



New Centre of Sporting Excellence

Kilgraston has recently opened its new Centre of Excellence for Hockey and Tennis which will form the centre piece of a continued multi million pound investment in sporting facilities at the school.

The centre comprises a new full size floodlit, all-weather hockey pitch and 8 newly refurbished tennis courts. The pitch was officially opened on Saturday 26th June by retired Kilgraston Head of Physical Education, Mrs Susan Rhodes. Susan had long campaigned to have a full size all-weather hockey pitch at Kilgraston and her dream was finally realised as she cut the blue ribbon and scored the first goal to the delight of the rest of the school.

The pitch is to become the home of Perthshire hockey and a training centre for elite players from across Scotland. Director of Sport & former GB hockey

captain, Pauline Stott, hopes the new facilities can be used to attract more people to sport and can be utilised in the expansion of grass-roots hockey and tennis across Perthshire and beyond.

The exciting £0.5 million development is the next phase of a continued investment in sport at Kilgraston with other recent projects including the 25m indoor swimming pool and the equestrian centre with 60m x 40m floodlit arena – the only one of its kind at a school in Scotland.

All the development is very exciting for Kilgraston and we are delighted to have the most up to date facilities. We at Kilgraston are determined to succeed in making our school a place to enjoy sport and to nurture the skills of young athletes, both now and for the future.

Full to Bursting

Kilgraston starts the new academic year with numbers at an all time high. Demand for boarding places has been particularly strong and all the Senior Houses are oversubscribed.

The school has experienced 40% growth over the past 5 years but there are no plans for future expansion as the Governors are keen to maintain the community feel of Kilgraston.

Congratulations

The outgoing Upper Sixth produced another outstanding performance in their Advanced Highers this year. Despite most girls securing unconditional offers to university prior to their examinations the students worked with typical ambition and gained a remarkable 96% A-C grade. Although not quite as high as the previous year's league topping results, this performance was again among the best in Scotland.

Congratulations also to the Lower Sixth and Upper Fifth for some excellent results in their Highers and Standard Grades.

Scottish Magazine Award: A Winning 'Habit'



Kilgraston won the Award for Best Overall Editorial Content at the PPA Scottish Schools Magazine Competition in June with our entry 'The Habit'. It was also the recipient of the highest number of Highly Commended Awards, including: best magazine cover, best overall design and layout, best commercial strategy, best original artwork or photography, most inspirational teacher, outstanding pupil and Scottish School Magazine of the Year 2010.

The competition was incredibly stiff and we held our breath with every expectation that we would be outvoted on each count, so to win one award at all was utterly thrilling. The other magazines were fascinating to read and we learnt a great deal from them – food for thought for the future of our own magazine!

Thank you again to everyone who gave Charlotte so much help and support. The emphasis in all the speeches was on team building, and the teams behind the winners. One special mention, which was so Kilgraston, was that our magazine seemed to reflect the entire community and gave a real sense of the school as a whole. That's Kilgraston for you!! So thanks to all of you who helped make it possible.

Louise Baxter - New Head of Curriculum PE



Louise Baxter has joined Kilgraston this term in a new position as the Head of Curriculum P.E. Louise was brought up in and around Fife and studied for her degree in Physical Education at Edinburgh University before becoming a member of the P.E. staff at St George's School in Edinburgh.

Louise has had a long career in hockey competing at all levels. She played for Midlands District from U14-U20 and gained her first International Cap when she was 15. Over the years she continued to progress through U18 and U21 levels competing in Home Nations, Celtic Cups and European Championships. At age 19 Louise gained her first Senior International Cap playing in a Four Nations Tournament in Vancouver. Since then Louise has been capped 88 times for her country and has played 5 times for Great Britain. Louise plays her club hockey for Grove Ladies in Dundee who are currently Scottish Cup and League Champions.

Louise is currently undergoing the selection process for the Commonwealth Team and hopes to be representing her country in Delhi this September as well as hopefully breaking the 100 cap mark this year.

Everyone at Kilgraston is very happy that Louise has come to join us and she will no doubt make a great addition to the already fantastic talent in the P.E. department.



Performing in Perth

The Music department enjoyed a successful time at the recent 'Perform in Perth' festival. A number of soloists performed very well and our extracurricular groups had some outstanding results.

Our Prep Choir gained 1st place in their competition, gaining a mark of 88 and the Late Robert Brough Challenge Trophy for their performance with the Adjudicator commenting on the enthusiasm of the girls in addition to the quality of their singing.

