

Achievements!

Govan High School

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Govan Schools and Community Pipe Band

The Govan Weavers Society, with the support and assistance of the members of the Strathclyde Police Pipe Band, launched a new initiative with a presentation at The Pearce Institute on Wednesday 20 March. This project will provide piping and drumming lessons for all schools in Govan with the objective of creating a new Govan Schools / Community Pipe Band.

The project will involve Riverside Primary, St Saviour's Primary, Pirie Park Primary, St Constantine's Primary and Govan High School. Pupils who wish to take part in this initiative attended with their parents for an outline of the project and the benefits of piping and band membership.

Lessons will initially take place in each of the primary schools with the supervision of teachers and members of the band. At a point when the students are ready to form a band, lessons will be centralised either in one of the participating schools or at the Pearce Institute at the centre of Govan. At that stage pipes and drums at a subsidised cost will be provided by the Piping Trust to continue the lessons into full instruments

When ready for forming a band, a band uniform will be provided continuing the red and black colours of Govan in a Macleod tartan, linking with Norman Macleod after whom the MacLeod Hall is named and George Macleod the founder of the Iona Community.

The Trust is aware of the time and commitment necessary to achieve band level and intends to provide encouragement by enabling the band to perform when ready, or in 2015 at the latest, at Tartan Day parade on 6th Avenue New York or some equivalent event.

The Govan Weavers Society has initiated the Trust to provide support and opportunity for the young people of Govan and to assist in the social regeneration of the Govan Community. In this context the Society has been working with the staff and students at Govan High School and with the Incorporation of Coopers at the Trades House of Glasgow, to provide increased opportunities for youngsters in Govan in participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards, The SFA School of Football and in catering exhibitions and training. The Piping Trust is the latest venture extending the encouragement of the Weavers Society into Primary Schools following the first Govan Schools Burns Competitions. The Govan Weavers Society is currently setting up a Trust which will raise the necessary finance to support the lessons, equipment, uniforms and travel of the youngsters and have already raised pledges of more than £10,000 over the next year.

It is anticipated that the first performance of a Govan school band will be at the Scottish Schools Pipe Band Competition in 2014.

The Govan Weavers Society is aware that Govan is one of the more deprived areas of Scotland where young people do not have the same



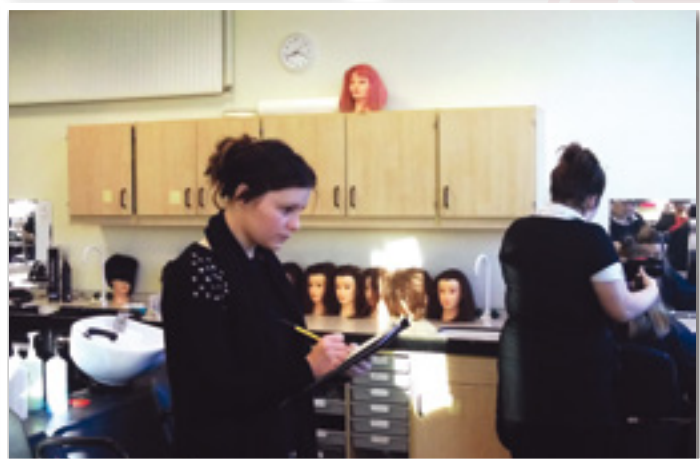
Govan High on the national stage

Here's an interesting excerpt from Iain White's blog on the ghs100 website: My guest today on the blog is one of our Depute Heads, Kevin Sweeney. Kevin was at a national conference and one of Scotland's foremost educational thinkers and practitioners, David Cameron, surely had our ears burning during his presentation.

Kevin says "At the national conference on Post 16 education in Edinburgh on Tuesday 19 March, David Cameron, Head of Career Management at Skills Development Scotland, made a point mentioning Govan High School as an example of national importance. In a presentation about the future for 16+ education in Scotland, David cited Govan High's annual option choice, flexible timetabling and individual learning plans as a model to which every school in Scotland should aspire. He said that Govan High School's highly personalised progression routes for pupils and extensive use of networking and partnership working was the reason for the school's ongoing success in positive destinations even against a background of economic depression and high youth unemployment."

This would appear to me to be a firm endorsement of 'The Govan High Way' on the national stage. Of course, David knows the school very well having written an evaluation on our work a couple of years ago. It is gratifying to know that, again, we are at the forefront of national thinking.

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Positive Destinations

There have been some changes in personnel in the School's Positive Destinations Team. Derek MacDougall has retired. His place will be taken by the new Enterprise Faculty Head, Sonja Kerr. Careers Officer Alan Jones has moved on to the Skills Development Scotland Youth Team. Alan's place has been taken by our new SDS Careers Officer, Alison Phillips. George King from Jobcentreplus has moved to another post within his organisation and his place in the Positive Destinations team has been taken by Janice McGirr, Employer Engagement Manager at Govan Jobcentre. Ricky Wilson is our representative from Glasgow City Council's 16+ Learning Choices Team and Jacqui Fitzpatrick, our Hairdressing lecturer, will contribute her skills as a transition worker, a role she previously held in Glasgow Regeneration Agency.

