
❖ Kincorth Academy Eagle News ❖

July 2008

Kincorth Hill Project

Residents and staff of Dee View Court, pupils and staff from Kincorth, the Arts Development Team and Countryside Rangers worked together to **develop card, clay, plaster, rubber and wax markers and maps of Kincorth Hill**, in collaboration with professional sculptor Chris Bailey. In doing so they learned new skills and took a positive interest in the local neighbourhood.

As well as producing **bronze markers based on foliage and animal footprints** for an orienteering course, a **large-scale 3D model of the hill in bronze** has been created and positioned at both the foot and the summit. This has been an unusual and very detailed project which has greatly enhanced the local environment. The pupils involved ... Kyle Martin, Daniel McIntosh, Samantha Baxter, Yasmin Gerrard, Chloe Johnstone and Michael Taylor gained a great deal and can be very proud of their involvement.

“An escape that tangles”

Adam Coutts’ new play will be performed at the **Edinburgh Festival Fringe from Monday 17 to Thursday 21 August** at 5.45 in the Acoustic Music Centre, and thereafter at the **Lemon Tree on Friday and Saturday 22/23 August** at 7.30.

The play was recently reviewed by representatives from His Majesty’s Theatre and Learning and Teaching Scotland. **Their feedback compared the quality of this piece to work being done by the National Theatre!**

This work certainly deserves our support. Look out for information about tickets.

Adam recently had the opportunity to speak about his work on BBC radio, and performed very well.

We are grateful for sponsorship from Petrofac.

Cinema and Theatre visits

Forty-two pupils went to “The Emperor’s New Kilt” at HMT the latest production from “Wee Stories” ..in association with the National Theatre of Scotland, and they enjoyed the whole experience.

Senior Prom

Held this year at the Thistle Hotel in Altens, this annual event was once again **a great success**. Every year staff really look forward to spending **an enjoyable and relaxed evening with our senior students, who are a pleasure to be with**. Their manners and good humour present the Academy in the best possible light, and it is always a pleasure to catch up with former pupils.

Link with Torry Academy

This year we have established a beneficial link with Torry Academy **to provide access for senior students to courses in the respective schools**. We have 25 students accessing courses in Drama, Chemistry, Engineering, Hospitality and Childcare, while Torry Academy pupils come to us for Graphic Communication and Psychology. The Council has provided transport to make this link practicable.



Activities Week

Activities Week was a **great success** this year. Almost all staff reported having a very enjoyable and relaxed week with their group of pupils, and there was **unanimous support for running it again next year**.

Information has been made available to pupils, including P7 pupils, about foreign or residential trips. The pack about more locally-based activities will be issued before Christmas.

S2 Youth Challenge

In the week before moving into their S3 timetable, all S2 pupils took part in this **3-day challenge organised by Christine Murray**. The event was extremely successful with pupils showing **real commitment and urgency from the first moment**. They had to work in teams to **design and make a product ... board game, play, song, posters ...** on the theme of health, and in particular alcohol awareness. They showed a wide range of skills in **team-building, ICT, delegation, time-management, problem-solving and working together**. The event culminated in group presentations. There was significant input from school nurses and the police, and the PE department organised the physical challenges. Most pupils will achieve through their participation an **SQA accreditation in Working with Others**.

P7 Visit

The two days went well, and feedback from Primary Head Teachers confirms that the **P7 pupils enjoyed and benefited from the experience**.

A large team of **senior helpers** assisted the P7 pupils with the 2-day programme and ensured that they were secure and comfortable as they made their way around the school, **following their actual timetable and meeting many of their teachers**.

This is also an opportunity to explain and reinforce our **Ground Rules so that new pupils are fully aware of the schools expectations**. I am happy to say that the P7 pupils made a good impression, and we are looking forward to working with them in the future.

Sport

Trampolining

Alannah Crouch came 1st in the SGA Interdistrict U15 Championship, and is through to the National Championships.

Rowing

Claire Blaikie, Sam McArthur, Sarah Milne and Beverley Dobbie came first in the U14 novice event at the Scottish School Rowing Championships. Grant Ross achieved 1st in the U15 crew, and was a member of the Men's Eights who came 4th.

Athletics

The following pupils did well in the U15 group:- Austin Winters, 1st in javelin; Samantha Kirk, 3rd in javelin; Jonathon Millsom, 2nd in 400 metres; Kerr Purdon, Jonathon Millsom, Reece Hale, Connor Anderson, 3rd in boys' relay team; Austin and Samantha will represent Aberdeen in an Inter-district event at Grangemouth.

Gymnastics

The novice team of Samantha Merchant, Hollie Beck, Hannah Park and Amy Pickavance qualified from the Aberdeen Championships to compete at the National Championships in Perth.

Football

The U14 team had a very successful year winning the Aberdeenshire League, the AFC Trophy, the Sportsman's Cup, and reaching the semi-finals of the Scottish Cup.

The U15s won the North of Scotland SSFA Cup. Daniel McIntosh has been selected to join the 5-a-side SDS National Tournament in Glasgow. Jonathon Clark played for the U14 National Team in a four-nations tournament in Durham.

Parliamentary Outreach Team

This team worked with **Modern Studies classes** on the structure and role of Parliament. **The team went out of their way to compliment our pupils** on their knowledge and good manners, and the positive interaction with the presenters.

Oxfam unwrapped!

