

Achievements!

Govan High School

May 2016

Issue No. 25

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BrightHouse



AHT AWARDS



Animal Man Visit



Poland History Trip



Bubble Football Fun!

Go4Set Assessment and Celebration Day | 26/04/16

The S2 pupils attended their assessment and celebration day for their go4set project. During this time pupils had an opportunity to present their project to assessors who came to Govan High from various organisations including Strathclyde University. All pupils completed fantastic and very creative models as well as extremely informative posters. The pupils' reports which they had written were collected by the assessors for marking. Each group had to consider how they would modify the school and improve its ability to withstand severe storms. Pupils worked on a variety of skills including; literacy, numeracy, employability, thinking, enterprise and citizenship.

Our teams did a fantastic job and worked exceptionally hard showing a huge amount of dedication towards their work. There were 3 different awards available. Here are our winning teams;

Pupil Choice award: Morgan Dundas, Mirren Gregory, Carly Imrie, Chantelle Gallacher, Brian Gilmartin, Aiden Nair and Liam Hughes

Team work award: Mason Smith, Jack Smith, Gary Quinn, Ivan Sysolkina, Patricia Peter, Kian Wilson.

Here are a few of our designs:



And a huge well done to our overall winners!

Ciaran Connelly, Craig Brown, Mark Costick, Lewis Crawford, Dylan Healy



Realising Dreams

We love to hear updates on the people we have helped. Recently, Realising Dreams Foundation Trustee, Johan Kerr had the chance to visit Govan HS to see how wifi is improving the pupils' access to learning in the classroom. Back in 2015 the Realising Dreams Foundation contributed funding to wireless internet access for Govan High School. It provides a vital link to additional education resources in a deprived area of Scotland. We visited a second year geography class and saw firsthand how they combine school tablets and access to the internet to enhance classroom lessons. Michael McCarron, the class teacher said, "The use of technology like tablets in the classroom makes learning interactive and more interesting for the pupils. At their fingertips they have a wealth of extra information on the internet so they can improve and direct their own learning. We certainly get the most out of these lessons and the pupils are engaged."

Samantha Hunter, Realising Dreams Foundation





Wider Achievement

The S1 wider achievement classes have been involved in a number of projects this year working towards their gold SQA personal achievement award. Leading up to the Christmas holidays all our S1 wider achievement classes took part in Virgin Money's 'make £5 grow'. Make £5 Grow gives young people the experience of starting a small business using a £5 loan from Virgin Money. The programme gives pupils an insight into how business works and helps them to build skills for the future, such as teamworking, problem solving, leadership, money management and creativity.

Two of the S1 wider achievement groups that were researching how to look after animals were visited by the Animal Man. The young people had the opportunity to hold various different animals and ask questions on how they are looked after. All the young people and staff really enjoyed handling the animals.

After the success of the YPI programme our S2 pupils are now working towards achieving three recognised wider achievement awards. The awards are the Navigation award (bronze), the Playmaker award and Heartstart award. The National Navigation Award Scheme (NNAS) is a personal performance, non-competitive, incentive scheme for young people to learn navigation skills and gain confidence to get out and enjoy the outdoors. Participating in the navigation award has allowed our pupils to develop their navigation skills as well as offering a pathway into our Earl of Wessex and Duke of Edinburgh courses. The Playmaker award is designed to develop learners' leadership skills and give pupils opportunities to lead their peers. The Heartstart course teaches our young people emergency lifesaving skills.

As part of the S3 XL programme in partnership with the Prince's Trust our pupils have been involved in a local community project. Working alongside Urban Routes Manager Les Rice our pupils have had the opportunity to visit a local space on Broomloan Road. The Broomloan Road space has been identified by the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) as having the potential to be a valuable outdoor facility for the local community. Urban Roots (UR) have been engaged by the CPP to carry out an extensive community consultation to identify the potential uses for the space. As part of this consultation process UR have engaged with the S3 pupils at Govan High, who visited and surveyed the site, then drew up a plan of the site and identified uses for the space. The pupils' ideas will be exhibited at the end of April at an event in the Broomloan Road Space.

