

Achievements!

Govan High School

June 2018

Issue No. 29



Community Budget Projects

Modern Apprenticeship

Outdoor Trips

Girls Football



S6 Charities Committee Make the News

A few months ago local pensioner Jim McDade was the victim of a robbery. When the school charities committee heard about this they decided to try to help. Liam Donnelly and Olivia Cochrane from the charities committee took the lead in organising a series of fund raising activities. They organised a coffee morning with tombola and a bag pack at Asda and raised £1000. They delivered a cheque and a bottle of whisky to Mr McDade at his house. He was completely overcome with emotion.

Jim's family told the Evening Times who ran the story and then, when STV featured it on Live at Five, Chris Stevenson MP heard about it and contacted the school to meet the S6 pupils and praise them for their charitable actions. Mr Stephens also raised an early day motion in Parliament congratulating the pupils. Liam and Olivia said they felt very happy and proud being able to do a good deed and be responsible citizens.

Special Mention

Chris Stephens MP presented our sixth year pupils for their fantastic fundraising efforts with the following Parliamentary Early Day Motion earlier this year.

Govan High School Fundraising Efforts

Early day motion 736

Tabled by Chris Stephens MP on 21/12//17

That this House congratulates the pupils of Govan High School who held fundraising events including a tea with tombola, packing at ASDA and other events to restore the life savings of a Govan pensioner who had been robbed by bogus callers and were able to present him with a cheque for £1000; and notes that this initiative shows the caring community spirit that young people can lead on and show the way to their elders

S4 Workshops at DWF

From November to December all fourth year pupils interested in Law completed 3 workshops at DWF LLP. DWF is a law firm situated in Queen Street. The aim of the workshops was to identify our own skills and qualities that would be useful in the workplace.

During our time at the law firm, we got to meet different types of lawyers. It was very interesting to find out about all the different sections of law. We also got the chance to meet trainees who were just out of university.

After we had completed the workshops, we got the chance to apply for work experience. The work experience is 3 days shadowing an experienced lawyer and completing admin work that is required. This gave us an insight as to what an interview for a real job would be like. This boosted our confidence skills as we had to prepare and practice possible questions we may be asked.

Although we did not win the work experience it has massively improved our confidence and we thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

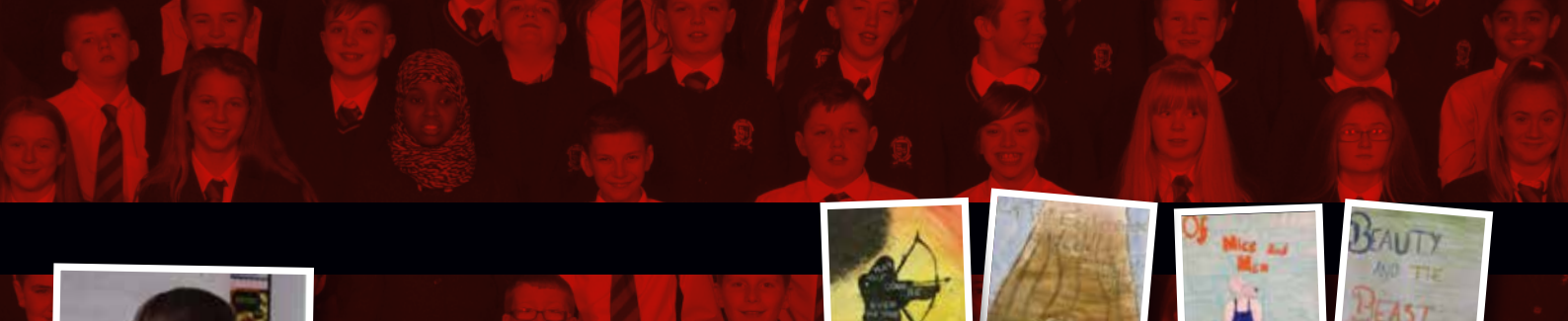
Mirren and Emily (S4)



DWF Work Placements

Fourth year pupils, Kayleigh and Rachel are photographed at DWF Offices in Glasgow taking part in Work Experience. DWF commented: "The girls have worked so hard, thrown themselves into everything and integrated exceptionally well into the office in terms of both work and social aspects."





