

KILGRASTON

JUNIOR YEARS · SENIOR · SIXTH FORM

COR UNUM

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SPEECH DAY

CHAPEL

NEPAL

FEATURES

ART & DESIGN

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Published by Kilgraston School, Bridge of Earn, Perthshire PH2 9BQ UK
Tel 01738 812257 www.kilgraston.com

The magazine features highlights of the school year 2015 to 2016 as observed by members of staff and pupils of the school. The opinions expressed are those of the writers concerned and not necessarily those of Kilgraston School. We apologise for any errors or omissions.

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SPEECH DAY

KILGRASTON SCHOOL 2016



DOROTHY MACGINTY HEADMISTRESS

I WOULD PARTICULARLY LIKE TO WELCOME ANN MILLER, OUR GUEST OF HONOUR. ANN IS A WELL-KNOWN ATTORNEY OF LAW BASED IN SAN FRANCISCO AND SHE IS A KEY MEMBER OF THE CORE TEAM OF THE EUROPEAN NETWORK OF SACRED HEART SCHOOLS.

Ann gives generously of her time, delivering talks and workshops to girls on leadership and building relationships at many different Sacred Heart schools worldwide. She has been visiting Kilgraston for many years and her assembly at the end of her most recent visit left us all feeling inspired and proud to be a Sacred Heart school.

It was once written that, "If something good falls into your life – grab it with both hands, wrap your arms around it – and keep it close to you. Nourish it and for always, appreciate and respect it. But – never hold it so tight that it is crushed into nothing and falls away from you."

Our Upper Sixth year group has certainly been something "good" that has fallen into the life of Kilgraston. I sincerely hope that throughout your school days here, you have felt nourished, appreciated and respected. But it is time now for us to open our arms, setting you free into the world of opportunities, whether you are heading for a gap year or off to university.

It is a diverse range of subjects you are going to study: Engineering at Oxford, Medicine at

St Andrews, French at Durham, Teaching at Edinburgh, to name just a few.

You are an extraordinary group of individuals with so many talents and strengths and we will miss you. You have been fabulous role models to all of us. The great respect held for you by staff and girls alike has been borne out by the many events of the past week.

In all the testimonials and endorsements we have heard, it is how you have made others in our community feel, that has been the strongest. When we meet other people we often forget what they have said to us but we never forget how they made us feel.

Your kindness, your warmth, your sense of humour (although ambushing the Headmistress in her balloon-filled study with a full rendition of 'You Are the Dancing Queen' was perhaps taking humour a little far!), your cheerfulness, patience, and your care for others has been the living testimony of the Sacred Heart goal of building community. We are so grateful to you and feel privileged to have been allowed to watch you grow into the wonderful young women you are.

**GOOD LUCK, KEEP IN TOUCH AND ALWAYS REMEMBER
YOU HAVE A HOME HERE: COR UNUM.**

"If something good falls into your life – grab it with both hands, wrap your arms around it – and keep it close to you. Nourish it and for always, appreciate and respect it. But – never hold it so tight that it is crushed into nothing and falls away from you."



It is my responsibility to report on the achievements of the academic year just passed and I will highlight some significant events. Many more are reported on in the weekly Forward, termly newsletters and the annual school magazine.

Our academic results are crucially important to us and last year we had particular success, especially considering that we are not a selective school. In the public examinations of 2015, in Intermediate 2, Highers and Advanced Highers we scored the highest grades in the country across all independent schools, reaching the top position in The Times Schools' League tables. That is quite an achievement. It will be recognised by Tatler magazine in their next Good Schools Guide. We hosted the highly successful Kilgraston Scottish Schools' Equestrian Championships again this year. In Public Speaking, the girls gave convincing performances at the Perth Festival, winning a record number of distinctions and first places.

The girls' Art is highly visible throughout the school and it is a joy to walk through the corridors to view it on display. Every visitor to the school comments on the very high calibre of Art: the quality of execution and level of creativity is outstanding. I would like to thank Miss MacLeod and Ms Martin for their encouragement of the girls.

This year, the number of girls completing Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh awards has increased again. The group trekking off to Nepal with World Challenge have done a tremendous job in raising the money they have each needed to fund the trip. We wish them every success in what I am sure will be a life changing experience.

We enjoyed our first exchange with Unison World School in India. Fifteen of their girls with two members of staff stayed here at Kilgraston, attending lessons and assemblies and experiencing Scottish culture,



history, engineering and business. The second party of students will arrive in September and we will take our first party of girls to India next year.

The sports teams have enjoyed considerable success this year particularly in netball, hockey and tennis. We have had wonderful participation from Cross Country to Extra-Curricular clubs. In the senior school, we have six international sports girls at the moment which is exceptional. Three have been invited to train at Under 21 level: Catriona Norval in netball, Katie Stott and Emily Dark in hockey. I would like to thank the PE teachers and sports coaches for all they do to encourage the girls' participation in sport.

The quality of music here is superb. We had another astonishing Christmas concert in December with 85% of the school taking part. Mr McGarva had us on our feet again, swaying to his favourite Take That offering. One of the greatest highlights of the year for us was the choir tour to Rome to sing in the Vatican. The girls sang superbly well, when we finally got in to St Peter's Basilica, and again the next day in the Sacred Heart School. There were 85 in the choir, 10 members of staff and 100 parents who travelled from across the world: it was an unforgettable trip.



We have enjoyed two musical dramas this term. 'Peter Pan Junior' was excellent. We were treated to a feast of singing, dancing and acting and the Prep girls delighted us with a spectacular show of talent and enthusiasm. The senior production of 'Guys and Dolls' was absolutely extraordinary, not least for the incredible voices of the girls. It involved a large cast from Upper Fourth to Upper Sixth and the girls acted, danced and sang magnificently. I am sure the audience would have been happy to pay to see such a performance in the West End! I am grateful to Mrs Scott, Mr McGarva and all the staff who contributed to these productions.

All of the success the girls enjoy is supported by their teachers and I would like to invite you to join me in offering our gratitude to the excellent staff we have at Kilgraston.

We are looking forward to our restructured Pastoral system where Year Heads will be able to focus on the particular needs of the girls in that specific age group. Having a greater focus on being an all-through school, with Mr Stewart leading the junior years, will provide us with a seamless transition from junior to senior. We are introducing the Kilgraston Diploma which will give the girls greater focus on their academic and extracurricular programme and provide us with an opportunity to give them a formal recognition of their achievements over the Lower and Upper Fourth years.

One last, final word to our Upper Sixth Leavers: I quote from TDR Thomason: The Superior Being:

"Know yourself and find peace of mind. Only a woman who knows herself can be at peace with herself. Only a woman at peace with herself can be at peace with others."



TIM HALL

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

BISHOP ROBSON, TRUSTEES, GOVERNORS, PARENTS AND FRIENDS,
WELCOME TO OUR PRIZE DAY AND A SPECIAL WELCOME TO ANN MILLER,
OUR SPECIAL GUEST FOR THE OCCASION.

I always think there are three things parents want to glean from
the Chairman of the Governors in the official Prize Day speech;

1. Is the school into which we entrust our child and commit so much of our hard earned finances going to be around in five years' time, and in good financial health?
2. Is the management team I have bought into committed to the long haul?
3. Is the school doing what it said it would do 'on the tin' when we signed on the dotted line?

WELL, I CAN ANSWER FIRMLY 'YES' TO ALL THREE POINTS.

1 Kilgraston will again generate a modest surplus this year and we are moving nicely forward to hit our targets for next year. We are all firmly supported by Barry Farrell, our able and tough bursar, and Richard Taylor who heads the Finance committee. We continue to balance the need to manage what we have in our pocket, invest strategically through modest borrowing, and ensure parents are protected as much as possible from inflationary pressures.

