

# Achievements!

## Govan High School

ISSUE 4

Sponsored by  
**NHS**  
Greater Glasgow  
and Clyde



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# Our new hospital

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHSGGC) is working with families, children, young people and local communities, to build a new children's hospital in Govan - on the existing site of the Southern General Hospital.

The hospital will be developed alongside new adult and maternity facilities, providing the best possible care for babies, children, young people and adults.

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde is planning to invest in excess of £550 million in delivering these modern hospitals that will provide a local, regional and national centre of excellence.

A youth panel has been established to make sure that the issues, needs and hopes of teenagers are included in the design of the new hospital and a family panel will provide guidance on how best to engage with families



**'NHS GREATER GLASGOW AND CLYDE (NHSGGC) IS PLANNING TO INVEST IN EXCESS OF £550 MILLION'**

and include their ideas in the planning and design process.

A reception was held recently at the Lighthouse in Glasgow to provide up-to-date information on the progress of the planning for the new hospital.

The Govan High School Band performed at the reception, and NHSGGC hopes to develop

more opportunities to work with the young people of Govan High School.

■ If you would like more information on the new children's hospital contact Kate Munro on 0141 201 4755 or email [kate.munro@gghb.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:kate.munro@gghb.scot.nhs.uk) or visit the website [www.nhsggc.org.uk](http://www.nhsggc.org.uk)



From left - Ian Davidson MP, with Ian McGarry and Prime Minister Gordon Brown

## Ian's appointment at No. 10

Our Dux of 2007 Ian McGarry, an apprentice engineer with Thales Optronics, met Prime Minister Gordon Brown at 10 Downing Street recently. Ian was nominated by Thales to join our local MP, Ian Davidson, on a visit to London. He was one of 75 inspirational young people chosen by local MPs to meet

Gordon Brown.

Ian Davidson said: "I have a good relationship with Thales and I asked them to nominate a representative from the company who would be an excellent ambassador for the community."

Ian McGarry said: "It was fantastic, and Gordon Brown was very friendly."



# Probably the best small school in Scotland

## Road Safety Campaign

Students from the school have been involved in a campaign called "Hero To Zero" which aims to shock young people into avoiding the risks that cause car crashes, such as driving too fast or carrying too many passengers.

The initiative is the biggest of its kind to be run by the West of Scotland Road Safety Forum.

The three-week campaign was put together with the help of young people.

Melissa Miller, 17, from Govan High School, said: "I think this will get the message across.

"People will listen because the information is really scary.

"When people start off driving they think they can do anything because they've just passed their test.

"Even if we only save one life it will have been worthwhile."

**GOVAN High is gaining a reputation as one of the most exciting and innovative schools in Scotland.**

A look at what's been achieved since the summer and some of the things we're going to be achieving over this school year makes that clear.

Firstly there's our new first year intake. They came to Govan High ready to put 100 per cent into the unique learning opportunities offered and they have already contributed a huge amount to the life of the school.

So, what can first year and other year groups expect to be involved with in their school career?

- an exciting, flexible qualification system that will ensure pupils leaving in S4 will do so with 16 SQA qualifications

- the opportunity to take part in international educational experiences that could take them from Malawi to Kentucky to

Australia

- exciting vocational and creative classes including hairdressing, dance and theatre arts, construction, motor vehicle mechanics and media studies

- an ethos based on future skills with the aim of equipping students with the skills they require for life beyond school.

Already this year Govan High pupils have passed assessments that put them at the forefront of learners in Scotland.

The XL Group has devised, filmed and presented a DVD on life at the school with assistance from the BBC.

Plus, pupils hosted a Glasgow conference on poverty whose guests included Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon.

Govan High pupils, parents and supporters have raised thousands of pounds to provide electricity for our partner school in Malawi.

And, to crown it all off, at

the end of the year the theatre arts students staged an outstanding production of "Cinderella" in front of a number of distinguished guests.

If you're looking for statistics from this session, Govan High School exclusions are down, attendance is up and our Positive Destination figures for leavers are the best ever.

Also, following the success of last year's work in Malawi, a second group of pupils will be visiting our partner school.

The media studies class have had a special study visit to Disneyland Paris and got the chance to actually see with their own eyes how the media world operates for real.

And finally, some pupils have visited Norway on a European Community programme.

As you can see, with so much going on it's easy to see why we think we're the best small school in Scotland!