S1 Author Visit From Victoria Gemmell

We were thrilled to be joined recently by award winning young-adult author Victoria Gemmell. In 2016, Victoria's debut novel, "Follow Me" was the winner of the T.C. Farries Award.

During her visit to Govan High, Victoria gave an inspirational talk to S1 on the writing process and her journey to becoming a successful novelist. Victoria also carried out a fantastic creative writing workshop and passed on some great advice on how to generate ideas for writing stories of our own. S1 got their creative juices flowing and came up with an amazing range of weird and wonderful story ideas!

Victoria was very impressed with the wide variety of imaginative suggestions. We're all looking forward to reading Victoria's second novel, which is due for publication later this year.

Glasgow City Language Awards

In February, seven S1 pupils were rewarded for their hard work and enthusiasm in their Gaelic classes at a Language Award Ceremony in Glasgow City Chambers. The pupils were: Daryl Airdrie, Kyle McAusland, Joshua Nesbitt, Jay Sinclair, McKenzie Graham, Shaun Hunter and Mari McLean.

Our pupils were joined by many others from across the city, who were receiving awards for their own language achievements. Our group was welcomed by DK MacPhee, Gaelic Development Officer for Glasgow City Council, who spoke about the increase in Gaelic learning in the city, and about his delight in meeting the Gaelic learners from Govan – once one of the main areas of settlement for Gaels in Glasgow.

Our pupils received certificates of achievement, and the Gaelic theme was continued when the choir of St. Constantine's Primary entertained us with a fantastic rendition of 'Seallaibh Curaigh Eòghainn'.

Congratulations to all concerned!!

S3 Achieve Group

One of our S3 Wider Achievement classes has been collecting donations to make starter boxes for women moving into accommodation provided by Glasgow Women's Aid. This activity is done through The Prince's Trust and leads to a qualification.

The class chose to donate to Glasgow Women's Aid because they are doing this activity as part of their community project within the Achieve class. We chose this organisation because it is a local charity and we admire the work they do.

The pupils have been collecting cleaning and toiletry products to create parcels for the women affected. These pupils have worked extremely hard and showed dedication to becoming responsible young citizens and helping others in our community. By Lauren Danks



World Book Day - Art Competition

To celebrate World Book Day 2018, Mrs Nicholl and Mr Wason ran a competition for S1 to S3 pupils to design the best book cover. There was a huge amount of hard work and enthusiasm from all those who took part. Many pupils chose to redesign the cover of their favourite book while others created a brand new book of their own.



All the fabulous book covers are on display in the library, so make sure you pop in to have a look! Mrs Belford had the difficult decision of picking her favourite four book designs. The three runners-up were Breagha Smith, Emma Young and Joshua Nesbitt. The overall winner was Kimberly Murray with her excellent Hunger Games design. Well done Kimberly!

Special Mention

Kelsi has been selected as a finalist in the Glasgow Evening Times Community Champion Award 2018. This is due to the contribution she makes to charity GYIP, the local community and Govan High School.





International Convention on Inclusive Education - April 2018

Mr Vince McMahon, DHT in charge of the Language & Communication Resource (LCR), has recently returned from a short trip to the city of Ahmedabad in India where he was invited to participate in this convention:

I was invited over by a former colleague who has been instrumental in setting up an Autism Unit attached to a mainstream school – this is loosely based on the model of Govan LCR. The school is called Saaransh Foundation: <http://saaranshfoundation.com/>

The convention was attended by School Principals from all over India, along with Education Officials, Academics, Parents and Students. The speakers were mainly academics from India, but also included representatives from USA, Serbia and UK.



My contribution over the two and a half day event was:

- A presentation on 'Designing an Inclusive Curriculum'
- A presentation on 'Dealing with Challenging Behaviour'
- A workshop on 'Young Adults with ASD and the Transition Process from Secondary Education'
- A panel discussion on 'Techniques for Working with Children with Sensory Dysfunction'



I also contributed to a cultural musical evening with a rendition of 'Flower of Scotland'!

