

Achievements!

Govan High School

April 2017

Issue No. 27

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Sky Academy



Sir Alex Ferguson Visit



Sense over Sectarianism



S1 Football



Photo credit: Newsquest Media Group/ Jamie Simpson

Good News

Welcome to the Spring Edition of our Achievements Newsletter. I am sure you will agree as you read through the most recent achievements of our young people that it has been a very busy and successful past few months.

In December the school was inspected by Education Scotland as part of the school inspection process. The feedback received from the inspection team highlighted many positives about the school and our young people, and agreed with our own identified areas for improvement.

As head teacher, I was very pleased to hear that the message given to the inspection team from our young people is that they are proud of their school and value the care and support which they are receiving. The positive relationships between staff and young people and the improving culture and ethos of the school were also highlighted as strengths, as well as the partnership working that we have to support the wellbeing, development and learning of our young people. The inspection acknowledged and supported the significant change that the school has undertaken over the past two years and highlighted that we should continue to develop our curriculum, continue to use assessment information to support our young people to attain to the highest level possible, and continue to improve learning and teaching to ensure the best possible outcomes for all of our young people.

The improving trend noted during the inspection process is highlighted by the improving attainment of young people leaving Govan High School. Recently The Evening Times featured Govan High School as the 'good news' story for Glasgow City in relation to improving results and the school league tables.

The statistic by which we are now judged nationally is the number of school leavers (in S4, S5 and S6) who achieved 3 or more qualifications

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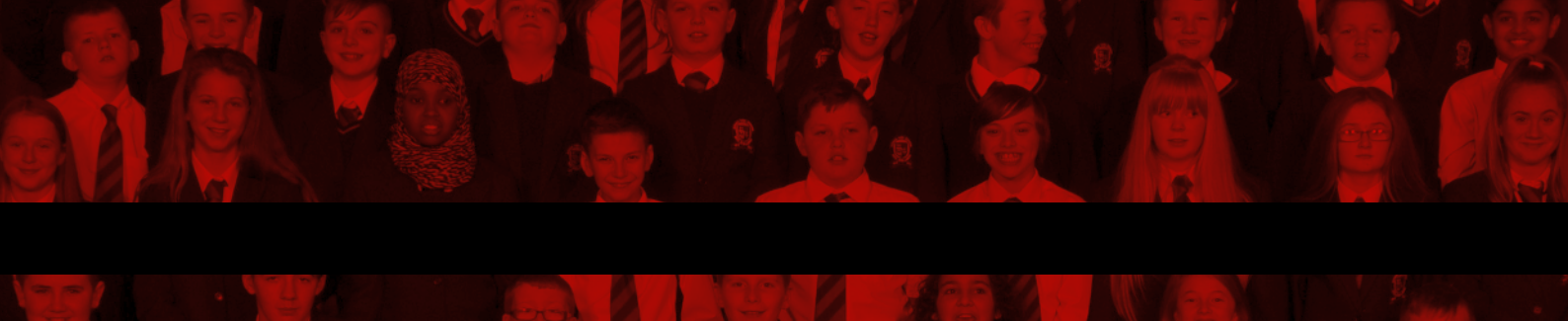
The Brilliant Weekend

Just over 30 pupils from S4-6 signed up for The Brilliant Weekend to Blairvadach. The weekend was organised primarily to improve study skills for senior pupils. The weekend consisted of a variety of study skills techniques and study sessions, as well as an introduction to mindfulness and outdoor activities to encourage pupils to relax and de-stress.

An excellent array of skills for work were developed during the weekend such as teambuilding, communication and leadership. Pupils were fantastic at motivating each other during the scrambling activity and showed great resilience. A favourite activity was the slip slide and there was a real sense of competition as pupils tried to throw Mr Beattie down the slide!

When evaluating the study weekend pupils said that they now feel better prepared for their SQA exams – a fantastic result! Ryan Hay (S4) said "It was fun and the study methods were helpful. I use them in the house especially the 25/5 study method."

Throughout the weekend our senior pupils demonstrated 3 of our core values; responsibility, resilience and excellence – a massive well done to all who took part!