The School Leaver Destination Results, published by Skills Development Scotland recently, show that the good work of the Positive Destinations team is continuing to benefit the young people of Govan High School. For example 11% of last year's leavers went to university. Another 28% went to Further Education College; 18.5% went to training courses; and 22.2% went straight into employment. Only 9% of our leavers are registered as unemployed – and all of them are still engaged with a suitable support agency to try to move them into a positive destination as soon as possible. Given the present economic climate and high youth unemployment, these figures show that Govan High School is punching above its weight in the area of positive destinations for our school leavers.

Hospitality

Zoe Graham has been offered a place on the three year Hospitality course at City of Glasgow College.

First Aid

Chantelle McCuish and Tammi Dempsey sat and passed the Health & Safety Executive "First Aid at Work" Exam as part of the First Aid course at Cardonald College.

Hairdressing

The following pupils have been successful in securing a place on Level 5 Hairdressing at City of Glasgow College from August 2013: Casey Hislop, Hayley Ritchie, Shelbi Sweeney, Samantha Galloway, Carly Devlin and Talia Watson. Well done ladies!

Recently our Hairdressing pupils took part in a blow drying competition. With Pamela Galloway, former pupil now currently studying HNC Hairdressing, judging the competition. Jo Beth Boyle and Connie McGeown were the winners from the two Intermediate 2 classes. Both winners were delighted with their prize of a set of Beats.

Health & Safety

A group of Engineering pupils recently attended a twilight class on Mondays after school to complete the IOSH Health and Safety Passport course. The pupils were: Fraser Adamson, Iain Cadden, Steven Campbell, Coplyn Gray, Stephen Emmerson, Declan Hughes, Kai MacPhail, Martin Pender and Kalen Tocher. The course was funded through our Employability Officer, Eileen Glasgow and delivered by Allan MacDonald, a director of Amalgamate which is an international Health and Safety consultancy. We are pleased to say that all of the pupils passed the course with flying colours and are now in possession of the IOSH Passport which should enhance their chances of getting a Modern Apprenticeship or a place in Further Education. This group will represent Govan High School in this year's Brookfield Independent Learning competition.

Former Pupil Success Stories

Former pupil and final year BAE Modern Apprentice Robert Tosh had a big night at the Scotland's Modern Apprenticeship Award 2012. This award is all about celebrating the brightest and the best in Modern Apprenticeship. The event took place at the Imax cinema. Robert mentioned Govan High in a video clip as part of his award presentation. "It looked great on the big screen!" said Robert's Senior Lecturer in Engineering from Anniesland College, Kenneth Stevenson.

Anniesland College won the Partnership Award and Robert, who works at BAE and studies at the college, won the Construction and Production Apprentice award. Robert also won the Hammerman Award while he was going through his Qualification with Anniesland College and is a STEM Ambassador. Robert was the ultimate winner of the overall title and is the Scottish Modern Apprentice 2012.

"This is great news. Robert was an excellent student while at Anniesland," said Senior Lecturer in Engineering, Kenneth Stevenson.

When he was a pupil at Govan High School Robert won the Diana Award. This influenced BAE selectors when Robert applied for a Craft Apprenticeship at BAE Systems because they offered him a better job - a technician apprenticeship....and the rest is history!

It was quite a night for Robert, Anniesland College, Govan High and BAE Systems.

Govan High School



Dragons' Den Day

On the 3rd of December, the online business and game design class took part in a Dragons' Den style competition, where the teams from the Bima Dragons' Den Day event had to present their café idea to a panel of three judges. The judges consisted of John Campbell, from Spider Online, Gordon Young, from The Drum Magazine and Mr Masterson, Depute Head. Each of the four groups had to present their idea within at most 10-15 minutes, followed by questions at the end. The café names included, Táng Bǐng, Scottish Star, Yupti and Tic Toc. The judges then had 20 minutes to discuss and decide on the winning group. The winning team was Táng Bǐng, who were very grateful as each member of the team received a Kindle. Everyone who participated had a great time and enjoyed the experience; they developed their presentation skills, communication skills and their team working skills.

The DETERMINED TO COOK Challenge 2013

The Govan High School team was chosen by Ms Baxter and our mentor chef, Mark Price, from the Gallery Restaurant in the SECC. Our challenge was to cook head to head with our classmates to show preparation and practical skills. Then after a nail biting age, the final 4 contestants were announced by Chef Mark. The chosen ones were: Lynne Fraser, Alexandru Iovanovici, Jamie- Lee McKenzie and me! So, with ironed whites and spotless cooking equipment, we were ready to go.

The SECC gallery Bistro is where we did most of our cooking practice. We arrived there on the 15th January 2013. This was our introduction to a fully equipped, professional, working kitchen! We realised this was the big time now!!

We were blinded by Chef Mark's expertise the following week when he worked through our 2 dishes for the competition. He made the dishes look so easy - and we had to follow that!

The menu was:

Main course: Braised Gigot of Lamb with a red current jus, Sweet Potato Mash and Honey Roasted Winter Root Vegetables – a melt in your mouth of wonderful flavours.