During a period of headship change there is an inevitable hiatus in recruitment of new students but it is all credit to the management team that we continue to move forward. We have, of course, the continued support of a cohort of loyal parents and students - inevitably our best ambassadors. Kilgraston often remains a well-kept secret so there are many untapped avenues of recruitment and our marketing thrust will be broad in its approach.

Your board pays great attention to balancing international with national, local with UK, day and boarding. While we offer a unique experience, we always have to be good value and we intend to be just that. So we are in good financial heart and are well experienced in managing the school through cycles. My challenge to the Kilgraston team and to the parents - for we are all ambassadors - is to represent the school to the outside world in the highly positive and distinctive light in the way you talk to me. As we know, once prospective parents comes through the gates, it is difficult for them not to sign on the dotted line!

2 Your management team, headed by Dorothy is indeed committed to Kilgraston and your Board to them.

I think the natural leadership qualities evident in Dorothy have been put to the test this year and not found wanting and I detect an enormous support from parents, children and staff in her ability to lead the school forward, treat internal and external adversity with good humour and resilience and bring strategic thinking into what we do. Some change may not always be palatable at first, but I hope that it will prove right for the school and for the delivery of first class education and pastoral care for all.

One obvious change has been the recalibrating of our prep and junior offering and the closure of the nursery. Much of what we are engaged with is being contemplated or enacted by other schools. We have to ensure Kilgraston is ready for

the decade ahead and that it provides a relevant, all round education for the young women of tomorrow, while rooted in a sense of tradition and strong sense of self-worth. I believe we have the right team in place to do this. Inevitably, there is some turnover in staff and I can only say how much those leaving will be missed. The test is not so much that good people go on to further their careers but that we can replace them with equally excellent applicants and I do believe we attract very high quality replacements.

So you have a leadership team with a big strategic job ahead, tough on standards and expectations for themselves and having the confidence of the Board to do the job we need them to do.

3 Are we doing what we say we do on the tin? The evidence is that over the last year, business as usual is alive and well at Kilgraston - across every discipline, and in every year group. I detect that Kilgraston has had a good year in achieving excellence, a thoughtful year in terms of service to others, and a rooted year in representing the Sacred Heart Goals. I think those leaving us this year will reflect vibrant ambition, tempered with a strong sense of care, independence of thought married with a sense of shared humanity and a toughness to deal with life supported by a great sense of humour. The senior school inspector for Scotland took me aside a couple of years ago and said, 'Kilgraston has in its bricks what other schools spend decades trying to invent'. I was very encouraged to hear as well from Bishop Robson that our presence in the diocese continues to grow; thank you to Caroline Laidlaw, our chaplain, for her engagement in this area.

My challenge for the school in the year ahead is to use the school plan to be brave in setting tough standards of what excellence looks like across our many disciplines, ensuring consistency in standards, and to ensure we live our Sacred Heart Goal of Social Awareness to the full. I also want us to take communication to a new level to articulate our success and key attributes to the outside world. Our Friday newsletter and our Parents' Association are part of this pattern of sharing and communicating the Kilgraston heartbeat but we can do more in this area. We punch above our weight - we need to know more about this and to be able to articulate what is 'in the Kilgraston tin' to the outside world.

Could I add a fourth point that we should all listen out for? **Governance.**

4 Governance matters. We are all blessed with folk of able talent giving up so much of their time for this school in a voluntary capacity. We will be sad to see Fr. Edward retire from the Governing Board, but he remains a trustee; John Reynolds and Paul Race will be leaving over the year, after considerable contribution to both finance and marketing.

Two long standing trustees have retired, Tom Gilbey and Professor Philip Esler, strong ambassadors for all that is good about the school. My thanks also go to Thomas Steuart Fotheringham as Chair of the Trustee Board, and Lorna Ogilvie, as Deputy Chair of the Governing Board for their continued support; Thanks also to Christian Melville, who chairs our Governance Board. My challenge to the trustees and governors is to ensure we have the balance of skill sets required to meet the changing environment an independent school faces and that we are visible and accessible both within the school and to our parent body.

Thanks are due to the home team for their handling of the recent flooding. Barry and his facilities team, with Dorothy in full command, supported by a multitude of volunteers, leave the Government's Cobra team looking mild and ineffective in comparison! Well done, indeed.

Looking at our departing students, I am filled with a certain amount of envy at your opportunities ahead. As always, the sense of expectation mixed with sadness is palpable. But I know you are well prepared for the next stage of life. When I have interviewed graduates for posts in businesses I have helped run, I have tended to look out for 'energy, inquisitiveness, clear articulation of ideas, balanced with an understanding of what good team work looks and feels like'. I have no doubt you all share these traits. Certainly my eldest daughter who was Head Girl here, and who graduated last Friday as a Doctor from Aberdeen University, has taken with her all that was best of her education here. Her foundation will be your foundation, and it is a strong one.

Good luck and remember you are part of the wider Kilgraston family. Always be proud of your school; we are very proud of you.

ANN MILLER, GUEST SPEAKER

MRS MACGINTY AND OTHER LEADERS OF KILGRASTON, PARENTS, FRIENDS, AND MOSTLY YOU, YOUNG WOMEN IN THE SENIOR SCHOOL, INCLUDING LEAVERS THIS IS A BIG DAY AND IT IS TRULY SPECIAL FOR ME TO BE WITH YOU TODAY!

I thought a lot about what I should talk about today and what would be interesting and helpful for you. I was educated by the Religious of the Sacred Heart and other teachers at the Convent of the Sacred Heart in San Francisco. My mother was educated at the Sacred Heart in San Francisco and Paris.

My grandmother was educated at the Sacred Heart in Chicago and Rome. My grandmother's sister was a Religious of the Sacred Heart. After I graduated from University, I lived and worked at Sacred Heart in Graz, Austria for a year; then I went to law school. And I have been a lawyer for many, many years.

So – why am I here? Because Mrs MacGinty invited me; because I love being at Kilgraston; because my Sacred Heart education has meant so much to me and because you are a part of Sacred Heart education worldwide.

Some of you will be leaving Kilgraston after today and some of you will carry on at Kilgraston. I hope you won't mind if I say a few things which are more specific to the 'leavers'.

When I graduated from the Convent of the Sacred Heart in San Francisco in 1962, there were no thoughts of preparing a woman to be a lawyer. However, because of my Sacred Heart education - the education of the whole person – not just the mind – I was prepared. I was prepared for the intellectual challenges, but, most importantly, I was prepared for the personal challenges.

There will always be challenges. There will always be mistakes. It is the way we face and respond to life's challenges and mistakes that causes us to grow. Sacred Heart educational goals can be summed up as 'to educate to a personal and active faith in God; to educate to a deep respect for intellectual values; to educate to a social awareness which impels to action; to educate to the building of community as a Christian value; to educate to personal growth in an atmosphere of wise freedom'. Faith; Intellectual Values; Social Awareness; Community; Personal Growth.

These are values you are aware of while in school and which will be influencing your lives, often unconsciously. It is like practising music, dance or sport, the movements become automatic, ingrained. You do them without thinking. So with practising the behaviour of the Goals: they are there to be drawn on when you need them, like muscle memory. This gives you a big step up as you grow and eventually are out on your own.

When I was a pupil, we received rings inscribed with the Sacred Heart emblem at the end of the year which is the equivalent of your Lower Sixth. At the end of our Senior year – your Upper Sixth – we turned the rings around with the Heart pointing outwards – to signify that we were now ready to take what we had been given out into the world. The choices for women were very limited in 1962 when I left school. Fortunately the choices are much greater for you today.



There are, of course, still challenges because growth is incremental – two steps forward – one step back. We, as girls and women, sometimes hold ourselves back from trying and asking for the things we want to do and be, because we think we are not perfect or not ready. But we are ready – and we have this excellent education behind us as our foundation. All we have to be is be the best we can be and do the best we can. Believe me – no matter how old you become, you will never be perfect and it is OK. You can still be great at who and what you are.