Our Madrigal Group also gained 1st place and were awarded 90 marks (Honours) with the Adjudicator saying: 'the tuning is superb, with just the right balance'. They won the Yacamimi Memorial Trophy for their performance.

The Senior Orchestra won the advanced schools orchestra competition with a mark of 89.

The Adjudicators both agreed that the playing was 'Excellent'.

The Senior String Quartet of Camilla Flowers, Anna Reilly, Keira Stewart and Phillipa Wilson won the Dr. George Reid Chamber Music Award and gained a mark of 88.

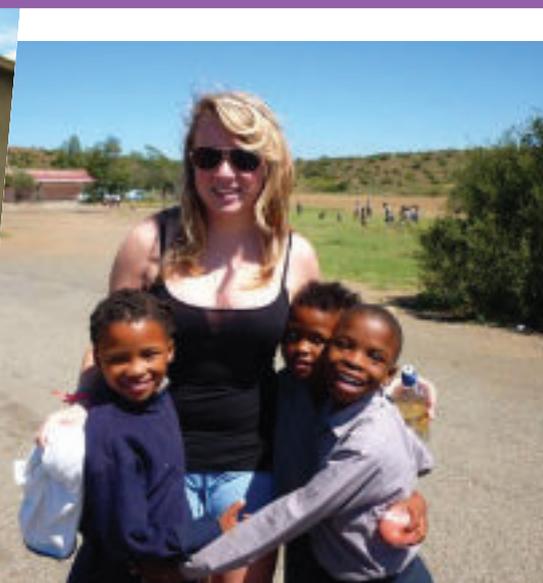
Our String orchestra conducted by Mr. Lynch performed very well, gaining marks of 86 for their performance and narrowly missing out on first place to Perth Academy.

Congratulations and thanks must go to all of the girls for working so hard at an already very busy time of the school year. The Department is also very grateful for the support offered by so many parents, teachers and friends of the school who came to the festival to listen to the soloists and ensembles in all of the competitions.

Nicola Vermeulen

Nicola Vermeulen who left U6 in 2009 has been out in South Africa volunteering as an assistant teacher at both the High and Junior Schools in the rural town of Philippolis. She and the rest of a group of young volunteers settled well into African life and got stuck into the teaching and helping in the local community. Outside of the teaching Nicola and the rest of the group were involved with two painting projects - one at the adult learning centre in Bergmanshoogte and a second at the high school painting the science laboratory.

We wish Nicola all the best in her volunteering and hope she inspires other girls at Kilgraston to do the same.



Biscuit Challenge!

Thursday 20th May saw the Biscuit Challenge! All the girls did a fantastic job. They were all so enthusiastic and really went out of their way to present their biscuits. We had ice cream cone shaped biscuits sitting on mini deck chairs, bunny biscuits with a furry Easter bunny and chicks, and biscuits for Santa to name but a few. The winners were Sophie Dowes and Katie Stott who made beautiful wedding biscuits. They were heart shaped and decorated as a bride's dress and some as a bride groom. Runners up were the Ice Cream Sundae biscuits made by Daisy Galbraith and Millie Brown followed by Choco Surprise biscuits made by Lucy Haddow. They were all delicious and congratulations to all the girls who entered.



Fusion

Fusion 2010 took place from Monday 21st June and culminated on the evening of Wednesday 23rd June in the performance of Fusion Bites and the Summer Concert with a drinks reception in the Art Department. Pupils were involved in all sorts of performance and art classes from contemporary dance and acapella singing to creating casualty makeup and producing films. The Fusion Bites performance was watched by a capacity crowd in the new theatre and ended in a very messy sketch involving a lot of whipped cream! The Summer Concert was a wonderful way to end the few days of activities with performances from the Senior Orchestra, Prep Choir and Accapella Group to name a few.

Higher Education Fair

Kilgraston held a Higher Education Fair to provide support and guidance to students and their parents from Kilgraston, Strathallan and Beaconhurst. There were also pupils from Kilchuimen Academy who had driven down for the day from Fort Augustus in the Highlands. In total more than 35 leading Scottish and English universities and representatives from the Armed Forces and other organisations were on hand to offer Gap Year information and to provide advice on career openings and university degree courses. Well over 200 students attended the event which has grown over the past fourteen years to an annual venture between Kilgraston, Strathallan and Beaconhurst.