FROM THE HEIDIE'S OFFICE



Those of you who follow my blog on the school website (www.ghs100.org.uk) will have an appreciation of how much goes on in the school. We are constantly giving pupils the opportunity to enhance their learning by offering them experiences that take them out of the class room and into the 'real' world. This newsletter is, of course, bursting with examples of this. This is the way we do things around here or 'The Govan High Way'.

I have been working with a team of people developing a one page, diagrammatic summary of our way of working. Several drafts have been discussed within our school community, with the Student Council in particular giving us some really perceptive feed back. We have now reached the final draft stage that will give us 'The Govan High Way' on a page. As ever, John Stevenson and our friends at Glasgow Creative have taken our rough ideas, polished them and put them into a professional, eye-catching format.

This will summarise the means by which we shall get to the dreams that we have in our School Vision of maximising potential, developing skills and helping our pupils gain the raw materials so that they may ultimately find fulfilment in life. The successes that the school has achieved in improving attendance, leaver destinations, skills development and examination attainment have resulted from the development and implementation of 'The Govan High Way'. This is because at the root of it lies our burning desire to meet the needs and aspirations of our community.

Our approach is the essence of *Curriculum for Excellence* for our system allows: personalisation and choice by pupils; the approach is individualised and this is supported by flexibility and creativity in the curriculum; the curriculum is driven by user need and is not a system that simply fits people to existing courses; the *Future Skills* system fosters transference of skills across different experiences and, through the skills identified, the interaction with new knowledge that brings deep learning. This is what is required to equip young people for the uncertainties of 21st Century living and employment. This is the essence of *Curriculum for Excellence* as its authors intended way back 10 or more years ago. This is 'The Govan High Way'. This is the future.

From our experiences and evidence measured against soft and hard indicators, as Jack Black would have it, 'It only works!'

Dessert: A Goosey Chocolate Chip Cookie, Vanilla ice cream, Chantilly cream with Butterscotch Sauce topped with Toasted Almonds – a dessert to DIE FOR!

We had 3 planned dates to practise these dishes and we were split into 2 teams to cook one dish each. We had this time to create our masterpieces of food. Chef wanted us to be confident enough at the cook off to be able to cook without our recipes and with no help at all from Ms Baxter or him.

A huge ask - but we wanted to make him proud of our challenge.

The cook off was held on 27th February in Govan High School. We were up against Bellahouston Academy, St Paul's Academy and Shawlands Academy. We went head to head in skills, taste and time management. Bellahouston won our heat with the mentor chef from The Science Centre. Thanks to Ms Baxter and Chef Mark Price for choosing us to be in the Govan High Team and training us to such a high standard. Thank You from the team

By Ewan Davies S5 Hospitality Student.



© Courtesy of the Daily Record

A Big Thank You to Former Pupil Bill Martin

Gail and I, writes Head Teacher Iain White, were honoured by our Former Pupil and Hall of Famer Bill Martin when he asked us to join him and his wife Jan as their guests at the Tartan Clef Awards at the Old Fruitmarket. Bill was receiving a Lifetime Achievement award. The Tartan Clef Awards is an annual awards ceremony celebrating the Scottish music industry. Since its inception in 1998, the event has grown from a small lunchtime affair to a glittering, star-studded, evening event that sells out year after year.

Tartan Clef is the fundraising arm of Nordoff Robbins Music Therapy in Scotland. The Nordoff Robbins approach to music therapy was developed from the pioneering work of Paul Nordoff and Clive Robbins in the 1950s/60s. It is grounded in the belief that everyone can respond to music, no matter how ill or disabled. The unique qualities of music as therapy can enhance communication, support change, and enable people to live more resourcefully and creatively.

It was indeed a glittering evening and Gail and I greatly enjoyed Bill and Jan's company. We had a lovely dinner. There were performances from a host of Scotland's music greats including The View, The Fratellis, Barbara Dickson and Rab Noakes, Love and Money and Red Sky July.

However, amongst these Scottish greats we had a big screen video performance from two boys who are being supported by Nordoff Robbins therapy. For me it was the performance of the evening – courageous, dignified, insightful and meaningful. Connor and Alex both have an incurable illness which means that their lives will be too short. They each have disabilities that mean they are challenged every day. As part of a music therapy project at the Hospice, Connor and Alex wrote a song, a song about their lives. The boys are really proud of their song,

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opportunities as other communities. The Society is committed to assisting overturn this inequality.

Beyond instruction from world class tutors from the former Strathclyde Police Pipe Band*, the Society also intend to work with the College of Piping in Otago Street, Glasgow, for advanced tuition of talented individuals.

In promoting this initiative the Govan Weavers Society is extremely proud of its involvement with the Strathclyde Police Pipe Band, formerly the City of Glasgow Police Pipe Band, which was originally founded as the Govan Burgh Police Pipe Band as the first non-military pipe band in the world in 1883. This pride led to the Society commissioning a new pipe tune to commemorate the Govan Burgh Police Pipe Band on the centenary of the Annexation of Govan in November 2012. The new tune was first played in public on the 28th November in the Macleod Hall at the Pearce Institute.

