

Achievements!

Govan High School

December 2013

Issue No. 20

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Oscars 2013

The annual Oscars Ceremony just gets better and better. This year's glitzathon took place on October 8 and was hosted by the dynamic double act of Laura Campbell and Katie Hughes, both S5 students. All the usual suspects were there: the school band, the red carpet, the tuxedos, the fancy dresses – and a hall full of parents and friends of the school eager to celebrate our young people's success stories.

Iain White, Head Teacher, began proceedings with his traditional "state of the nation" address, bringing everyone up to date with the way the school had moved forward to new heights over the past twelve months.

Our first guest speaker was Baillie Allan Stewart who also presented three of the Oscar Awards for Skills. Baillie Stewart presented The Communicator to Ross Woods, The Connector to Shannon O'Hara and The Contributor to Rhiannon Lewis.

Our next guest speaker was David Cameron, former Director of Children's Services Stirling Council and currently Head, Careers Management Skills for Skills Development Scotland. David presented the Oscars Award for The Decider to Saim Tanwear, The Doer to Rhiannon Lewis, The Originator to Dionne Robinson and The Sorter to Caitlin Evans.

The Excellence in Music Award went to Kaloch Man, who performed his SQA exam piece. The Former Pupil Prize was awarded to Colette Rinaldi. The Angus Johnston Memorial Prize for football went to Craig Wallis. The Raymond Davies Trophy for outstanding sporting achievement was won by Jennifer Rankine. The Eilidh White Memorial Prize for spreading joy and happiness was presented to Melissa Rice by Iain White. The Govan Band Prize in music was awarded to Rhys Thomson. The Alan McKay Trophy for Meritorious Work in Mathematics and Science went to Sara Kenny. The Great Start Awards,

for S1 pupils nominated by the staff for making a fantastic start to secondary school, were given to Awn Ali and Ailie Porteous.

Awards were also given to former pupils! Before the summer, our Head Teacher, Iain White, was contacted by the family of our Dux of 1942, Dr Bill Anderson. They were asking about the possibility of Bill receiving the Dux Medal that he had missed out on in 1942 because of wartime austerity! Actually, we were unaware of the practice of issuing Dux Medals but research by our voluntary archivist, Ian McCracken, at the Mitchell Library told us that medals had indeed been presented up until 1939.

A medal was engraved for Bill. He was not able to come to the Oscars Night so Iain White took it down to London where he lives and presented it to him at a family dinner. Some did attend, however – Patricia McCole (1951), Isobel M Beswick (1952), Norman Mackay (1953), Donald John MacDonald (1956) and Frank Sharp (1956) all came onto the stage and were presented with long overdue Dux Medals and certificates.

The school's participation in the world's pilot of the Earl of Wessex Award was recognised in a certificate presented by former pupil Tom McNally, Deacon of the Incorporation of Coopers, who sponsored the school.

The award ceremony came to a head with the two big awards: The Bighthouse Skills Champion and The Dysart Trophy & Whitelaw Prize for Dux of the School. The Bighthouse Award, with its accompanying prize of a cutting-edge laptop, was awarded to Jamie Lee McKenzie. The Dux Prize and medal was presented to Ashleigh Alexander by its sponsor Dan Whitelaw.

And so ended another fantastic night celebrating the achievements and success of Govan High School's young people.





They come from far and near

'The Govan High Way' or 'how we do things around here' leads many visitors to come to see it first hand by visiting the school. Recent visitors have come from Inverclyde, North Ayrshire, Renfrewshire, the Channel Islands and India!

Nine Indian Education specialists came to Scotland on a week-long fact-finding mission to witness first-hand how the practical and vocational skills pupils develop in the classroom can be put to use in the workplace. Govan High provided the inspiration for the group who hope to mirror Scotland's success in preparing young people for the world of work.

The visit, organised by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) and the National Accreditation Board for Education and Training in India (NABET), took in the technical department at Govan High School, before moving on to the construction site of the new South Glasgow Hospital where pupils from the school were demonstrating their skills while on placement with the main building contractor.

Vipin Sahn, Chief Executive of NABET, said: "Our agreement with SQA gives us the opportunity to see for ourselves how young people can succeed when given the right stimulation and support. This visit provides a unique opportunity to see how vocational skills are being developed in Scottish schools in a range of exciting and innovative ways. We hope to be able to echo the success seen in Scotland, identify elements of the programme that could be adapted to fit the Indian education system and ultimately benefit our young people and our economy."