This was a wonderful experience for me and I hope we will continue to share good practice with the Saaransh Foundation. It quickly became apparent to me that we have a lot to share on the subject of Inclusive Education, but we also have a lot to learn from the models of good practice around the world. The quote below from UNESCO sums up the need for inclusion:

"Inclusive education is central to the achievement of high-quality education for all learners and the development of more inclusive societies. Inclusion is still thought of in some countries as an approach to serving children with disabilities within general educational settings. Internationally, however, it is increasingly seen more broadly as a reform that supports and welcomes diversity amongst all learners."



Letter from the Head

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Govan High School Achievements Newsletter.

It has been a very busy session this year as this newsletter highlights and I am sure you will agree that our young people have, yet again, been involved in numerous activities and have many achievements to celebrate. For our seniors, exam season is now underway. This group of young people have worked exceptionally hard towards these qualifications, supported by a very dedicated team of staff here in the school and also by you, the parents at home. I am sure the whole school community will join with me in wishing this group of young people the very best of luck in their exams.

Partnership working has always been a real strength in Govan High School and this session we have built on our partnership with Glasgow South West Police through the introduction of a Campus Police Officer. PC Craig Murie joined the school in January and is a welcome addition to the school. Craig has very quickly built up positive relationships with our young people and has been leading workshops to engage our young people in looking at internet safety, domestic abuse and sectarianism. Craig joins the school in a pastoral role and is available to discuss any concerns or community issues. You can get in touch with him by contacting the school office.

The school is also working in partnership with Rangers Charity Foundation through the introduction of a Hub Officer within the school. This new initiative is based on the excellent and innovative work carried out by the Manchester United Foundation. Scott Smith also joined the school in January and projects that he is involved in to date include; a mentoring programme which sees Scott work closely with some of our young people, helping them to gain employability experience and skills; a primary transition programme focusing on life in secondary school and sporting activities; and leading our newly established breakfast club.

Both of these initiatives are part funded by the school through the additional funds received through the pupil equity fund.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of our newsletter and finding out about the activities and achievements of our young people. In particular I am very proud of how the young people of Govan High give back to the community through their charity work. The reaction of our senior pupils to the member of the community who was robbed of his life savings and the donations collected by the Achieve Class for the Women's Aid Charity are just two examples of this.

As we near the end of the session we can look back on another busy but successful year in Govan High School and we look forward to welcoming many of you to our Award Ceremony on 18 June to celebrate the many achievements of the school and our young people.

Thank you for your continued support in helping to ensure the very best for our young people.

Kind regards and Warm Wishes,
Nancy Belford



An update from the Careers Adviser

...as pupils in S4, 5 and 6 head off to sit their exams it's worth taking time to reflect on this year.

Each year group has had an introduction to Career Management Skills through a class run by myself. These skills revolve around Self – knowing yourself better; Strengths – knowing what you are good at; Horizons – knowing what is out there for you in the world of work and Networks – knowing who can support you and help you in beginning your career after school. The idea is that the more you understand these skills then the better your choices will be when you make decisions regarding next steps!

Pupils in S2 have met with myself this year before picking their subjects and have been introduced to www.myworldofwork.co.uk which provides you with lots of useful careers information and can be a great place to start researching those jobs that might interest you.

Those pupils in S4, 5 and 6 who are approaching their leave dates have explored the options available through college, university and modern apprenticeships and have identified their preferred choice to progress onto from school (find out more about apprenticeships and search for opportunities at apprenticeships.scot).

To everyone in Govan High School I would like to remind you of the Next Steps Base beside pastoral care. Mrs Grant and I would like to offer you the invitation to visit anytime you feel the need to discuss or chat through career options.



Gerry Carroll Career Coach

Courtney's five-star start in Hospitality

There's ambition to create more female leaders in the Hospitality industry. Courtney Early, from Govan, has recently completed a Modern Apprenticeship in Hospitality and plans to take up a Graduate Apprenticeship to help accelerate her career. To help celebrate International Women's Day, the 21-year old shares her experience working as an apprentice in the sector.



