

# Achievements!

## Govan High School

April 2012

Issue No. 15

Sponsored By  
**BrightHouse**



Time Capsule Project



Media Class in Paris



Govan High Trip to Cambridge

### Fantastic Leaver Destinations for Govan High

Despite the present economic climate and the pressure on places in universities and colleges, Govan High has just recorded its best ever leaver destination statistics. The figures were published by Skills Development Scotland before Christmas.

The highlights for Govan High are

- \* best ever unemployed figure - 7.7% (previous best 14%)
- \* best ever overall negative destinations - 11.5% (previous best 14%)
- \* the highest percentage of leavers in the city (30 schools) going to Further Education - 42.3%
- \* best ever Higher Education figure - 15.4% (previous best 9%)

This is no accident. As you are well aware, some years ago we radically altered our approach in the school to better meet the needs and aspirations of our pupils. This included a total revamp of the curriculum on offer and the introduction of the *Future Skills* system as the basis for all that our young people do. Last session was the first set of leavers who had spent their whole school career immersed in the new system.

### The Govan Weavers Society Burns Supper

Recently the Intermediate 1 baking class prepared, cooked and served a 4 course Burns Supper meal for 72 guests of 'The Weavers Society' held in the Pearce Institute in Govan.

In preparation for this event Ms Baxter and the class travelled to Gleneagles Hotel for a hospitality workshop under the supervision and guidance of former pupil Willie Jones and his staff. Willie is the Senior Manager at Gleneagles.

The students were given training in table setting, napkin folding, table service, working with glasses and trays and making 'mocktails'. The table setting skills were practiced weekly from then on for the Pearce Institute event.

It took 12 students and 2 staff 2 days to prepare the food and then cook it under the watchful eye of Gleneagles Executive Chef Alan Gibb. This was a tremendous opportunity for the students to work under pressure, as in a professional kitchen, and to get everything ready at the same time before service.

The evening event was a great success and despite the students being foot weary, hot and tired, they were exhilarated by their achievements and very proud of the certificates they were awarded from Willie and Gleneagles.

So, a big well done and thank you to everyone involved and a huge thank you to the staff from Gleneagles who gave their own time to support the pupils through this event.

The most important thing that we do in Govan High is get the leavers into positive destinations and our unique system is doing just that.

I believe that this is the strongest validation yet that our approach works for the young people of Govan, just as our experience here over the years taught us that it would.

On to 2012-13!  
-Iain White







## Tharan Sivapatham: Mechanical Engineering student at Strathclyde University

The four years I spent in Govan High as a pupil are the years that built my foundations in education and skill developments. Govan High is a school with an excellent education and teaching system where the teachers interact with the pupils and get the best out of them.

From 1st to 4th year I was offered a whole lot of skills development courses, clubs and various extra-curricular activities. This paid off really well later on when I went to University.

Even now at 3rd year of University I still highly value everything I learnt in Govan High because Govan High helped me get to where I am today.

I consider the time I spent at Govan High as the best years of my academic life. I am highly grateful to every teacher that helped me throughout my four years and also helped me decide what I wanted to do in life. As I mentioned earlier it is one of the few schools that takes so much care in every single pupil from day one till even after they have left.



## Comenius Project trip to Poland

On 30th January a group visited our partner school; III Liceum Ogólnokształcące in Leszno, Poland as part of the Comenius "Trains \*E" project. The students who travelled were Daniel McInnes, Magdalena Sobota, Tee-Jay Tinney and Kieran Young. Two members of staff, Lucy McNaught and Michael McCarron, accompanied the pupils. The trip focussed on the use of trains and steam engines in industry today.

Groups from Spain, Portugal, Italy, Belgium and Poland joined the Govan pupils in the project, which will promote international links and communication. We visited Polish churches, art galleries and transport museums to take in the Polish architecture and culture. On the Thursday we visited Gross Rosen concentration camp and museum. The weather was freezing - at one point it reached minus 20 degrees! The staff and pupils who took part in this exchange had an amazing experience.

## Option Choice day for S1

On Wednesday 28 March the school held an Option Choice Day for S1 pupils.