Kevin Sweeney, our Depute Head, said: "Skills for Work courses focus on developing generic employability skills that young people need to succeed in the work place. They are flexible enough to allow us to tailor what we offer to our pupils, allowing us to develop good relationships with local employers and they have definitely contributed to our success in ensuring our students end up in positive destinations – either going on to further or higher education, training or employment."

Head Teacher Iain White was speaking last year at the European Heads' Conference in Edinburgh and Susan Morris, Depute Head of Grainville

School, Jersey in the Channel Islands heard Iain speak about the Govan High Way and was so interested that she and John McGuinness, her Head Teacher, came especially to Govan to visit the school. They met pupils, heard about 'The Govan High Way', toured the school and asked lots of questions!

John said after the visit, 'I wanted to write to pass onto you, your staff and students our sincere thanks and deep appreciation for the outstanding welcome Sue and I were given during our visit to Govan High School last Friday.

It was a very informative, interesting and thought provoking day, better than any INSET training day could ever match. Your school and the varied programmes and support that you offer, centred on the student, were topics of conversation all the way back to Jersey, and still are.

I dearly hope that the link we have now established can be explored to the benefit of both schools in the years ahead. We learnt so much about the curriculum that you offer, the *Future Skills* programme and links with business and vocational training.

We were impressed by the caring culture of Govan High and the dedication of staff willing to go that extra mile for the students, and in their pursuit of innovation and creativity.

It's my firmly held view that 'one size never fits all'. It's a mark of a good school that does the 'right' thing and pursue aims and objectives that meet student and local community needs.'

We are always delighted to welcome visitors because they evaluate our provision and provide challenge and stimulus for us. We learn from them too! In the next couple of weeks we have another group from Renfrewshire and a delegation from Turkey, the latter again under the sponsorship of the SQA. Two of our staff will visit Jersey in the New Year.

We are very proud that people from so many other places seek to visit us and experience a little of 'The Govan High Way'.

Govan High Wins the Effective Partnership Award

Yet another success for Govan High! I was recently at the City Chambers along with Kevin Sweeney (DHT), Janis Young and her son Scott who is in S4, Tom McNally (McNally Associates, Former Pupil and Secretary of the Parent Council) and Willie Jones (Gleneagles Hotel, Former Pupil and co-opted member of the Parent Council). We were all in the beautiful Banqueting Hall to receive the Glasgow Effective Partnership Award from Cllr Stephen Curran (Education Convenor) and Maureen McKenna

(Executive Director of Education Services).

The purpose of this award is to evaluate the quality of the services we provide for all stakeholders. The award links directly to the Quality Indicators contained in How Good is Our School? and in The Child at the Centre and uses those Quality Indicators which do not usually feature in an HMIE Inspection or in the Quality Review process. Education Services wants to share, recognise and celebrate the good practice that currently exists in schools.

Lynne Innes (Quality Improvement Officer) did the introductions and spoke in glowing terms of the evidence of effective partnership working that she saw when she visited Govan High as an assessor for the award. We were all very proud to hear what Lynne had to say about her findings on the visit and the school. Working with partners is how we do things. It is 'The Govan High Way' and gaining this award demonstrates that 'It only works ...

Iain White, Head Teacher



Glasgow Excellence in Partnership Award

City Chambers 09.09.13

From left: Willie Jones (FP Gleneagles) Iain White (HT) Kevin Sweeney (DHT) Scott Young (S4) Janis Young (Parent) Tom McNally (FP McNally Associates)

FROM THE HEIDIE'S OFFICE



Again it's Achievements! time. The latest edition has been to press and is now published. Kevin Sweeney, our editor, approached me to say this one would be bigger because of the amount of good news we had to communicate. So this really is a bumper edition, crammed full of examples of the learning experiences that make Govan High so special. I suppose these newsletters are as good a visual representation of 'The Govan High Way' as you will get.

Another session is well under way and, as ever, our spirits are high. The year has been going well for us. The high expectations that we have for everyone in the building lead us to strive ever harder to maximise potential. The young people have high aspirations for the future and so they should! They are very talented and hard-working and they expect to do the best they can; to succeed in the terms of 'The Govan High Way'.