Kilgraston Principal, Mike Farmer, said "with so many degree course and potential career opportunities available it is so difficult for the young of today to decide exactly what to do when they leave school. The purpose behind this initiative is to give our students the opportunity to ask key questions and seek guidance to help them choose the best career path to follow, and we hope that the Fair will help them determine their future professional goals"

Our Colourful Production

The Prep school produced their colourful production over three nights in the New Theatre to packed audiences. The energy and enthusiasm of the girls was visible for all to see. There were outstanding performances from all participants and some wonderful solos from Sarah Anderson, Kirsty Mcleod, Rachel McKenzie, Rebecca Edgley and all of the brothers and principals. Congratulations to all those pupils who performed and helped in so many ways and many thanks to all the audience members and staff for their tremendous support.



Summer Term Music

Our summer term saw more success for the Music department throughout the school and local community. The Junior Prep and Senior Prep choirs were joined by soloists Melissa Wilkie, Kiera Stewart, Beth Barlow, Arianna Clark, Alice Gilyeat and Aileen Baker when they performed a lunchtime concert in St John's Kirk as part of the Perth Festival of the Arts. For some of the girls this was their first experience of performing as a choir in front of an audience and it was a great experience for all those involved.

In June the Prep school provided three colourful nights of song, dance and drama to full houses in the theatre with their fantastic performances of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. The role of Joseph was taken by Sarah Anderson with two narrators of Rachel Mackenzie and Rebecca Edgely and the King played by Kirsty Macleod. All the girls, chorus and principals, had outstanding performances and delighted the audiences.

On Sports Day the Jazz band provided the entertainment for all of the spectators before the sporting events started and the following day the Madrigal Group travelled to Holy Church in Oakley where they performed to help raise funds for the church. A stirring Clarinet solo was performed by Zinnia Hall and we were joined by the Alba Quartet who performed excellently as always. The quartet also accompanied Philippa Wilson when she performed Vivaldi's Cello Concerto in A minor. The last week of term was an Arts extravaganza with Fusion, our Summer Concert and the Leavers Concert. The variety of music on offer was a tribute to the hard work, dedication and commitment of the girls that performed.

Special thanks must go to our outgoing Music Captain Kiera Stewart for her support and organisation throughout the year and all of the leavers this year who have contributed so much to the Music Department. I would also like to wish Miss Gourlay every success as she embarks on a new adventure in her career as Head of Music at the British School of Kazakhstan. She has been a wonderful role model, a friend for all of the girls, a great asset to the Music Department and will be sorely missed.



Inspirational Winners

Kilgraston's in-house caterers Inspire Catering are thrilled to have recently won The Healthier Scotland Award at The CIS Excellence Awards 2010. Held at the Hilton Glasgow on Thursday 27th May 2010, this is an event designed to celebrate excellence in the catering industry, recognise innovation and reward outstanding achievement and talent.

Inspire Catering has been recognised as a market leader in providing healthy food by gaining the prestigious Healthier Scotland award. The award was presented to Inspire Catering Owners, David Pease and Lorna McFarlane, and David Hunt, Group Executive Chef as part of the CIS Excellence Awards held at the Glasgow Hilton on 27 May.

Evidence was required to show how healthier eating practices have been supported and nurtured within the establishment. This included examples of menus, press cuttings or initiatives aimed at encouraging healthier eating and incorporating a health culture into the operation of the business.

The calibre of the submissions was excellent and it proved a major challenge to decide on the final shortlist of:-

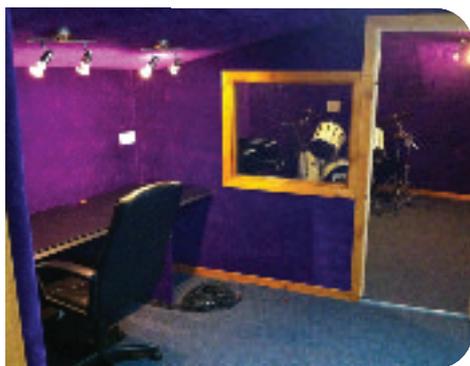
- Inspire Catering
- BP North Sea HQ, Aberdeen
- BBC Pacific Quay, Glasgow

David Pease of Inspire Catering said:

"We are delighted to accept this award on behalf of the Inspire Catering team who have enthusiastically embraced our commitment to influence the health and well being of the customers, who enjoy our catering services, by providing healthy, nutritious and tasty meals every day".