## Behind the BBC cameras



Govan High pupils with David Robertson of Reporting Scotland

EIGHT S1 pupils recently visited the BBC Headquarters at Pacific Quay, to have a tour round the new studios and to take part in a programme with Scots-born Polar explorer Pen Hadow.

The programme was the first in a new Radio Scotland series called "Quay Conversations" hosted by Janice Galloway.

One of the pupils, Shannon Murray, said: "I had a great time, and my favourite bit was hearing about the time Pen had to hit a Polar Bear with a saucepan!"

Further visits to the BBC studios are planned so that pupils are made aware of the opportunities open to them with this major new Govan employer.



## Suited and booted

IAN Davidson MP, recently visited the school with representatives from BAE Systems, Thales Optronics trade unions, Govan Cross Shopping Centre and representatives from the local Muslim community and Masonic organisation.

The purpose of the visit was to hand in sponsorship cheques from BAE and Thales.

The sponsor money will pay for equipment for students doing hairdressing courses in the school's own salon, and students doing motor vehicle mechanics at Anniesland college.

## Swimming pool reopens

Govan High is one of the few secondary schools in Glasgow to have a swimming pool. The pool was closed for several months but we are delighted to say that it is up and running for school use, for primary schools and for community lets, since renovation carried out by Amey Business Services.

## Partners for life

BAE SYSTEMS has been working closely with the school to enhance employment prospects for pupils.

BAE staff have been helping in several ways, including advice and assistance with job-seeking skills and mentoring pupils.

It's hoped to further develop this relationship

next session by offering Practical Engineering on the curriculum.

Julie Fallon, HR adviser at BAE, said: "Building on our partnership with Govan High is a really exciting prospect for BAE Systems, and I hope that it will encourage more pupils to consider a career with us.

"I hope that our work with the students and teachers at Govan High will be the first step towards many successful job applications for our apprenticeship and graduate programmes."



Julie Fallon and Jim McHarg of BAE Systems

## From the four corners of the world... to Govan!

### Wester Hailes

We recently had a visit from seven colleagues from Edinburgh. The group was made up of Alex Wood, headteacher at Wester Hailes Education Centre, his area manager Jan Robertson, and five other members of the Wester Hailes teaching staff.

### Sweden

In February, nine head teachers from Malmo in Sweden were on a study visit to Glasgow and spent a morning in Govan High.

Earlier in the year,

trainee teacher Erika Klavus, visited us from Stockholm University, to examine our practice in the teaching of English and in pupil support.

### Australia

Lynne Goodwin, principal of Arthur Phillip High School in Parramatta, Sydney, Australia, spent a day at Govan High along with a colleague.

This was the second leg of an exchange visit as our depute head Kevin Sweeney had been in Arthur Phillip High last session (see below).

## Staff news

■ Principal technician, Malcolm Campbell, has been elected Vice President of the Glasgow Islay Association.

■ Enterprise faculty head, Derek MacDougall, is the

new captain at Old Ranfurly Golf Club, Bridge of Weir.

■ Bernadine Templeman is the new acting principal teacher (Pastoral Care).

■ William Nketsia has been permanently appointed to the sciences faculty teaching biology and chemistry.

## Down under for Kevin

Around this time last year depute head Kevin Sweeney and Pastoral Care principal June Alba visited our twin school in South Australia. Their study visit was to look at what the Australians are doing in vocational education and training (VET). As a result of this visit, several innovative vocational courses are now being offered at Govan High.

# Pupils heading for the right **destination** in life

AS reported in our last newsletter the Positive Destinations programme has been set up to achieve the aim of making sure every pupil who leaves has a job, college or university place to go to. This is a major priority at Govan High!

During last session and over the next two sessions, the school has received additional funding for this from the Government, Glasgow City Council and the Hunter Foundation (funded by Scottish businessman and philanthropist Sir Tom Hunter).

The programme has been set up to support and develop various learning activities and experiences which will help pupils increase motivation and self-confidence, and to develop a wide range of employability skills, including teamwork, showing initiative, and rising to challenges.

## Bullying on the net is not a game

Four of our S1 Pupils, Demi Carey, Kieran Young, Stephen Bradley and Shannon Murray, are set to become stars of the silver screen to hammer home an important message about stamping out cyber bullying.

