

# Achievements!

December 2015

## Govan High School

Issue No. 24

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**McMillan Coffee Morning**



**Scottish Water Project**



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**Sport**



Welcome to the first Achievements Newsletter of Session 2015-16. It has been a very busy start to the new session and, as this newsletter highlights, our young people have been involved in many exciting activities helping them to develop their skills for learning, life and work.

We had a great start to the session with the launch of our new school uniform and I would like to thank all parents and carers for their support in this. It was great to see the pupils arriving in to school on the first day back

after the summer holiday looking so smart and taking real pride in their uniforms. We have received lots of positive feedback from the wider community with one local resident e-mailing to say how impressed and proud she was of our pupils.

August also saw a further improvement in exam performance with our young people gaining an increased number of qualifications at Higher and National level. It was also the start of a new chapter for our school leavers and I am sure that you will enjoy reading about their positive destinations which are highlighted later in this newsletter.

Pupils are making good progress within our new curriculum and feedback from a recent review carried out by Glasgow City Council of our curriculum in S1 to S3 was very positive. It was highlighted that the curriculum delivers breadth, progression and attainment for all pupils. Particular mention was made of our Wider Achievement Programme whereby pupils will gain at least two wider achievement qualifications by the end of S2 and our tracking of pupil progress was commended.

I have had many occasions over the past few months to feel extremely proud of our young people. From the Duke of Edinburgh Awards, to meeting the Earl of Wessex, winning the 'My Greener Glasgow' St Enoch's Art competition and our S2 pupils winning £3000 for local charity 'The Lodging House Mission' through the Youth Philanthropy Initiative to name but a few. The school has raised a substantial amount of money through our charity non uniform days for MacMillan Cancer Research, Breast Cancer Awareness and Children in Need. In addition to this Steven Parkinson in S5 has raised an amazing £1790 by taking part in MacMillan's Brave the Shave.

I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter and finding out about all of the recent achievements of our young people.





## STEM Prize Winners

S2 pupils Megan Lewis and Holly Slaven have just finished the experience of a three part prize they won at a STEM event at Caledonian University back in June. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. The event at the university was intended to attract girls into these subjects and into STEM careers. The SMARTSTEM programme was put together by Stuart MacDonald of SERIC Systems with input from Beyonder, Women's Enterprise Scotland and IBM.

Part of the event was a competition to design an item if "wearable tech". Megan and Holly designed a Digital Diabetes Tracker. On the day they were awarded a Certificate: but there were two additional parts to the prize. The first one was to be picked up and brought to school in a Rolls Royce Silver Phantom. This was donated by Hugh McMann of the Leven Car Company. So Holly and Megan and Megan's dad and sister got a tour around Govan then a drop off at school and a photo session with the press.

The final part of the prize was a day at the CISCO factory at Eurocentral where Holly and Megan and prize winners from other schools spent the day touring the factory. While there they were involved in video conferences with young CISCO employees in Manchester and Amsterdam. They also saw and heard about the CISCO partnership with Apple to produce IT products.

After a nice lunch they spent the afternoon working on challenges in teams with pupils from the various schools. Megan and Holly were in the Marshmallow challenge where they had to see who could build the highest spaghetti tower that would support a marshmallow. Megan said "This was a great experience – a hundred per cent I'd go back again". Holly said, "I'd like to be like the people we met in the CISCO factory."

## Battle of Loos Commemorations

Earlier this year National Commemorations were held to mark the centenary of the Battle of Loos, in which thousands of Scottish soldiers were killed. Govan High School's Voluntary Archivist, Ian McCracken, received an invitation to take part in the Commemoration Event, which took place on Saturday 26th September in Dundee

Earlier in the week, Ian's extensive research, which had resulted in identifying former pupils from Govan High killed in the battle, was featured in the Herald and Evening Times. More recently, the Govan News has also covered the sad story.