Good News continued...

at higher level. Last year 18% of our young people achieved this. This year we have seen a significant increase to 33.33% of our young people achieving this figure which is just fantastic. The number of young people achieving 5 Highers or more by the time they leave school has also increased from 6% last year to 13.73% this year and at National 5 level 41% of our leavers attained 5 or more passes at National 5 or better, in comparison to 24% last year. Whilst these statistics are great, what this really means is that increasingly our young people are leaving Govan High School with a 'bigger bag' of qualifications along with a wider range of skills and achievements.

As a school we have also been celebrating our latest destination statistics which show almost 30% of our leavers going into employment, 35% going into Further Education and 20% going on to University.

As we approach the Easter holidays, our young people are working extremely hard towards the National Qualifications which start in May. They have been diligently attending supported study and Saturday revision classes at the Rangers Study Centre. 32 of our seniors took part in the 'Brilliant Weekend' at Blairvadach where they had a fantastic time learning study techniques and building their resilience. The whole school community wishes all of our seniors the very best of luck when it comes to their exams in May.

I hope you enjoy reading about the recent activities and achievements of our young people. I would like to finish by thanking all parents and partners for their continued support.

Warmest wishes and kindest regards

Nancy Belford

Govan High Pupil Parliament working on behalf of the pupils

By Ross Goodwin S6

Since the Pupil Parliament was established by the pupils voting we have been working on several projects within the school. We are working to represent the interests of the pupils by taking the wishes of the pupil forward with the school management. It's a quiet but essential process as we believe that the pupils have a real role in shaping the direction of the school.



the pupils. We are trying to develop a tradition of open discussion and debate about the direction of the school among the pupils. It is about encouraging pupils to take a lead in the process of change in Govan High.



The Parliament holds weekly meetings and the issues brought up at these meetings form the basis of our meetings with the Head Teacher. These are concerns that have been highlighted by pupils themselves. For example, one of the concerns brought to us by pupils was the lack of lockers in the school. After our negotiations with the head teacher lockers will be introduced to the school for use of senior pupils.



As we value the views of pupils the Parliament has implemented a suggestion box which will be sent around the school each week. We will also be organising a slot for a school assembly each month where we will explain what we have been up to and we will also take suggestions from pupils. We will be holding drop in meetings at lunchtime on a Wednesday for pupils to come to us and discuss any concerns or ideas they have for

improving the school.

Lately some members of the Parliament have been working with an actress named Bridget McCann. This is to develop their skills in public speaking. Who likes speaking in public? No one! It takes a bit of training to overcome nerves and stay on message. That's what Bridget has been helping us with.

The Pupil Parliament also acts as bridge between the pupils and staff. We are hoping to arrange a focus group to hear from the faculty heads and to see what we can do by perhaps bidding for a budget on behalf of

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Sky Academy

On Wed 1st March 23 S2 pupils visited Sky Academy in Livingston. Pupils were given a tour of the Sky Studios while also given the opportunity to create their very own news report using Sky's technology. Pupils had to work as part of a team in their own studio and developed numerous skills including communication, problem solving and decision-making. The Pupils created their news report on the 2010 Haiti earthquake and got to take home a copy of their report.



Sir Alex Ferguson Visit

Recently Sir Alex Ferguson visited Govan High School to speak to senior pupils about Leadership. Pupils were given the opportunity to ask Sir Alex a variety of questions about his successful career while he spoke to pupils about what it means to come from Govan and told them that they too can be successful.



Manchester Trip

In February 40 pupils from across all year groups travelled to Manchester on a rewards trip to see Manchester United defeat Watford 2-0 at Old Trafford.



Fairtrade

On Tuesday 21st February 10 S2 pupils attended an event on Fairtrade in Paisley. As part of the event pupils heard from Yannina Meza a woman from Peru on the impact Fairtrade products have on the life of people located in the developing world. Pupils completed a number of workshops improving their understanding on the role of Fairtrade products.



ECO

As part of our school ECO group over the last number of months S1 Pupils have been conducting weekly litter picking in areas around the school. This litter picking will continue for the duration of the school year as our young people take responsibility for the role in which they play in their local community.