When I left school, I never imagined I'd get the chance to go on a wine-tasting trip to Italy or see behind the scenes at Buckingham Palace. I have, thanks to a Modern Apprenticeship.

I used to help out at Gleneagles Hotel, doing Burns' Suppers and things throughout school. I also worked part-time at the Hilton and every Tuesday and Thursday I did work experience there. This gave me a real taste for the industry.

Willie Jones from Gleneagles set the apprenticeship up at the Blythwood and asked me to go to the interview – and look where I am now!

My apprenticeship took me three years to complete and I graduated in September last year. The training was delivered through a series of master classes delivered by Training Matters and I earned a level 2

qualification in Hospitality, followed by Management level 3 in my third year.

I think that learning on the job is really beneficial because you don't really know how hotels work until you've worked in one. By doing the apprenticeship I could gain experience, take that to class, and it would help with my coursework. I knew what I was talking about because I was actually doing it.

At the moment I'm working as reception supervisor at the five-star Blythwood Square Hotel in Glasgow's city centre. I supervise the reception team, issue tasks for the day, organise handovers and carry out all the front-desk duties too, like checking in guests, dealing with enquiries and making bookings.

I'm not planning on stopping there. I'm thinking about doing the Graduate Apprenticeship next and getting my degree. I want to work my way up in the industry and see how far I get as I'd like to be a hotel manager one day.

I have had the chance to meet people from all over the world, undertake specialist training and have some spectacular once-in-a-lifetime experiences too.

Recently, I went to Buckingham Palace with other apprentices to see behind the scenes and visit the head chef in the kitchen, which was so exciting.

We also travelled to Italy to do wine tasting. I didn't know anything about wine before but I've got a wine qualification now. There are so many opportunities available through an apprenticeship.

I have learned a lot in a short space of time. I've really developed my team-working skills and my confidence. When I see how far I've come, I can hardly believe it.

I'd definitely encourage others to consider an apprenticeship when they're planning for their future. I go back to my old school every year and try to get new people to sign up for the apprenticeship. I ask the parents to come into the workplace and see what we do before their children get into it. It's a big step for anyone but it's a great opportunity.

There are so many people that you get to meet and so many things you can achieve with an apprenticeship. I'd recommend it to anyone.





Healthy Eating Games

Some of our S1/S2 young people have been focusing on a healthy start to the day. We have enjoyed learning more about food and nutrition. Our fruit and cereal tasting has been great fun. This has given us a great start to the day.

We have also enjoyed a range of activities including puzzles, riddles, comedy activities and learning new skills.



Community Budget Projects

Last term the school was involved in the latest round of community budget bids in three ways.

Govan Schools Pipe Band submitted a bid for support and was successful. Some members of the pipe band also played at the award event.

Two S1 pupils, Charlie Goudie and Jamie McLeod did a presentation on the school's "Study, Play and Eat" breakfast club initiative. This encourages pupils to come in early, attend the breakfast club and play games, study or do homework while also having breakfast – the most important meal of the day. This bid was also successful and the scheme is now up and running.

The Community Budget is also partnering the school in training a group of S3 pupils as community advocates. The pupils involved are Abbie Grimley, Remaz Hassan, Paige Gallagher, Carly Hislop, Emma Young and Abbie Doyle. After training their task will be to spend their budget allocation on something of lasting benefit to the pupils of the school. This term, working with a mentor, Michelle Walsh from Glasgow Homelessness Network, the group are brainstorming ideas and preparing to present their proposal to a school assembly towards the end of term.



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Art & Design department news

Everyone in the Art department has been working really hard this term. Recently our BGE classes have been designing book covers to celebrate World Book Day and their work is currently on display in the library. S2 have been developing their Expressive painting skills by studying the techniques of the Impressionists and getting inspiration from 'The Local Built Environment', while S3 have been taking on the role of a graphic designer and improving their still life painting skills. Meanwhile our S4 to S6 pupils have been pulling out all the stops to complete their Design and Expressive portfolios in time for the SQA deadline. So all in all, it has been a very busy term!

Here are a few examples of the artwork created by some of our talented young people.





