising day, and the main purpose was to highlight these important issues and to ask the question: what can Govan High School's young people do about it?"

"Everyone agreed we could do a lot, and groups of pupils of all ages are now engaged in litter picks after lunch most days of the week.

As a result, the streets look really clean and tidy now – the students are really bringing the sparkle back to their community."

Pupils who took part were Laura Campbell, Dylan Campbell, Unknown from Lourdes, Emma Campbell, Jenny Glasgow, Kristofer Shaw, Courtney Foley, Dylan Johnstone and Stuart Kennedy.

(Ann Fotheringham, The Evening Times)



My visit to Govan High School – 2011.

Our group left Milonde, Malawi on Saturday 25th September and made our way on the seven hour bus journey to Lilongwe, our country's capital city. We stayed overnight as we had an early flight. None of us had ever flown before and this was an amazing experience. We flew from Lilongwe to Johannesburg and then we had an eleven hour flight to London. By the time we arrived in Glasgow on Monday morning we were exhausted but excited.

We were greeted at the airport by two teachers, Paula and David, who spent the day with us. They took us to Braehead and we bought some essential items before we were taken to the hotel to settle in and then taken for dinner.

We were very active over the next ten days and we were overwhelmed by every new experience. The ceremony when we arrived at the school was a wonderful way to be welcomed. We were greeted by singing and dancing as well as kind words by our hosts. Our days were spent in school, observing and teaching lessons, as well as visiting local Primary schools. At night we visited the cinema, we went bowling, we experienced snow for the first time in Xscape and we visited many art galleries and museums. We also visited Blantyre and the David Livingstone centre. We were taken to visit Troon as we had never seen the sea before and we visited Rosslyn Chapel. On Saturday the group went on the Glasgow bus tour and we stopped to visit many interesting places. Then on Sunday we were taken to church and spent the day at Pollock Park and saw the fascinating Burrell collection. Local MP, Ian Davidson, spent time with us on Monday and arranged for us to visit the local football club at Ibrox.

We also had time to socialize and spend time with our hosts and their families. Our two pupils were accommodated by two pupils from Govan High, and they very much enjoyed this experience. While our pupils stayed with families, we teachers were taken out for the evening. We were taken for dinner and drinks and shown the nightlife Glasgow has to offer.

We were very much impressed by the number of beautiful roads, cars and buildings in Glasgow. I have never seen such busy and beautiful city in my life and I thought I was dreaming. Malawi has also busy and beautiful cities like Blantyre and Lilongwe, but they can not compare this with Glasgow.

We were thankful for the warm welcome and hospitality our group was accorded in all the homes of teachers and pupils we visited. We enjoyed the Scottish food and drinks; sometimes we were even joined by their parents. This added value to our home visits. We have indeed experienced a real Scottish life style in their homes, no doubt about that!

I also enjoyed discussing with GHS pupils about Malawi. They were very much interested to know more. They asked many questions because they wanted to have a good picture of our country.

We were sad to leave Glasgow. It was a once in a lifetime experience and we leave knowing we have made new friends and it is an experience we will never forget.

Bridgettie Ntambalika





Govan High SFA School of Football

Our Football School opened at the beginning of term in August. It is being run in partnership with the Scottish Football Association who supply the coaching staff. 14 first year pupils have 5 hours of football and related skills on their curriculum.

The programme also links into other aspects of the lives of the young people and the school, like health and well-being, diet, fitness, personal and social education and skills for life.

Our SFA coach, former Celtic player Brian McLaughlin, is delighted by the attitude and application of the young people. Physical education teacher Gordon Reid looks after the 'school end' of the programme. Gordon said, "This is a fantastic opportunity for the pupils and they are responding so well. It is a really exciting development in the school."

Currently, the School of Football pupils are being coached by Rangers community coach David Stewart, who has already arranged for the pupils to have a guided tour of Ibrox stadium as well as organising for our pupils to feature in the October issue of the Rangers news.

Sports News

Govan High Sports Day took place in June this year. It was a very successful event, with pupils from all age groups and staff participating in athletics events, fun competitions and the traditional and infamous tug of war!

This year the addition of Wii sports in the dance studio saw several members of staff becoming competitively involved, the highlight being Mr Sweeney winning the dance off (obviously his past life as a Blues Brother came in handy here!)

In the pupil events the athletics competition was very close. There were some terrific individual performances. The cup winners for each year group were: S1 Nicole Flannigan and Liam Harvison. S2 Charlie McGowan and Robert Lee Craig. S3 Casey-Jo Pinkerton and Coplyn Gray.



Govan High Dance-a-thon

The school held a Dance-a-thon in memory of our Dancer in Residence: Gavin Dorrian, in September. Dance Leader Siobhan Smith (S6) and Former Pupil Emma Kirkbride led the participants in various fun dances as well as some Zumba routines. There was also a performance from our current dance group. Pupils from all year groups were involved in organising the event and everyone had a fun afternoon of dance. So far over £400 has been raised with sponsor money still being handed in. Well Done everyone!

