

lightbox presentation

Recently six Govan High pupils attended a presentation at the Pearce Institute to celebrate their part in a Health Art Community project. The pupils have created a "lightbox" depicting the history of Govan from prehistoric times to the present day. The pupils are Hugh Graham, Kamran Karchi, Andrew Martin, Michael McGinley, Jamie McKay and Thuram Sivapatham. The lightbox was displayed in the Pearce Institute and is now installed in Govan High School.

staff news

Jane Hamilton, a class teacher in Govan High School Autism Unit, is the first member of staff in the school to gain the Chartered Teacher qualification. Jane's achievement shows that Govan High School is a true learning environment where everyone – pupils and staff – is involved in the learning process.

achievements!



Issue 2

Govan High School

GOVAN INITIATIVE LINKS

Govan High School continues to be supported by Govan Initiative in delivering industry standard I.T courses. Following the success last year of William Kelso, who became the youngest person in the U.K to achieve the certificate in I.T Essentials, the school is again offering this prevocational course to senior students. This year's contenders to follow William's success are Brian Graham and Bruce Walker.

GOVAN HIGH AND THE BBC – NEIGHBOURS WORKING TOGETHER

Govan High School has been commissioned by new neighbours the BBC to help design installations for the entrance hall of the new headquarters building on Clydeside.

A group of twelve third year pupils working with art teacher Andrea Scott, will co-ordinate the project.

The entrance hall of the new building will feature a multi-media exhibition telling the stories of BBC Scotland and of Govan.

The pupils will contribute pieces in sound, light, video and visual art to illustrate aspects of life in Govan from ancient times till the present day.

The project is being supported by Space Unlimited, an offshoot of Scottish Enterprise, who specialise in bringing together business and young people to develop team skills, communication and creativity by tackling "real life" projects.

Glasgow School Symphony Orchestra

A group of Govan High School music pupils recently attended a concert at the newly refurbished City Halls to see Laura Wilson, a sixth year pupil performing First Trumpet with the Glasgow Schools Symphony Orchestra.

Laura, an Advanced Higher music student, has played trumpet in the Govan High School Band for five years. Her teachers and classmates were delighted when she succeeded in gaining a place in the Symphony orchestra, which draws on the best musical talent from all of the city's 29 Secondary Schools.

The same team of young chefs, again including Nicola and Darren, representing Govan High School, trained at the Metropolitan College during their summer holidays to take part in the Annual Wholesale Markets Competition in Hamburg, Germany.

Despite stiff competition from all over Europe, the Glasgow team were triumphant and brought home a magnificent trophy. Baillie McCafferty, who accompanied the group, was "absolutely delighted with the Glasgow ambassadors."

...Gourmet Hamburg

Gourmet Glasgow...

Nicola McCusker and Darren Glen, S6 pupils at Govan High School, joined with pupils from Eastbank Academy, Smithycroft Secondary and a student from the Metropolitan College to make a strong team in the Ready Steady Cook competition in the Old Fruit Market in Merchant City.

The pupils took on Glasgow councillors Paul Rooney, Laurence O'Neill and Stephen Dorman. The councillors made a valiant effort but were beaten by the school pupils who won the inaugural Glasgow Markets Cup.



gourmet glasgow gourmet glasgow gourmet glasgow gourmet glasgow gourmet glasgow gourmet glasgow gourmet glasgow

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Govan High School's profile in the field of international education continues to grow.

Two years ago a group of pupils represented the school at the European Union's "E-learning Conference" in Brussels, Belgium. The pupils – Steven Hamilton, Laura Wilson, Cheryl Piggot and Amanda Jones – made a great impression on officials of the British Council. As a result, when the Council were recently seeking a Scottish School to host a visit by International Educationalists, they chose Govan High.

The visitors were from Jordan, Egypt, South Africa, Poland, Finland and China. They spent an afternoon touring the school and speaking to pupils and staff. The visitors were very interested in all aspects of our education system. In particular they commented very favourably on prevocational courses in Govan High and the calm, friendly atmosphere in the school.