The young stars took part in a hard-hitting drama about some of the more unexpected dangers of MSN messaging and social networking sites.

They performed this drama live to S1 pupils and were so good that Glasgow Support Services put it on to film.

The film will be used in Primary Schools across the city. It could be the start of a dazzling career for these four S1 stars!

As previously reported, funding from the programme has been used to support our senior and junior dance groups.

The pupils followed up their outstanding showcase "Steps, Notes and Squeaks" in June, with a Christmas Pantomime performance of "Cinderella" in December, which was thoroughly enjoyed by a packed audience on each night.

Invited guests including Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, and executive director of Education and Social Work Services Margaret Doran, came along to watch a performance.

Both these important guests spoke highly of the levels of skill and confidence displayed by our pupils.

Mr Coates' Technical class (or Help us Get a job class – to give it its other name!) which concentrates on making things to order, and have met with Norie Mackie of the Pierce Institute, to discuss placing the table somewhere it will be useful.

Our new job-related courses such as hairdressing, motor mechanics and voice and data cabling are going well. Following on from third year a group of second-year pupils are now on a

five-day outward bound programme, enjoying such activities as kayaking, mountain biking, hill walking, gorge walking and raft building.

Skills such as planning, organisation, and working with others are being developed through these activities.

Just before the Christmas break, we employed a French-speaking football coach to come in once a week, to help to raise interest and levels of ability in French – through football.

This short programme was tremendously successful and enjoyed by the pupils.

We have also employed Jacqui Fitzpatrick, our youth support worker who is offering additional time with our second and third year pupils, particularly girls.

In addition to all of this, a number of our fourth and fifth year leavers are continuing to receive additional individual advice from Careers Scotland.

We are also setting up a mentor scheme for all fourth, fifth and sixth year leavers, where more than 20 members of staff have volunteered to meet regularly with pupils, in their own time, to talk to them about their





**Cinders and two of her ugly sisters!**

plans for when they leave school.

The Positive Destinations programme is designed to encourage pupils to be more involved in their learning and to improve attendance, attitudes and skills development through taking part in active and creative learning experiences.

In this way pupils will not

drift away from the school at any stage and will want to continue their learning and training, or move into a job, when they leave school.

**Jim Rafferty**  
Positive Destinations  
Consultant

## Keeping in tune

THE SCHOOL BAND played at the Lighthouse in January at a reception for organisations connected with the Southern General Hospital.

The following pupils were involved in the performance: Shannon Murray, Stephen Bradley, Daniel McInnes, Jodi Gardiner, Scot Morrison, Ricki Brown, Victoria Keir and Zoe Healy.

● Ian Davidson MP invited the school band to play at a Labour party meeting at the Pierce Institute, televised in December.

● A number of pupils recently attended clarinet and trumpet workshops and master classes at Glasgow City Halls.

The clarinet workshop was directed by Barry Deacon and the trumpet master class was directed by Mark O'Keefe, senior musicians with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra.

● Some of the city's most

talented youngsters, including representatives from Govan High, provided plenty of festive cheer as they took to the stage for 2007's Glasgow Schools Christmas Concerts.

Proud Aline Brown, 63, from Govan was there to watch her grandson Ricki Brown, 15, a third-year pupil at Govan High School. She said: "This is my third concert and it's been brilliant.

"It's always great to hear the youngsters playing such good music."

This year the Evening Times was media sponsor of the event, which was recorded live on CD to give families a lasting memento.

● And finally, a special mention of individual achievement for Charmaine Clarke, S5, who passed an audition in singing and dancing for the Apollo Players amateur theatre company.

## Habla Español? Speak Spanish?

THIS term, together with the Education Department's modern languages adviser Gillian Campbell, we ran an after school conversational Spanish course for staff, pupils and parents. We also invited primary staff, pupils and parents.

The course content comprised of:

■ **Week 1, names/ where**

**you stay/alphabet /Spanish culture**

■ **Week 2, numbers: ages, dates, birthday, phone numbers, time**

■ **Week 3, family and descriptions/ physical descriptions**

■ **Week 4, places in the town and directions**

■ **Week 5, leisure, hobbies and free time**

■ **Week 6, buying tickets/making**

**arrangements and directions**

■ **Week 7, food and drink**

■ **Week 8, on holiday – cafe/restaurant/ doctors.**

The students are now looking forward to the summer holidays and the chance to practise their Spanish.