Art Department Trip to the Lighthouse & the St Enoch Centre

This year's 'Mackintosh the Innovator' competition has now been launched and a group of our S2 pupils were invited to the centre for a tour of The Lighthouse's Mackintosh exhibition. On the way over we stopped off at the community artist exhibition space at the centre called 'The Unexpected Artist' where Emma Young was invited to help artist Linda McGowan paint her latest David Bowie inspired artwork. The pupils commented on how much they enjoyed the outing and therefore we would like to take this opportunity to thank St Enoch's Vicky Colquhoun for organising such a great day for all of us ...it was extremely inspirational!

Here are some photos of Jersey McGuire, Breagha Smith, Morgan Newall, Shanaz Matts, Jenny Cameron, Carly Hislop, Paige Gallagher, Emma Young and Abbie Doyle at the event.



Blairvadach 2018

16 pupils from S2&3 visited Blairvadach Outdoor Education Centre (near Helensburgh) at the beginning of May. The trip was a reward for their brilliant work in PE this session. Everyone enjoyed taking part in a range of activities including climbing & abseiling, kayaking and gorge walking.



Music Notes

A wonderful opportunity arose for our pupils when the composer Jennifer Martin worked with some of our National 4 and 5 music pupils on composition. The workshop lasted for 10 weeks. The pupils' compositions were performed in the school assembly hall in front of an invited audience on Tuesday 5th December by 'The Glasgow Barons' a group of professional musicians conducted by Paul McAlindin. The pupils involved were Nathan Bray, Jack Turner, Josh Cumberland, Kian Wilson, Patricia Peter, Megan Lewis, Peter Niekorek and Graeme Dodd.



The school band, choir, pipe band and soloists were very busy during recent months performing at the following venues:

Pirie Park Primary School concert, Braehead Shopping Centre, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, Rangers Football Club Charity Lunch, Govan High School Christmas Fayre and Queen Elizabeth University Hospital. At each of these events all pupils were a credit to the school and themselves.



As part of the curriculum in music, 30 pupils attended the 'Blazin' Fiddles' and RCS Juniors concert at the Royal Concert Hall. The concert was just one of the education programmes for schools organised by Celtic Connections. A lively and wonderful time was had by all!

Our 'Instrumental Pupils' Parent's Evening' took place on Tuesday 20th March. Parents of pupils attending instrumental lessons in bagpipes, pipe band drumming, woodwind, brass, percussion and guitar attended the event.

A short concert by the school band, pipe band and soloists was followed by tea/coffee. Parents then had the opportunity to speak to our fabulous instructors:

Mr Lang (brass tutor), Mr Reilly (guitar tutor), Mr Cowie (percussion tutor), Ms Nagl (woodwind tutor), Mr Watson (bagpipe tutor) and Mr Burns (pipe band drumming tutor)



12-15 pupils from S2-3 will be participating in four music theatre workshops organised by the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. The workshops will take place on

Monday 23rd April, Monday 30th April, Monday 14th May and Monday 21st May from 3-4pm.

This is a great opportunity for our pupils!

Mark Docherty and Glenn Murphy (S3) will be participating in a 'Brass Play Day' at the City Halls on Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd May.

Thomas Rankine and David Rice (S3) have been asked to play the pipes at Pirie Park's School Show on the morning of Wednesday 2nd May.

Thomas, David, Julia Pyrcz, Esther Akeju, Ciaran Hyland, Kimberley Murray, Rachel Donnelly (S2) and Samuel Madden (S1) will be performing at Pirie Park's School Show on the afternoon of Thursday 3rd May.

On Wednesday 6th June the Metro Big Band from America will be playing to pupils in the school assembly hall. We are all looking forward to this exciting event.







Excursion to Madrid

On the 12th of May twenty four School of Football pupils and three members of staff from Govan High travelled to Madrid to embark on a football development tour. Staff and pupils had an early start meeting at the school at 3am to travel by coach to Edinburgh airport. All pupils looked the part as they were wearing their new tracksuits and bags, thanks to our sponsors Structured House Group and Nixon Consultants.



