

# Achievements!

November 2018

## Govan High School

Issue No. 30



Stem Roadshow



Malawi



Art Competition



Young Ambassadors



# GOVAN HIGH VISITS THE USA

PAGES 6-7

## Welcome to the first Achievement Newsletter of the session.

We have had a very successful first term which began with celebrating the exam results of our young people back in August. Once again as a school we were able to celebrate the best set of results that the school has seen to date with an overall improvement in performance across all year groups. Further details of our exam performance can be found in our Standards and Quality Report which has been sent out to all parents and can also be found on our school website.

I am very pleased to share with you that the school roll continues to increase, and we now have 465 young people attending Govan High School. This year we welcomed the largest S1 cohort that the school has seen in a number of years with 103 young people joining the Govan High community. We also opened the doors of our new Inclusion Unit which is a city wide provision for up to 12 young people who have complex social and emotional needs. This is an added addition to our school and we are very pleased with the progress that the young people are making in this new facility.

We believe in taking learning beyond the classroom and International Education and Global Citizenship has always been a real strength of the school. In this addition of the Newsletter I am sure that you will enjoy reading about our study visits to Spain and the USA, as well as hearing from our PE teacher Jennifer MacMillan who spent a month in Malawi as a Glasgow City Council Leader of Learning. We are hopeful that this visit will lead to us re-establishing a link with a school in Malawi.

I hope that you enjoy reading about the continued success and achievements of our young people and would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents, carers and partners for their continued support of the school and its young people.

With warmest wishes and kindest regards

*Nancy Belford*

## P7 Transition and New S1

We would like to give a special welcome to all of our new first year pupils. We were impressed that all of our new pupils were in full school uniform and ready to learn. Many have already shown their leadership skills through helping with the P7 transition days, visiting their old primaries to talk about life in Govan High and being on our pupil parliament. It has been an amazing start to the session for these young people and we look forward to writing about all their achievements and successes in the future.



Already we are preparing the ground for next session's intake.

As part of our Liaison Programme with Pirie Park and Riverside Primaries we hosted a 6 week programme to give young people

the opportunity to attend Govan High School and experience learning in a number of subject areas. The programme enabled pupils to experience learning in the subject areas of Science, Music, Technical, Art, IT, PE and Spanish

These visits allowed P7 pupils to find out more about the school and to meet many of staff they will work with next year. These visits were a great success and we hope they allow the P7 pupils to build positive relationships and confidence in this major step in their school journey.

## Dee Creggan - School Counsellor

My name is Dee Creggan. I am so happy for the opportunity to come and work in Govan High as the school counsellor. As many of us know how difficult the stresses of life can be sometimes talking to someone can help and finding more helpful ways of coping with what life can throw at us. I am hoping to provide some counselling support to those young people who are struggling and need some tools and techniques to manage stress, low mood or anxiety; or even if it's just a one off session to talk through difficulties. Please speak to your Pastoral Care if you would like to speak to me.





### Dux 2018

When I first came to Govan High School, in first year, I came with the mind-set that this was where I was meant to be and what I had to do. I had little motivation in pursuing my interests and not much ambition. However, the years I have spent at Govan High School have taught me so much about myself and the ambitions I have.

I fully believe that the support and dedication of the staff at Govan High School were the main reason I was able to accept the Dux Award. Without them, I would not have found my passion for learning.

To receive the Dux Award came as a great shock but I was very humbled to receive it and it is something I will never forget.

At the end of summer, I hope to study Paramedic Science at Glasgow Caledonian University. Winning the Dux will act as a catalyst for my ambition and motivation to grow stronger. It is a reminder that my hard-work and determination can lead to success.

I will always be grateful for the staff and support at Govan High School as I would not be in the position I am in without their help and generosity when helping me reach my full potential.

by Ailie



### Positive Destinations – Summer 2018

We are pleased to publish this year's leavers and their positive destinations on our website – Please follow the link: <http://www.govanhigh.glasgow.sch.uk/>. As you will see our young people are off to begin careers in a whole host of different areas ranging from Law to Music and Construction to Engineering!