Miss Irvines' Geography class raised money for a goat to provide milk to drink and sell, fertilizer, and to breed kids. Mrs McKay's class raised money for chickens as a source of food and school dinners for 100 children. These efforts help people suffering poverty in poor countries. Well done!

Staffing

Grahame Whyte, currently Depute Head Teacher at Aberdeen Grammar School, has been appointed as Head Teacher and will be able to take up his post for the start of the new term in August.

Rosie Davies, Support for Learning, retires at the Summer after a long number of years of outstanding service at Kincorth.

Lynette Thomson, PT Modern Studies, will be seconded next year to develop a City policy on behaviour management. Her colleague, **Liz Smith**, will be Acting PT and Lynette's timetable will be covered by **Chris Duncan**.

Ellen Leonard, Home Economics, has left for a post in Edinburgh; **Kirsty Irvine**, Geography, has moved to Hazlehead; **Lauren Hay**, Business Studies, will be moving to Kirkland High in Fife.

Ed Steel, Drama, has left after a distinguished career at Kincorth, particularly in developing KATAPULT.

Claire Alexander, French, will leave at the Summer.

We have been well served by the following long-term relief teachers: **Doug Leighton**, **Jim Moodie**, **Roy Barbour**, **Lorraine Bloyce**, **Julie Gavigan**

Awards Ceremony

The Ceremony was well supported and very successful. Guest speaker **Colin McKerracher**, Chief Constable of **Grampian Police** was a relaxed and inspiring choice.

A special feature of the Ceremony this year was a **celebration of our 10-year partnership with Petrofac**, the longest such partnership in Scotland. In recognition of our joint achievements we won **the prestigious Schools Award** at the annual Children and Young People's Services Awards in June.

Prefect and Senior Induction

The two day induction course run in **collaboration with Aberdeen College** was very successful, and students will gain an award in Working with Others

The **residential Prefect Training weekend** went extremely well. **A mix of physical and problem-solving challenges** as well as **team-building, study technique and time management** activities was enjoyed by the large group of 48 S5/6 students. It was also an opportunity for the team to get to know each other and begin to form views about who the leaders of the team might be. **The Prefect Management Team will be selected by interview** immediately at the start of the new term. Potential leaders have had the chance to nominate themselves and make a case for their candidacy. The whole team also have the opportunity to indicate their preferred candidates.

Bridge Building

The annual bridge building contest took place at Petrofac's premises in Bridge View. **Four S3 teams** designed and built bridges out of balsa wood. They presented their designs to a team of engineers at Petrofac, and the **bridges were then tested to destruction with suspended weights**. This is one of our longest running collaborations with Petrofac. **The winning team were Hollie Smith, Jack Donaldson, Ricki Kilgour and Lee Ritchie.**

Diced Cap RAYS Awards

The achievement of a group of senior pupils .. **Rachel Todd, Nikki Ross, Jodi MacDermid, Alanna Duncan, Emma Park and Hayley Brown** ... was recognised at the recent Diced Cap RAYS Awards Dinner. **This group had raised more than £1000 for the Sue Ryder Trust** and were presented with a plaque by First Minister Alex Salmond.

At the same event, **Scott Milne** was presented with a **Student of Excellence** award in recognition of his significant contribution to the school as prefect, member of the Yearbook, main contributor to a recent leadership conference, and for the consistently high standards he has shown in

Charities for Peru

We continue to support the **street children of Peru** and a Dress-as-you-please day and concert raised more than **£500**.

Our group of intrepid adventurers have been in regular touch and the expedition to Peru is going well. We look forward to their safe return on 3rd July.

Enterprising Maths Day

Supported by Sue Miles, our team of **Christopher Burnett, Jennifer Whitehead, Linzie Gilchrist and Claire Blaikie** represented Kincorth at a whole-day event involving teamwork, problem-solving, board games and a mathematical relay. They were the fifth-best performing city school, coming 13th overall out of 22 teams, and had great fun in a friendly but competitive atmosphere.

Summer holidays

Advance notice that **next year's Summer Holidays start on 4th July, i.e the last day of term is Friday 3rd.**

Some reflections

I look back on a long association with Kincorth Academy, having been Head Teacher for 8 years, and Assistant Head between 1989 and 1992. Kincorth Academy can be proud of its many outstanding achievements over the years, with innovative and ambitious projects such as KATAPULT, Gomel, Peru, Georgia, and Petrofac. In the day-to-day activities of the school I see young people being well-taught and looked after by a very caring and professional staff. Kincorth is an enterprising and outward-looking school which gives staff and pupils opportunities to develop their skills and talents. The former School Board, and now Parent Council, have always been supportive and committed to the well-being of the school. There have been many challenges, vastly outweighed by the positive and rewarding achievements of a school which is well-placed to take on new developments, and thrive. I am very proud of the school and will always look back on my Headship as the culmination of my career in education. I thank staff, pupils and parents for their support, work and co-operation, and wish everyone well in the future.

Dates for your diary

August

Monday 18	Teachers' Training Day
Tuesday 19	Term starts for pupils

September

Friday 19	Holiday
Monday 22	Holiday
Monday 29	S4 Work Experience starts

October

This week	Chaplains' Assemblies
Friday 3	S4/5/6 Early warning letters sent home
Monday 6	Gomel exchange this week
Friday 10	Jeans for Genes dress-as-you-please/Term ends
Monday 27	Next term starts