Saltire Awards are the new Scottish awards designed to formally recognise the commitment and contribution of youth volunteering. Supported by the Scottish Government, the Saltire Awards enable young volunteers to record the skills, experience and learning gained through successful volunteering placements in school and Outwith School. At a recent achievement assembly Govan High School pupils were recognised for their commitment to volunteering with a Saltire certificate. Pupils were awarded certificates for volunteering that included pupil buddying, sports leadership and helping out in the library, with some pupils logging up to 100 hours of volunteering.



Govan High Reporters at Ibrox

On the 24th February the Govan High BBC Schools Reporters went to Ibrox to meet Mark Hateley an ex Rangers player and England Internationalist. Here is our story on how we got there.

We left Govan High at 12:25pm and we were on route to get lunch before we went to the interview. We went to KFC and Thomas got two meals (Greedy Boy). When we finished our food we were stuffed and we went back on route to Ibrox.

When we arrived at Ibrox another school was there so we waited about five minutes, so we finally met Mark and we sat and had our interview but he had to leave early because his daughter had a job interview.

After the interview we took some pictures around the stadium. We saw David's sponsored brick in the stadium walls. We stood next to the John Greig statue. We went in the main entrance and saw the hall of fame. And finally we stood at the Rangers Gate.

We loved the trip! We got tickets for Saturday's game against St Mirren and we'll hopefully go back to do a press conference for an after match talk with the BBC. We are becoming a lot more confident with our interviewing skills and can't wait for our next interview.

By David, Kelsi, Cameron, Craig and Thomas

Tennents Caledonian Brewery

Recently a group of S1 and S2 pupils comprising Andrew Smith, Connor Baird (S1) and Haris Bari, Aaron Cunningham, Jack Turner, Luc McCormack, Rob McGlone and Raymond Foster took part in a Cupcake Master class under the watchful eye of Chef Danny at the Tennents Training Academy. They were accompanied by 3 members of staff from the LCR and spent the afternoon baking cupcakes, decorating them and then enjoying a taste before boxing them up to take home. They enjoyed themselves immensely and were complimented by Tennent's on their fantastic contribution and behaviour. (By Shirley McLellan LCR).

Also Mr Beattie and Ms Lewis recently took 9 pupils to the Tennent's Caledonian Brewery to learn how to make pizza in their hospitality training academy. The academy offered a whole morning of unforgettable learning with Sarah who was our chef. Both pupils and teachers had a really fun learning experience.



AHT AWARDS

We were absolutely delighted to hear that Amy McPherson (S5) won First Prize at the 'National AHT Awards' in Blackpool on 14th March '16. She wowed the judges with her incredible face painting inspired by the theme of 'The Circus'. Amy was given 45 minutes to create her masterpiece working in silence under the intense scrutiny of the judges and a very large enthusiastic audience.

As well as coping with all the demands of her school subjects Amy is also studying Cosmetology / Level 4 at Clyde College (Cardonald Campus) and she is very grateful to Jo Malone for all of her support throughout the event.



Tea in the Pot at the Pearce Institute

On the 1st of April 2016 Govan High Reporters Craig Brown (S2) and Cameron Taylor (S1) attended a presentation in the Pearce Institute on 'It's Expensive to be Poor'. The charity that gave the presentation is called 'Tea in the Pot' which is a drop in service in Govan which helps local women. They are currently taking part in a course called 'Health Issues in the Community, or H.I.I.C. for short. This has led them to look at health from different perspectives in particular social and economic ones.

We found out that poverty is expensive in many ways. They spoke about housing, taxation, food, clothes and shoes, electrical goods, transport, finance credit loans and pensions, access to services, mental health, physical health, inheritance, employment and inequality. We did a big group exercise when we talked about how we would solve these inequalities if we had £39 billion.