From the beginning of the broad general education at Govan High School, we strive to make all of our pupils' aware of their potential and possible pathways. We are pleased to offer our young people work placement opportunities as well as a wide variety of wider achievement options to develop their skills for work and life.

It is always a pleasure to see so many seniors visit the school to tell us how their first few days of University, College, Modern Apprenticeship have gone. We wish all our leavers every success in their future careers!

### A New Face in the Next Steps Base

I am really excited about my new role as PT of Developing the Young Workforce in Govan High School. There are many opportunities in Govan to support pupils to plan for their future and to ensure they



enter an enjoyable and sustainable destination when leaving school. As you know Govan effectively moulds the curriculum around our young people and successfully celebrates their strengths and many skills.

To complement the many available college courses; relevant class work and the careers education present in GHS, I hope to run successful careers events; organise trips to a range of industries and invite business people in

to talk to, and advise, our young people about the world of work and the many opportunities available to them.

As well as offering Foundation Apprenticeships, college courses and many links with industry and business, we have a flexible approach to work experience which means we are able to help senior pupils find exciting work placements which are worthwhile and of interest to them. This can often result in strong relationships being made between pupils and business partners putting our young people in good stead for the future. Many pupils have been offered full time work after making initial links with local companies!

If pupils or parents have any questions in regards to their careers education they are welcome to contact or visit the Next Steps Base at any time. Don't forget to follow our twitter account to see the upcoming opportunities available to Govan's young workforce. I look forward to meeting you all, Miss Mortimer.

### Karen Putman – our Skills Development Scotland Person

Hi, I am Karen Putman from Skills Development Scotland and I am the Careers Adviser for Govan High.



My role involves delivering groupwork sessions to raise awareness of big career decisions ahead and to help to develop Career Management Skills. Through using a coaching approach, I also provide one to one career guidance interviews to those who need the most help. This prepares pupils for the transition from school to the world of work. S2 pupils will also get the opportunity to gain a one to one interview ahead of subject choices.

I also provide support with creating CVs, filling in application forms, interview preparation and registering with My World of Work website.

If a pupil still hasn't been able to move into a positive destination after leaving school then Skills Development Scotland can continue to support them.

Please drop in to see me at the Next Step Room if you are looking for any support in deciding what you want to do after leaving school and in looking at your post school options.

I am really pleased to have the opportunity to work here at Govan High School and I look forward to meeting you all.

Karen

### MCR Pathways

Jasmine is Govan High School's MCR Pathways Co-ordinator. She engages with young people across S1-S6, through group work in S1 and S2, a 'Talent Taster' work experience programme in S3 and S4 and a mentoring programme in S3-S6. She is also running a Duke of Edinburgh bronze group this year with some pupils in S3. Jasmynes helps support young people in fulfilling their full potential and widening access to positive destinations.





### DYW Focus

We have had another busy start to the session in terms of our pupils seizing opportunities in the world of work.

### Work Placements

Salma Mahmud is taking part in an exciting work placement with one of our fantastic partners, DWF Lawyers in the city centre. Salma would like to study law when she leaves school and this long term placement will give Salma the competitive edge when it comes to writing her personal statement. Another budding law student, Katie McGuffie is learning about the varied work that take place at Govan Law Centre.

Annie Adair completed a week-long placement in Aecom Water Division. Annie received a glowing report from her employers. Her problem solving and attention to detail were noted as being exemplary as were her timekeeping skills and manners. An absolute credit to herself and Govan High School!

We also have a number of senior pupils assisting in a number of different roles in Pirie Park Primary; Marnie Jordan, Laurie McCormick, Aimee Smith and Sarah McIver are assisting in the classroom. David Rice and Ethan Bennett run a drama club as part of Golden Time on a Friday afternoon and Dylan Healy participates in sports coaching with the upper primary. Again, a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to make a contribution to the local community and develop their skills at the same time.

Ailie Porteous will be applying to University this year to study paramedic science. A real people person, Ailie has been keen to develop further her team skills and volunteers at Nazareth House Care Home on a Saturday. She has also recently visited a paramedic to learn more about this exciting career.