1. We spend a lot of our lives building networks of people for both personal and professional reasons. You as a Sacred Heart pupil have access to schools and graduates all over the world. Don't forget it but use that opportunity. You will be amazed at the reactions you get as a member of this worldwide community.

For example, I worked often for international clients. I was a woman lawyer before there were many women professionals and looked very young. I did my job well. But there was, as there often is with something new, doubt about a young woman being able to do a job that was traditionally limited to men. So I would say to people that I had been educated by the Religious of the Sacred Heart. I did not mention my university or law school. There were many times when that broke the ice – as the sisters, mothers, and wives of several of those men with whom I was working – had also been children of the Sacred Heart in their countries. And that gave me more credibility and gained me respect. They knew what it meant to be educated in the Sacred Heart. (Personal Growth; Community)

2. We are all different – we have our roles in life –our strengths and weaknesses. And we sometimes undermine ourselves by comparing ourselves unfavorably to others. Having role models and getting ideas from others are good things – but keeping your confidence in yourself is essential. (Faith; Personal Growth)

3. Generosity is a word that comes to mind. Often when 'generous' or 'generosity' is used, we think first of giving money or other material things or time. And that can be important. But generosity is also of spirit. Giving each other the benefit of the doubt – giving each other a chance – forgiving each other for mistakes.

Forgiving ourselves for mistakes and learning from adversity. Looking at and for the best in each other. Kindness. (Personal Growth; Community)

4. Team. At your young ages you may not be thinking of bringing others along. But – turning the ring out – you are always in a position to help others and bring others along as you achieve your goals. Be prepared to be inclusive and to be team

players. That is not only the right way to be, it is part of the track to success. As my father once said, 'Ann, it is good that you are smart but you have to get along with people.' The ability to get along with and work with others, bring others along, give credit to others, being inclusive, is essential to happiness and success in life. (Social Awareness; Community; Personal Growth)

5. Leadership means taking Responsibility. It is little about power. At whatever age you are you are always a leader when you live up to the responsibilities of your life. And be a good listener – giving others a chance to state their opinions and for you to know what they are thinking. (Community).

6. As for entitlement – forget it. Many say that the current new generation in the business world expects to be given something but they don't want to work for it. Remember, we are entitled to what we work for.

7. Don't be afraid to try things. It is good to have commitment – 'stick to it iveness' (as my mother would have said). It is also OK to take chances. Find and do things that provide - as Anne of Green Gables says, Scope for the Imagination. Make change happen – and bring others along. Watch for life changing moments – there will be some, both good and not so good that will change you in some way forever. Try to be aware of those moments. Celebrate differences. Let it be said about you, as the song in Wicked goes...Because I knew you...I have been changed for Good!!

To the leavers...you may physically walk out of Kilgraston, but you will never "leave" what Kilgraston is and what you have become. Take a mental snapshot of yourself today – proud, accomplished, excited, confident. And carry that with you in life. Sacred Heart education is all about relationships. Life is all about relationships – both personal and professional. Yours are rooted, in the qualities imbued in you by reference throughout your education to the Goals. And as you are living your lives, studying, growing and developing great characters and intellectual ability....be sure to remember to HAVE FUN!!

God Bless Each of You!!

ANDREW STEWART, HEAD OF JUNIOR YEARS



IT IS A PLEASURE TO BE HERE ON ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DAYS IN OUR ACADEMIC YEAR AND TO SPEAK ABOUT THE FUTURE OF JUNIOR YEARS.

The idea that has kept coming back to me is the importance of keeping 'one foot in the past and an eye on the future'. Although there will be changes next year, I want to start with the Kilgraston Sacred Heart ethos and tradition, as these inform the direction we are going in the future.

There will be some changes to the curriculum with a mental maths programme and new Social Studies topics. We are integrating ICT further into class work and developing our Art resources with a dedicated Art room and a new after school club. The library will be revamped and there will be a technology room. We will continue to teach the girls about Ethical Enterprise and build upon our Fairtrade Schools award.

This brings me on to how we are going to build on our success and make the Junior Years even better. It is about 'us': 'us' as a community of teachers and parents. We are in this together. Parents and staff are working towards a common goal, a united vision of helping to develop happy, adventurous, artistic, polite and intellectual girls who are sensitive to the needs of those around them on a local, national and international scale. We need to make sure we are all getting it right and support each other. Our vision is that there are no divisions, but instead a unified body of people respecting, caring and nurturing those around us.

Each class will be holding pupil led learning afternoons next academic year inviting in parents, building on the success of this year's art gallery, Titanic Museum visit and the puppet show. Please keep coming in and seeing the girls and staff in action. As a school, we need parents to be giving us constructive feedback, telling us where to improve and also, what is going well. That is our vision: all of us working together as a community. Thank you to all the parents for all the huge support this year.

I want to thank the staff and say how much I enjoy being surrounded by creative, hard working, energetic and passionate educators. It's inspirational. Thanks also to all the support staff who help to make the 'Kilgraston magic' happen.

The Kilgraston Nursery staff has been amazing. I know first hand how much dedication, hard work and planning has gone in to making the Nursery experience for the pupils a success and I wish Mrs Farrell, Mrs Megahy and Mrs Hare the very best for the future. I would also like to thank Mrs Whitaker for the energy and commitment she has brought to her role as class teacher.

Lastly, I wish each and every pupil here today the very best of summers and to those of you who are moving to the Senior School the best of luck.

We are very proud of you all.

GIRLS HERE...



ARE ADVENTUROUS

They are den building, climbing, welly wearing girls. Girls here are polite and courteous. They open doors, say 'good morning' and listen well. Girls here are intellectual: They think, speak and question.



ARE CREATIVE

They are artistic, dramatic and musical



ARE ENTREPRENEURIAL

They raise money for charity, selling fair trade goods and counting profits.



CARE ABOUT THEIR COMMUNITY

Locally, nationally and internationally.



CARE FOR EACH OTHER

They help, they listen and they play together.

Next year is going to enhance, promote and celebrate these traits. For example, we are aiming to achieve our 'Woodland schools award'. Each class will be designing and taking part in activities to celebrate and preserve our woodlands for which we have the perfect school grounds. The pupils will have an experience of 'camping out' (even if in daylight and not overnight). They will put up tents, cook outside and learn about flora and fauna. There will be a fire-pit and outdoor learning area. Den building will remain high on the activity priority list. We will even be starting an archery club.

IONA GODFREY-FAUSSETT U6, HEAD GIRL

A BEAUTIFUL STATELY BUILDING, SURROUNDED BY MAGNIFICENT GREEN GROUNDS OF BLOSSOM, A WINDING RIVER AND TOWERING TREES, AN ART DEPARTMENT ENCIRCLING AN ELEGANT BALCONY, MUSIC FLOATING OUT OF THE OPEN WINDOWS IN THE ROOFTOPS, AN EQUESTRIAN CENTRE ON SITE AND A SWIMMING POOL FROM WHICH YOU COULD WATCH THE SUNRISE.

These were my first impressions of Kilgraston as a thirteen year old girl – impressions which meant that in the space of about thirty seconds I had made up my mind to come, no matter what.

However, I have since realised that although the exquisite appearances and alluring facilities did play a part in my instant love for the school, it was in fact the immediate sense of feeling welcomed and at home that was the deciding factor. I knew at once that, although small, this was a school with a very big heart.

My five years here have proved that even small things can succeed in enormous ways. Up against schools two or three times its size, during this time Kilgraston has been voted independent school of the year not once but twice. I think that this is ultimately due to the individuality, determination and immensely strong feeling of family and friendship that is Kilgraston.