* The former Strathclyde Police Pipe Band is to be known as the Greater Glasgow Police (Scotland) Pipe Band as of the 1st April 2013.

and they wanted us to hear it. They chose every beat and every sound. Every word is their own. We heard the voices, words and music of Alex and Connor. Even better, they were with us in the gallery at the event. Their song is called "Life". It is profound.

Bill received his Lifetime Achievement Award towards the end of the ceremony and stole the show with his acceptance speech. As those of us who know him would expect, it was thought provoking, reflective and amusing. I was very proud when Bill spoke about his upbringing in Govan and mentioned being a former pupil of Govan High very warmly. It's not only in the world of education that our name is spread far and wide!!

We are all so grateful to the great numbers of Former Pupils who are happy to share their memories and are so willing to help their *alma mater* in whatever way they can. They possibly do not appreciate how important they are to us and the great value of what they do for us.

So thanks to all of you Former Pupils who support us and thanks also to Bill and Jan for a lovely evening in their company in addition to all that Bill does for the school.

University Entrance

Another former pupil, Susan Morrison has written to thank us for continuing to support her in achieving entrance to the very specialist university course she has been seeking for four years. The course is called DitHE Operating Department Practice. Susan writes: "Huddersfield University invited me for an interview, which I attended on the 9th of this month. I flew to Manchester, picked up a hire car and drove to Huddersfield (following a nightshift), where I spent the night in a local hotel before going to the four hour interview. I must admit that I have never done anything so nerve-racking! Anyway, having passed the written essay, and group activity stages, I was then taken in for a one-to-one interview.

I received an email from UCAS this morning to inform me that I have been offered a conditional place at the university, the condition is that I pass the CRB checks (no doubts there, no criminal activity in my past!)" Susan will begin her course at Huddersfield University in September, yet another positive destination for Govan High School.



Another University Entrance

Nicola Devlin paid us a visit recently to show off some of her college and university work. Nicola graduated from Stow College where she received a Certificate in Higher Education in Computer Animation and Multimedia. She is currently in 3rd year at the University West of Scotland, Paisley Campus, studying for a BSc Honours degree in Computer Animation and Digital Art.



Cambridge

Over the Christmas period of 2012, Govan High's 'Graduate' group were invited to the prestigious Cambridge University. It was a fantastic experience and honour for the pupils of Govan High to be invited and shown around this world famous University and campus. Over the course of the 3 days, the Graduate group had the opportunity to experience student life in one of the world's top universities. The Graduates visited several of the 30 illustrious colleges that make up Cambridge University. During our stay the pupils resided in Selwyn College, experiencing first hand what campus life is like. This is now the second time Govan High pupils have had this wonderful experience in as many years and will hopefully not be the last, it was a fantastic experience enjoyed by all!

Weavers Burns Supper 8th March 2013

With our Home Economics teacher, Ms Baxter and the help of Willie Jones (ex-pupil of GHS) and some of his team from Gleneagles, we had another opportunity to cater for the Govan Weavers Association Annual Burns Supper held at the Pearce Institute on 8th March 2013.

In school we had to make cock-a-leekie soup and chocolate mousse for 100 people. We worked over 2 days and then through the evening of the event.

It was a brilliant experience and the atmosphere was electric. The speed at service that we had to work at was incredible – just like a professional kitchen!

The 6 “chefettes” were given proper chefs hats to wear throughout the service. Ewan Davis was invited to carry the Chieftain Haggis into the hall behind the piper.

He even had his hat swiped off by Ian McPherson who was addressing the haggis – Ewan never flinched – well done Ewan! The experience and the new skills we learned were valuable – observational skills, hand/eye co-ordination, team work (very important through the serving of the main course). This night and the experience will help us majorly in the future in our hospitality careers. With thanks to the 6 chefettes and the staff: Ewan Davis, Zoe Graham, Alexander Iovanovici, Jamie-Lee McKenzie, Jordan Richmond and Laura Campbell. The adults in the team were Ms Baxter, our teacher; Jeanie McGrillan our Classroom Assistant and Lorna Tugman, the Home Economics Student Teacher.

Written by Laura Campbell

Burns Supper Waiters

As I am studying Hospitality Intermediate 1, I got the opportunity along with 14 other students to be waiters for the Weavers Institute “Burns Supper” held on the 8th March 2013 in the Pearce Institute, Govan.



We were helped by Willie Jones (ex pupil of GHS) and his team from The Gleneagles Hotel to set up tables professionally for the dinner, trained to work in teams throughout the evening for serving the dinner and clearing tables. When we were not serving we had to make sure that our guests at our tables were ‘happy, well fed and watered’!

This was good fun to do as we got to talk to the guests and explain why we were working at the dinner. This all helped us in experiencing our *Future Skills* which included: *team work, gathering facts, processing information and being very observant*. I now realise being ‘very observant’ is a **very** important skill when working as a member of a team in serving tables and watching what’s going on around you.