The middle of the day involved S1 pupils visiting the school's four teaching faculties to gather information sheets about the various subjects taught by each faculty and to experience activities and workshops demonstrating subject content.

The final session of the day was all about role modelling, as three successful former pupils each did a presentation telling the story of how they got from Govan High School to the position they are in today.

The three former pupils were Lisa Baird, who is now an Analytical Scientist with Controlled Therapeutics Scotland; Alasdair Fernie, Brookfield Project Manager of the Southern General Hospital site; and Willie Jones, Senior Manager at Gleneagles Hotel.





## ART & DESIGN - ANTI SECTARIANISM WORKSHOPS

Recently in Art a group of S2 pupils put their Graphic Design skills to good use when they took part in some workshops relating to issues regarding Anti-Sectarianism. The workshops were delivered by a group called XChange Scotland and the pupils developed an awareness of sectarianism and completed some excellent poster writing slogans that can be viewed by following this link <http://www.facebook.com/xs.sos.project>.

Following the voting stage, XChange Scotland will select the most popular ones and these will be exhibited across the city. The posters will be displayed in participating schools as well as popular

venues across the city where they can communicate a strong anti-sectarianism message to others. As well as this, our young S2 Graphic design team took the project a stage further and they designed posters which were inspired by their research. XChange Scotland were so impressed that they will be displaying them on their website - and due to the great success of the workshops XChange Scotland have been back in touch to arrange events for S1. Well done to everyone involved – Amy Collie, Jack Crawford, Demi Jo Miller, Lauryn Howden, Christopher McKenzie, Mark McPhail, Alan Porteous, Darren Sanderson and Chloe Todd.



Designed by Lauryn Howden and Amy Collie



Designed by Chloe Todd and Demi Jo Miller

## Admin E-Twinning

In Intermediate 1 Administration we are taking part in an E-Twinning project which is a site that lets pupils in Govan High link with other pupils from other schools in different countries.

We have been looking on the site for a while now and have already found a school to partner with in Spain. We have been mailing and making contact with pupils from Sanlucar High school in Sanlucar de Barrameda, a town in the province of Cadiz in the south of Spain.

We have also made power point presentations about ourselves and have sent them to our pen pals as they have sent presentations to us. In our power points we told them information about ourselves like our name, age, hobbies etc, our home and school life and told them about Scottish food and culture.

As well as making power points we also made a short video to send to them, so one day our admin class went to Braehead Shopping Centre and took turns filming each other standing outside our favourite shops and saying a bit about them. We are going to continue contacting our pen pals and are hoping to arrange an exchange some time in the future with them.

Tiree McDonald and Carla McKenzie

## Music News

On Friday 13th January, the vocal group took part in the 3rd annual St. Mungo festival held in the banqueting hall of the City Chambers. The festival celebrates the life of the patron saint of Glasgow. Changing the lyrics of a song 'Together as One' the GHS pupils depicted the spirit of Glasgow – a proud city where we may have different views but we always come 'together as one'. The pupils were filmed singing and the DVD will be sent to the school and will soon be available for interested parties to view.

On Thursday 19th January, a number of pupils from S1 arrived at the Royal Concert Hall to see 'Manran', a Celtic rock band, play as part of Glasgow's now internationally renowned Celtic Connections Festival. All pupils had an enjoyable time and were up on their feet dancing to the band!

## FROM THE HEIDIE'S OFFICE



As I look back on session 2011-12 it has been a very busy one, as ever. We have had a significant number of high points but the low was, of course the tragic loss of our Dance Artist in Residence, Gavin Dorrian, in September. In recognition of all that Gavin contributed to the school, the school show on 19th and 20th June is to be entitled Gala for Gavin. Some of our former pupils who are graduates from our dance

programme will return to assist with rehearsals and to perform in the show. Also, on the performance evening of 20th June, the Dance Studio will be formally renamed The Gavin Dorrian Dance Studio. A permanent display with images from Gavin's career is being put together.