Ian says "I had contacted the Great War Dundee organisation as early as January in the hope of being able to pay my respects and the school's to the brave young men from Govan who lost their lives in this battle." Ian's initiative led to him being contacted by the Scottish Government and, through them, linked with the journalist Russell Leadbetter of the Times



## Remembrance Day

This year's Remembrance Assembly took place on Remembrance Day, 11th November. Captain Eddie Grady from the school staff told the story of former pupils who had lost their lives in the First World War and in a conflict in Borneo fifty years ago. Pupils and staff listened in respectful silence as the story unfolded of how many young men from the local area had been killed-for example, A picture of an empty classroom was shown to symbolise all those who lost their lives exactly 100 years ago this year.

Poignant and appropriate music was provided by Mrs Bonner, Mr Rodger, Mr Watson, Dylan Magee, Morgan Ross and Lauren Colley and as a finale, the Govan high Pipes and drums led by Mr Watson marched from the Assembly Hall to the tunes of "Brown Haired Maiden" and "The High Road To The Gairloch"

Mr McCracken, who planned the programme and prepared the script says he was honoured to be able to commemorate these brave former pupils, and was very grateful to staff and pupils for providing full support to the endeavour. Mr McCracken says he would be glad to answer any questions about former pupils who lost their lives in any conflict for example, if readers think they may have a family connection), or if anyone has any information, he would be grateful if they would please share it with him. His purpose is not to glorify war but to respect those who lost their lives.

The Remembrance Ceremony was featured on the BBC's Bryan Burnett show on the evening of Wednesday 11 November.



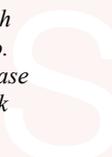
and Herald, who interviewed Ian for the articles. He was also sent an official invitation to the National Commemoration.

Ian tells us that this solemn event was very considerably planned, and was a most fitting tribute to those killed. An outdoor interdenominational service was held, with the story of the battle being told, interspersed with hymns and poems; several of the latter from a Dundee poet who had himself been killed in the Battle.

At the Civic Reception after the service, Ian also exchanged poignant stories with other attendees, as well as see the Duke and Duchess of Rothesay praise local schoolchildren who had produced a series of scrolls about World War One.

A particularly thoughtful touch was that when the reception was over and guests were leaving, each person was presented with a souvenir tin mug similar to those issued to British "tommies" in World War One.

*Ian is always keen to hear from anyone who has any connection with those from the school who lost their lives in World wars One or Two. If you have an enquiry, or can help Ian in his ongoing research, please [phone 582-0090 or e-mail ImcCracken@govanhigh.glasgow.sch.uk*





## Future Savers Scheme



Govan High School takes part in Glasgow City Council's "Future Savers Scheme" which is designed to give young people an experience of financial education and encourage them to save. As an incentive, the Council will put £10 in every new applicant's account.

The scheme was launched in June 2015. A group of pupils was chosen to go and meet Her Royal Highness Camilla Parker Bowles at The Trade Halls. Carly Imrie, Mirren Gregory, Christopher Shaw and Ryan McAinch were the pupils who represented the school. They discussed Future Savers and described how the school will encourage S1 pupils to save with the Credit Union. Carly Imrie said, "We spoke individually to Her Royal Highness about why, where and how we save each week. We then presented Super Savers bankbooks with each of her grandchildren's names printed on them. I really enjoyed the day, it was a great experience."

Future Savers was relaunched this year at the S1 Assembly in November. Pupils were shown the Council's promotional film and given details of how the scheme will run. It will be administered by S6 Administration students, Leigh Wingate and Ryan McAinch, overseen by Depute Head Teacher, Mr Sweeney. Future Savers will take place in room ICT3at morning break on Tuesdays every week when pupils can complete application forms (you can do it yourself if you're 12 but parents have to complete the form if you're still 11) and make deposits to their accounts.



## McMillan Coffee Morning

The Home Economics department has been busy again this year working for two fund raising events.

The Nat 5 Practical Cake craft class and S4 Hospitality class made the cakes to sell at the Govan Schools' Pipe Band Jumble sale in September. Then the Home Economics department held the annual Macmillan Biggest Coffee Morning in October before the break. The S5/6 Nat 5 class did all the baking and were able to show off their new cake decorating skills in their finished results. The coffee morning was a huge success and broke previous records by raising £478.60p.