Two of our seniors with a flair for Administration are carrying out year-long work placements at local companies. Elle Livingstone is developing her administrative skills in the Events Management department of BiP not far from Govan High School. She has a keen interest in a Modern Apprenticeship in Administration and this will give her the experience she requires. Meanwhile, Abbie O'Hara has made

an excellent impression on Govan Housing Association and thoroughly enjoys her Admin work placement.

### A Winning Partnership

We are pleased to report another pupil, Leigha Brewis, has been successful in achieving a Modern Apprenticeship at the prestigious Blythswood Hotel. Over the past few years, former pupils,

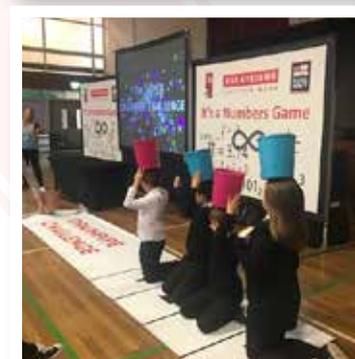
Viviana Jance, Courtney Early, Jamie-Lee McKenzie and Liam Harvison have all secured apprenticeships at the Blythswood. Furthermore, we are delighted to announce that Liam Harvison has recently won Graduate Apprentice of the Year!

### STEM ROADSHOW

All of S1 took part in a STEM roadshow production in partnership with BAE systems. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the show and many of the pupils took part in a variety of fun activities. Here we learned about careers in engineering and the skills needed. STEM has never seemed more fun!

We had drama presenters in who work alongside BAE systems. The pupils were learning the magic of numbers through understanding programming and coding. The presenters brought along a robot called Maya. Maya understood commands through her programming and the pupils absolutely loved being able to tell her what to do including dancing and tai chi moves!

We also learned about the physics behind how slides work and how these calculations need to be used everyday. If these calculations did not exist this could cause very dangerous situations for the public. It was great to see the pupils so enthusiastic about STEM subjects and how they can be used in different careers.





## St ENOCH ART COMPETITION 2018

As many of you will be aware each year we work in collaboration with the management team at the St Enoch shopping centre in the heart of Glasgow city centre and this year we were invited along with Notre Dame High, Williamwood and Hillhead High to take part in their 'Mackintosh the Innovator' competition. A group of our pupils were invited to the centre and The Lighthouse Arts venue to get inspiration for their entries.

The pupils who took part this year were Omar Ibrahim, Teri Jane McCabe, Breagha Smith, Jersey McGuire, Mahek Khalegi, Jenny Cameron, Erica Calucando, William Matts, Julia Prycz, Sophie Hunter, Shanaz Matts, Kimberley Murray, Kiera Mulligan, Anastacia MacDonald, Carly Hislop, Emma Young, Paige Gallagher, Cody Crawford and Chantelle McManus. Their interesting range of artwork was displayed throughout the summer at the centre to allow friends, family and members of the public the opportunity to vote for their favourites.

Then following the summer we were invited to the exhibition venue for the formal prize giving. The judges commented on the very high standard of their entries and we were delighted to discover that Sophie Hunter & Shanaz Matts' combined artwork, featuring the encased Hill House in Helensburgh won 2nd Prize in the Expressive category and Anastasia MacDonald's painting which focused on the relationship of the Glasgow Four, received First Prize overall in the Expressive category. The girls each received a gift card to treat themselves to a range of goods from any of the shops within the centre.

The Art department is very grateful to the management team at the centre for this inspirational opportunity for our pupils, as it gave them the opportunity to showcase their wonderful artwork in a public venue in the heart of the city. Well done to everyone involved for their hard work and support!



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## NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON D.C. TRIP

15 pupils and 3 members of staff went on a trip for ten days to the USA. The trip was primarily for Modern Studies and History.