In the last few weeks we have had two big occasions which although different in context were indicative of the school that we know and love. On the one hand we had the exuberant, high energy celebrations at the Oscars; on the other the poignant, dignified atmosphere at the Remembrance Assembly.

Just this afternoon, I had some first year pupils in my Office. I sent for them randomly and they brought me what they were working on in class. I do this to get to know the young people and find out how they are doing. We spoke about their class work, the activities that they were involved in and how they felt about the school. Above all Ben, Mark and Rebecca were telling me how happy they are in Govan High. That makes me happy too. After all it's the Govan High Way. It only works ...



Graduates Business Lunch

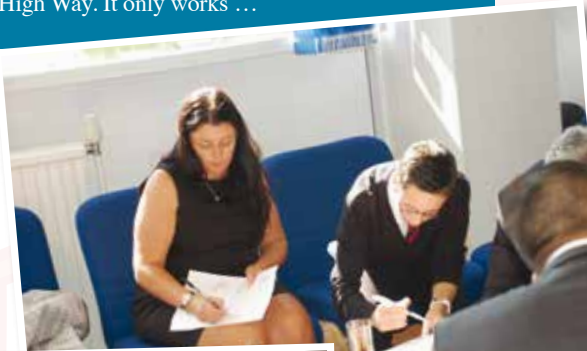
On Wednesday 5 September, we hosted a lunch for senior graduate pupils and various partners and friends of the school from the world of business. The idea was simple: to put the graduate students in the same room at the same time with a group of adults who are potential mentors.

The lunch was catered and served by Mrs Baxter's senior Hospitality class and consisted of homemade burgers, with homemade coleslaw, salad and dips, followed by fruit salad in frosted glasses and tea and coffee.

There was a constructive buzz in the room right from the start. Adults and students circulated, speed dating style, so that everyone got the chance to speak to at least three people. People were so involved in conversation that the event over-ran by more than half an hour.

Visiting business partners included Tom and Jacquelyn McNally, Donna Crozier, Nicola Divers and Manny Baber from Hilton Group, John Bennett and former pupil Robert Tosh from BAE Systems, John Stevenson from Glasgow Creative, Michelle Kershaw from Glasgow Partnership Team, Willie Jones from the Gleneagles Hotel and Sheila Samuels from 88Events.

At the end, business cards and contact details were being busily exchanged all over the room. Everyone commented on what an enjoyable and encouraging experience it had been. Feedback from both young people and business partners indicate that the event more than achieved its objective.





Brick by Brick Appeal

Towards the end of last session the student council set about raising funds for the well documented 'Brick by Brick Appeal'. The Brick by Brick Appeal is a fundraising initiative by the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice in Glasgow city centre, all proceeds from the appeal are going towards the development of a new build in and around Bellahouston Park area. As a school we managed to raise just short of £250 (as mentioned in our recent edition of our Govan High Newsletter) and on the 12th September myself and 4 pupils (Connor Hughes S5, Katie Hughes S5, Connor Bryans S3, Rachael Bryans S3) went along to visit the hospice at Carlton Place and deliver a cheque for the money raised.

Debbie Lomond is just one of 17 employed by the Hospice to help raise funds all year round for this very special resource. Debbie very kindly took us a tour of the hospice and it was a fantastic experience to witness first-hand the difference that we as a school can make to these people's lives.

As well as having to raise 15 million pounds for the new build, the hospice currently has to raise 4.9million annually just to remain open. After our visit it would be fair to say that we were blown away by the fabulous work carried out by the hospice. With all of this in mind, we as a student council have decided that we will continue to raise funds for this fabulous place. As a school that prides itself on helping our local community, we are extremely proud to be helping with this fantastic cause.

Online Business

Years five and six Online Business pupils participated in the D-day (digital day). This event took place on the 10th of October and lasted the full day. All pupils worked very hard on their projects. We used all the time during our classes to create all the things that were needed to compete in D-day.

Many schools competed in the competition. There were three groups from Govan High. We were competing against each other as well as everyone else.

Our project for the day consisted of creating a fashion shop. The group created a clothing shop for ladies for ages 16-25. To complete our task we created mood boards and we made our own social website pages such as Facebook, twitter and instagram. We used these pages to advertise our shop. We also designed our shop briefly on paper, by cutting out and drawing.