In terms of high points, the steady flow of visitors to the school to find out about our Future Skills system and the way that we use it as the bedrock of our delivery of Curriculum for Excellence continues. Most recently, we had the national Commission for School Reform with us for a day. Its regular meeting was held in Govan High and its members took evidence from us about the innovative and creative approaches we take. They were particularly impressed by our pupils when they met them. Also, we have also been invited to present at conferences and seminars in various parts of the country to tell the story of our approach. Philip Graham and I just spent the day at the Stirling Management Centre speaking to a group of over 50 teachers and other education professionals. Our theme was 'Skills is the Future'.

A few weeks ago, we did a series of what might be called satisfaction surveys involving pupils, parents and staff members. Ours is a really happy school. We know that to be the case and our visitors always tell us that. We got the statistical proof from the surveys and it was really interesting to track the improvements in satisfaction levels over the last few years. We now head into the examination period and preparations for that are in full swing with our staff and pupils all clearly focused on the few vitally important hours in May and June. I shall be 18 years as the Govan Heide in May and I am now at the age where people are constantly asking me 'Are you still working?' or 'When do you retire?' I often answer these questions using a quote from our former pupil Sir Alex Ferguson when he was here last year, 'Retirement? I'm too busy for that!'

### Molendinar Award

In January, one of our S2 classes attended the City Council's Molendinar Award ceremony in the banqueting hall of the City Chambers.

These pupils were nominated for an award because of the work they did in the Brookfield Independent Learning Programme last session when they were in S1. Their task was to research the impact of the new Southern General Hospital on the Greater Govan area, with particular emphasis on job creation during the construction phase and after the hospital is fully operational.

Four members of the class, Chloe Todd, Darren Sanderson, Mark McPhail and Caitlin Evans, did a presentation based on their research at a whole school assembly with invited guests from Brookfield and the NHS. Their presentation was so good that the school submitted it to the Molendinar Awards, in the community category, and the panel of judges selected it for an award.

The Molendinar Award certificate now hangs proudly on the wall in one of the waiting rooms in the administration corridor so that visitors to the school can see it.

### The Focus West Annual Report 2010-2011

I have just taken possession of the Focus West Annual Report for 1010- 2011 and I must say it's very encouraging reading. Focus West are our partnership organisation based at the Caledonian University whose primary raison d'être is to support young people from areas like Govan into Higher Education. The covering letter on the report had this to say about Govan High School; "... The Progression rate to Higher Education for pupils from Govan High School has risen from nearly 5% in 2007 to 15% in 2011". The report commends these improving figures and the staff members driving these improvements.

Of course Focus West are important partners in our Graduate Programme which currently sees 14 exceptional pupils in S3 being tracked and supported in their desire to have Higher Education as a positive destination when they leave Govan High School. We are at the early stages of identifying the next Graduate Team from the current S2. We're excited about our future HE applicants and where they might be heading.

When you come to Govan High School as an S1 you're preparing for a bright future where anything is possible. No doors are shut to you. Your bright future is in your own hands and Govan High School is fully committed to helping you get there.

**Graham Robertson**  
PT Pastoral Care

### Project Leadership

Last year I embarked on Project Leadership and became involved in Global Citizenship.

Pupils in the Autism Unit were involved in a variety of events over the year. They raised a considerable amount of money for Children in Need. We had an interesting talk about Mary's Meals and the pupils participated in the Back Pack Project. Mary's Meals is now feeding over 600,000 hungry children and the pupils are proud to have contributed to that. Later on in the year we had an inter-disciplinary environment week which included a fair-trade café at breaks.

The events were fun and stimulating and we intend to carry on our involvement with Global Citizenship.

Catriona MacDiarmid  
Teacher  
Autism Unit  
04







## Public Speaking Competition

*Top Left: Stuart Sinclair and Harrison Connie*



*Top Right: Laura Campbell, Jamie-Lee McKenzie, Harrison Connie and Stuart Sinclair*



*Bottom: Jamie-Lee McKenzie and Laura Campbell*



Two of our S3 pupils, Harrison Connie and Laura Campbell recently took part in a Public Speaking Competition run by the Procurator Fiscal.

They went along to Holyrood Secondary School to compete against other secondary schools. The topic was 'Scottish Diversity'. Harrison and Laura volunteered and wrote their own speeches on the topic of Scotland.