New Recording Studio

Work was completed on the Music Department's new Recording Studio over the summer. This studio will give pupils insight into the world of Music recording and production allowing them to develop their skills in the use of a variety of new technologies associated with the Music industry. It will also enable the department to produce professional standard recordings of the extracurricular groups that rehearse weekly in the school. Watch this space for news of the first album release later in the school year!



Royal Visit

Girls from the L3 went to see HRH Prince Charles in June at Scone Palace. The Prince was visiting as part of the Perth 800 celebrations and planted a tree to mark the occasion.



Sixth Form Ball



Debating 09/10



Amidst the focus in current education to ensure our pupils are Confident Individuals, Successful Learners, Effective Contributors and Responsible Citizens, the art of public speaking, speech-making and debating is, indeed, a great learning experience. Debating provides our pupils with the opportunity to research and develop their thinking skills. Employability skills are enhanced by analysing issues, current affairs persuasion and bias. During this session there has been a calendar of speechmaking and debating events.

In October 2009 pupils who regularly attend Debating Society from L4 upwards took part in an interdisciplinary debate to celebrate the role of women in society. Feisty debate ensued on the motion 'This house believes women have never had it so good', with the proposition winning.

February occasioned the Interhouse Debating Competition when twelve intrepid pupils rose admirably to debate the difficult but highly stimulating motion that 'the rights of the individual outweigh their responsibilities.' The standard of debate and speech content were excellent.

Not to be outdone by the media frenzy surrounding the General Election 2010, Upper 4th debated 'This house believes sixteen year olds should be allowed to vote in the General Election 2010.' Aware of the political rush to court the views and votes of young people, our U4 community supported the opposition, leaving their wish to vote until they are eighteen. Impassioned debate made Election Day 2010 much more memorable than those now famous leaders' television debates!

Inspired by the chaos caused by that Icelandic volcano (no, I can't spell it!) which plummeted the world into travel mayhem and stories of unconventional routes home, Lower 4th responded to the motion 'This house believes air travel is un-necessary', before deciding that air travel is indeed necessary.

Evaluating debating this session, it has been good, great in parts with great potential and positive prognosis for next session.



Prize Day

The Prep and Senior School Distribution of Ribbons and Prizes took place on Saturday 26th June 2010. The sun shone for the pinnacle of the school calendar as girls turned up in their kilts and sashes along with their parents for a day of praise and reflection. The Prep ceremony took place in the morning with an exciting and enthusiastic speech from Polar Explorer, Ben Saunders with his tales of the Arctic.



Picnics on the front lawn were preceded by the opening of the new all-weather hockey pitch by guest of honour, Mrs Susan Rhodes. Susan had long campaigned for the pitch and her vision was finally realised when she opened the pitch for the first time.



After lunch the Senior School entered the chapel for their prizes and speeches were made by some of the leaving Upper 6th as well as an inspirational talk from Geraldine Gammel, Director of The Prince's Trust in Scotland. The girls and their families went back out on the lawn for afternoon tea and to say their farewells.

Congratulations to all the girls who won prizes this year and goodbye and good luck to all those leaving Kilgraston for the last time.



Letham Farm Visit - L5

The L5 recently took a visit to Letham Farm owned by Ewan Cheape in May. The visit was organised by the RHET for school groups to encourage outdoor learning in the local community. With our waterproofs and woolly hats we braved the chilly weather and enjoyed the afternoon visit. The girls study Farming at Standard Grade but it was an opportunity to practise their enquiry skills and apply the theory from the textbook to real life. They had to complete a worksheet/questionnaire and learned about diversification, the farming year at Letham, how the farm works as a system – inputs, processes and outputs, EU directives and how it affects the farm business and even some new things that took some by surprise such as the fact that all the cattle have passports!

Residential Field Trip to Yorkshire with L6

The L6 went on a residential trip to Yorkshire over a weekend in February. There were snowy conditions in Yorkshire that weekend but the sun shone for the fieldwork. We were given an experienced guide from the field studies centre at Malham all of Saturday and did a walk and talk of the glaciated landscape and identified some wonderful limestone scenery. All of which we study at Higher. We stayed at the youth hostel in Malham on Saturday night and enjoyed a fantastic meal at the local bistro in Malham and the following day went to White Scar Cave where we saw underground waterfalls and a massive ice-age cavern decorated with thousands of stalactites. At every opportunity we stopped for hot drinks and cake - as all good geography fieldtrips do!