The Reporters interviewed lots of people at the presentation. The first person interviewed was Zara Kitson, who is running to be Member of Parliament and part of the Green Party. She is from Stirling and she



JOHN BYRNE DRAWING COMPETITION

Three of our pupils recently entered the National John Byrne Drawing competition. John Byrne was born in Ferguslie Park, Paisley in 1940 and he is recognised throughout the world as a multi-talented artist, author, poet and playwright. Byrne is keen to encourage young people to explore and develop their creativity; therefore he launched a competition in collaboration with Education Scotland. He says that 'The key to unlocking your imagination is in your own hands... it is called a PENCIL' and the competition asked pupils to submit drawings working purely from their imagination. Eli Kepeva (S2), Anastacia MacDonald (S3) and Sarah McIver (S3) rose to the challenge and the judges received over 3,000 entries from pupils throughout Scotland.

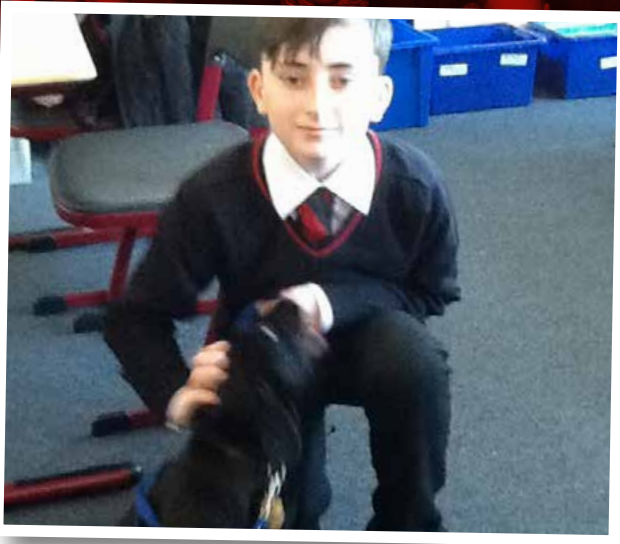
John Byrne was particularly impressed with Sarah's thought provoking 'Portrait with Rose' and commented that her artwork was very theatrical and emotional. Sarah was awarded with a 'Highly Commended' Prize and her family were invited to the formal prize giving event at Paisley Art Gallery & Museum to see Sarah receive her prize from John Byrne.

Please note that all of the winning artwork is currently on display at Paisley Art Gallery & Museum and members of the public can view the exhibition free of charge. Well done to all of the girls for their wonderful artwork!

became a politician 5 years ago. When she was at a conference and voiced her opinion, another member of the Green party asked her if she would be interested in going into politics. We asked questions like, 'What can the Green Party do for the community?' She said that the party listens to the community and would do whatever she could to help the people of Govan.

Craig then interviewed Margaret from the Tea in the Pot charity who has been working at the organisation for over five years. Margaret got in to the Tea in the Pot through a NHS support worker because she couldn't say her name due to suffering from depression. But through the support the people gave her, she does the Tea in the Pot. Her next goal is to get girls funding and to stay open so they can help as many people as possible.

The Tea in the Pot charity has helped lots of local women through different support groups. They are now using their voice to raise awareness of the inequalities our community faces.



Guide Dogs

Today S2 pupils from the LCR had a visit from a Guide Dog Association puppy walker and her potential guide dog puppy. Aaron Cunningham, Haris Bari, Luc MacCormack, Shaun McMenamin, Jack Turner (pictured right) Raymond Foster, Rob McGlone (and Mrs Belford!!) were excited to meet Sylvia Clark and her 13 week old black Labrador puppy Lexie. They were able to ask questions they had worked on earlier, were treated to a display of Lexie's obedience and, most importantly, were able to pat and cuddle her. A big thanks to them both for giving up their time to come in.