Our final year here has been better than I ever could have imagined. As well as collecting an enormous number of university offers (two thirds of them unconditional), we have had immense fun and will treasure the memories always.

Aside from our favourite duties such as biscuit and lunch times and the slightly more exciting ones including the Sixth Form Ball, goals days and House events, it is hard to know what to expect of your Upper Sixth year. I know now that it is the year that

brings everyone together - with a little bit of stress in the form of UCAS thrown in for good measure! Every year, you can feel the strength of the Sacred Heart goal like a chaperone or guide through school life and this year has been no different with our goal of intellect.

I would like to say a huge thank you to Ann Miller for travelling all the way from the USA to speak to us today. Ann has had a great influence on us as a year group especially, visiting the school regularly to make sure everything is running smoothly and inspiring us with her passion for the Sacred Heart network along with its goals.

Although we may like to think that as Upper Sixth we rule the school, we are incredibly lucky to have Mrs MacGinty at the helm, steering the school towards safety and success. Her calm and patient leadership as well as making time for everyone has had a great influence on us all and we are so grateful for all her support and kindness in our last year of school.

For the past seven years, Mrs Prentice has guided pupils with her untiring work and dedication to the school. She has been the best Head of Sixth Form we could have asked for.

Mrs McFadden is a great role model: her compassion, patience and all-round generosity are a true inspiration. She always finds time to help us and we will forever be grateful to have had her as our 'mother hen' throughout our time here.

Mrs Lund has helped to make sure we don't get lost with our subjects and guided us along our academic paths with care and great organisation so that we can look forward to the future.

There is absolutely no way I could have got through this year without my two fabulous deputies, Ruth and Phoebe. Their constant support, jokes and unconditional friendship have been incredible and I could not have wished for two better people to have by my side.

We are leaving the school in the very safe hands of next year's head girl team of Susie, Sophie and Teresa. I hope that all the new Upper 6th enjoy and treasure the times that are ahead. Keep Kilgraston the way it should be, whilst leaving your own special stamp on it.

And finally, a massive thank you must go to every member of U6th. I am so proud of how our year has come together to create the most effective team and I will never forget the wonderful times we have had or the strength of the friendships we have made. The time has finally come to fly the nest. At the end of this part of our journey, it is clear to see that we have been prepared to step out into the world, each of us moulded in our own individual way into compassionate, capable young women.

We will forever have the privilege and pride of being a KG girl at heart, no matter where we are in the world.

**For one final time,
Kilgraston COR UNUM.**



THE CHAPLAINCY

CAROLINE LAIDLAW, CHAPLAIN



THE CHAPLAINCY STANDS AT THE HEART OF KILGRASTON. AS CHAPLAIN, I HAVE MANY ROLES TO PLAY: THE DAY TO DAY RUNNING OF THE CHAPEL, CO-ORDINATING THE LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS, PLANNING ASSEMBLIES, SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION, TRAINING THE GIRLS TO SERVE ON THE ALTAR, OVERSEEING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GOALS, DELIVERING THE CARITAS AWARD, SUPPORTING THE R.E. DEPARTMENT IN IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAMME OF 'GOD'S LOVING PLAN' AND 'CALLED TO LOVE RELATIONSHIP'.



Next year, we are introducing the Pope Francis Faith Award to the L3 and U3. I also teach core R.E. to the Sixth Form.

Meeting with the girls on a regular basis enables me to help them explore their own thoughts and feelings about religion and discern their own beliefs and faith. We get together for informal chats in the boarding areas, chaplain's office or common rooms, often as a result of girls coming and finding me to tell me they have things they wish to discuss.

The school year in Chapel consists of Masses, assemblies, school celebrations, concerts and regular hymn practice. Mass is celebrated in accordance with the liturgical calendar of the Catholic Church including the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Feast of the Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Mass to celebrate First Holy Communion and Confirmation, Feast of the Sacred Heart, Diocesan Mass with the Bishop to hear the Rome Choir. This year we hosted the Annual Diocesan Youth Mass which saw over thirty young people from around the diocese come together to celebrate their faith with the Kilgraston girls.

We are lucky to have Bishop Tony Farquhar from Down and Connor in Northern Ireland, a long-standing friend and supporter of the school, come to celebrate the Opening Mass every year.

There are other important events in the school calendar which are held in the chapel. We have the Remembrance Service held on November 11th, the Lily Procession, Junior School Nativity and the Senior Carol Service. The Easter Term ended with the whole school Mass which helped us to prepare us for the coming Holy Week. In the summer term, there are Leavers' Mass and Prize Day which celebrates the achievements of the whole school for the year.

In June we held Goals Week to reflect on how the school had highlighted Intellect this year. The plenary workshops asked girls to reflect on the full meaning of 'a deep respect for intellectual values', and identify ways in which they had participated in, or promoted the goal of intellect. Many girls were inspired by the realisation that intellect could be so broadly interpreted as to include creativity, sporting achievement, personal endeavour and so forth. The infinite number of ways in which a 'thoughtful consideration' could be given to achieve any given outcome was seen as an integral part of intellect.

iPray took place during Goals Week. The R.E. classroom was transformed into a meditation centre where girls could attend for a few quiet moments of contemplation over a twenty-four hour period. They could offer prayers, write down wishes, consign troubles to spiritual helpers and guides, and take time out to reflect.

Mrs MacGinty felt that Kilgraston should have its own hymn book and a new, green, hardbound slim volume with the Sacred Heart logo on the front was produced for everyone to use in chapel. A new Kilgraston prayer was printed on small prayer cards to give out to each member of the community. The prayer was written by the head girl team of Iona, Phoebe and Ruth and given to Kilgraston as a legacy.

'KILGRASTON HAS DONE SO MUCH FOR US - IT IS TIME FOR US TO GIVE BACK TO KILGRASTON.'

THE RELICS OF KILGRASTON

EMILY SCOTT L6

THINK OF RELICS, AND IT'S DIFFICULT NOT TO PICTURE BALDRIC'S 'CUNNING PLAN' IN THE FIRST SERIES OF BLACKADDER WHICH AIMS TO MAXIMISE CHURCH REVENUES BY OFFERING FOR SALE 'GENUINE' PIPE RACKS MADE IN THE WORKSHOP OF JESUS.



Even more sober treatments of the topic, such as the recent dramatisation of Hilary Mantel's Wolf Hall make reference to the venerated collection of St Edmund's nail parings. In post-Reformation Europe, relics have suffered a bad press, and those which have survived protestant purges have been kept secret for long enough that it is difficult for people not to be sceptical about their provenance.

Be that as it may, right here in Kilgraston, hidden from view, a handful of precious relics have survived although in truth, there is nothing mysterious about the collection of articles in the Chaplain's office. Certainly, there is no super-secret panel in a basement with Latin passwords and riddles that must be translated, but they are a well-kept secret, nonetheless.

So much so, that when I was asked to write a piece on the school's relics, my first thought was of somewhere between that of an endless stream of boring artefacts and some of our more seasoned staff members! Yet what the Chaplain showed me was a real eye-opener. No one can predict how they will react to an authenticated artefact which can be traced back to a person of great importance in Church life. And the relics in our school caused me to revise my views about their substance.

Amongst the collection there is a splinter - about the size of the lead end of a pencil cut in half - from the original cross that Jesus died on, a tiny nail also from the cross, fragments of cloth from the cloaks of Joseph, St. Paul and St. Peter and a fragment of Mary's bone. All complete with Vatican certificates certifying that these are absolutely genuine - or if they're not, they are from very similar ones from around the same time - the 'get-out' clause.

More closely associated with our school, there is a fragment from the habit (nun's dress) of St Madeleine Sophie Barat, the founder of the Religious of the Sacred Heart, and the same from the habit of St Philippine Duchesne who opened Sacred Heart schools in America. These two artefacts alone link directly to the women whose influence is still felt across the Sacred Heart family today.