At the end of the day, we were asked to make a 10 second video. We had to come up with an idea of a machine that hadn't been invented yet. My group came up with a 3d printer – which enabled you to go online and print out clothes you wanted instead of ordering them off the internet.

We enjoyed competing and taking part in this competition - we enjoyed working with our group and using our teamwork skills.

By Shauneay Flannigan & Toni Docherty



FilmClub

Every Tue, Wed and Thu at lunchtime in GC1, starting Tue 26 Nov.

Theme for November/ December " Identity and Belonging".

Open to students with English as An Additional Language.

Theme and membership will vary monthly.

Log on to <http://www.filmclub.org/> to sign up and for more information.



Former Pupil News

Stuart Kennedy, who left us at the end of last session, popped in to update us on his progress.

Stuart is studying a NC TV Production at City of Glasgow College. Anyone who remembers Stuart will know how much this course is right up his street and sure enough, Stuart told me that he is really enjoying the course and doing very well. In his first week, he got to use cameras, taking practice shots around Glasgow. This was followed by Sound classes (that's the technical term, not as in "pure sound man") where they learn how sound is used by different parts of the crew.

Stuart is a classic example of a pupil who was guided appropriately through school at all levels to a destination which I'm sure you will agree, is eminently suited to his talents and strengths.

Kalen Tocher was successful at interview for an apprenticeship in welding and fabrication at Allied Vehicles. He started in August.

Letter from a Parent

Recently Gordon Reid received this letter from Steven Campbell's parent:

"Hi Mr Reid

I hope you are well. Thanks for all your help whilst Steven was at school, you were great and I can't thank you enough. I think everyone at this school really goes that extra mile for the pupils and they really care and that makes all the difference. I would appreciate it if you could pass this message on for me please.

I would just like to say a big thank you from Steven and myself for all the help he got from the teachers throughout his time at Govan High. He now has an apprenticeship with Carillion and is thoroughly enjoying working life. This would not have been possible for him if it hadn't been for all the support he got from everyone at this school. All the staff have been fantastic and not only the teachers, but Alison, the careers lady, who put Steven and some of his friends through for an interview at TIGERS. This was the best thing that could have happened for him. Both Steven and Steven Emerson are now on the payroll at Carillion and Martin Pender, who was on the TIGERS course with them, is now doing a welding apprenticeship with another company. The TIGERS course was fantastic for all three of them and prepared them for working life and gave them confidence to travel by themselves and helped them adapt to starting earlier in the morning – 8.00 am start, having to leave at 6.00 am in the morning to get to Cambuslang for 8.00 am when they were doing their work experience. This has been great for them all and I am so proud of Steven and his friends especially at their age getting up at 5.30 am in the morning and heading to work. Hearing him singing and whistling going out the door at that time in the morning is fantastic. That just says it all. I am sorry I haven't sent in a letter earlier. It was on my to-do list.

Can you please let Alison know how grateful we both are for putting Steven forward for the course and say thank you to everyone at the school including all the office staff and other staff who helped Steven on his way to where he is today.

Thanks again.

Kind Regards
Fiona Campbell (Steven's Mum)"

'Nuff said!



Edinburgh Zoo

As a result of reaching the final of "Aiming High" in the Scottish Education Awards we won a trip to Edinburgh Zoo.

When we arrived we took a group photo to record our visit and then we split into smaller groups to explore the Zoo and the animals within it.

We were told that we could see the pandas at 11.30am, however much to our disappointment it was cancelled because the female panda was about to give birth which is very exciting because it will be the first panda born in Britain in captivity.

The Zoo is vast and well worth the visit and even if we didn't see the pandas we saw a collection of animals including: Meerkats who were not at the time comparing the market or other Meerkats;

Ostriches that didn't have their heads buried in the sand; and monkeys, lions and penguins who were great fun.

We covered a lot of distance to see the animals and were glad to sit down and have lunch. After lunch we visited the hippos and that was really interesting to see them in real life. We went to the Education centre and did some brass rubbings of the animals we had seen and that was great fun.

We also visited the park in the Zoo where Jennifer, Leigh and Melissa all got stuck on the climbing frame!