On arrival the pupils were really excited as they checked into the hotel where they would be spending the next four nights. After dinner pupils and staff transferred to the Santiago Bernabeu to watch the Real Madrid vs Celta Vigo, La Liga match. The match tickets were purchased with fundraising money that pupils and staff have been running in the lead up to the tour. All pupils were mesmerised by the iconic stadium and were treated to six fantastic goals from Real Madrid.



The following day, after breakfast, the group transferred to the Santiago Bernabeu again, this time for a behind the scenes tour where they got to see the trophy room, changing rooms and museum. Pupils got the chance to be photographed with the European Cup and learned more about the history of Real Madrid Football Club.

After the tour pupils were transferred back to the hotel to have lunch and get ready for a football tournament between themselves and the staff in preparation for training at the Real Madrid Academy the following day. The group returned to the hotel for dinner before heading to play bowling and pool. All pupils and teachers enjoyed the bowling although some, including the teachers, found it tough without the bumpers.



On the morning of the 14th of May pupils travelled to the Real Madrid Academy proudly wearing their School of Football kit. They were met on arrival by former Real Madrid player Fernando Morientes who very kindly posed for a photograph with the group. Pupils met with their coach Miguel who spoke about the philosophy of Real Madrid before putting them through their paces. All pupils adjusted to the training methods and coped very well in the sunshine for their two hour session. Pupils then had lunch at the Academy and were looking forward to their afternoon training session. Again pupils coped really well with having two sessions in one day and the teachers were hoping that they would sleep well that night. After dinner we were taken to a local Spanish carnival to celebrate Madrid Day. The boys enjoyed spending time at the different stalls and engaging in some Spanish culture. Many of the boys won cuddly toys at the stalls which they were very excited about.





The following day pupils travelled back to the Real Madrid Academy and had an extra incentive to impress as they were playing Fuente del Saz (Spanish boys club) that evening. Pupils again enjoyed the training session that Miguel planned for them, however they were focussed on their preparation for the evening game.

When pupils arrived back to the hotel they were split into their teams (S1 team and S2/3 team) and they had a team meeting with Mr Reid, Miss McMillan and Mr Kenney to discuss tactics for the game. Pupils were in high spirits traveling to the game and the S1 team started well and were clearly the better team in the first half despite drawing 2-2 at half time. Unfortunately for our pupils the game finished 4-3 to the opposition, however the experience of playing a team from Spain will live in their memories forever. The S2/3 was just as exciting and for long periods they managed to match them physically and technically, however due to injuries in the second half the score got wider for the home team. All pupils played with determination until the end of the game. We ended

the evening with an ice cream and a presentation of certificates, with a memento for their different contributions to the tour.

The following day was sadly the last day for the group in Madrid, however the pupils still had one last training session at the Real Madrid Academy before transferring to the airport. As the boys left the training group they caught a glimpse of Gareth Bale and Sergio Ramos working on a different pitch. The boys were over the moon to have seen their heroes in the flesh. The development tour was a once in a lifetime experience for our pupils at Govan High School and it wouldn't have happened without the help from our parents and staff. In addition to this we would like to say a huge thank you to a number of partnerships who have supported the success of this tour. SFA West Region for their continued support, The Rangers Charity Foundation for supporting our pupils with fundraising, Structured House Group and Nixon Consultants for sponsoring the tracksuits and bags and of course the pupils who were a credit to Govan High School.



Sport News

Senior wider achievement took part in fencing sessions.



Girls football team won the Toryglen Christmas cup, as did the S1 boys Toryglen team.



U16s football team are into round 2 of the league.



S1 have been involved in a boxing taster with Govan Boxing Club. The boys loved the session and worked hard to develop their skills.



Young sports leaders have been planning and delivering lessons.

Senior girls attended an EY women and girls network event.

Glasgow United football team charity group organised a friendly football team for their YPI presentation.

The S2/3 Toryglen team made it to the finals of the Toryglen Christmas cup.



Govan High School, 12 Ardnish Street, Glasgow, G51 4NB
T: 0141 582 0090 E: ksweeney@govanhigh.glasgow.sch.uk W: www.govanhigh.glasgow.sch.uk

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