Through these relics, history is brought a little closer to us and is made a little more real. It is extraordinary, in fact, to be granted access to items one might reasonably expect to find in a European Catacomb or the Vatican Museum.

Naturally, people may speculate about the authenticity of items such as a splinter from the true cross; but to look upon this unprepossessing article and wonder at its story is of no small consequence. Pieces of the 'True Cross' found in Europe originate in large part from Constantinople, which was invaded and raided by the Fourth Crusade as ordered by Pope Innocent III. When the crusade ended in 1204 a section of the True Cross of Jesus was found among the treasures the crusaders unearthed. This was moved immediately out of Jerusalem and embellished with gold and jewels.

The cross received much praise and admiration from spectators before it was chopped into pieces by bishops and divided between the Knights of the Crusade. These knights then gifted them to churches and monasteries in their home countries upon their return.

It is worth bearing in mind, however, that each of the relics in our collection has a story at least as interesting as this. Anyone interested in viewing the relics under supervision is invited to speak with the Chaplain.



ARRAN

AILSAS EDWARDS U6

IN MY OPINION, TAKING PART IN HOUSE EVENTS HAS TO BE THE HIGHLIGHT OF ANY KILGRASTON GIRL'S LIFE, AND I AM PRETTY SURE THAT THE REST OF THIS YEAR'S UPPER SIXTH WOULD AGREE WITH ME.

Arran has performed really well across the board in all types of events; academic, sports and arts. We won the first ever inter-House quiz competition. This event ran for several weeks and was very intense towards the end, with some unusual quiz categories. I found it great to watch and I am so proud of our House for achieving this as I saw people who were not usually very vocal in House events, really coming out of their shells to do their very best for Arran.

Every House takes full advantage of the House Cross Country with the paint and colourful clothes coming out in full across students and staff. Our own Samantha Richard came second in the Senior section which was brilliant. Arran won the Inter-House Skiing and Tennis and came second in many other sporting events. Eryn Skinner (our Sports Captain of this year) achieved Senior Champion in Swimming with Nicola Bryan coming second in under 16 swimming. Both the Manganiello sisters contributed massively to the Arran spirit by taking part in all sports teams, winning the inter House Tennis and individual events in Badminton.

Looking into the future, there are many talented young Arranites coming through and I wish them luck in the future and hope that they always keep their positive attitudes and team spirit. As the junior and senior schools join closer together, Arran in turn will get bigger. I think this is fantastic as the younger girls will

become more integrated with the seniors and I hope the new system works well.

At the end of June, we had to say a sad goodbye to Miss Gardner, who has been our Housemistress for this year. She has left Kilgraston to join her family in Canada. Our warmest thanks to her for looking after us so well and keeping Arran House spirit alive. We wish Miss Gardner all the best in her new beginning and hope that everything goes well for her. We were also sorry to say goodbye to Mr McKinney, previous House Master of Arran. He is not going too far away but he will be down the road at Strathallan. Arran will definitely miss Mr McKinney keeping us on our toes at House meetings with his weekly quiz every Friday morning. House Tutors, Miss Seatter and Mrs Ferguson have also left – Miss Seatter has returned to her Orkney home to start her new job. On behalf of girls from Upper 4th to Upper 6th, we would like to say a massive thank you to all our Tutors - from sorting out our little dramas to helping us write our personal statements for university. It's meant a lot to all of us. We are pleased that Mrs Oswald will be the new House Mistress of Arran. Also, good luck to Daisy Galbraith, Gemma Fowle and Grace Reilly for next year and I hope you lead Arran towards victory next year with as much team work as you can muster!

Kilgraston and Arran has been my home for five years, so I want to thank everybody who has made my time there so special - I will miss all of you so much.

INCHCOLM

OLA TKACZ U6

WHILE IT IS SAD TO LET GO OF OUR 'KILGRASTON FAMILY', THE U6 INCHCOLM GIRLS LOOK FORWARD TO THE FUTURE. AS A TUTOR GROUP THAT HAS BEEN TOGETHER SINCE UPPER FOURTH, WE HAVE GROWN AS INDEPENDENT INDIVIDUALS, ALWAYS REMAINING THE BEST OF FRIENDS THAT CAN TACKLE ANY HOUSE EVENT TOGETHER.



I would like to wish the best of luck to my incredible Deputy Head of House, Phoebe Choi, who will be studying Aeronautical Engineering at Imperial College London; my forever enthusiastic and supportive sports captain Sophie Jacobs who is going to Nepal, Canada and America for her gap year; Ruth Faherty, who will be studying engineering at Oxford; Lucie Guest who is spending a gap year in New Zealand; Lorna Modeen who will flourish as an incredible artist at Dundee Art College and Liz Yan who will be studying music at Edinburgh University. I will also be at Edinburgh University studying Psychology.

This year has been an incredibly successful year for Inchcolm House in sporting, artistic and academic events. We won the first event of the year, the Cross Country which showed our incredible House spirit with the highest number of participants. Huge congratulations to all and, in particular to Daisy Foniciello, who was second overall. This has always been the biggest and loudest House event and, without a doubt, Inchcolm proved their support by singing our House chant and cheering on our fellow team mates. Our supporting House mascot, Truffles the Highland cow, completed the Cross Country route with us and by the end, everyone was covered in red paint!

Our goal for House Music was to make sure all of the talented musicians in Inchcolm took part. The small group piece was "Christmas Lights" by Coldplay, which was brilliantly directed by Ruth Faherty for which I am very grateful. Susie Dougall played the Cello; Sophie Downes and Jade

Courtney sang beautifully; Liz Yan played the complex piano part; Allanah Grieve was on Viola; and most importantly, our wonderful Upper Sixth Tutor Mr Campbell joined us on guitar and always kept our spirits high during practice. The whole house performed "Riptide" which was a fun piece that involved Lucia and Clare playing the ukuleles! Inchcolm did really well and the music showed our enthusiasm and House spirit.

We were victorious in many other inter House events such as Rounders and Swimming. Congratulations to our U14 Swimming champions, Rania Macleod and Abbie Hamilton, and to our U16 champion Daisy Foniciello. The Rounders was a perfect way to sum up the year: Jade Courtney led our senior team and all the girls performed incredibly well, with the junior team winning every single game.

The friendly nature of our House really came through, because our goal was always to have a good time, support each other and win or lose as a team. We sat together as a group on the grass and cheered on our team mates with girls from every year, chatting together as friends. This is what the Inchcolm spirit is all about. We had the highest number of members of a House participating in events and this would not have happened without our talented and enthusiastic girls. Our sports captain, Sophie Jacobs, supported every single sports event, usually wearing her trademark red tights!

We performed outstandingly well in the Inter House Speech Making Competition this year as we won both categories. Ruth

Faherty won the best speaker award with her phenomenal speech on "Generation Z". Leah Flint won most promising speaker award with "The benefits of being small" which received a huge round of applause. The whole House was extremely proud. Inchcolm also did well in the House Art competition and Sophie Downes came joint first with her mesmerising painting of Malala.

I will miss the special bond that links members of the House and I truly believe that Inchcolm is a big family. We enjoy coming together for our coffee mornings and festive Christmas lunches. I would like to thank all the Tutors who have supported the girls and have made each tutor meeting fun.

Next year, Millie Brown will be Head of House and I wish her the best of luck with continuing to keep up the amazing Inchcolm spirit and my best wishes also to Kim Paton-Mackenzie, Deputy Head of House and to Mollie Gordon as Sports Captain. Inchcolm is made up of outstanding individuals that come together to form the friendliest, most lovely House. This is without a doubt, down to our wonderful Housemistress, Mrs McCabe.