S1 Wider Achievement

The S1 classes have been working in groups on a Grow £5 Virgin Money challenge. Each pupil received £5 and joined together with other pupils to create a business plan to sell products and earn money. They set up their businesses and sold products and services in order to make as much money as possible. The S1 classes sold items including candyfloss, Christmas baubles and popcorn and developed their skills of communication, problem solving and strategizing.

The Crest Programme

This is a STEM project being carried out within S2 Wider Achievement. Within this, classes are put into teams and asked to design a Community Garden, by creating plans and carrying out market research. The group's go out to visit local parks to get inspiration for their Community Garden, such as Elder Park. The aim is for the winning groups plan to be created within the school grounds. This encourages the pupils to be part of a lasting legacy within Govan High school, taking pride in their school and contributing to the school ethos.



S2 Wider Achievement

The S2s have been busy in their wider achievement classes this term. They are working towards their Earl of Wessex Award which is divided up into 4 sections. Firstly, for the 'skill' element for the course, everyone has learned first aid and CPR techniques and will receive a Heart Start Level 3 Certificate later this term. They have also been learning how to read maps and navigate their groups around outdoor areas to complete their National Navigation Bronze Awards.

For the volunteering section the S2s have also been challenged to re-design our courtyard area in the school playground and have been working in groups to think of creative ideas to make this area into a community garden which can be enjoyed by everyone at break and lunch times. Still to come for the S2s on the mission to achieve the Earl of Wessex Award, will be a day walk in Mugdock Country Park, where they will put their Navigation skills to the test.





STEM at Glasgow Science Centre

A group of S1 pupils recently visited Glasgow's Science Centre. The pupils had time to explore the Science mall, take part in the "My World of Work" workshop and then complete a DNA extraction task in "The Lab". They had a fantastic day and developed many skills to take back to school.

In the Science Mall the pupils had an opportunity to play games, test themselves and explore parts of their bodies. They also enjoyed competing in physical and mental tests against each other.

In the My World of Work workshop pupils were able to look into possible careers they might want to go into after school. They completed personality tests and used the interactive boards to find out more information about careers with a focus on STEM related subjects.

In The Lab pupils gained a real life lab experience and worked together to look at cells under the microscope. They also extracted their own cheek cells and completed an experiment which allowed them to create their strand of DNA and thoroughly enjoyed doing so!



Scottish Water Group

A group of 10 S2 pupils took part in this year's Scottish Water challenge. They were the first S2 group to ever take part in this challenge and competed against senior pupils from other high schools from Glasgow. Our team researched the effects of fats, oils and grease going down our sinks. They wrote their own report on their findings and built a model to show how they would fix the problem. They presented their idea to companies such as Scottish Water and George Leslie as well as pupils from other schools. The project was a huge success and of course our team won the best presentation award!

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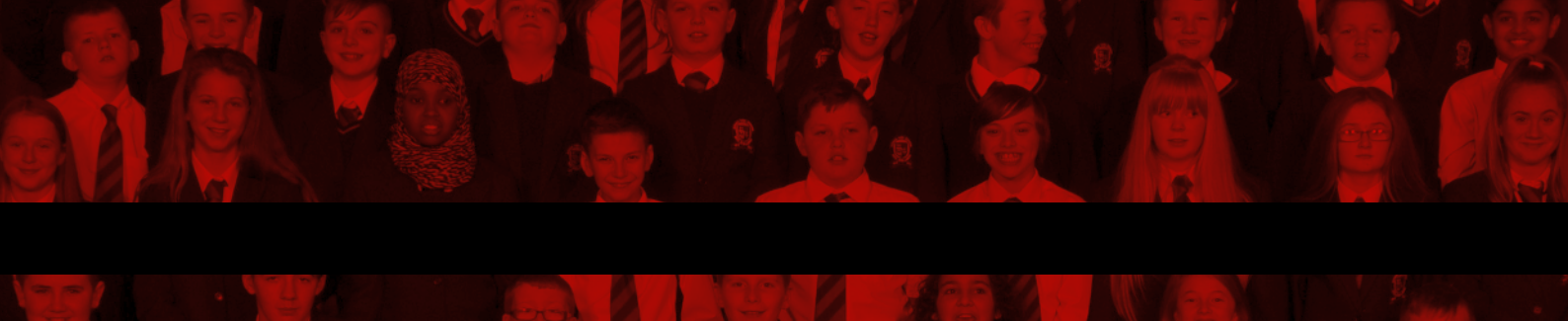
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Glasgow University Scottish Nationalist Association

Three members of the Glasgow University Scottish Nationalist Association came into Higher Modern Studies to speak to the young people about the idea of Nationalism and their relationship to the Labour Party.