Music Department

Govan High School Music Department recently hosted an Instrumental Pupils' and Parents' Evening. Performers included Nataniel Bykowski S2 on drum-kit) Alexander Jeffrey S1 on trombone, Ailie Porteous S3 on electric guitar, Morgan Dundas S2 on chanter and clarinet, Thomas Rankine and David Rice on bagpipes, Rachael Bryans S5 on drum-kit, Mark Docherty S1 on cornet and the Govan High School band.

The evening highlighted the role of the Music Instructor which includes teaching pupils, to improve and develop their technique on their chosen instrument, to assess pupils and prepare them for examinations, to

ensure instruments are in good working order, to organise and rehearse instrumental groups, to take part in in-service training and to keep up to date with developments in music

The evening also focused on the supportive role of parents which involves encouraging regular, daily practice, providing a quiet place to practice, being positive, especially in the early stages, encouraging pupils to be responsible for the care and maintenance of the instrument and ensuring that lessons are attended regularly.

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Govan High's Homework Diary

Melissa Rice and Miss Spence represented Govan High School at Govan's Community Budget event on 25th April 2016. The purpose of the event was to award money to projects running in the area. Our project focussed on homework and we were asking for funding to support the introduction of a homework diary to Govan. We had 3 minutes to pitch our idea in a Dragon's Den style set up. We successfully secured funding for Govan's Homework Diary, placed 3rd out of 20 presentations. A homework diary will be issued to S1-3 pupils for session 2016/2017. S4-6 pupils will continue using the Edmodo App as an interactive approach. The implementation of the homework diary will have a notable impact on homework and raise attainment for all!

Criminology Expert & Former Pupil visits Govan High

Recently, Govan High warmly welcomed back former pupil Claire Paterson. Claire had earlier contacted the school to express her thanks and appreciation to the school and its staff for supporting and helping her so much when she was a pupil in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

In her email, Claire mentioned that she was working in Criminology. Consequently, Depute Head Sonja Kerr and Voluntary Archivist Ian McCracken invited Claire to speak to some of our current pupils who are interested in a career in forensics/criminology

Despite having a very busy schedule and a high profile job in Birmingham, Claire kindly agreed. She met with Emma Crawford and Ryan McAinsh, and was able to give both pupils a considerable amount of information, and at the same time inspire them with her strong commitment, sound advice and helpful pointers. Claire's insightful advice also extended to her recommendations regarding such important areas as transferable skills, organisational ability and creating/updating a strong CV and personal statement.

Claire has also very kindly offered to send Ian & Sonja examples of personal statements, useful websites for Emma & Ryan and more resources which will be of considerable benefit to many of Govan High School's young people.

Ian says "it was a privilege to hear Claire's most articulate, engaging and stimulating interview with Emma & Ryan, and to see a former pupil

From the Head Teacher's Office

Welcome to the latest addition of the Govan High School Achievements Newsletter. As this newsletter highlights it has been another busy and successful term for the school and our young people.

This session saw the introduction of our Wider Achievement programme with time allocated for pupils to gain accreditation and awards for wider achievements ranging from Heart Start, to Virgin Money and the Navigational Award. The programme has also allowed our young people to make links into the wider community through for example the Urban Roots initiative where they have been designing the use of an outdoor space on Broomloan Road. Through these activities our young people have been working towards their SQA Personal Achievement Awards whilst gaining valuable skills.

Govan High has also had some very positive publicity over the past few weeks. Our seniors appeared on the STV news as they took part in the 'Ready to Vote' campaign and explained why it is important to them to be given the opportunity to vote. We were also featured in the Evening Times for our Pre-Apprenticeship Programme where we work in partnership with former pupil Peter Crawford and Morris & Spottiswood to deliver National 4 and 5 Construction here in Govan High School. The programme teaches young people interested in a career in the trades valuable skills such as painting, plumbing and joinery.