She is one of the kindest, most thoughtful and caring teachers at Kilgraston and she will be incredibly missed by the House. She has been an inspiration to us all and Inchcolm will not be the same without her. We all thank Mrs McCabe hugely and wish her every happiness for the future.

KINNOULL

RACHEL MENZIES U6

BEING ELECTED AS HEAD OF KINNOULL HAS MADE MY FINAL YEAR OF MY FIFTEEN YEAR STINT AT KILGRASTON EXTREMELY SPECIAL.

I AM INCREDIBLY APPRECIATIVE OF ALL OF THE PREVIOUS HOUSE CAPTAINS WHO HELPED SHAPE MY TIME IN KINNOULL TO BE SO MEMORABLE AND I HOPE THAT I MANAGED TO LIVE UP TO THE HIGH STANDARDS SET FOR ME BY OUR HEAD OF HOUSE FROM LAST YEAR, FENELLA WRIGHT.



I have had an incredible year, with the amazing help and support from Lucy McKenna, Deputy Head of Kinnoull and Rebecca Hubbard, House Sports Captain.

This year, we strived to get everyone fully involved in all of the InterHouse activities and in turn to become closer together as one Kinnoull family. We have not only accomplished this but have also been very successful in many InterHouse sporting events, proudly winning the Netball and narrowly missing out on first place at Sports Day. In all the competitions and activities, we continued with true Kinnoull spirit, gave it our all and reminded each other that, 'It's the taking part that counts'.

One of the highlights of my year was the annual Interhouse Music competition. When I first came into Kinnoull, I had the pleasure of introducing my favourite singer, Shayne Ward, to the house. My love for him meant that almost every single person in Kinnoull knew his song, 'That's My Goal' because of the many times that it had been played in House Meetings! Due to this, it seemed only fitting that we performed this song for the House Music competition.

The whole House put in their best efforts and made me extremely proud with the final performance. This even boasted a surprise duet by Dr Phillips and Mr Johnston singing a line of the key change together, on either side of our House mascot, Ralph the dragon.

Although we didn't win, the amazing Mrs Stott managed (with a lot of hard work) to get a good luck message from Shayne Ward himself!

The year ended on a high when we won the Studies Cup for high academic achievement along with the House Cup for reaching the most House points out of all four Senior Houses. A special mention must go to Alex Brattasani who won the most House points in Kinnoull with over 80 points! Winning the House Cup was a fitting reflection of the hard work and commitment shown by all the girls in the House over the course of this year.

I completely loved my time working with Mrs Stott as House Mistress and I am so grateful for all of the enthusiasm that she brought to the House during Mrs McCormick's maternity leave. The return of Mrs McCormick as House Mistress during the summer term further strengthened our House spirit and passion.

It was extremely special to have Mrs McCormick here for the Upper 6th tutor group's last term at Kilgraston and I cannot thank her enough for all that she has done for me throughout my time in Kinnoull.

Next term, Charlotte Leslie will be Head of Kinnoull House with Rebecca Bruce as Deputy Head and Catriona Norval as Sports Captain and I know that they will be a great team and do brilliantly well.



MONCREIFFE

POPPY YOUNG U6

THE YEAR BEGAN AS ALWAYS WITH THE ANNUAL HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY. PARTICIPATION WAS GREAT, SPIRITS WERE HIGH AND A MULTITUDE OF COLOURED SHIRTS FILLED THE GROUNDS.

As per usual there was yellow paint flying, along with the other House colours of red, purple and green; this resulted in every individual being turned into a tiny walking rainbow for the duration of the run. The sound of each House battling to overpower the others with their chants is also a regular occurrence and, not that I'm biased, but I feel like the 'M-O-N-C-R-E-I-F-F-E MONCREIFFE!' chant won that competition, hands down!

The strength of the athletes in the House was shown in the end of year Sports Day, when Moncreiffe cleaned out the prize table: special thanks to Emily Dark who brought in a massive load of points to the House. This year, Moncreiffe won indoor House Hockey, Muirhead House Hockey and House Hockey tournaments! This was mostly thanks to the amazing trio of Katie Stott, Ellie Stott and Emily Dark who really brought the Moncreiffe Hockey teams together and made all the difference.

Our Sports Captain, Katie Townsend inspired everyone with her constant enthusiasm and her friendly nature encouraged all members of the House, no matter what their age or skill set, to participate in all these events, and for that I am eternally grateful.

You do not have to be a sports person to represent your House, as at Kilgraston there are competitions for everything from Speechmaking to Quizzes. Jenny Caplan produced an absolutely beautiful piece of work for the House Art competition which showed the diversity of Moncreiffe's talents. Our Music was also a success and even though we did not win, there were smiles all round. As Captain, all I could really ask for was for everyone to be happy and to enjoy contributing to their House.

My favourite part of being in Moncreiffe is participating in our weekly House Meetings. These Meetings were relaxed and gave all the members of the House from different year groups the opportunity to integrate with each other. They involved Mrs O'Hear finding something to celebrate and bringing in cake and sweets. Our House coffee mornings are also very popular. These involved drinking tea, chatting and eating delicious cake (usually provided by our very own great British baker, Emma Smith). We had our annual Christmas pizza party to exchange Secret Santa gifts and incidentally also consume as much pizza as humanly possible! Our end of year party was a House picnic by the pavilion.

Moncreiffe is lucky to have so many amazing Tutors this year: they have

been a massive presence and I know that all the students value their help and general approachability. Mrs O'Hear, our Housemistress, is the glue that keeps Moncreiffe together. She is reliable and caring, constantly looking for ways to make House Meetings more enjoyable and taking the time to check up on each individual girl in the House. I could always rely on her to take the time to talk to me if I had any troubles. Last, but by no means least, is our House mascot, Meredith, the moose, who loves to be given shoulder-rides at every possible event. I hope Meredith retains as big a role in the House, in all the years to come.

It has been an honour to be House Captain this year and very rewarding to see the other members respond well to my ideas. However, I couldn't have done anything without the help of the amazing Moncreiffe team, Teresa and Katie, and the rest of the U6. Teresa as Deputy this year has been a massive support, always keen to share her ideas and thinking about new fun things that we could try in the House, like making tie-dyed House t-shirts. We have all worked so well together and I wish all the best for Katie Stott, Lucy Whitaker, and Sophie Forbes, as they make their way into their new roles as the House team. I hope that they work well together and keep the spirit of Moncreiffe alive.

VENICE AND FLORENCE 2016

ANNIE BLUETT, BLUETT TOURS

THE ANNUAL BLUETT TOUR SET OFF AT THE START OF THE OCTOBER HALF TERM – THIS YEAR TO SPEND A WEEK IN VENICE AND FLORENCE.

A slight delay in flight departure from Edinburgh and a wrong turn taken as we entered the terminal at Gatwick nearly resulted in missing the connection – but we made it – and were all, as a result, very much fitter as we boarded the Venice bound plane than we would otherwise have been.

We arrived safely in Venice, but sadly our luggage did not. BA kindly provided us with emergency tooth-brushes and t-shirts and our luggage arrived the following day but the resulting Italian bureaucracy (although we had travelled as a group, a separate form had to be filled in for all 25 of us) meant that by the time we had boarded the boat to take us from the airport to our hotel, it was dark. Happily, the lights of Venice have their own charm.

The hotel was modest and supper was perhaps not the best example of Italian food we had ever tasted but the location was excellent and the staff were helpful.

On our first day we visited Verona where we saw the amphitheatre (the stage and seating from the summer opera festival was being dismantled, but that was a spectacle in itself) and visited “Juliet’s House” which is, of course, no such thing, but is, nevertheless, a beautiful place, affording plenty of scope for photo opportunities on the balcony!

We walked to the beautiful Giardino Giusti – a fabulous Renaissance garden landscaped by a rich 16th Century merchant. It was constructed on the hillside behind his splendid Palazzo to impress the visitor with different views of the city as one climbs higher and higher.