## Valentine's disco

Hair-Razin Records, the joint enterprise venture with Stow College, held a St Valentine's disco in February. The DJ at the disco was our very own Bobby Coates.

Profit from the disco will go towards the costs of this year's Govan High CD, entitled "Wannabees". The CD is the result of a class of S5/6 students who are gaining their Intermediate 2 certificate by running a real-life record company. The class has to fulfil all aspects of the record business including recording, advertising, promotion and marketing their product – a CD featuring their company's artists.

The Wannabees launch party will be at BBC Pacific Quay on 24 April, hosted by BBC presenter Bryan Burnett. After the launch the CD, featuring musicians from the Govan High School, will go on general sale.

## Scott grabs the number one shirt

Scott Cassidy, goalkeeper and captain of Govan High School senior football team, has been selected in goal for Glasgow Schools.

"Scott is undoubtedly one of the best talents to come out of Govan in a very long time and deserves a crack at a higher level," said Govan



High senior team manager Joe McGinty. "In 20 years of coaching at school and boys club level, he is one of the best I've seen and I can't believe this young talent has not been picked up by one of our senior clubs."

Any club interested in taking Scott on trial, should contact Joe McGinty on 0141 582 0090.



The Chess Club recently drew 2-2 with Bellahouston Academy in the Scottish Schools Chess Championship.

## Enterprise Faculty news

### DVD filming

Mrs McAuley has given our higher business management class the opportunity to produce a DVD for the national education support organisation, Learning and Teaching Scotland, using Financial Services materials.

Two students from the class will edit and produce the DVD at the Hills Trust Learning Academy.

### Copeland, computers and cooking!

In February, 24 primary 6/7 pupils and their teachers from Copeland Primary, took part in a day long visit to Govan High School. The day consisted of a mixture of

ICT and Home Economics.

### Scottish Power Young Manager Programme

The finale of the Scottish Power Young Manager programme took place in February. The event was the culmination of six months preparation from 10 of our S3 pupils, Stuart Keir, Kris Brown, David Whitten, Jennifer Rankin, Sarah Collingwood, Alison Palmer, Holly Spence, Kayley Gilmour, Darcy Davis and Chloe Campbell.

They gave four presentations which focused on skills they developed during the programme at an event in the Scottish Power building in Cathcart.



### BASKETBALL Hyndland Secondary 32 Govan High 44

In their first senior basketball match of the year, Govan High beat an established Hyndland team.

### Knightswood Secondary 34 Govan High 53

Govan High claimed an assured victory against last year's finalists of the Glasgow Cup, Knightswood Secondary.

### S1 FOOTBALL

The S1 football team attending the Santa Fours competition at the Kelvin

Hall last December. Keiran Young, Grant Morris, Gavin McCracken, Lee Andemic, Declan Hughes, Ryan Campbell, Cameron Davies and Daniel McInnes all took part.

### GIRLS FOOTBALL

The girls from Govan High also participated in the Santa Fours football event.

The girls finished a respectable third place in the competition.

Natalie Deans, Kelly Harvey, Shaunie Flemming, Zara Savage and Jenifer Melvin took part.



## Govan High Pastoral Care

### BEST ATTENDANCE SINCE RECORDS BEGAN!

Attendance (%) from Aug to Nov (inclusive)

- 2004/05 76.342
- 2005/06 79.914
- 2006/07 85.528
- 2007/08 86.989

#### Absence

The Pupil Support team monitors pupil attendance on a daily basis. By working closely with the education liaison officer (Mrs Lennox) and parents, we can continue to improve our attendance levels.

If your child is absent from school it is essential that you let the appropriate Pastoral Care teacher know as quickly as possible. Pupils should also bring a note stating the reason for absence for their tutorial teacher on returning to school.



Some examples of good uniform



Bernie Templeman and Clare Morgan principal teachers of Pastoral Care

If you have any concerns regarding your child please contact the relevant pastoral care teacher who will be happy to discuss any matter with you. Tel: 0141 582 0090 or email: Btempleman@govanhigh.glasgow.sch.uk Cmorgan@govanhigh.glasgow.sch.uk

#### Timekeeping

Being on time and prepared for lessons is a valuable life skill.

Please ensure your child is up and ready for school in plenty of time – lessons start at 9am sharp.

available for pupils in S1-6 Monday – Thursday in the LRC.