In addition to all of the wider achievements of our young people, our seniors have been working extremely hard in the lead up to their SQA exams and I am pleased to highlight their high level of attendance at supported study and Easter Revision. I am also pleased to announce that Rhiannon Lewis is the Dux of session 2015-16. Rhiannon already has 2 Highers under her belt and is on track to achieve a further 5 Highers at the exams in May.

Once again I hope that you enjoy reading our newsletter and finding out about the achievements of our young people.

achieve such a high level position. At Govan High, we are always keen to hear from former pupils about their jobs; so whether you're a delivery driver, a hair stylist, a joiner, an administrator or whatever, please get in touch and share your experiences with current pupils"

Sonja says "It was an absolute pleasure to meet with Claire. Our senior pupils found it aspirational and the advice Claire gave will help them to achieve their ambitions. The information on personal statements is invaluable and we will build it into our Employability course. Pupils will really benefit from Claire's experience when writing their own personal statements for Colleges, Jobs and Modern Apprenticeships in the coming months. Claire is a true inspiration to pupils and staff alike!"

Emma and Ryan say that they were enthused by Claire's talk and found the information she gave them on the day and later very useful indeed. They say that ideas from Claire's "LinkedIn"* profile will be a great help for their own CVs and application forms and future profiles

Claire says "Thank you to Sonja and Ian for inviting me to speak to Ryan and Emma. It was a pleasure to meet such focused and driven students. I wish all the students in Govan High School the best moving forward."

*"LinkedIn" is the world's largest professional network, and Claire recommended it to the pupils.

Australian Exchange

The exchange group have been working hard to raise money for their trip to Australia this June, organising fun-days and tuck shops in school, but also doing bag packing and arranging a quiz night.

In January we celebrated Australia Day (January 26th) with a non-uniform day and a special games afternoon for pupils in S1-3. Everyone came along to the PE department and got involved in dodge ball, boxing and basketball activities. There was also a tuck shop and amazing prizes to be won.

The team also celebrated Commonwealth Day, which this year was on Monday 14th March. The aim was to cycle 878km - which is the distance between Melbourne and Sydney. The team didn't quite reach their target but they biked tirelessly from 1-9pm. It was a great team building exercise for the team before their trip and they also raised a lot of sponsorship money to go towards their travel fare.

The group will be in Australia June 3rd - 20th and will be visiting tourist attractions in Melbourne and Sydney as well as spending a week in Mount Gambier where they will be visiting our partner school, Mount Gambier High School, and spending time in classes with their hosts. The final fundraising event was a quiz night - held on Saturday 23rd April at 7.30pm.

Lucy McNaught

Govan High and Gallipoli at Fairfield Heritage Centre

Voluntary Archivist Ian McCracken and Pupil Support Assistant Eddie Grady were recently invited to the Opening of an exhibition commemorating Govan's connections with the Gallipoli Campaign in World War One.

Ian and Eddie had previously researched former pupils who had been killed at Gallipoli, and this information was part of the extensive and well-presented exhibition. Six former pupils all lost their lives in the battle. Four (James Hill, James Lockhart, James Patterson and William Shedden) were killed in action. John Cairns died of chest wounds, and Maxwell Robertson's body was never found.

The Fairfield Heritage Centre, which is on Facebook, is based in the Fairfield Shipyard building and is open weekdays from 1-4pm. Ian says "whether or not you know anything about Gallipoli, please take the time to go to the exhibition to see what our former pupils faced, and much more"

Ian also tells us that the Centre's other exhibition "Rent, rivets and rotten tatties: Govan women in WW1" is also well worth a visit. "There is no admission charge, so no excuse for not going along!"

The Centre's Co-Ordinator, Abigail Morris says "Fairfield Heritage is local to Govan High School and a fabulous resource for a range of learning opportunities. We are grateful to Ian McCracken for his input into our 'Govan to Gallipoli' exhibition and look forward to working further with the school."