Glasgow Youth Council/ Scottish Youth Parliament visitors

Two local MSYPs and members of the Glasgow Youth Council visited the upper school Modern Studies class to discuss the work of the Glasgow Youth Council and encouraged pupils to join and raise issues affecting young people in Govan with the youth council.



Strathclyde University Labour Party

Chris and Rob from Strathclyde University Labour Party came in to talk the Higher Modern Studies class about the Labour Party beliefs. In a wide ranging talk they covered the possible scenarios that the Brexit decision may have on the political life of Scotland – the possibility of another independence referendum, the rise of the Conservatives and the possibility of the Labour Party facing significant political problems or even electoral wipeout! Interestingly many of the pupils disagreed with them and many pupils supported the SNP and would vote for independence but when pushed on why they were less clear. This kind of event adds an extra dimension to the learning of the young people and puts the abstract politics into perspective for them.



Bridget McCann Actress and Voice Coach

Some of the Govan High Pupil Parliament reps have been working with actress and voice coach Bridget McCann to help them prepare to do presentations on behalf of the Parliament to the school assemblies. One of the most important aspects of the work of the Pupil Parliament is to work on behalf of the pupils who elected them to secure the wishes of the pupils within the school. However this involves them feeding back on their work to their peers. Pupils may be keen to stand for the election but are naturally less keen on the public speaking aspect of their role. This is where Bridget comes in. She works with the rep to help them with their nerves and how best to communicate effectively with their peers and in the meetings they have with staff. These are clearly important life skills and cultivating them now can help the reps with their future roles. They will be able to directly apply what they have learned at forthcoming assemblies when they report back to their peers.



Sense over Sectarianism

Recently our art students in S1 to S3 have been busy poster writing and creating images designed to have visual impact. They want people within the local and wider community to stop and think about the subject of Sectarianism. As you can see from the poster designs our young graphic designers clearly want to encourage everyone to celebrate our differences and create a tolerant community made of citizens who respect one another.

Please note an exhibition of the poster designs will take place in The Studio in Crossloan Road over the Easter period - so please pop down and take a look!



Tennent's Trip

This year saw another successful trip to the Tennent's Training Academy, Duke Street, Glasgow as part of Govan High LCR's partnership with that organisation. On Monday 23rd of January 2017 a group of LCR students and staff enjoyed a Decorating Cupcakes Masterclass courtesy of their resident chef.

As you can see from the photos, the young people learned some valuable skills and had a great time eating their creations.



Slice of toast

Making a piece of toast is probably one of the first things and perhaps the only thing a child learns to make. It's easy, simple and satisfying. But how do you do it without a toaster, grill or frying pan or even a kitchen. Forest School pupils of the LCR learned how easy it was on their last trip outdoors. All you need is a fire (and some bread).

The bit of toast at the end is really just the reward for building the fire; and while this might not sound very educational, after all there are no examiners recording what is happening. Nor is it likely that a future job will consider the skills of collecting wood and building it into shape that will burn as a necessity? But what the pupils are actually learning is working in a team to gather the wood and then build a fire that will work. Then there is tackling risk aversion by overcoming the fear of using a flint to spark the fire into life and the feeling of satisfaction when the flames take hold. It is of course also a science lesson in action as the elements combine to create the fire.

Pupils from the LCR have been going out into the woods for over five years and the forest has become an important part of the curriculum in the unit. Many have gained the John Muir Award at Bronze level and it is also a good taster for pupils who then go onto a week away doing outdoor activities at Blairvadach, Auchengillan or Loch Eil.

Mary's Meals

Pupils in the LCR have been collecting backpacks to go to Mary's Meals. Haris Bari and Cara MacMillan from the LCR went to the Mary's Meals office to hand the backpacks in. They learnt a lot about the places Mary's Meals provided school meals and the experiences of the children who have benefited from this.

Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity

At the Christmas fayre 2016 we raised a lot of money for different charities; one of the charities was the Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity. When we went to deliver the cheque we were met by Aileen McConnell, she also gave us a tour around the Children's Hospital. We were quite impressed by the facilities that the hospital had, this included a state of the art 56 seater cinema that also had room for 8 beds and several wheelchairs. It is the only hospital in Scotland with this facility. The unit had 2 full time teachers. The hospital saw over 168 thousand patients over the year. It's the biggest hospital in Scotland and has the most specialist services including Kidney transplant, bone marrow, it's also the national centre for cardiology. They treat up to 17years. The only funding the hospital gets is from donations.

By Kayleigh Galbraith (s5) and Andrew Smith (s2)





Sports Leaders News

The S5&6 Sports Leaders have been working to develop their confidence and expertise in a range of activities this term. Scottish Volleyball coaches were in school to help the Sports Leaders achieve their introductory coaching certificate. The team learned how to plan effective lessons and set up their activity area to provide safe and fun volleyball activities for younger pupils.

Scottish Rugby have also been sharing their good practice with our pupils. Our Sports Leaders have been learning how to engage young people in rugby and practicing their leadership and communication skills. The team will be awarded with the Development Rugby Coaches award at the end of the course in March. Once they are qualified they will be back at Pirie Park Primary helping Monty and the SRU to deliver fun rugby sessions.

After achieving their Level 3 Heartstart qualification in First Aid earlier this term, the S4 Sports Leaders put their planning and organising skills to the test by organising a dodgeball tournament for pupils in S1,2 and 3 and a movie afternoon where everyone enjoyed a showing of “Elf” in the assembly hall. All events ran very smoothly and we are glad to report the first aid certificates were not used at these events!

Both groups enjoyed a trip to Ryze Trampolining Park earlier this term, as a reward for all their hard work at the PE clubs and school events during the first half of the year. It was a great way to burn off some energy and show off their skills! Well done Lee Spence for achieving the wrecking ball challenge!



Dance Leaders News

The S4 Dance Leaders are working at Pirie Park Primary with Determined to Dance Coaches to lead fun dance sessions to P6 pupils. Billie Campbell, Lauren Mackin, Nicola Shaw and Elle Tinney have been assisting coach Chantelle Joyce (a former Dance Leader pupil at Govan High School) by choreographing dance routines and leading warm ups. It’s great to see them giving back to the younger pupils and developing their leadership skills. Well done girls!

The girls are also working with Active Schools coaches to organise a dance competition here at Govan High school – watch this space for ticket info!

Meanwhile the S3 Dance Leaders have started to demonstrate their leadership skills by leading warm up sessions at dance club on a Thursday after school.

S1 Football

The footballers have been competing at Toryglen in the 7-a-side league. The team are currently 5th in the league and have been playing well against teams from Jordanhill School, Rosshall, Whitehill and St Rochs. Special shout out to Dillon McLean for captaining and organising the team. Our top goal scorers are Paul Blacklaw and Kian Peel.

The team have also played a series of 11-a-side games against Smithycroft. The team won their last game 2-1 and displayed fantastic sportsmanship and teamwork.

Thank you to S6 Sports Leader Lee Spence who volunteers as team coach, and Dylan Sanderson who has refereed their games.



Scottish Schools Under 15 Final Trials

Karsey McGlinchey S3 is playing football for Scotland (WEST) and won the regional trophy.

The next step for Karsey will be a trial to see if she can make the full Scotland squad to play other countries.

The under 15 coach, Gillian Duffy, physical education teacher from Saint Andrew’s Academy said “Can I congratulate the girls on a fantastic win yesterday. It is the first time that a team from the West has won the Final despite being in it on and off for the last 6 years.

From the offset this group of players dug in deep and worked collectively as a unit. Those who did not start initially did exactly what was asked of them and came on and made a difference. Each of them did their parents, schools and clubs proud. Oh and they lifted the trophy!”

Stop press: after three trials Karsey has made the full under 15s Scottish Schools squad. Karsey is delighted and there is a possibility of her achieving a Scotland cap. Karsey will participate in a number of games over the coming months and travel to Dublin for the home nations tournament in May. The selection comes after months of hard work attending trial training sessions and interviews.