## Holocaust Educational Trust Study Visit

Following Govan High School's successful study visit to Auschwitz, Birkenau and Berlin last year, two of our senior pupils were invited by The Holocaust Education Trust to participate in the "Lessons from Auschwitz" scheme. This programme takes senior pupils from all over the UK on a one day visit to the camps as part of a wider programme of events culminating in a presentation on Holocaust Memorial Day.

The Govan High School pupils who went to Poland were Melissa Rice and Matthew McGlave. They were accompanied by History and Modern Studies teacher, James Beattie.

Here, Melissa tells the story of their excursion: "The trip to Poland was very interesting. I learned a lot more about what went on during the Holocaust. We visited a Jewish cemetery which was paved over by the Nazis in WWII and rebuilt after the war. It was extremely unnerving hearing about the complete lack of respect towards the people who lay there.

After the cemetery we went to Auschwitz I, where we took a tour of the gas chambers, barracks and prisons. We also got to see all of the stolen belongings of the prisoners and the hair that was shaved from the female prisoners. It was hard to picture the people behind the belongings and the hair because of the sheer amount of material. We then went to Auschwitz-Birkenau, the extermination camp. It was very surreal walking around and seeing the barracks and "toilets" that they had to use. We also got to see the cattle trucks that the prisoners were brought in on and the half destroyed gas chambers as well. At the end of the day we listened to a rabbi read a poem in Hebrew and heard others read poems about the Holocaust.

The whole experience was very eye-opening and it's still hard to imagine that it happened but it was an incredible experience and it is one I will never forget."





## Art & Design Department News

Recently we attended the St Enoch Prize giving event for the 'It's My Greener Glasgow' competition

along with pupils from Williamwood, Lochend Community High, Springburn Academy, Notre Dame and Hillhead.

We were absolutely thrilled when Ailie Porteous's painting, describing her concern about wildlife and Sarah McIver's artwork highlighting the amount of money wasted cleaning up graffiti, won joint 1st prize in the Expressive category. Both girls won £75 each and Anastacia MacDonald also won 3rd prize (£50) for her painting which asked people to consider the impact that litter has on our environment.

The event was a great success and the school would like to thank St Enoch's and Ocean Blue for inviting us to take part. Mrs Nicholl would also like to say a very special thanks to all of our young artists for their contribution to such a fantastic public exhibition. The entrants were Rachel Thomson, Sefora Preda, Charley Brown, Erin Burke, Suki Man, Amy MacPherson, Kira MacAskill, Rebecca Morrissey, Melissa Rice, Georgia Carslaw and Paige Wood...all great ambassadors for Govan High School!

Also we have just heard that Amy McPherson (S5) who managed to gain a 'B' pass at Higher level in S4 and is currently working on her Advanced Higher art portfolio, has secured one of only fifteen places on a 20 week art class at Glasgow School of Art. This is an absolutely fantastic opportunity for Amy which recognises her success and aims to support her with future applications into the creative arts through the GSA Widening Participation Programme. It should be added that Amy will be completing this course in her own time at weekends which clearly displays her commitment to wider achievement opportunities. We wish her every success on her course!

## A Letter from a Local Resident

Mrs Belford, our Head Teacher, recently received a letter from a local resident. No further comment needed as the letter speaks for itself:

*Dear Ms Belford,*

*I would like take this opportunity to congratulate all the pupils, and teaching staff for the turn out in School Uniform this year. I am a local resident in the area and my morning walk with the dog is greeted with the warmth of your pupils, their good manners and how wonderful they look. They wear their uniform with such pride and have "raised the bar" in so far as demonstrating positive attitude whilst entering Govan High School. Well done to you all, from one proud resident!*

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Hello, Govan High! My name is Miss Spence, but in April when you have just about remembered my name I will change to Mrs O'Connor! I have always lived in Glasgow. I have a degree in Biochemistry and Pharmacology, but really did not fancy spending every day in a lab, so pursued my dream job in teaching. I teach Science to lower school and specialise in Biology. I hope to bring excitement to Science with the opportunity to do lots of new and interesting experiments. Last year I taught in Hyndland Secondary, but this was only a year contract. I am honoured to be a permanent member of staff in Govan High and hope to inspire my pupils in the same way my teachers inspired me.