British Sign Language

The following learners have all passed their three outcomes in British Sign Language: An Introduction (SCQF Level3). Outcomes one and two included having a conversation with a Deaf BSL user for 2 minutes discussing family, hobbies and School life. The third outcome consisted of receiving information in BSL from a presentation. The students then answered three restricted response questions for a given situation.

The learners have all enjoyed the course and wish to progress to the next level. All learners are competent at signing with a Deaf BSL user and have become very Deaf Aware which is a great skill to have. Having a profoundly Deaf Tutor made them nervous at the start of the course but as the course progressed they developed great confidence and skill using British Sign Language as a second language.

The following students all passed the course: Lauren Campbell, Thomas Docherty, Kayleigh Galbraith, Mariama Gaye, Chloe Maitland, Jemma-Anne McCrindle, Jennifer Rafferty, Iffat Yousef, Oreoluwa Fadun, Amy Lang, Demi Brown and Robert Brown.

Sandra Boyle

Holocaust Educational Trip to Poland

On the 28th September, Matthew McGlave, Melissa Rice and I travelled with the Holocaust Educational Trip to Poland to visit the death camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau. Our trip started at 5am at Glasgow airport where we met our group leaders. After a quick breakfast and look around the duty-free, it was time to board the plane. We took off from Glasgow at 7am and landed in Krakow, Poland at 11am (10am UK).



After boarding the bus and an hour's trip, our first stop was a Jewish cemetery. The cemetery had been destroyed by the Nazi's to make way for a road. After the war, the Polish government built the cemetery again, using what limited knowledge they had to try and put the gravestones back to where they were.

Our trip to the cemetery was followed by the most important part of our trip, the trip to the death camp. Upon arrival at the camp, our group leader, along with our guide led us in to the main entrance of Auschwitz 1. Our first stop was the famous sign 'Arbeit Macht Frei' ('Works makes you free'). Here we learned that this was the first thing that many of the inmates saw when they first arrived. However, as we know, this was not true. Our next stop on the tour was a visit to the only standing gas chamber left across both death camps. Both the Germans and Soviets had destroyed the six other gas chambers. A visit to the gas chambers was one of the eeriest and coldest parts of our trip. Thousands of innocent men, women and children were murdered within ten minutes in



here; this shows how destructive humanity can be.

Our gas chamber experience was followed by a visit into several barracks that still existed. These barracks were not used to house the prisoners but to commit horrific crimes to many of them including starvation, medical experiments and physical torture. The barracks now act as museums and hold many items that the Nazis confiscated from prisoners (Jews, Roma Gypsies, Poles, communists, disabled, homosexuals) such as shoes, suitcases, pots, pans & glasses. One room, in which photography was not allowed, held real human hair. Huge piles of hair that were found by the Soviets after they liberated the camp in 1945.



The next selection of photos shows some personal items confiscated by the Nazis. The photos also show a watchtower, used by the Nazis to ensure that no-one escaped and the execution wall where people were executed by firing squad just because of who they were and the inside of the gas chamber. This gas chamber could fit up to 5,000 people in it at the one time.

The second part of the tour took us to, Auschwitz 2, more commonly known as Birkenau. Birkenau has become synonymous with the

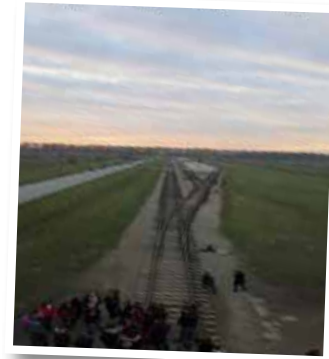


transportation of over 1 million people by trains, arriving at the front gates of the camp to be selected either for instant death by poisoning in the chamber or to be worked to death at the camp. All children under 14, the elderly, pregnant women and the disabled were selected for death as soon as they were taken off the trains. They were told to walk to the 'shower rooms' where they thought that they were being showered and then taken to their living quarters. However, it was not until they were stripped naked and put into the chamber that it was realised that this was going to be their last few minutes on earth.