Stuart Sinclair, Jamie-Lee MacKenzie, Miss McNab, Mr. Masterson and Mr. Graham went along to show their support for Govan High!

Unfortunately, they were robbed of the prize but celebrated their efforts with a well earned McDonalds. Although, the pupils did not win they got a lot out of their experience and gained many valuable Future Skills including presentational skills, self projection, note taking, current affairs awareness, team skills, organising and independent expression.



## Strathclyde University Law Clinic

Recently students from Strathclyde University Law Clinic did a series of workshops with first and second year. The workshops were designed to raise young people's awareness of the law in their lives.

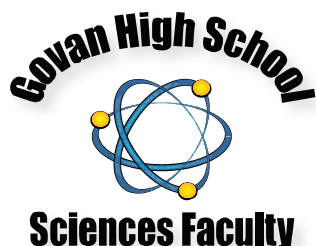
The first group of workshops was done with a second year class. The first session was a mock trial. The classroom was set up as a court room and all the pupils were assigned roles. Assisted by the law students, the class worked out a scenario for a trial and then role played the trial, as defendant, clerk of court, lawyers, judge etc. Luckily for defendant Taylor Kane, the jury found him not guilty, as "hangin' Judge Mister Sweeney" was itching to send him down for life!

The next workshop was delivered by a power point presentation and a quiz. It was about cyber bullying, use and abuse of ICT and how many different laws can affect internet and social network use by young people. The pupils were amazed at just how much of their online activity is covered by various laws.

The cyber bullying workshop was repeated a week later for the whole of first year with the same effect. So now Govan High School's S1 and S2 should be able to use the internet in safety, with confidence and with increased awareness of potential legal pitfalls.



## Southern General Hospital Time Capsule Project



### Working with NHS Healthcare Scientists

As part of the development of the New South Glasgow Hospital, Science pupils were involved in a project that would be used in a time capsule that would be buried in the foundations of the new healthcare science lab.

There were several visits of healthcare scientists to S1 Science & S2/3 Physics & Biology that involved pupils learning about the type of jobs that healthcare scientists do - such as Genetic Technologist, Haematologist & Biochemist. The plans for the new science lab and how it will be the largest of its kind in Europe were also discussed with the emphasis on the opportunity of future careers in Healthcare Science in the local area.

In S1 Science & S2/3 Biology classes the lessons included Microbiology where pupils found out about bacteria & viruses. In finding out about communicable diseases, the importance of proper hand washing was investigated, with pupils using a UV light box and fluorescent hand wash to see how well they washed their hands and how germs can be easily transferred through hand contact. They used agar plates to investigate growth of bacteria cultures that are present on hands before and after washing and also took swabs of items such as door handles and computer mice to grow cultures from these to see which bacteria are present.

S1 Science pupils also received a presentation on genetics & DNA. To find out more about DNA they made models of DNA molecules using different coloured sweets and they extracted DNA from kiwi fruit.

Examples of the pupils' work were placed in the time capsule.

S2/3 Physics pupils interviewed three healthcare scientists about their careers; they asked questions such as what qualifications and skills are required, what types of activities they do, how they thought the new lab would be different to where they presently work and how much their job has changed. These interviews were recorded by the pupils and edited before being included in the time capsule.

The project was completed with the time capsule interment ceremony in December 2011 where two S2 pupils, Caitlin Evans & Chloe Todd, took part in burying the time capsule in the foundations of the new science lab with the assistance of Nicola Sturgeon, Depute First Minister & Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing & Cities Strategies. The Govan High School vocal group performed at this ceremony too, impressing everyone with their excellent medley of festive songs. This event had very good media coverage with articles and photographs of the pupils in The Evening Times, The Herald and STV news website.





# Govan High School



## Science Club

The S1 science club started back in January. The pupils have had the opportunity to take part in some fun new experiments such as finger printing, dissections, examining drosophila flies under the microscope and their last experiment before the Easter break was to create a hot air balloon using the knowledge they had acquired from their Science lessons. The pupils have also had the opportunity to watch frog spawn grow into tadpoles and once the tadpoles grow into frogs, pupils will help introduce them back into the school pond.