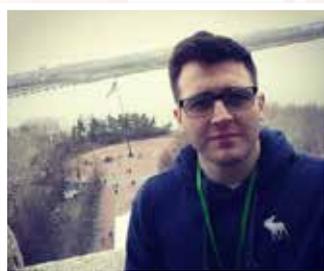
Hi! My name is Miss Mathers and I am very pleased to have started here at Govan High teaching English. I received my English and Education degree at Stirling University and have taught at schools in Stirling before coming to Glasgow. In my spare time I enjoy badminton, travelling and reading. I've had a great welcome from both pupils and staff and I'm excited for the year ahead. I hope to see some of you at the Library Club Thursday lunchtimes!



Hi, my name is Miss Buonaccorsi and I am from Glasgow. I teach Chemistry and Science and have taught in three previous schools including; Kings Park, Holyrood and Hillhead High School. I am excited to be a part of Govan High School and to have the opportunity to work with such great teachers and pupils. I enjoy spending time with my family and friends and love to visit different places across the world. I hope to start a science club in the near future and I am sure I will see many of you there to enjoy some exciting experiments! Btw, Chemistry supported study is on every Wednesday 3.40-4.40pm. All National 4/5 and Higher pupils are welcome.

Hi,

I am Mr Beattie, History and Modern Studies teacher. I have introduced both subjects to Govan High this year. My past schools include Marr College in Troon and Wallace High in Stirling. My favourite topic to study in History is the Spanish Civil War and my favourite to teach is the Civil Rights Movement. My favourite to study in Modern Studies is US Politics and my favourite to teach is Crime and The Law. My interests include badminton, cinema, debating and travelling. I look forward to teaching you all this year and for many years to come.



It is a pleasure to return back to Govan High School. This school has already given me experiences I will never forget and I will always hold everyone's welcoming attitude with high regard. This truly reflects the real Govan atmosphere. School is a part of life that every young person has to endure and I hope that every one of our pupils persists in their ambitions and become successful in whichever endeavour they choose.

Rob Saleh

### Lunchtime clubs

There are a huge variety of lunchtime clubs available around the school. Pupils can check the notice boards in the Fuel Zone or ask class teachers for more information.

Geography Supported Study at the following times

**Mondays 2.50 – 3.40 (HIGHER)**

**Wednesday's 3.40 – 4.30 (NAT 4 & 5)**

**Friday 8 – 8.45am (NAT 4 & 5)**

Govan High School's Drama Club is about to let the curtains open. It is understandable why some people would be hesitant to join – having an audience can be a very intimidating experience to some. In fact, the school is not planning a whole school play until next year. Just because you are in a drama club, it doesn't mean you have to perform. In fact, if you are shy, this type of club is meant to help overcome those fears of public performances. Not only will the club hopefully make you more confident but it is a way to relieve the daily stress, meet new people and have fun with old friends. To all pupils that are interested please seriously consider it and why don't you even give it a try?



### S3 Scottish Water Project

A group of S3 pupils is taking part in a huge Scottish Water project over 10 weeks. These pupils are working together as a team to research the use of turbines in pipes in order to create energy. The pupils are researching, writing reports, creating models and designing posters to communicate their findings to different schools and companies. A huge well done to the dedication and enthusiasm these pupils have shown throughout the project!





## Photography Higher

Last year Dionne Robertson and I enrolled into a National 5 photography course in school on a Thursday afternoon. When we started the course we didn't know anything about photography other than how to point a camera and take a photograph but as the course went on we soon developed knowledge about photography.

During the course we went to a variety of places to go and take pictures which was; The Botanic Gardens, House for an Art Lover, the City Centre and the Gallery of Modern Arts. We also learned about camera techniques such as white balance and shutter speed. As the course went on through the year we soon realised that we both enjoyed photography and decided that we both wanted to take it a little further.