Venice, of course, we wonderful. We had a Gondola trip, we enjoyed a guided tour of the wonderful collection housed in Peggy Guggenheim’s former Palazzo on the Grand Canal, we attended a Vivaldi concert in the Scuola Grande in which the performers wore 18th Century costume and the soloist in the ‘Four Seasons’ played with such extraordinary theatricality even those who might not normally have been wowed by a concert of classical music were impressed.

We visited a museum of historic musical instruments and of course the Basilica and Piazza San Marco and the Doge’s Palace. Sadly, it rained the day we took the Vaporetto out to Torcello but we nevertheless enjoyed a delicious lunch in Burano and ended our “lagoon” day with a visit to the glass museum in Murano and the opportunity to do a little shopping.



We then drove to Florence. On our first afternoon, we walked up to the Piazzale Michelangelo and stumbled upon an amazing bubble artist half way up and of course the view from the top is spectacular. We spent one day in Pisa – those with strong heads and legs climbed THE tower. It is amazing that the whole structure started sinking long before they had completed it, but they just kept going regardless! We heard the fabulous acoustics in the Baptistry and walked round the very beautiful Basilica. The girls also had a half day sculpture class at the Galleria Romanelli in Borgo San Frediano – producing the lips and nose of David. They had the chance to cross the Ponte Vecchio, walk in the Boboli Gardens and enjoy a little retail therapy in San Lorenzo market. The food in Florence was delicious and, needless to say, ice cream also featured quite prominently in our diet!

Huge thanks are due to Miss Macleod and Ms Martin, whose artistic eyes were able to direct us with enormous skill and enthusiasm, and to Miss Losty who kindly took time out from retirement to accompany us on this wonderful trip.



‘NAGASAKI, TRAVELLING WITH HORATIO’ BY TOMEI OSAKI

CHIHARU KONDO L6

NAGASAKI, A SMALL PREFECTURE THAT LIES ON THE SOUTH-WEST COAST OF JAPAN, HAS A MORE DRAMATIC HISTORY THAN PEOPLE MIGHT IMAGINE. THE ‘HORATIO’ OF THE TITLE IS A WORD FROM PORTUGUESE MEANING ‘PRAYER’.

This book takes readers into the world of Nagasaki, a place where people have been saying prayers ever since the ports were forced to open to the outside world over four hundred years ago. It is a place where Christian beliefs are still alive.

As merchandise trading between Japan and Portugal became increasingly important, Christianity entered the soil of Japan for the first time. However, it was not long until the Shogunate banned Christianity and forced Christians to give up their faith. Serious believers who refused to do this were tortured and this was when underground Christianity was born. The author explains how

these underground Christians lived and describes the story of the Twenty-six Martyrs of Japan. This is written in great detail with many interesting facts.

Many people might know about the day when an atomic bomb was dropped on the city of Nagasaki by the United States during World War II. Thousands of people died and thousands more suffered from the after-effects. Osaki was 17 years old when this horrible nightmare took place in his hometown and changed everything in his life. There is nothing more heartbreaking than reading the author’s vivid description from his own memories which will take your breath away.



‘TEENAGE’ THE CREATION OF YOUTH 1875-1945’ BY JON SAVAGE

The teenage years are certainly a time for serious questions such as: why am I here? What am I going to do in the future? What is my purpose?

For us it seems natural to be a teenager, something caught in between adulthood and childhood. But did you know that, a century ago, teenagers did not exist in society? Although there were young people just like us, asking themselves the same serious questions, they were not recognised as being neither child nor adult. This book, written by the well-known British journalist Jon Savage, explores the gradual development of the status of ‘teenager’.

What I noticed instantly about the book was that it never became boring. Although it is packed with information, the author manages to keep it interesting by using a lively, flowing style of writing and many quotations, so that you just have to keep reading on. I also liked that the information was grouped in chapters, giving a broad overview of the events ranging from pre-war British society to American youth culture in the 1940s.

Apart from the enjoyment of reading this book, you will probably also gain a lot of new information; at least, I know that I did. It offers such a deep insight into a topic that we normally do not think much about. I had no idea about the meaning of ‘nickelodeons’ as a source of entertainment or ‘flappers’ as a new type of women in the Golden Twenties, events that affected the youth culture we know today.

I would highly recommend ‘Teenage’ to everyone who is asking themselves big questions at the moment, but even if you are already beyond that stage – you will equally enjoy this book.

CRISTINA COELLEN L5

‘MADAME CURIE, A BIOGRAPHY’ BY EVE CURIE

Have you ever thought about the struggles that most of the great scientists of our world must have suffered? Or can you imagine that one of the best scientists of our times could once have been about to give up and, as a result, she would not have become world famous today?

I certainly didn’t, until I read Eve Curie’s fascinating biography of her mother, which gives us an account of the incredible life of Marie Curie.

The book is full of interesting facts and stories about Madame Curie’s life, which I hadn’t realised was so interesting and sad. Marie Curie was born in 1867 in Warsaw, Poland. She was the daughter of the well-known teacher Wladyslaw Sklodovski and the youngest of the family of five siblings.

Devoted to her family, the book tells you the sacrifices that Marie Curie had to make before she was able to accomplish her dreams and study Physics at the University of Paris.

Narrated by her daughter, Eve, with love and delicacy, as you read you find yourself growing fond of the great scientist while also crying at some parts.

If you also want to know more about Marie Curie’s life as a scientist, the book does explain in great detail all of her achievements. Eve Curie describes her mother’s discoveries of radium and polonium in such a way that even those who think that they might be unable to understand the scientific parts, will actually be capable of doing so.

“Madame Curie, a biography” is an excellent read. It is both entertaining and educational and I highly recommend it to anyone who is interested in biographies and learning more about the lives of great scientists.

TERESA MATAMORO ZATARAIN L6



IF THE TEN-YEAR OLD ME HAD BEEN GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT A FOREIGN COUNTRY ON AN EXCHANGE, SHE WOULD HAVE JUMPED AT THE CHANCE. SO AT FIFTEEN YEARS OLD, WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY AROSE FOR ME TO ADOPT THE AUSTRIAN LIFESTYLE ON A THREE WEEK EXCHANGE TO VIENNA, I WAS OVER THE MOON! WITH THE HELP OF THE LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT AT KILGRASTON AND THE SACRÉ COEUR WIEN (THE SACRED HEART SCHOOL IN VIENNA), MY DREAM WAS SOON A REALITY.



AUSTRIAN EXCHANGE

EVA RUNCIMAN U5

Admittedly, I was very apprehensive about the thought of staying abroad in a foreign speaking country and, whether or not after studying German for at least six years, my linguistic ability was up to standard. My fears were soon allayed when I was whisked away by the Kyd-Rebenburgs, my host family for the next three weeks.

I quickly became friends with my exchange partner, Johanna, and before I had time to think, I was joining in on day trips around Austria with another group of girls from the Sacred Heart school in Louisiana, New Orleans. It was great to see how well the Sacred Heart could connect students from different corners of the world and introduce you to new cultures and customs. I made many new friends who I know I will stay in contact with for years to come.

One of the highlights of my trip included a guided tour around Salzburg visiting all the locations where The Sound of Music was filmed! Singing ‘Do-Re-Mi’ amongst beautiful mountains and lakes has never felt so apt! Also, I don’t think you can visit Vienna without going to an art gallery or two and visiting MUMOK gallery of modern art and a Robert La Roche glasses exhibition were some of the best I’d ever seen. Another thing I found pleasantly surprising about Austria was how easy it was to get on a train and cross the border to the Czech

Republic, something that is fairly easy to do and greatly excited me. Spending the day in Brunn taught me how countries so close to each other can still be so interestingly different in cultures.