The science club was designed to introduce the S1 pupils to the science subjects and give the pupils the opportunity to speak to science teachers other than the teacher they currently have. Pupils have been performing experiments they may only see in Biology, Chemistry or Physics examination classes. As a result pupils can get an idea of what to expect if they pick the subjects in future.



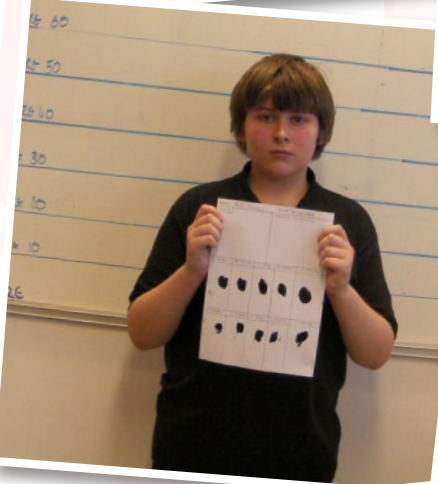
Right: The pupils collected water from the pond for the frog spawn to grow in a develop into tadpoles



Above: The pupils made hot air balloons and set them free  
The balloons worked so well they reached the ceiling

Clockwise from top left: Dionne Robinson, Lisa McCrindle, Rhys Thomson

The suspect's finger prints were matched to the sample prints left behind at the scene of the crime.





## Anne Frank Project

When GHS was included in the group of Glasgow schools to host the Anne Frank Foundation exhibition, we looked upon it as an opportunity to create a truly cross curricular learning experience for some of our young people.

The school was to host the exhibition in November. In preparation Kevin Sweeney, DHT and English teacher and Margaret Lewis, RME teacher, planned a course of complementary work in English and RE for a second year class they both taught.

Prior to studying the actual Anne Frank project, RE student teacher, William Van Heinegen, taught several lessons about discrimination against Jewish people in Germany. These lessons were based on his own family's experience during the German occupation of the Netherlands. Following this, while the pupils were working on a rota as guides in the exhibition, they spent class time in RE in group discussion and making posters for a wall display.

Simultaneously in English the pupils spent August to November studying a multi text unit called "Discrimination". This began with a worksheet booklet that taught pupils a definition of discrimination through discussion and role play of various exemplar situations and a pair of textual analysis exercises based on South African apartheid and race discrimination in the Southern USA.

The next part of the thematic study was a novel, "Across the Barricades", which is about religious discrimination in Northern Ireland. Using the internet, the class also studied news coverage of the true story of the Romeo and Juliet of Sarajevo. This was followed by study of a non-fiction text, "Hana's Suitcase", which tells the story of Hana Brady, a 13 year old Czech girl who died in Auschwitz and how Hana's suitcase became the central exhibit in the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Japan. By the time the Anne Frank exhibition arrived in mid November, the class had embarked upon study of a media text – the film "Schindler's List", Steven Spielberg's definitive account of The Holocaust.

Prior to the exhibition opening to the rest of the school and other visitors, the 16 pupils who had volunteered to be involved spent a day with Paula Fraser from the Anne Frank Foundation training as tour guides. They spent the next two weeks, working in pairs, taking parties of GHS pupils, primary pupils and adult visitors around the exhibition, explaining the lead up to The Holocaust, the terrible events during it and the aftermath from WW2 till today.

The 16 pupils performed brilliantly as tour guides and became steeped in The Holocaust story. The staff involved felt that the pupils' time and effort had to be rewarded by continuing the project beyond the

exhibition. It was decided that a good resolution to all their months of work would be a trip to Poland to see for themselves what they had been studying for so long. When consulted, all of the pupils said they wanted the trip to go ahead and volunteered as fund raisers.

The pupils are planning a fundraiser a month. They started in December by having a bake sale at the Brookfield construction site at the Southern General Hospital. For this they costed the exercise, did all the shopping and baking and then took their product around the offices of Brookfield and sub-contactors and, after expenses, raised £240. The pupils are planning a raffle (again at the Brookfield site), a car-wash in school, a sponsored walk (in their jammies!), a bric-a-brac sale and another bake sale.