At 1.45pm we all met up at the main doors of the gift shop ready to go back to school.

It was a memorable day and one we won't forget.

Remembrance Assembly 2013

Friday 8th November 2013 was a special day for Govan High School. We were honouring former pupils who lost their lives in the Second World War by unveiling a new Memorial as part of our annual Remembrance Assembly.

Successful efforts had been made to trace relatives of some of those commemorated, and a number of them joined us as we paid our respects.

The assembly started with a poignant flute rendition of "Over the Rainbow", followed by Depute Head Philip Graham telling some of the tragic stories of those being commemorated. Then, to symbolise the numbers who had perished, an equivalent number of the audience were asked to stand. Seeing the reality of the horrifying total of ninety young lives lost drew a gasp from the large audience. This was followed by a vocal duet of "You Raise Me Up" and the reading by pupils of a poem which they had composed for the occasion.

The climax of the whole event was the unveiling of the Memorial. This was shown on a large screen, with the Union Flag being ceremoniously removed from the plaque. This was followed by a short video showing pupils laying Remembrance poppies and crosses on the War Graves of former pupils buried locally; this was accompanied by Headteacher Iain White playing "Amazing Grace" on the bagpipes.

The assembled relatives and special guests (including local councillors and MP Ian Davidson) then made their way out of the Hall to view the plaque itself, being led by bagpipe instructor Iain Watson to the apt tune of "Black Bear" - the traditional tune for soldiers returning to barracks. At the Memorial, relatives made their own homage, took photographs and laid floral tributes.

Relatives and other guests then made their way to the Staffroom where tea, coffee and specially made biscuits were served by Home Economics pupils before Iain White made a short speech and relatives expressed their gratitude to the school: "It was a very poignant service and I will always remember it" was one such comment and a fitting way to end this article

Lest we Forget



St Enoch Art Competition

Recently a group of our young artists took part in the St Enoch Art competition called 'It's My Greener Glasgow' and our team of young artists Kinga Kacprzak, Samantha Galloway, Colette Rinaldi, Tammi Jo Dempsey, Morgan Gallagher, Emma Smith, Kira MacAskill, Abdullah Ali, Georgia Kennedy, Amy McPherson, Dionne Robinson, Mariama Gaye, Davina Brand, Charley Brown, Kristofer Campbell, Melanie Gilmour, Caitlin McCrindle and Courtney Early were asked to consider ways in which the people of Glasgow could improve their environment.

Their artwork was viewed by a very distinguished team of judges i.e. the great Scottish artist Avril Paton, sculptor Kenny Hunter, Glasgow School of Art lecturer Shauna McMullan, Jan Patience the art critic for The Herald, Sean Batty the weather presenter and fashion designer Marc Ross.

So we were absolutely delighted that Caitlin McCrindle won 3rd prize in the Expressive category for her painting which told people about the high cost of de-littering our city. Caitlin cleverly illustrated this by painting some of Glasgow's top attractions on a piece of litter which was in the shape of a map of our city. The judges commented that it was a very strong and clear message. Additionally Courtney Early won the 'Locavore' special award for the high quality of her painting which communicated the simple message that 'everyone should get planting' i.e. we can all make small steps to improve our environment and health.

Both girls were thrilled to receive vouchers to spend at the centre and every young artist was congratulated for the high calibre of their work and each one was presented with a certificate.

We would like to thank everyone at Ocean Blue Consulting and St Enoch's for their continued support and giving our young people such an exciting opportunity

....great for their CVs!

Yvonne

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Issue No. 20

Remembrance Assembly

It is a pleasure to be involved with a school that is so dedicated at remembering those that sacrificed so much to make the world what is today. I am a probationer teacher at Govan High and fortunately my third year pupils for English jumped at the chance to be involved with arranging and participating in the Remembrance Day Assembly. I am sure my pupils have gained a lot from the experience. I certainly have. The project was to honour those former pupils and their families that had fallen in World War 2. Thanks to the research skills of Eddie Grady, Ian McCracken and former pupil Crawford Cassidy who were able to trace an extra 68 former casualties of war, this added to the 22 we already knew about made the number up to 90 former Govan High pupils who were lost in the war. Some of the pupils involved wanted to share their thoughts to provide closure on such an emotional day.