When our National 5 course finished we decided to apply for a higher photography course at Cardonald College which takes place on a Tuesday night. When we started the course it was totally different from the course at school as we now use iMacs for looking at our photographs and using Photoshop to improve them if it was needed. We now also have a studio at the college where we can go any time we like to use the lights or backdrops to take photos if we feel like we need it. So far at our course we have learned how to use the strobe lights to have high key or low key lighting in photographs. We have also learned more about Photoshop and how to use it properly to develop a better quality photograph. So far we are both enjoying the course and plan to take our photography further in the future and maybe to and make a career out of it.



## Shave the Brave: Steven Parkinson

S5 pupil Steven Parkinson has had his head shaved to raise money for MacMillan Cancer Support, more than doubling his original target of £800. Steven decided to have all of his hair cut off after being overwhelmed with the support his mother received in her on-going battle with cancer. As part of his amazing effort, he spoke to the whole school and organised a staff coffee morning which raised £110. He has currently raised £1,790 which added to the £3m donated nationwide will support cancer sufferers across the country.



## Australia Exchange

The next exchange trip to Australia will be in June 2016. The educational theme for this study visit will be focusing on Health and Wellbeing and visiting classes in Mount Gambier High School.

The team have already started their fundraising efforts by selling tea and coffee at parents' nights. They plan to do a number of sponsored events throughout the year as well as organise school dances and a whiskey tasting event. The team will be creating a programme with information about the exchange which will be distributed around the school community. They will also be appealing to local businesses to buy advertising space in this programme.



## Wider Achievement

As part of their Wider Achievement programme our S2 pupils have been involved in the Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI). The YPI programme empowers our young people to genially participate in the development of their own community and promotes responsibility and commitment. The S2 pupils involved in the initiative discussed and identified a social issue that was important to them and researched local charities that addresses the social issue. Pupils then communicated with the charities to gain an understanding of what they do and how they operate. Pupils then prepared and delivered presentations on their local charity.

After all groups delivered their presentations, four groups were selected to present in the final event. The four charities that were represented in the final were GALGEAL, The Preshal Trust, The Lodging House Mission and Sunny-Sid3-up. The finalists presented in front of a panel of judges comprising Nancy Belford (HT), Tom McNally (FP), Demi Jo Miller (Head Girl) Ryan McAinish (Head Boy) as well as the rest of the S2 year group.

Although all groups were nervous the final proved to be a great occasion with all pupils presenting to a high standard. After all groups presented the Judges left the room to decide on the winner, which proved to be a very tough decision. After much debate the Judges declared that the winning group was Mirren Gregory, Louise Gilmour, Kayleigh Hosten, Lisa Hendry and Farrell McGuire representing the Lodging House Mission Charity and were presented with a cheque for £3000.

As you can imagine the charity was delighted and has invited the group to their premises to discuss how the money should be spent. Although there could only be one winner it was a fantastic experience for our young people to be involved in and all pupils benefited from the process.

By Gordon Reid, PT Wider Achievement



## Work Experience 2015-16

A number of S4 pupils went out on Work Experience in September. Pupils went to a variety of organisations including Pirie Park Primary, Morris & Spottiswood, Victoria Park Kindergarten and South West Glasgow Carers Centre. Below are a few quotes about the positive experience the pupils had and the value work experience can add to their curriculum.

*Would be a credit to any employer*

*She has been a great addition to every class*

### Employer Quotes

*An exemplary pupil*

*I feel my child really enjoyed work experience and understands the meaning of work now*

*I am very proud of my child for taking part in her work experience after reading the Employer's feedback about her*

### Parent Quotes

*I am very proud of my child for taking part in her work experience after reading the Employer's feedback about her*

*I am strong in time management, personal presentation and numeracy skills*

*It has made me focus on teaching as a career as I enjoyed it and I know it is what I want to do and study in school*

### Pupil Quotes

*It has taught me that I really need to be more mature and make sure I chose the right path in my career*

*I would like to work with children more now because it is nice putting a smile on someone's face*

## Work Experience at BiP

As part of Govan High's ongoing partnership with BiP at Pacific Quay, one of our fifth year pupils, Jennifer Glasgow joined BiP on a year-long work experience placement on 8 September.