In January 2012 the class were invited to do a presentation about their studies at the Holocaust Memorial Day event at Glasgow City Chambers. Four members of the class, two boys and two girls, gave a 10 minute power point presentation, telling the story of their project and explaining about their attempts to organise a trip to Auschwitz. Their performance certainly made an impression, not least on Baillie Jean McFadden, Convener of Education for Glasgow City Council who, in her closing speech, asked the Govan High School class to remain behind after the event so that she could speak to them – and donated £100 to their cause by writing them a cheque on the spot!

Through their involvement in the exhibition, their work in RE, English and Home Economics and their fund raising activities, the pupils are developing an impressive range of cross curricular skills including literacy, numeracy, problem solving, teamwork, enterprise and empathy. Moreover they are connecting their studies to the real world in that they have written to various potential sponsors, including the Jewish community in and around Glasgow.

The pupils have also written to Rabbi YY Rubenstein, a former pupil of GHS and noted Jewish scholar from New York, after he posted a supportive comment on the school website (GHS100) about the significance of the exhibition being in the school and its effect on the young minds of today.



## Govan AU pupils and positive destinations

Andrew Cowan is studying psychology at the University of Glasgow

Steven Paterson, a software engineer at the Booking Room at Charlton Chauffeurs, writing games software has been recently promoted to software manager and he is still only 17.

After completing a HNC in Social Studies, Austin Sheridan is currently Team Manager at a Glasgow Call centre. He is looking forward to being elected as an SNP councillor for Baillieston in the May elections, after being officially adopted as the SNP candidate along with David Turner. Not bad for a 19 year old.

Yes he can !!

Darren McKay is in his final year of Motor Mechanics at Anniesland College

Billy Mack, a current S5 student, has been accepted to do an NQ in Computing at Anniesland College next year. The rest of the S5 are attending interviews for further education and hope to be accepted for a college course in the next couple of months.





## Disneyland Resort Paris International Study Visit 2012

Once again the Media Studies/Yearbook crew set off on a grand journey to Paris, France for an awesome study experience behind the scenes at Disneyland Resort Paris. This visit allows the students to gain a unique insight into the sales, promotion and performance of one of the most successful theme parks in the world. The students were given first hand experience on how the theory behind media studies is put into practice. Over fifty skills were utilized throughout the experience. The impact and benefits gained from this journey will prepare students for careers in the field of media production, advertising, sales and promotion.

A bonus of this trip was the full day in Paris where the students were given the opportunity to visit the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, Notre Dame and the Latin Quarter for some history and shopping. All in all a fantastic study experience.



## The Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Duke of Edinburgh Award was introduced as it suited the needs of the pupils in the school and gave another subject choice to the senior pupils. It also fitted in particularly well with the Future Skills based curriculum as well as curriculum for excellence.

Staff were consulted before the award was added to the curriculum and a small working group was formed to discuss how best we could introduce D of E into the curriculum.

The award is challenging, rewarding and enjoyable with some diversity. The pupils have some aspect of control over their learning/activities.

The Duke of Edinburgh 'Bronze award' is a great way of promoting learning in a positive way. The pupils have to be self motivated and disciplined as well as willing to be thoughtful.

There are 4 elements to the award- Volunteering, Skill, Physical and Expedition. Completion of all 4 elements provides a great platform for the pupils' development personally, socially, as well as contributing to school and community. This in turn will improve their confidence and self esteem. Hopefully this will undoubtedly benefit them when they leave school and help them gain a job or place in further education.

Some of the activities the pupils have been involved in are-

- Bench making
- Car washing
- Litter picking
- Hill walking
- Music skills
- Allotment

The award helps greatly in promoting self, team and social awareness. On completion of the bronze award the candidates can progress onto silver and then gold awards.







## **Hairdressing pupils' visit to college**

Both of our Skills for Work Hairdressing classes recently experienced a study visit to City of Glasgow College. The purpose of this event was to engage students in the world of further education and to remove any fears or barriers they may have.

The pupils worked with college students (buddy system) to create a look that our pupils had designed and planned. The college students had the skills in colouring and cutting, as they are at a more advanced level, however our pupils had to communicate effectively to the students with their ideas to ensure that they achieved their desired look.