Rhiannon Lewis, who fulfilled her role diligently, describes her memories: "My part of the assembly was to e-mail and invite all the guests and to my relief a large number of guests accepted the invitation." It was certainly a pleasure to see we had so many special guests that wanted to come to our community to reflect on our tribute to our former heroes. Jack Donald who went that extra mile in his participation for the day said: "It was a pleasure working in the remembrance committee. I enjoyed my roles for the assembly: writing the poem, announcing the tannoy messages, participating in the filming at Cardonald Cemetery and reading part of the poem that we had created especially for the assembly. On behalf of the committee, we would like to thank Elaine Bonner and Steven Rodger and the rest of the band and singers for their moving pieces of music." Certainly their enthusiasm could be seen throughout the project.

Seeing the S3 pupils' contribution to the day made me feel in awe. But our small committee knew that without all the others that participated in the project it would not have had the impact that it did. Jennifer also commented on how the others' contribution made the day so exceptional: "the flute solo 'Over the Rainbow' played by Lauren Colley and Jennifer Baird and Tíree McDonald's duet 'You Raise Me Up' were both performed beautifully and it was nice of them to put that extra effort for the assembly to make it memorable. All the staff, pupils and guests made this day an experience we will never forget." Emma Crawford and Rebecca Morrissey stated: "During our one minute silence the whole school had the great privilege of listening to Mr White play 'Amazing Grace' on the bagpipes. This was then followed by Iain Watson - the school's bagpipe tutor - led the special guests out of the hall to view our new plaque playing 'Black Bear'."

Philip Graham and I were very proud of all our pupils that helped in the assembly and the feedback was amazing from guests and all members of staff. I would like to say a special thanks to everyone in the school for showing so much respect on such an important day.

Robert Saleh, Probationer Teacher





The Friends of Elderpark Society

Recently the Art Department received a request from 'The Friends of Elderpark Society' asking if we would be interested in contributing to a local community calendar for 2014.

As per usual many of our pupils were up for the challenge and we managed to present them with twelve artworks for consideration by the committee.

Our young artists were Courtney Early, Cameron Shaw, Caitlin Durning, Georgia Carshaw, Amy McPherson, Elisei Preda, Colette Rinaldi, Cameron Rogerson, Dionne Robinson, Kamil Zdunczyk, Melissa Rice and Craig Wallis. The Art Department would like to take this opportunity to thank Chani and the committee for giving our students such a great opportunity.

**Please note that the calendar will be on sale for £5 and copies can be ordered from Mrs Nicholl in the Art Department (...a great stocking filler for friends and family!)



Govan High School



MacMillan Coffee Morning

On Friday the 20th of September 2013 Mrs Hydes' Business classes held a non-uniform day in order to raise money for Jeans for Genes day and the MacMillan Coffee Morning. In advance of the event posters were prepared and distributed throughout the school advertising both events. On the day the room was decorated and tickets sold for £2.

First thing in the morning we went round all classes collecting contributions for the non-uniform day and all pupils gave very generously. The MacMillan Coffee Morning was very busy with lots of nice cakes and plenty of tea and coffee. At the end of the day a grand total of £200 was raised for both charities.

Rachael Bryans & Nikki-Lea McAuley



Berlin – June 2013

On the 7th of June 2013, staff members Debi Lowe and Eddie Grady took a group of pupils on a study visit to Berlin to see famous landmarks and learn about the city's history. The group consisted of Kristofer Shaw, Craig Lamb, Aaron Campbell, Martin Nelson, Richard McPherson, Kirsty Smart, Chelsea Cutt, Kimberly Ferguson and Shannon Murray.

We visited all different kinds of places such as the Egyptian museum, Hitler's bunker, Checkpoint Charlie as well as some of the remains of the Berlin wall and many other sites.

We stayed at the Holiday Inn and the German people were really nice to talk to and very welcoming. We all got a chance to taste some German food, the most popular being Currywurst. Currywurst is just a German sausage with tomato sauce and curry powder on top! It was an amazing place to visit and I would love to go again.

Although we visited historical landmarks we also got to visit the Berlin Aquarium and the world famous Zoo. Everyone enjoyed it and it was a great way to spend our last day in the city. And for the former sixth years, it was an amazing holiday and a really great way to spend our last days at Govan High School.