I was very proud to represent Govan High School and our uniform for the night was white shirt, black trousers, black foot wear, our school tie and the Govan Weavers’ aprons. We were all complimented on how smart we looked.

By Courtney Early S5
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Edinburgh Admin Visit

Recently the Administration Intermediate 2 / Higher class represented the school at the national HIT Emerging Talent conference in Edinburgh. Jennifer Glasgow, a member of the class, describes her experience:

We had to wake up at 5 am and be at the train station for 6.30am. We then boarded the train to take us to Edinburgh. On arrival we met with one of the workers there who showed us around and delegated jobs to us.

We then split up and took our positions at our delegated areas. Some of us were at the front door meeting and greeting and some were dotted around the building giving help with directions to the different rooms.

Once the meetings began at 9.30 am we were allowed a break where the company offered us some bacon rolls and tea. We then returned to our positions.

Once our jobs were done we were allowed to go and watch some of the presentations with all the guests, including one I found really interesting

on how to run your own business.

One of the highlights of the day was meeting Olympic Gold Medallist Katherine Grainger. She talked to us about her achievements and asked how we were all doing in school. We then got a picture with her and her gold medal to remember the day.

On our lunch break we went in groups of four to the McDonalds back at the train station - it was harder to find than we thought!

When we all had returned we went to the oval room which was set up for us to sit and take a break in.

After our break we went to help direct guests to their next presentation.

We went back to the train station to go back to Glasgow. We then got taxis from the train station home. We all arrived back home for 5pm after a very long but rewarding day.

- Jennifer Glasgow

Radisson Hotel Work Experience by Zoe Graham

When I was in first year I wanted to go to the army to help our country but when I went into fourth year I was offered Home Economics and I said "yes" because I always loved baking and cooking with my Gran when I was a little girl.

As the year went on, I passed the Access 3 level and I said to myself I want to go on and do Intermediate 1 as well because I want to be a chef. I loved cooking all that year. If we didn't have a Home Economics teacher when I was in fourth year, I don't know what I would be doing just now. It was a life changing experience for me.

At the end of fifth year I thought I was ready to leave school. I went for an interview at Annesland College – and found that I was NOT ready to leave school! Then, in June, Mr Sweeney came and asked me if I would like the opportunity to get a work experience placement in The Radisson Hotel in town. I said "Yes, sir!" as I want to become a hotel chef.

So we got an appointment for an interview to go and see if I could get the placement. We met Lorna Jackson, Human Resources Manager and Executive Chef, James Reid. James is a former pupil of Govan High School and was in the same year as Willie Jones, Food and Beverages Manager at Gleneagles Hotel, and both started their careers in the hospitality industry in the Swallow Hotel. James said he would be really pleased if I could start after the summer holidays and do a weekly placement till the end of April. I was over the moon and I thanked Mr Sweeney for getting me the placement.

So I spend every Tuesday afternoon working with James and his team in a big busy kitchen. I wear chef's whites and a blue hat to cover my hair. I have learned knife skills for vegetable preparation and how to carve a chicken. I practise pastry skills and baking: I have made carrot cake, chocolate brownies, profiteroles and rice pudding. In November and December I made sandwiches for the Barcelona and Spartak Moscow football teams, who were staying in the hotel. I have also learned the importance of clearing up and washing up to leave the work station ready for the next chef and I keep a log book of everything I do each week.

I would also like to thank The Radisson staff for the help they have given me over recent months by teaching me skills like food preparation and planning and preparing banquet nights. I would also like to thank Mrs Baxter, my Home Economics teacher, too because if it was not for her I would not be going to college at the end of this year to study to become a chef.

Hilton Hotel Work Experience

Courtney Early S5 and Jamie Lee McKenzie S4 recently did a work experience placement at the Hilton Hotel. The placement was set up with the assistance of Willie Jones, former pupil of Govan High School and Food and Beverage Manager at the Gleneagles Hotel.

"I really enjoyed my time at the Hilton Hotel doing work experience. It was a great opportunity to learn more about how hotels work.

Simon, the Food and Beverages Manager, showed me and Jamie Lee around the Hotel and told us what we were going to do during our placement. He showed us how to set up tables and clean all the cutlery and shine them all up.

After we were finished doing that we went down for lunch. Then Simon came and took us to the pastry section to watch Mohammed and Scott show us all the different things they do. Jamie Lee and I got to design chocolate patterns on plates and we got to try the ice cream that Mohammed and Scott made.

After that Simon took us on a visit to a room on the 19th floor so that we could understand how housekeeping works and how important it is to serve the needs of the guests properly.

I really enjoyed my placement at the Hilton Hotel and it has helped me to decide that I want to work in the hospitality sector, maybe even in the Hilton Hotel. I would like to thank Simon and his staff for giving Jamie Lee and I an enjoyable and valuable work experience.

"Jamie Lee and Courtney, definitely have a future in Hospitality," said Simon Magnus, The Hilton's Food and Beverage Manager. "They are very conscientious and quick learners. We look forward to welcoming them back in the future as Full-time Members of the Hilton team".