The second part of our trip lasted almost 3 hours, due to the sheer size of the camp. Our group walked around living quarters that could barely fit 200 people in, yet, almost 2000 people were made to live here. In addition to living, this is where they were made to go to the toilet. However, they were only allowed to go twice per day, one in the morning and one in the evening. We were also taken to the wash rooms where prisoners were required to wash themselves in freezing water in the coldest of winters, causing many to die of pneumonia. Seeing this in the cold and darkness made a huge impact on all the visitors, with many falling silent at the scale of the tragedy.

Our final part of the visit to Birkenau took place outside the six gas chambers that were destroyed by the Germans and Soviets. All that remains are huge pieces of concrete that have been blown up in an attempt to destroy the evidence of what happened. It was here that we were led in a service to the victims by a Rabbi. The Rabbi passionately spoke about the victims and the need to humanise each and every person as their stories were important. He also spoke about the need for today's humans to appreciate what we have and to accept people from all over the world.



The trip left Matthew, Melissa and I with a fresh perspective in life. It is hard to describe how we felt on this day, I can only describe it as a mixture of emotions – glad that I went, sad and upset for the human misery and what was witnessed and relieved that I was able to go home that evening and live in safety, knowing that I was going to see my family again.

Mr Beattie, Matthew McGlave and Mellisa Rice



Sports Leaders

The Sports Leaders have been busy this term. They have been researching the local area and finding out what fun activities are available for us all to take part in. They have also been lucky enough to try a few of these out at Glasgow Golf Centre's new indoor golf course and at Ibrox Climbing Centre.

The Sports Leaders enjoyed the sunshine before the Spring holiday when they took part in a bubble football session on the pitch at Govan High. Michael from Bubble Football Zone came and led the session which included games of 10 pin bowling, british bulldogs as well as football. It was a great morning

The Sports Leaders have also benefited from the Education Through Cashback Scheme, which delivered sessions in the School. Our Sports Leaders were successful in achieving 2 modules in "The Benefits of Sport and Physical Activity" and "Resolving Conflict".

Well Done team!

S1 Football Team

The S1 boys team were involved once again in the GSFA Football Development U13 7-a-side league at Toryglen taking on a variety of other Glasgow Schools. A total of 12 boys took part in the fixtures and the team finished in mid-table. Well done to all involved, and a special thank you to Sports Leader Lee Spence who coached the boys throughout the season.

Senior Football

The senior team enjoyed a series of friendly matches against Hillpark Secondary this season, with Govan High remaining undefeated!!! The team, which is made up of boys from S4, 5 & 6, played brilliantly throughout. Thanks to all those who came to support the team. Those involved were: Darren Sanderson (Captain), Lee Airdrie, Jordan Bow, William Bowden, Kristofer Campbell, Euan Cowie, Dylan Daly, Kieran Gilogley, Jamie Graham, Graham Hendry, Bawan Jamal, Declan Lang, Dylan Sanderson, Lee Spence, Craig Wallis, David Will, Alan Wright, Cameron Wright,

Lucy McNaught



Dance is back!

The Govan High School dance team have been in action showcasing at various different events all around the city. They have been showing off different dances and making sure that everyone knows DANCE is back on the map in Govan High. On March 29th they participated in the Glasgow's Got Moves Dance Competition at Holyrood Secondary and were placed 1st! Well done to all the girls who were taking part:- Billie Campbell, Salma Mahmud, Emma Shaw, Nicola Shaw and Elle Tinney (S3). Kiara Behjoo, Lauren Danks, Karalee Freeburn, Abbie Grimley, Courtney Howe, Tegan Shirton, Georgia Weir (S1).



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