In September Govan High was host to the Launch of an international project called Europe Online Portfolio.

This is a project where young people in six countries can communicate and share experiences online, while creating their own web-based portfolio of qualifications and achievements, which they can later use to help them get a college place or employment.

As the project develops over the next three years, up to 100 pupils will become involved – some getting the opportunity to travel to partner schools in the other countries in the project. The schools are in Spain, Holland, Germany, Finland, Serbia and, of course Govan High in Scotland.

September also so the launch of two more Comenius projects involving Govan High with partners abroad.



Australian Pupils



European Online Portfolio

The European Student Exchange Project is funded by the British Council. Five Govan students, Natalie Foster, Daniel McMenemy, Stephanie Lynch, Michael Hulley and Gerard Boyle, hosted an exchange of students and teachers from Germany, Norway, Spain, France and Turkey. The aims of the project are to stimulate creativity amongst pupils, stimulate research and organisational skills, promote contact with local and national businesses and to reinforce ICT skills as information will be exchanged using information technology, and to encourage intercultural communication through student exchange and working visits.

European Language Project - This project is being funded by the British Council to encourage oral and written communication in the languages of the countries involved in this project, that is Scotland and Portugal, and to stimulate creativity amongst students by encouraging them to learn about the history of cinema and its types (animation, comedy, action, documentary) to produce a short film about the local community where each partner school is based. This film will be used to work within the local community as well as being shown at a European Conference. The class working on this project are part of the Prince's Trust XL initiative currently being run in the school.

More visitors from abroad! In October Govan High played host to 15 students and two teachers from Mount Gambier High School in South Australia.

The partnership between the two schools is now six years old and there have been several exchange visits of staff. In 2004 ten Govan High pupils spent three weeks attending Mount Gambier High and work experience placements, while living with Australian families.

This is the first visit to Govan by pupils of the Australian school. Govan High School pupils will visit Australia in May 2007.

THALES Optronics



Thales Optronics (formally known as Barr & Stroud) designs and manufactures electro-optical (EO) systems and equipment, mainly for the defence industry, and is one of the world's leading suppliers of this technology.

Thales Optronics is a part of the Optronics Business Group of Thales. Comprising four sites in the UK, Glasgow, London, Taunton, and Bury St. Edmunds, the company is a world leading supplier of electro-optical systems and equipment, providing high technology defence products for land, sea and air applications.

Thales have been based in Govan for the last 13 years, and have recently started developing strong links with local Schools to promote careers in Manufacturing and Engineering.

To facilitate this the Company has identified potential opportunities to provide apprenticeships and work experience for local school pupils, as well as offering to support the curriculum through site visits, science days, and the use of Company resources and experience to improve pupils' chances of employment.

Thales have also sponsored Govan High School football team providing strips, medals, and a trophy for an inter-school tournament held last summer. Similarly the recent procurement of rugby strips financed by the Company, will see the rugby team smartly kitted out when it travels to organised competitions.

Thales is committed to playing an active and supportive role in both the local and wider Govan communities, and hopes that relationships continue to strengthen.



Thales Optronics offers specialist skills in a range of capabilities, including:

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- Fire-control and surveillance systems for armoured vehicles
- Naval surveillance and fire-control systems
- Integrated helmet systems
- Airborne surveillance systems
- InfraRed Search and Track (IRST)
- Lasers and laser designation systems
- Infra Red (IR)/Thermal Imaging (TI) cameras and systems
- Dismounted soldier systems
- Light weapon sights
- Missile warning systems
- Logistic customer services

As Headteacher, I am delighted that Thales has become one of our partner companies and has begun to take such positive role in the life of the school. Even with the significant progress we have made, I believe that we have just begun to scratch the surface of something that will be of enduring benefit to Govan High and to Thales. This is an indicator of what can be achieved by two enthusiastic partners and all that we do will assist in getting towards the realisation of our dream – that every Govan High school leaver goes into a positive destination.
Iain White, Head Teacher