China

In January, I made the trip of a lifetime touring China with the Scottish Fiddle Orchestra. Travelling a total of 16,000 miles, we visited cities such as Nanning, Hanxiou, Shanghai and Beijing, and gave 9 concerts performing traditional Scottish music and also some Chinese music.

Chinese hospitality was amazing. Each meal seemed like a banquet, with a huge selection of meat, vegetables, noodles and rice dishes for sharing round the table. I became pretty good with chopsticks! Sometimes there was a 'hotpot' night where you were given raw meat or veg to cook yourself in a tureen of boiling water in the middle of your own table.

We thought the Chinese audiences might be quiet and reserved. We were wrong! With a bit of encouragement they were soon clapping along, dancing in the aisles to the Gay Gordons, and joining in to sing Auld Lang Syne.

Some of the highlights of the trip for me were being involved in some terrific concerts and seeing the audiences having a great time. They absolutely loved the fiddles, bagpipes and the kilts and tartan and children queued up to have photos taken with us after the concerts. They were so excited – it was a fantastic atmosphere!

Visiting the Great Wall of China and learning about its history was another highlight. Stretching approximately 21,000 km over mountainous terrain, it is awesome. We visited just as the sun was

setting and it became freezing cold. It was very eerie to imagine what it must have been like for the workers building the wall 2000 years ago; many lives were lost during construction due to the harsh conditions and hostile terrain.

We also got to visit 'The Bund' in Shanghai, an area famous for shops, nightclubs, and casinos where there is great nightlife. (You can see views of the Bund in the new James Bond film),

I have been playing with the Scottish Fiddle Orchestra for 28 years. I joined up mainly because I didn't want to stop playing the violin when I left school. We have played at venues ranging from the Royal Albert Hall in London to the Orkney and Shetland Isles and at a huge variety of events including the ITV Hogmanay Show, and the Queen's 80th Birthday at Balmoral Castle. Playing with the Orchestra is like being part of a big family.

Here in Govan High School, you have wonderful music teachers and instrumental instructors who encourage and support you in learning instruments and enjoying music. Music is a fantastic hobby to continue when you leave school. If you can, join a band or form your own group or choir. You will have fun, make friends and who knows – you might even travel the world!

Fiona Kindness (School Librarian)

TRAINS*e partnership

On Monday 25th of February, six partnership schools from across Europe travelled to Glasgow as part of the Comenius TRAINS*e Partnership. Our visitors came from schools in Spain, Poland, Belgium Italy and two schools from Portugal.

The TRAINS*e partnership is a project that gives pupils the opportunity to research the importance of trains across Europe. During the project each partnership school gets the opportunity to host a meeting and this was Govan High School's time to shine. The staff members that led the visit were Gordon Reid, Edward Grady and Bernadine Templeman.

The following day the pupils and teachers from each partnership school were welcomed to Govan High School and were given a tour of the school. During this time, the visiting pupils expressed how impressed they were with our ICT suites and sport facilities. After the tour, staff and pupils met in the conference room to give pupils the opportunity to see their project work that was on display. Pupils were then taken to the Home Economics department, where they cooked a traditional Scottish brunch, while teachers had a Partnership meeting. The European pupils thoroughly enjoyed cooking the brunch and impressed our Home Economics teacher Ms Baxter. After lunch pupils acted / read out their short stories about trains that they prepared for the meeting. The schools used various ways of presenting their work, including pictures, videos and music.

The partnership looks into the importance of trains across Europe, so it was imperative that we took our guests to the transport museum. Staff and pupils were given time to walk round the museum and take lots of pictures. The partnership schools were then taken by bus to the City Chambers for a Civic Reception that was organised to celebrate International Education at Govan High School. As the schools made their way into the City Chambers, they were greeted by drinks and canapés. At the reception, both Bailie Thomas and the Lord Dean of Guild mingled with pupils and teachers welcoming them to Glasgow as well as learning more about the Trains*e Project. The formal part of the meeting was when Baillie Thomas and our Head Teacher, Iain White, made excellent speeches about the importance of International Education and the benefits it has for our young people.

On Wednesday the 27th of February the partnership schools travelled by train from Glasgow to Edinburgh to visit Edinburgh Castle and The Edinburgh Dungeons. The visit to Edinburgh Castle was made possible with the help of Education Scotland who arranged for the group to gain free entry to one of our most famous historic landmarks. The group spent all morning at the castle and waited for the one o'clock gun to go off before leaving to visit The Edinburgh Dungeons. The Edinburgh Dungeons was organised to provide some fun for the pupils and it didn't disappoint. The Dungeons helped pupils learn about Scottish history in a fun environment, where there were lots of laughs and lots of screams. After another busy day the group were given some free time to explore Edinburgh before heading back to the hotel.