During this time she will work with many different departments on a rotational basis, starting with the Events team. Jennifer will be in the office every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon, learning about various aspects of the business while studying towards the SQA Employability Award (SCQF Level 3 Group Award). This is a nationally recognised qualification based on the SQA's commitment to recognising the skills needed for young people to get ahead in today's world.

Jennifer is also studying Higher Business Management and this real-life experience will give Jennifer the edge in the exam. Jennifer said: "I'm settling in well with the Events team, everyone has been really welcoming and I'm learning loads!"

## More Work Experience

A number of S4 pupils went out on Work Experience in September. Pupils went to a variety of organisations including Pirie Park Primary, Morris & Spottiswood, Victoria Park Kindergarten and South West Glasgow Carers Centre. Below are a few quotes about the positive experience the pupils had and the value work experience can add to their curriculum:

Employer quotes: "this lad would be a credit to any employer" - "She has been a great addition to every class" - "An exemplary pupil".

## BAM Competition

Govan High's winning BAM competition entry has now been turned into an acrylic wall mural and is on display within the Administration block of the new South Glasgow Hospital campus. All of the entries are looking great and sit really well within the building. The Govan entry was created by Ms Dunne's Employability class who recently got the opportunity to go to the new hospital to see their work in situ.

## Positive Destinations

Several senior pupils have secured positive destinations in the past few months: Liam Harvison started a Modern Apprenticeship in Hospitality in the prestigious Blythswood Hotel, Glasgow. Scott Young was successful in gaining a Modern Apprenticeship in Engineering with Fairhurst, a Civil and Structural engineering firm. Rebecca Morrissey is enjoying the NC in Fashion Design at Glasgow Clyde College. Adam Merz and Georgia Carslaw have joined the Transitions Course at City of Glasgow College. Georgia is also continuing to do Art at Govan High School mainstream on a part time basis. Oliver Kas and Gary Jackson have moved to Govan High School mainstream for S6. Ryan Alexander has a job with Glasgow City Council. Jared Dick is doing a Construction Training course. Bradley Allen has a job with Boston Networks, Hillington. Cray Paul and Szymon Skopinski got GTG Apprenticeships in Car Mechanics.



## Sports News

The Sports Leaders have had a very busy term. They have completed a "Safety at Work" First Aid course and have passed their "Getting Started" Basketball Coaching Award. All the leaders have worked hard to gain their qualifications.

The Sports Leaders are delivering PE sessions in Riverside Primary and Pirie Park Primary this term. Pupils in P3 and P7 are getting a chance for extra PE lessons and our Sports Leaders are growing in confidence and getting on the job experience. Everyone is thoroughly enjoying this new link.

The S1 football team has been participating in a league against a number of Glasgow schools at Toryglen this term. So far we have enjoyed some great results and are currently sitting in 4th spot. The boys involved are: Josh Campbell, Mark Docherty, Dominic Ellis, Jai Fleming, Reagan Foley, Jamie Hill, Liam Logan, Reiss Love, Scott Ramsay, Reece Robertson, Declan Sanderson. Thanks also to our sports Leaders Lee Spence, Jamie Graham and Andrew McGilp for helping coach the team.



### Georgia Carslaw Wins Gold in Los Angeles

Georgia Carslaw from the LCR had huge success in Gymnastics by winning a fantastic three Golds, one Silver and One Bronze in the World Special Olympics in Los Angeles this year. One of the Gold medals was the all-round Gold at the Highest Level.

Georgia said of the experience: "The experience I got from it was something you could never forget because it was so much bigger than any achievement I've ever experienced. I still can't believe it. There isn't much of a story but more an adventure with no way of knowing what would happen or be seen like the old quote ( I came, I saw, I conquered). This will live in my memory for a time as one of the best memories and one of the best decisions and one of the best paths I've chosen so far."



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