SPORTS Round Up



Tennis Tournaments

As usual at Kilgraston the summer saw a lot of tennis played throughout the term with the newly refurbished pitches finished in time for the finals. Kilgraston once again held its two-day Invitational tennis tournament in June. Friday saw the Prep championships with ten schools from across Scotland coming to compete. There was some fierce competition but Raina Dalrymple and Anna Roberts came out on top in the Under 12 category. Saturday's Senior championships saw the girls playing against some very skilled opponents from eight schools but unfortunately didn't win.

The Senior Prep inter-school competition was also played in June with Raina Dalrymple beating Elia de Mendoza Alvarez in the singles final and Raina and Beth Barlow beating Annabel Beale and Elia in the doubles.

The Hannan House Tennis Competition was also played with an outstanding win from Arran with 18 points in total followed by Inchcolm and Kinoull in second place with 13 points and Moncreiffe with 8 points in fourth position.

Also played at the start of June was the Senior school Championships for U14s, U16s and Seniors, the results are as follows:

Under 14 Singles	Winner	Katy Barlow
	Runner up	Katie Robertson
Under 14 Doubles	Winners	Katy and Beth Barlow
	Runners up	Katie Robertson & Emma Louise Pimlott
Under 16 Singles	Winner	Zinnia Hall
	Runner up	Ciara Hayes
Under 16 Doubles	Winners	Zinnia Hall & Ciara Hayes
	Runners up	Mhairi Miller & Emma Carey
Senior Singles	Winner	Philippa Wilson
	Runner up	Heather Whiteside
Senior Doubles	Winner	Philippa Wilson & Heather Whiteside
	Runners up	Camilla Flowers & Lottie Murray



Inter-House Swimming Gala

March saw the annual inter-house swimming gala take place. An exciting atmosphere gripped the competitors as parents, teachers and girls not competing lined up to support their houses. The Junior house competition came first with Capercaillie taking the win over Opsrey and Ptarmigan in second and third respectively. The Senior house competition was tight with an excellent win from Inchcolm closely followed by Moncreiffe, Kinnoull then Arran. The swimming was of a very high calibre across the board. Many records were broken with Alex Scott and Isabelle Cowen both breaking four records each!



Celebration of Sport Dinner

Kilgraston held a gala dinner and auction to raise funds for the new hockey and tennis facilities on the evening of Friday 19th March. The evening was a resounding success with 160 guests enjoying an award winning menu devised by Inspire Catering's Executive Chef David Hunt. The guests were entertained throughout the evening by speakers Stewart Coull and Fred MacAulay. Over £22,000 profit was generated to go towards our new all-weather hockey pitch and upgrade of the tennis courts, which means we are now half way towards achieving our fundraising target of £100,000.

Many thanks to all those who attended, our donors and sponsors.



Sports Day

Sports day was held on a Saturday for the second year running which is proving popular as there was a huge turnout of families and supporters to cheer on the girls. The Jazz band started off the day at 12pm with the first events taking place at 1pm and carrying on through the afternoon. Moncreiffe House went into the day with somewhat of an advantage over their rivals with 169 points gained from previous events. They remained at the top of the leader-board and easily took the win by the end of the day.



Rounders CHAMPS!

Kilgraston hosted its annual Prep School Rounders Championships on Wednesday 12th May. With 9 schools from across Scotland entering the competition it was a busy afternoon on the playing fields with two games being played at the same time. Parents, pupils and teachers all braved the relatively chilly afternoon to come and watch the action unfold. After 20 games were played with 8 minute innings per side the final came down to a strong Cargilfield team and the Kilgraston A team. The crowd grew as a home win was in sight. Kilgraston played a brilliant innings and brought home 9 1/2 rounders to Cargilfield's 5 1/2! Well done to all the girls who took part and we look forward to defending the title next year!



Race for Life 2010

What a wonderful morning we had at Camperdown Park, Dundee on Sunday 20th June. Over 180 girls, staff and parents took part in this year's Race for Life. This is the 12th year Kilgraston has supported the cause and as in previous years the atmosphere and enthusiasm of all those taking part was magnificent. Although this is a non-competitive event there were some good runners in the field but this year none better than our own Alex Scott who came in first out of a field of over 3000! Alex was well ahead of the rest of the runners and received a well deserved standing ovation from the many spectators. Zinnia Hall and Lydia Melville coming in 4th and 9th respectively also put in tremendous performances with Mrs Stott being the first member of staff across the finish line with a very creditable 12th position.