Thursday the 28th of February was the last day of the partnership meeting before all schools travelled back to their own country. The group travelled to Stirling where they visited the Wallace Monument, and learnt about William Wallace as well as other prominent people in Scottish history. From the Monument the group then travelled to Stirling Castle. As the group were exploring the Castle, there were tour guides and actors in each room to educate staff and pupils on the history of the castle. Pupils in particular enjoyed asking questions and learning more about the uses of each room and the history that they hold. The group then travelled back to Glasgow to have a Partnership dinner at the Swallow Hotel, followed by a disco. The disco gave pupils the opportunity to experience Scottish social dancing. Govan High pupils taught pupils from the other European partnership schools various dances that included the Gay Gordons, The Virginia Reel, Military Two Step as well as our very own dance, The Govan Reel. As well as participating in traditional Scottish dance, pupils also were given time to dance to current chart toppers provided by Mr Coates (Faculty Head, Aesthetics). The night finished with a speech from the Scottish team and then a reply from other partnership schools expressing their gratitude and thanks for hosting a successful meeting.

The next stage of the project involves a visit to Portugal. Staff members Bindi Russell and Eddie Grady will accompany students Tee Jay Tinney, Courtney Early and Kinga Kacprzak on a visit to one of the Portuguese schools.





Library Books become Liberia Books

When the Learning Resource Centre decided to have a massive clear-out of books last spring, many of the books were destined for the dump until pupils in the Autism Unit intervened and sent them 3,434 miles to a school in Liberia.

The pupils boxed them up and posted them to The Oscar Romero School, the only school for deaf children in Western Liberia, a country still recovering from a 10 year civil war which killed a quarter of a million people. Many teachers left the country during the fighting and there is no government support for deaf pupils, so the Govan books have made a huge difference to the school.

Having these books available to teachers have really improved the quality of teaching and stimulated learning significantly. The 78 students of this residential school have a reading hour where they go to the new school library and can borrow books to read in their dormitory at night.

Chris MacLulich, country director for Liberia for Mary's Meals, who run the school, said: "Thank you again for all of these wonderful books which will make a lasting difference to our students."



Determined to Relate

Determined to Relate was a project with The Village Storytelling Centre designed to build communication skills and confidence. It was undertaken by some of our senior pupils as part of the ASDAN course.

It was organised with the help of Eileen Glasgow, Employability Support Officer, whose comments are worth quoting word for word: "The project has now come to an end and I'd just like to say a big thank you to Dan from the Village Storytelling Centre who did sterling work with the ASDAN class. There was a lot of humour, some of it unconscious. The young people worked really well with each other and everyone participated in the activities. I attended the pupils' initial meeting with Dan, the first session and the last session and I saw a big improvement in the pupils' co-operation, communication and confidence in a short space of time. It would have been great to extend the project, but unfortunately the budget only covered 4/5 sessions. The young people had four sessions in school and a trip to the Village Storytelling Centre to see a professional storyteller working with young children. Feedback from the group was very positive and I'd like to congratulate the class on their hard work and good behaviour. They were a credit to themselves and Govan High School."

By Greg Leighton, ASDAN Instructor

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART



To raise awareness of employment opportunities relating to the creative industries many of our art students have enrolled in the Glasgow School of Art 'Access to the Creative Industries in Scotland' programme and this initiative allows our pupils the opportunity to attend workshops and exhibitions at the GSA as well as taking part in activities arranged by visiting artists and designers who come into the school to work with our pupils.

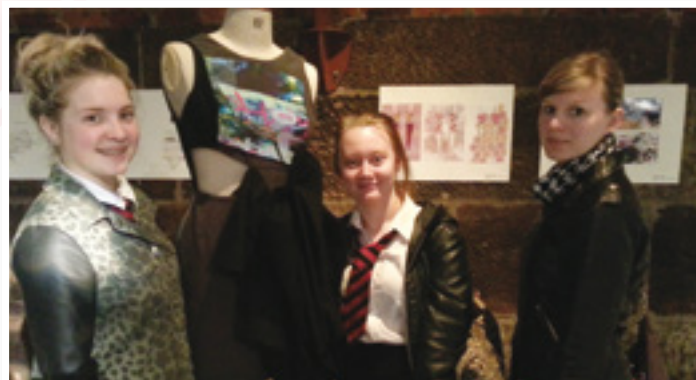
Recently we have been very fortunate to have had two GSA students working with different groups of pupils in the department. Sinead Tonner who is a jewellery designer at the GSA has been giving advice, workshops and assisting our senior pupils with their Advanced Higher submissions. Chelsea Frew has been helping our S2 pupils develop their storyboard skills and raising awareness of the wide range of jobs within the media industry. As

a result of these workshops pupils in S2 will get the chance to meet Mark Andrews who recently won an Oscar for his animation on the Pixar film 'Brave'so very exciting times!!

Kamil Zdunczyk in S4 was delighted to be given the opportunity to attend a one day Architecture Masterclass at the famous Mackintosh building at the Glasgow School of Art. He worked with students in the department and was given very helpful advice about how to pursue his dream of working as an architect or model maker for an architectural firm.

Our Advanced Higher pupils Nicola Gardiner, Tee Jay Tinney and Kinga Kacprzak were also invited to attend the Art School Fashion Show held in the Arches, Glasgow where they saw catwalk models parade the latest designs and they visited the a boutique where they could buy items that were handmade by the students.