Chelsea Cutt



Australia Exchange October 2013

In October this year a group of 4 pupils and 2 teachers visited our sister school in Mount Gambier, South Australia. The purpose of this study visit was to experience school life in Australia with particular focus on PE and sport. The pupils involved were Emma Crawford, Melissa Rice, Craig Wallis and Taylor Young. They were accompanied by Lucy McNaught (PE department) and David Thomas (Technical department).

Melbourne 10th-14th October

The group met at 7pm on Thursday night and got ready for the long journey to Melbourne. We flew via Dubai to Melbourne and finally landed at 6am on Saturday! We went straight into 'tourist mode' and visited the Melbourne Cricket Ground where we toured the stadium and learned about some of the Olympic and Commonwealth events which had been held there over the years. We also visited the National Sports Museum, which is housed inside the stadium, and enjoyed the interactive sports section.

The following day we visited Old Melbourne Gaol where we were 'arrested' and put into cells to get an idea of what it was like to be a prisoner held in the Watch House right up until 1990! We also went to Melbourne Aquarium. The brand new attraction there is a 16ft crocodile. It was huge and we spent a lot of time looking at it and taking pictures!

Mount Gambier 14th – 21st October

On the 14th we travelled to Mount Gambier, which is the second largest city in South Australia. We journeyed, firstly, by train from Melbourne to Warnambool and then by coach to Mount Gambier. All together the journey took nearly 6 hours! When we arrived in Mount Gambier we had to put our watches back by 30mins. This is because the state of South Australia is a time zone behind the state of Victoria, where we had been whilst staying in Melbourne. This was very confusing!

That evening we all separated and spent time settling in with our new host families. Melissa was staying with Amber, Emma stayed with Imogen. Both Scottish girls were staying with the Australians whom they had hosted on the exchange last year. The boys were staying with new families with whom they had had the chance to chat on Facebook before going out to Australia. Craig stayed with Lachie and Taylor stayed with Jarrod.

On Tuesday 15th, we experienced our first day at Mount Gambier High School. The trip focused on PE and Physical Activity and saw the pupils enjoying a link with a Commonwealth country.

During the 3 days in school our staff had the chance to discuss good practice with the teachers at MGHS. We also had the opportunity to sit in on a Staff meeting and training sessions.

Over the weekend we spent time with the host families, everyone participated in sports with their hosts and was taken to see some of the tourist attractions of Mount Gambier, including The Blue Lake, which – as the name suggests – is a gorgeous blue colour and acts as the town's main water supply.

Sydney: 21st-25th October

On Monday 21st we travelled from Mount Gambier to Sydney. This was a considerable journey, starting at 7am and going by coach to Warnambool then by train to Melbourne. From Melbourne Station we took a coach out to the Airport and flew to Sydney, eventually arriving at 9pm! Phew!

On Tuesday 22nd we went to Circular Quay where we saw Sydney Opera House and the Harbour Bridge. They were truly incredible sights. That day we climbed to the top of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. The views were fantastic and the tour guide pointed out all the different areas of the city and the history behind them.

The following day we took a tour bus around the city, hopping off to visit the Town Hall, Queen Victoria Building, Darling Harbour and to go up the Sydney Tower, where we got fantastic views across the city. We spotted our hotel and could see out as far as Bondi Beach – which was to be our next destination. From here it was back on the bus and off to Bondi, which is translated to "the place where the water breaks". The weather was a scorching 35 degrees and everyone enjoyed paddling in the sea and the experience of being on the world's most famous beach.

On our last day in Sydney we visited Taronga Zoo. We travelled by ferry across Sydney Harbour which allowed us spectacular up close views of the Opera House. The zoo was fantastic - we got great views of lions, tigers and giraffes as well as watching a very entertaining seal show. But the main attraction was the Australian Walk Way where we walked around the enclosure and stood close to Kangaroos, Wallabies and an Emu (which chased Taylor out of the enclosure!) We also had our picture taken with Koalas and although we were not allowed to hold them they were close enough to touch. It was something that everyone had been looking forward to and an experience no one will ever forget.

We were up early the next day to be at the airport for it opening at 3am! Our flight to Dubai was at 6am and we flew the whole day (25hrs!) to get back into Glasgow at 9pm, Friday 25th October.