The Govan High students were also given the opportunity to try out some new skills in this area and complete the task with showing off their creative skills in blow-drying, curling and braiding. The end result was very impressive and both college staff and college students commented on the skills and motivation our pupils exhibited. Our pupils were extremely excited by the experience and can't wait for the next visit to college.

After the visit Isabella Morrison, hairdressing lecturer at City of Glasgow College, sent this message to the school: "Just an update on today's visit from your Skills for Work students. Firstly I have to say that their behaviour was outstanding, and they showed that Govan High students were fab students and the school should be really proud of them. They interacted really well, listened to instructions given and carried them out to such a high standard that our own students were really impressed with them and their skills. Other lecturers that got involved also commented on how fab they were - impeccable students - and that they had great skills overall. I think the whole day was a great success and the students and staff look forward to the next one".

Well done hairdressing students – you are excellent ambassadors for Govan High School!

## **Positive Destinations**

Christina Mackay, Youth Placement Officer from Glasgow Regeneration Agency, recently passed on the great news that not only has Carly Brown successfully completed the NEET programme "Build On" but that she has successfully gained employment as an administration assistant with Glasgow Volunteer Centre.

Carly's appointment means that the great positive destination figures on the front page are actually even better than when they were officially reported by Skills Development Scotland back in November.

In fact, by March 2012, every single Govan High School Christmas leaver was in a positive destination, either in continuing education, training or employment.

Credit goes to the young people for this, of course, but credit also goes to the school's Positive Destination group for all their hard work, time and effort in tracking school leavers and helping them into appropriate pathways to a positive destination. The Positive Destinations group is chaired by a Depute Head and includes the school's Pastoral Care Teachers, representatives of Skills Development Scotland, Glasgow City Council's 16+ Programme and Glasgow Regeneration Agency. The group meets on the last Friday of each month to plan and manage the transition from school to the real world for Govan High School leavers and, as the figures on the front page show, they do it rather well.





## Friends of Elder Park

We have received a letter from the Friends of Elder Park thanking the pupils of Govan High School Autism Unit for their enthusiasm and efficiency during a recent litter pick in the park.

Elder Park was created for the people of Govan in 1885 by Mrs Isabella Elder. The Friends of Elder Park is a conservation group dedicated to protecting and promoting Elder Park.

Govan High School has contributed to several of the Friends' initiatives in recent years.



## Enterprise through Music Developments

Enterprise Through Music is a class where students learn business skills by running a real company – a record company. During their course students organise a talent show, record their artists, produce a CD and advertise and market their product. The course has run successfully in GHS for eight years and, each year, it leads several of our young people to the SQA qualification 'Enterprise Activity Intermediate 2'.

This year's class has faced two tough challenges. Firstly the recession has made fundraising and sponsorship almost impossible; and, secondly, nobody buys CDs any more!

The course has had to change to meet these challenges. Our solution to the lack of sponsorship was to become a Young Enterprise Scotland company and raise funds through a share issue. Our response to the change in the market from CDs to electronic music files was to open a website with an online shop where customers can download music files.

We also joined a music education programme called Determined to Perform (run by Glasgow City Council and Doghouse Studios) in which five Glasgow schools are aiming at a live gig in a major music venue in April, mentored by record producer, Ewan McLeod.

Our company is called B-Line Records. Our band is The Straight A's. The Straight A's are Shanelle MacLellan, Samantha McColvin and Eilidh Walton. So far the Straight A's have recorded a cover of "Call me Maybe", by Carly Rae Jepsen, in Doghouse Studios. The next step is to record a promo CD as a give-away to advertise the gig. This will be recorded and manufactured in-house at the Loudest, our newly developed recording studio.

## The Govan High School Advisory Board

After some considerable time and deliberation the School has managed to attract the support of an Advisory Board made up of parents and former pupils from the business sector, who are willing to assist, support and offer guidance to Govan High School. Performing the function of the former Parent Council, the introduction of former pupils from the business sector to assist parents offers great advantages to the school in the range of contacts and opportunities available to the school and all of its pupils.