These were all exceptional performances but equally amazing were the performances of the other 177 Kilgraston representatives. Everyone who took part should be very proud of themselves and the Kilgraston community is very proud of what they have all achieved. Thank you so much to all who took part and let's hope that your extraordinary efforts have raised an extraordinary amount of money for Cancer Research.



Equestrian

Scottish Schools Equestrian Championships

Sunday the 9th May saw the 16th running of the annual Kilgraston Scottish Schools Equestrian Championships at Gleneagles Equestrian Centre. From small beginnings this competition has grown year on year and on this occasion a total of 30 teams and 20 individuals, representing 25 schools from all over Scotland competed over three age groups for the prestigious combined training, dressage and show jumping championships.

In the 12 and under section Kilgraston's team of Iona Wilson, Rachel Menzies, Gemma Hayward and Sophie O'Neil made a great start to the day by taking the Dressage, Show Jumping and Combined Training Championships with Sophie O'Neil on Bailey of Kilgraston taking 1st place in the Best Individual Show Jumping class.

Kilgraston came in a close second in the 14 years and under class taking the runner up position in Dressage and Combined Training with The Mary Erskine School taking the 2nd in Show Jumping – both behind Strathallan. Kilgraston's Georgina Chalmers-Gray on Permanent Wave came off well in the individual competition winning the Best Individual Dressage in Arena A and Best Individual Combined Training.

The Kilgraston Senior team of Emily Ryder, Terri Hurrell, Heather Graham and Mhairi Miller also performed outstandingly in the 15 years and over class winning the team dressage and combined training with a 2nd place in the team Show Jumping just behind Strathallan. Kilgraston's Terri Hurrell on Little Richman performed well in the Individual Show Jumping class as Best Individual taking home the Jenny Storer Cup.

Speaking after the event, Kilgraston's Equestrian Manager Elaine Shand said "We were delighted that we had such a wide range of schools taking part in this year's championships, a total of 24 schools from both the independent and state sectors. In total we had over 160 young riders. Kilgraston understands that riding is a very important activity that brings together so many young people from all social backgrounds and as always we are especially pleased to be associated with what has become the major annual equestrian event for school children in Scotland".

Well done to all the girls who took part and a big thank you to all the girls who helped on the day.

Katie takes them on in Belgium

Katie Robertson of U4 Kinoull took the win with the Great Britain Team in this year's Children's Nation Cup in Bonheiden, Belgium.

As in previous years, the Children's Nation Cup team won at the weekend of the 21st – 24th May 2010. Competing against other nations, the children's team performed superbly.

Katie competed in a team of five with Christie Pritchard, Jake Saywell and Anna Wilks and finished on a total score of 5 faults ahead of Ireland and Belgium.

Chef d'equipe Corinne Bracken commented 'The team were fantastic, the wonderful Belgian showground and big technical track was an experience that should stand them in good stead for their future careers'.

Great Britain 1st	5 faults
Ireland 2nd	14 faults
Belgium 3rd	15 faults



Emily Ryder

Emily Ryder (above) was invited to be on the shortlist of 9 riders for the GB Pony 3 Day Event Team for the European Championships at Bishop Burton in July.

Emily has been competing in Pony Trials all spring culminating in a final trial at the GB Pony 2* 3 Day Event Championship at Brand Hall, Gloucestershire in June at which she came 3rd. She attended a training weekend in Cheshire at the end of June and was selected as one of two reserves for the competition in July.

Lottie Success!

Lottie Murray qualified for the Royal International Horse Show at Hixstead in May and travelled down to compete there at the end of July coming 9th in her field! A big congratulations to Lottie for another excellent achievement.

New Assistants for Head of Sixth Form

Angela Taylor and Deirdre Finnegan have been appointed as assistants to the head of Sixth Form due to the rapid growth. They will be actively involved with the Sixth Form in a variety of ways including assisting with UCAS preparation, helping and supporting the tutor teams, working as part of the Sixth Form Studies team and supporting functions and socials. Angela will bring her expertise of community work and will aim to engage the sixth form in various local and global projects. Deirdre will use her expertise as an ESOL teacher to liaise with the overseas students and encourage integration with current and new students.

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