Day 0 – Pupils began their journey at Glasgow Airport at 3am! From there it was onto a flight destined for Amsterdam Schiphol Airport and then to New York! Our flight to New York took us 7 hours, however, we had plenty of movies to watch on the way. Once we arrived at JFK airport, we had to wait 3 hours in security to get through and then another two hours for our bus to arrive to pick us up! We got to bed around 10pm that evening, however, we were super excited about being in New York.



this, we went another walk through Central Park and got to get some amazing pictures at the famous rock. Some cheesy selfies were taken here. Our day continued with a trip to the

Empire State Building to see all over Manhattan and then a walk along the High Line, finishing off with pizza close to Times Square and some sightseeing in the famous Square itself!

Day 3 – It was downtown for us as we started the day off with a trip to Lady Liberty herself! We hopped on the ferry to both Liberty Island and Ellis Island to see the Statue of Liberty and the museum at Ellis Island, where millions of immigrants came through the doors. Our educational morning continued into the afternoon with a trip to the site of the World Trade Centre attacks and the 9/11 museum.



Our evening programme included dinner on Times Square and a trip on ‘The Ride’, the multimedia tour bus. This phenomenal bus took us around mid-town Manhattan and provided us with some amazing live theatre on the streets. Finished with us singing karaoke on the bus!

Day 4 – Our last day in New York started with us going to the world famous Madame Tussauds to get our photos taken with some waxwork celebrities. From here it was to Times Square to get in our last souvenirs of New York and then off to Rockefeller Plaza to ascend to the famous ‘Top of the Rock’. Here we were treated to some spectacular views of Central Park. Our day did not stop there though, it continued to the downtown tour bus and



then for some awesome dinner at Johnny’s on Times Square! Stuffed after this, we went back to the hostel to pack!



Day 1 – Our first proper day started with us living like proper New Yorkers and taking the subway down to the Brooklyn Bridge. We got off at City Hall and walked halfway across the amazing bridge to get some spectacular views of the city. From here, we could see famous buildings like the Freedom Tower and the Empire State Building. After some amazing photo opportunities and souvenir buying, we headed up to the United Nations for our tour. Our fantastic tour told us all about the work that the UN do whilst letting us visit both the Security Council and General Assembly. From here, Mr Beattie assured us that we were getting on the right train (we were not) and ended up on the wrong side of the park on our way back to the hostel. That was ok though as we got to walk through Central Park! It was a quick change as we were heading down to Times Square for dinner (chicken wings!) and to go see the Broadway musical Wicked! What a show! For some on the trip, this was the first ever show they had been to see! And it will definitely be a memorable one!



Day 2 – We got up bright and early and went to the Natural History Museum. We spent the first few hours here looking at spectacular sights such as the giant blue whale (life size suspended from the ceiling) and dinosaurs. After



Day 5 – This was a



very early start with the bus picking us up at 7am to go to Washington DC! Exciting! On our way there, we stopped for some lunch and had pancakes! We also visited a Walmart and some of us picked up lots of sweets for family and friends. On arrival to the hostel, we were all very tired so we finished our day with a nice walking tour of the monuments including The White House, Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument. Washington DC looked fantastic lit up at night!

Day 6 – Our first proper day in DC took us to the US Capitol for our tour. Here we learned all about the beginnings of the USA as its own country! From here, we went to a soccer game to watch DC United play Toronto. DC United won with Wayne Rooney scoring the winning goal!

Day 7 – Our day started with us off to more museums! We started at the National Archives where we got to see the real Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights! After this, it was souvenir shopping along the Mall before visiting the amazing African American Museum. We spent close to 3 hours in here learning all about the Atlantic Slave Trade and the Civil Rights Movement. Our evening finished with a trip to Nandos (yes, in DC!) and then to a basketball game!

Day 8 – We started the day with a trip to the unbelievable Smithsonian Air and Space Museum where we got to see some rockets and very early airplanes and flight devices. We also got to see inside one of NASA's rockets, looking at how astronauts live when in space. This was followed up by a visit to the interesting Newseum where we learned all about the media and how we report on the news. Studying Modern Studies, some of us found this extremely interesting. Our evening concluded with a trip to the cinema to either go see *Venom* or *A Star Is Born*.