The objectives of the School Advisory Board are:

- To work in partnership with Govan High School to create a welcoming school which is inclusive for all parents, carers and relevant members of the local community.
- To promote partnership between the school, its pupils and all its parents, carers and the local community.
- To develop and engage in activities which support the education and welfare of the pupils.
- To identify and represent the views of parents on the education provided by the school and other matters affecting the education and welfare of the pupils
- To assist with organising extra curricular activities
- To assist in the provision of mentoring and other support services to the school
- To assist with any fundraising to further extra curricular activities
- To assist in the promotion of Govan High School as a centre for Educational Excellence
- To assist the pupils at Govan High School develop in education and as individuals in any way possible
- To establish Govan High School at the centre of the local community.

The members of the school community who have agreed to serve on the Advisory Board are parents Jim Shaw, Sandra Shaw, Carole Kelly, Jim Connie and former pupils, Willie Jones, June Toner and Tom McInally who meet on a quarterly basis with meetings also attended by Mr Iain White and Andy Masterson. Following the initial meetings of the group it was agreed that members of the Student Council also be invited to join the Advisory Board to ensure the adults were aware of student interests and concerns. The Student Council subsequently nominated Tee-Jay Tinney, Connor Hughes and Samantha McColvin to represent the student body. In this regard, the intention is to develop a strong bond between the pupils, the staff and the members of the Advisory Board to work in the best interests of all concerned with the future of Govan High School.

At the most recent meeting of the Advisory Board Tom McInally was elected Chairperson with the members agreeing to invite Alasdair Fernie as an additional former pupil who is currently active in the local business community in the construction of the new Southern General Hospital. The members of the Advisory Board are looking forward to meeting with the Student Council to establish a programme of work on new activities at the school over the next few years.



### Planned Sports Class

The Planned Sports class visited Delta Force Paintball in Houston, Renfrewshire. The group used various team skills, communication and strategies to try to overcome the other team in a range of games on the course. It was great fun!



### 4 a Side Cup Win

At the end of last term Govan High School's S1 pupils won the football Christmas Cup in a tournament at Toryglen. This was a 4 a-side tournament that involved all Glasgow schools.

In the morning session teams played six games in a group stage and Govan High won 5 games and drew 1-1 with Shawlands Academy. After lunch the two Govan High teams were drawn together in the quarter final (ahhhh!) Team A won 5-2. The winners then beat St Roch's to progress into the final and face the only team they did not beat in the group stage, Shawlands Academy!

The boys were absolutely superb and came from 2-1 down to win 5-3. It was also fantastic to see that our supporters behaved very well and this was highlighted by members of staff from other schools.

Gordon Reid, PE department

### Govan High School School of Football



On the 18<sup>th</sup> of February our School of Football (SoF) pupils were given the opportunity to play on the pitch at Ibrox Stadium in front of fifty thousand people. Our SoF coach David Stewart arranged for the pupils to show off their skills during the half time interval as Rangers played Kilmarnock. The pupils had a fantastic experience and a day to remember for the rest of their lives.

In addition to this on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February we had two Scotland under 21 international players, David

Wotherspoon and Peter Pawlett visit the school to join in a football session with our SoF pupils. To add to the excitement the training session was filmed by Sky Sports and was broadcasted the next day on Sky Sports News. The SoF pupils were delighted to play alongside the two professional footballers and were also given complimentary tickets for a Scotland under 21 game.



### Goalball

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of March our first year pupils participated in a Goalball tournament run by students from University West of Scotland, Ayr Campus. Goalball is a sport played in the Paralympics for the visually impaired allowing athletes with varying degrees of vision to compete together. The aim is to score by rolling a ball that has a bell inside it into the opposition's goal, while the opposition attempts to block the ball with their bodies. Our S1 pupils really enjoyed playing Goalball, in particular our winners Rhiannon Lewis, Dionne Robinson and Connor Brown. The art department worked with a group of S2 pupils on posters to advertise the Goalball event and their work was displayed on the walls of the gymnasium during the event. The S2 pupils learned a lot through their research about the sport and were also given the opportunity to develop their creative talents and Graphic Design skills. One of the organisers of the tournament, Norman Graham (who is a former pupil) very kindly donated Goalball equipment to the school to allow the PE department to continue teaching this activity.