Everyone agreed it was the trip of a lifetime and an experience that they will never forget.

Lucy McNaught

Five Star Waitering at Gleneagles

Our links with the 5 Star Gleneagles Hotel in Perthshire continue to benefit our pupils. Earlier in the year 5 pupils, Taylor Young, Amy Collie, Matthew McGlave, Abby Copland, and Calvin Lynch took part in National Waitering Day. This involved them going with our Home Economics Teacher, Kath Baxter, to Gleneagles and receiving training. It was a great experience for them as they built upon skills they had already developed in school, taking them to a higher plane. As well as the hard hospitality skills, there was a focus on softer skills associated with the industry like communication, team skills, co-operation and the like.

On the day, one pupil from each school there received a prize. Our lucky pupil was Calvin Lynch and his reward was to go to Gleneagles Hotel and serve in the Deseo Restaurant.



GHS pupils at Gleneagles Taylor Young, Amy Collie, Abby Copland, Matthew McGlave, Calvin Lynch



Calvin Lynch receiving his prize from Bernard Murphy, General Manager, Gleneagles Hotel



Determined to Cook Challenge 2014

In September our senior hospitality class went to the Tennents' Training Academy Cook School to see their professional kitchen and meet with our mentor chef. We are now training under the expert guidance of Chef Kenny MacAskill from The G1 Group.

We then had a visit to one of the G1 Group's restaurants – KETCHUP in Shawlands, where we saw round the working kitchen then got to cook a lunch of burgers and salad to our own choice.

The next time we met Chef Kenny was the Class Cook Off. Our remit was to design and cook a dish to the value of £3.00. There were dishes of chicken stir fry, roasted pepper soup, pasta Bolognese and cakes.

From this Class Cook Off, our teacher, Ms Baxter and Chef Kenny picked four of us to represent GHS in the South Area Cook Off to be held in February. We were chosen by our display of practical skills, our time management, our team skills and the presentation skills used in the serving of our dish.

The team who will be training with Chef Kenny are Jamie-Lee McKenzie, Ewan Davies, Courtney Early and Laura Campbell. The reserve is Jordan Richmond. Wish us luck!

The Govan High Determined to Cook Team.



Outward Bound

5 Sports Leaders spent a week at Blairvadach Outdoor Centre in November as part of Glasgow City Councils 'Widening Horizons' initiative. Scott Blain, Patrick Clark, Shauneay Flannigan, Lauren McCormick and Emily Taylor were chosen to represent Govan High School at the event and took part in outdoor education challenges along with 5 other Glasgow Schools. As well as developing their team skills and communication the pupils worked towards getting qualifications in various different outdoor activities including: mountain biking, hillwalking and rock climbing.



AU Karate Grading

Students from the AU had their Shotokan karate grading and moved up a belt; we now have a selection of green, orange and yellow belts from S1-S5.

Georgia Carslaw and Stefan Lawton S5 and Amber Bryson S4 got their green belt

Ryan Wilson S2 got his yellow belt

Matthew Walker, Ieuan Wall, Josh Milligan S1 got their orange belt

Swimming Medals for Nathan Bray (S2)

Nathan is a very keen swimmer who pushes himself in the pool to be the best he can be. Recently Nathan participated in the West of Scotland Schools Time Trials where he represented Govan High School and Temple Swimming Club at Kilmarnock Jets Gala.

Nathan was awarded a Gold medal for 50metres breaststroke, a Silver medal for 50metres freestyle and a Bronze medal for 50metres backstroke. This is an amazing achievement for such a talented young swimmer.



Nathan then progressed on to qualify for the finals where he represented Govan High School in the Swimming Championships Finals at Scotstoun Pool. Nathan was awarded a Bronze medal for the 50metres breaststroke. He also qualified to swim in the 50metres backstroke. Nathan said "I enjoy swimming. I hope I can win more medals in the future".

Sport Leadership

Our S5 pupils working towards their Sports Leader qualification gained valuable experience this term when they led the primary sevens from Pirie Park Primary and Riverside Primary in Basketball lessons. All the Sports Leaders had the chance to lead part of the session. They all did extremely well and although they might not have been feeling it inside, outwardly projected an air of confidence. Everyone had great fun!

Check out our twitter page for more sports news: please: @GovanPEdept