Day 9 – Our last full day started with a very sobering trip to the Holocaust Museum to learn all about the horrors that took place during WWII. After this, we visited the mall as some of us had gifts to buy for our family and friends. Our last evening involved a pizza party and exchanging of gifts to each other

in our 'Secret Santa in October' event. Some interesting gifts were exchanged including President Bobbleheads and Christmas decorations!

Day 10 – Before being picked up, we got to go to the White House Visitors Center to see what it was like in the White House. After this, it was off to the airport and back to Amsterdam and then Glasgow after our fantastic, yet exhausting and magical 10 days!



## Ian Husband "Film star"

School Archivist Ian McCracken was recently asked by a former pupil to comment on a story she had written about Govan. When Ian phoned to give her positive feedback, she mentioned that her father-in-law Ian Husband had taken part in a series of informational films which had been made while he was at Govan High School in 1947.

Most intrigued by this, our Archivist asked for more details. It turned out that Mr Husband, now a sprightly 85, could recall a lot about his time as a "star". Mrs Husband agreed to write down his memories: he had been in a school play and had been "talent-spotted" for a series of films being made by Glasgow Corporation. Each was to show an aspect of the Corporation's work, e.g. "Our Parks", "Our Art Galleries & museums" -etc. Ian played a schoolboy who had to write an essay about these aspects of Glasgow.

On finding out that these films survived, Ian McCracken contacted the Moving Image Archive at Kelvin Hall, and arranged for Mr Husband, his wife, son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter to have a special viewing of the films. All thoroughly enjoyed the experience, enhanced by Mr Husband's remarkably clear memories- he even recalled the make of car that was provided to take him to the film studio- a Studebaker!

As Mr Husband was still full of energy, Ian McCracken invited him to come to Govan High School to see the Archive Collection, which he equally enjoyed. A great day for all concerned.



We had a fun and successful Maths week with lots of activities going on: Daily Maths problems, Maths talks, Sumdog Competitions and challenges for and from other secondary schools answering puzzles on Twitter.

## Maths Week Scotland

For Maths Week Scotland, two problems of the day were posted around the school each day, one requiring no background knowledge and the other needing some tool of senior-level mathematics to solve.

In addition, maths challenges were sent by video from Govan's students to students at Castlemilk and Whithehill High Schools and Govan's students solved challenges given to us from those schools.

There were daily lunch maths clubs to work on the problems. An email about a diverse group of famous mathematicians was sent out - along with all the problems of the day - to all staff each day. Thus staff and pupils were working on and talking about maths in the classrooms, in the corridors, and throughout the school.

There was also a maths talk at lunch for students and staff on Friday, developing big mathematical ideas from the problems of the week.

There were also maths lessons given in other classes: a percentages lesson given in the National 5 Biology class, a lesson on the mathematical tools of Bioinformatics in the Higher Biology class, a lesson on statistical language and reasoning co-taught in an S1 English class, and a lesson on changing the subject of a formula in the Higher Physics class.

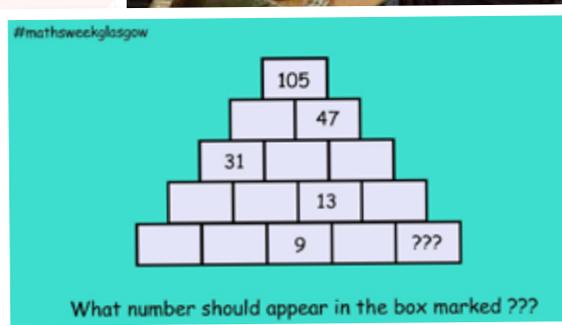
We are continuing to promote mathematics throughout the school. A lesson for the Higher English class on Euclid's use of language and the development of a deductive system in The Elements was given just last week. We are used to seeing mathematics as a tool in other disciplines, but mathematical knowledge accumulates and is communicated through language to share and refine new discoveries.

Mr Wolf-Root



## Maths News

The Maths department are delighted to have hosted a Family Numeracy event in the department, at the start of September. There will be two more family events on 30th October and 11th December which we can't wait for!