This is an excellent opportunity for further study toward SQA exams in May. Past papers and study notes are available along with teachers from various subjects. Juice and crisps are provided.

#### Dates for your diary

Important dates coming up in the School calendar:

- S1 Parents evening – 23 April, 7-9pm
- Start of SQA exam – 5 May
- School Show – 25-26 June

#### Supported study

Supported Study is

#### Uniform

All pupils must come to school wearing appropriate school clothing. This is:

- white shirt with school tie or red/ black school polo shirt
- plain black trousers or skirt
- school sweatshirt.

### FORMER PUPILS • FORMER PUPILS • FORMER PUPILS • FORMER PUPILS • FORMER PUPILS

Our Dux of 2002, Martin Willies, is training to be an airline pilot.

His practical training is taking place in New Zealand and he visited us and spoke to an assembly when he was home to sit some exams. We all await the day when we are sitting on an aircraft and hear the words, "This is your Captain, Martin Willies, speaking ....."



Ashley Stewart

Ashley Stewart works for Glasgow South West Regeneration Agency. She left Govan High in 2002 and went to Cardonald College where she gained an HNC in Child Care and Education. Her ambition is to become a primary school teacher and over the years Ashley has worked in a number of local nurseries.



William with Mrs Finnie

William Jones left Govan High in 1996. After working in a number of UK restaurants and hotels, William returned to Gleneagles as its restaurant manager. Govan High's culinary excellence students paid a study visit to Gleneagles last month, and it was William who met them. He said he was very proud to do this.



## Govan Autism Unit update

### Update on former pupils

John Beckett and Lyndsay McDonald are studying at Cardonald College and Graeme Meheux, at Clydebank College.

### Preparing for future destinations

This year saw the first group of AU pupils entering S5 at school.

### Work experience

Recent Supported Work Experience placements have included: Asda, Botanic Gardens, Boots, Elderpark Library and a local nursery.

### Visits

The S5 pupils have attended careers fairs and visited a number of colleges to find out more about courses.

### Transitions project

The National Autistic Society Scotland has been given the opportunity to work with Govan High AU and deliver the Transitions Project to the S4 and S5 pupils, their parents/carers and the other professionals and statutory agencies involved in their lives.

### Coffee morning

AU Enterprises took a stall at the Govan High Christmas coffee morning in December, raising more than £100.

### Charity effort

Pupils, parents and staff filled backpacks at Christmas, to be sent abroad by the charity, Scottish International Relief.



## Interview with Darren McKay: Pre Vocational Courses

Q. Which Pre Vocational Courses are you studying this year?

A. Furniture Assembly and Car Mechanics.

Q. Where do you do these courses?

A. I do the furniture assembly at the RSBI factory in Springburn and I go to Anniesland College for the car mechanics course.

Q. Why did you

choose these particular courses?

A. Because I want to be a mechanic in the future and I am good at furniture assembly.

Q. What do you enjoy most about the courses?

A. I really enjoy working with my hands.

Q. Do you think that the courses have benefited you?

A. Yes, they really have.

## People, places, events, news

### Tellin' stories

Birmingham-based storyteller Katrice Horsely ran a very successful workshop in January for S3/4 girls.



The pupils, whose band name is "Badly put together", have been working with Michael John on writing and recording their own songs.

### Computer club

Nicola White and Jacqui

Fitzpatrick run the CC4G (computer club for girls) on Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes.

We are now looking at setting up something similar for the boys.

### Bin it to win it

Class 1.1 were recently involved in the Clean Glasgow "Bin It To Win It" recycling design competition. The team did a superb job and received third prize and a commendation certificate.



working with a team from the St Enoch Centre helping them to promote Glasgow, and mark the St Enoch's Centre's 18th year in the city. Govan High will be the first of the three schools to exhibit their work.

### St Enoch Project

This involves three schools



## Education is the primary goal for Stephen

Govan High has been doing some innovative work in the area of transition from primary to secondary school. Our latest idea is to employ a primary trained teacher to work in the secondary school.

Recently, Stephen Gallagher was appointed to this post.

He said: "I became a teacher after many years working in other industries. None of that prepared me for the challenging, and enjoyable, life of a teacher.

"For the next two years I'll be working with S1, identifying children who could benefit from extra support, to hopefully help them achieve more. My main aim is to raise achievement in maths and language."