All of these experiences inspire our pupils and we would like to take this opportunity to say a massive 'Thank you' to Patsy Forde and Dawn Barrett for their continued support and their dedication to improving the learning experience for our young artists and designers in Govan High School.... GHS pupils are so lucky!



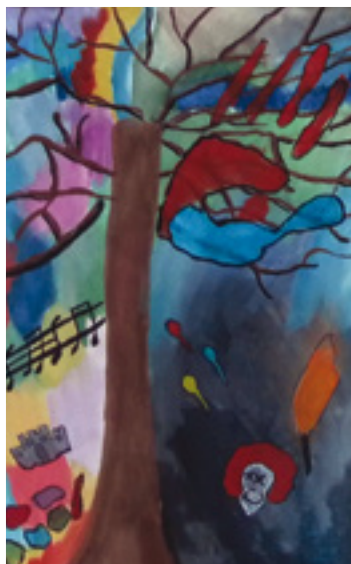
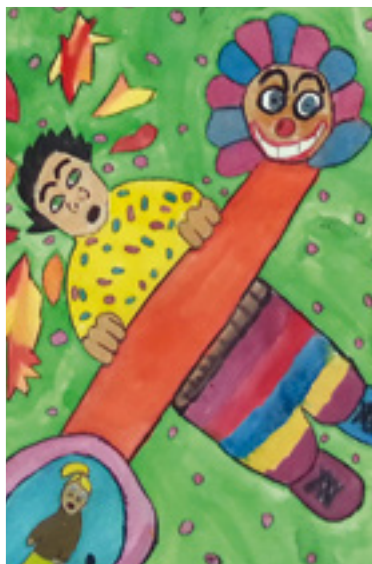


ELDERPARK ART EXHIBITION

The Art Department has established very positive links with the Elderpark Housing Association and thanks to them many of our students have had the opportunity to exhibit their artwork within the local community. Over Easter a group of our young artists in S1 and S2 will have their artwork displayed at 'The Studio' in Crossloan Road and the theme is 'Still Life'.

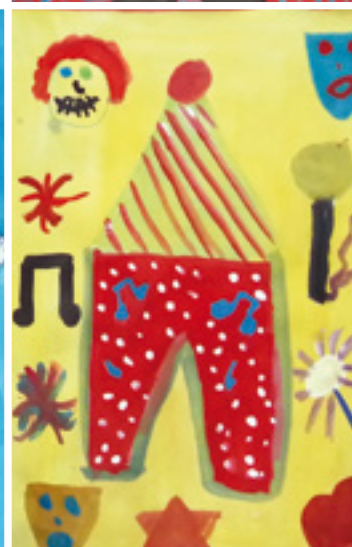
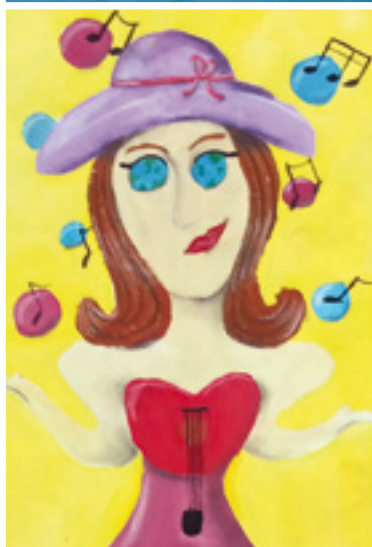
SUCCESS in ART

The Art department is delighted to announce that all three Advanced Higher students - Kinga Kacprzak, Tee Jay Tinney and Nicola Gardiner have been successful at their recent interviews and they have all been offered places on Design courses at Cardonald College - Nicola & Tee Jay for Fashion & Textiles and Kinga for Jewellery & Silversmithingso very well done girls!



EDINBURGH FRINGE FESTIVAL COMPETITION

Pupils in S1 to S3 learned about the prestigious international performance arts festival 'The Fringe' and put their graphic design skills to the test when they took part in 'The Fringe' poster competition. Here are some examples of our entries. Artists include Erin Burke, Alana Hendry, Morgan Ross, Jack McNaught, Careen McFadden, Kyle Thomson, Rebecca Morrissey, Kira MacAskill, Morgan Gallagher and Graham Hendry..





Ski Trip

The planned sports group went to Bellahouston Ski Centre for a skiing lesson last month. No one had ever been skiing before and it proved very challenging but, by the end of the lesson, all the pupils had mastered going down hill - although some still hadn't learnt how to stop!!!



Go karting

The group visited Scotkart in Cambuslang for this years Go karting trip. The pupils enjoyed 2 races and lots of yellow hazard lights! The fastest time of our session was posted by Lee Adamiec. Everyone had a great afternoon!!!



Australia Exchange

After hosting a very successful visit from Mount Gambier High School in September 2012, we are planning a return visit to South Australia in October this year. A group of S2-4 pupils are working with Miss McNaught to raise money for this visit. The trip will focus on Physical Activity and sport and the pupils will develop a range of different skills. If you or your company would like to sponsor the trip by buying an £150 1/2 page or £75 1/4 advert in our Trip Programme or by making a donation, please contact the school office.