## Spain October 2018

This October 2018, 19 young people and three members of staff visited the Tarragona region of Spain as part of our language immersion programme.

We spent a really interesting day in Jaume Huguet High School. We also found time to visit Tarragona's Roman Amphitheatre, Barcelona, Port Aventura (theme park) and relax at the beach.

We had a fabulous time and are more confident speaking Spanish!





## Developing Leadership through sport in Malawi

Miss McMillan of our PE department spent the last month with Malawi Leaders of Learning (MLOL). MLOL was founded by Glasgow City Councils' director of Education, Maureen McKenna, with the goal to improve learning and teaching in both Glasgow and Malawi.

As part of the Malawi Leaders of Learning charity programme I travelled to Blantyre in Malawi to teach in 4 schools over a 4 week period. Malawi is known as 'The warm heart of Africa' and the Malawians certainly lived up to this reputation; everywhere I looked, I saw smiling faces.

This positivity was present in each school I worked (Milala Primary school, Kapeni Demonstration School, Blantyre Girls School and Chisawani Primary School). Along with a PE colleague, our mission in Malawi was to work with the older pupils in each school to develop Malawian sports leaders who could lead learners in their school for physical education and provide them with a role model within the school, just like we have here in Govan. Given the class sizes can range up to 200, we felt this was the most sustainable way to support teachers to embed physical education into their curriculum. I spent 4 days in each school working with both learners and staff. The first day was dedicated to training our new 'Sports Leaders' and the days following that the leaders were given the opportunity to develop their leadership. This also gave me the opportunity to demonstrate to staff that the newly trained sports leaders are an invaluable resource to deliver engaging, active physical education lessons with such a large number of learners.

Each school had an open space for us to work with the young leaders however it differed greatly to the gym halls I am used to working in. We were working in a large dusty concrete area with no boundaries so our first task each day was to outline our working area using rocks. In addition, there was very little or no sports equipment in the schools. Although this was a challenge it was fantastic to truly learn the meaning of TALULAR (Teaching and Learning Using Locally Available Resources). In order for us to play games that involved balls our sports leaders made balls at home using paper or plastic bags melted together into the shape of a ball, which I thought was incredibly resourceful.

Each school had a successful sports Leaders programme with pupils learning new games, how to teach others, how to lead and how to work as a team. It was inspiring to see pupils leading with enthusiasm and confidence.

Lasting thoughts of Malawi: the young people of Malawi have an

unwavering sense of positivity. The trip highlighted to me that young people are the same anywhere you go in the world. I saw pupils with the same personalities as we have here in Glasgow. Sports leaders thrived in their new role and displayed excellent leadership skills. Pupils were very resilient and welcomed the opportunity to learn new skills. Some pupils took their shoes off to run barefoot as they felt they could run faster. Some pupils walked between, 5-7km a day to get to school.





## Allotment

Govan High has an allotment in the community area of Bellahouston Park. On Tuesday afternoons the pupils from the Inclusion Unit work in the allotment with their teachers and pupil support assistants learning horticulture skills.





### PE News

The S1 football team are so far unbeaten at the Toryglen football tournament.



### Young Ambassadors

We have a group of 8 young ambassadors from S4-6. Nicola Shaw, Mark Costick, Jamie McGilp, Karsey McGlinchey, Mark Docherty, Abbie Grimley, Kelsi McFadden & Georgia Weir can be identified by the red T shirts they wear in the PE department.

The team's main responsibility is to promote sport and physical activity throughout Govan High School. They are developing their leadership style and have attended training days at The City Chambers and Hampden Stadium to learn about how to fulfil their roles.



The group organised a very successful active girls day on 5th October, where they ran benchball, basketball, badminton and just dance activities for girls at break and lunchtimes. They also coordinate all the lunchtime clubs and are always looking to link with local clubs to bring them into school for us all to try out.



Follow the Young Ambassadors on twitter: @govan\_ya

There was a very successful Club Fayre and many pupils have signed themselves up for clubs across the school.

Breakfast club has started off successfully with great numbers coming along to eat, study and play.



Girls fitness club have been working very hard.