Apart from being the ultimate tourist for three weeks, the total immersion in German has massively brought on my ability in conversational German. Something that really pushed me to speak German was when my exchange partner pretended she couldn’t speak English, forcing me to exercise my fairly limited spoken German. Needless to say, this was very effective and has proved very useful during German classes at Kilgraston. Also, being quizzed relentlessly about Britain’s decision to leave the EU meant that my political German vocabulary is now relatively substantial. What really struck me was how seriously languages, especially English, are studied in Austria.

If I could, I would love to adopt the early teaching of a second language into schools in the UK as I think we often take for granted that most of the rest of the world can speak English. However, there are also very prominent differences that surprised me about the school routine in Austria. One example is the absence of lunch being provided at school. The students at Sacré Coeur Wien either take a packed lunch with them or are allowed to have lunch in the city as long as they’re back within the

lunch hour. Another interesting difference I experienced was a Mass on the last day of term. Aside from the fact that it was completely in German and fairly difficult for me to understand, the entire school was seated outside in the school courtyard. I really enjoyed this because it meant that we weren’t inside on a 36 degree day and that everyone from Reception to Senior could be present. Sacré Coeur Wien is a very big school with over 600 students so to have everybody outside was an inclusive welcoming experience.

Reflecting on it now, I can definitely tell the ten-year old me that she will have the most wonderful time on her first exchange. I have not only gained educational skills such as extra vocabulary to help pass my German exams and an understanding of an array of different cultural and community differences but also friends for life, the ability to confront challenges outside my comfort zone and improved self-confidence.

The huge sense of accomplishment would make the ten-year old enormously proud, I am sure. I would encourage anyone interested in different languages, cultures, Sacred Heart community or just trying something outside your comfort zone to take part in an overseas exchange. It’s definitely something worth doing and I hope to return to Austria again in the future.



MARMOUTIER

AN EXCHANGE GROUP OF PUPILS AND STAFF FROM THE FRENCH SACRED HEART SCHOOL OF MARMOUTIER IN THE LOIRE VALLEY WERE WELCOME VISITORS TO KILGRASTON IN THE SPRING TERM.

Mrs Bluett arranged the whole programme where the girls participated in school lessons and also went on various excursions including a special opening of Scone Palace and a walk at The Hermitage. The crafts session led by Pam Murray was a highlight and the girls were delighted to take home the results of their endeavours.

After the school examinations in the summer term, Mrs Bluett led the return visit to France of eight Kilgraston girls who were a credit to the school and at all times cheerful and co-operative. Landing at Tours airport amongst the fields to the north of the city, the group was soon whisked by bus to Marmoutier school where they were warmly greeted by their exchange partners and families. The girls enjoyed a relaxing weekend at home with the families before meeting again at the school on Monday morning for a week of excursions.

In view of the Sacred Heart goal of the year of intellect, there could be no better place to visit than the manor house of Clos Lucé (Amboise) which was home to Leonardo da Vinci in the last years of his life. Sheltering from the rain under a magnificent sycamore tree and listening to an audio of Leonardo's insights made for a memorable picnic lunch. On the following day, there was a very comfortable train journey departing from the splendid railway station in the centre of Tours to the small town of Blois where the group enjoyed a show at the Maison de la Magie before exploring the famous royal château. After returning to Tours, the group then embarked on a journey by the new tram system, fortunately guided by some of the Marmoutier girls, to a modern centre for an entertaining session of bowling.

Wednesday was a half day of lessons at the school with a morning interval welcome kindly arranged by Mme Dessimond and a free afternoon spent with the exchange families. The following day involved a trip by luxurious hired coach to Saumur to see the French National Riding Centre, the base of the celebrated Cadre Noir. It was a fascinating tour of the immaculate stables with the added bonus of being able to watch the chief instructor putting his horse through his paces. Apparently, that horse was the only one allowed to perform a particular step and was rewarded with a particularly delicious diet. There was also time to go round the château of Saumur, famously depicted in the illuminated manuscript of 'Les Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berri.'

On the last day, there was the opportunity to explore the historic grounds of Marmoutier school. In a favourable location by the River Loire, this was the former site of one of the largest mediaeval abbeys in France, originally founded by St Martin of Tours who was born in AD 316. After an energetic walk through the park of St Radegonde to the city centre, the girls were rewarded with freshly prepared crêpes in a characterful restaurant. In the afternoon, it was a pleasure to meet up with Miriam who had come to Kilgraston with the Marmoutier group earlier in the year. She was now working at the Musée du Compagnonnage and provided a guided tour of this surprising museum.

Special thanks must go to Mrs Bluett who has worked tirelessly to foster the long standing connections between Kilgraston and Marmoutier and who ensured that this year's exchange was particularly successful for all concerned. It was a brilliant trip despite the best efforts of the strikes by the SNCF and the floods!

BRIDGET SPURGIN

INTERNATIONAL EVENING 2015



This was my first time taking part in Kilgraston's International Evening. We used traditional artwork to decorate our stall representing China. I put my Chinese fan on the table, because I had drawn the calligraphy on it. Yoyo and I wore Chinese traditional clothes which were special and unique. Our group decided to sing a famous Chinese song for the performance and some of us played musical instruments to accompany because we have many excellent musicians. The event was a really good opportunity for me to learn about different cultures and countries. Apart from the awesome performances, I appreciated writing the girls' names in Chinese. I was so happy that almost everyone came to our table and asked for their Chinese names which meant they were fond of Chinese culture.

ERICA ZHOU L5

Nina, Caecilia, Torid, Kiana, Mira, Paula, Clara Sofia and I represented Germany. We started to plan everything a few weeks beforehand and decided that everyone would bring something special from Germany to Kilgraston after the half term-holidays: for example, German chocolate, stollen (we had way too much!), lebkuchen (gingerbread). Then we had to decide what we could perform and finally we chose to do the German fairytale 'Hänsel und Gretel' and practised it many times.



On the day itself, we left the last lesson early to prepare our stall with the food and decorated it with a huge German flag, green letters which said 'Germany', drawings by Torid and a German banner. We played music of famous German rappers and some typical German songs. Then everyone sat down and the performances began. It started with girls from Russia, Kazakhstan and Armenia, who were in one group. They did a dance and played some music on a typical Kazakh instrument. For our fairytale drama, we borrowed costumes from the drama department and it was great fun to perform. Everybody applauded and we went back to our seats to watch the performances of the other groups. The Spanish group danced and the Mexicans performed a famous speech (Viva México!). It was a great evening which everybody enjoyed.

LEONIE THIERFELDT U5

Representing Japan, two of us set up a table. At first, we thought of serving onigiris (rice balls) until we recognized that it would be hard to buy Japanese rice and do the cooking, so we changed our minds to serving koala shaped biscuits – not as 'Japanese' as onigiris or sushi, but everyone seemed to like them. We decorated the table with origami (paper art), which we made just the day before the International Evening, newspapers and a Harry Potter book written in Japanese. It made us very happy when people stopped by and complimented our origami or when they took a look at the newspapers and book. What I most enjoyed was having food from all over the world and watching other countries' performances. Overall, the International Evening was surely a great success!

CHIHARU KONDO L6



UNISON WORLD SCHOOL

KAJARI DATTA, RESHU DORA



SPENDING TIME IN A NEW COUNTRY WITH NEW PEOPLE BRINGS IN NEW EXPERIENCES AND LEARNING. THESE KIND OF CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES HELP US TO ADAPT TO THE NEW ENVIRONMENT AND WE GAIN A MUTUAL RESPECT AND UNDERSTANDING FOR NEW CULTURES.

The exchange with Kilgraston has exposed us to people from different cultural, religious and geographical backgrounds and has provided us the opportunity to develop a greater understanding of diversity, both in Scotland and worldwide. This has allowed students to interact with and learn from themselves and to participate in new and unique experiences beyond their own communities.

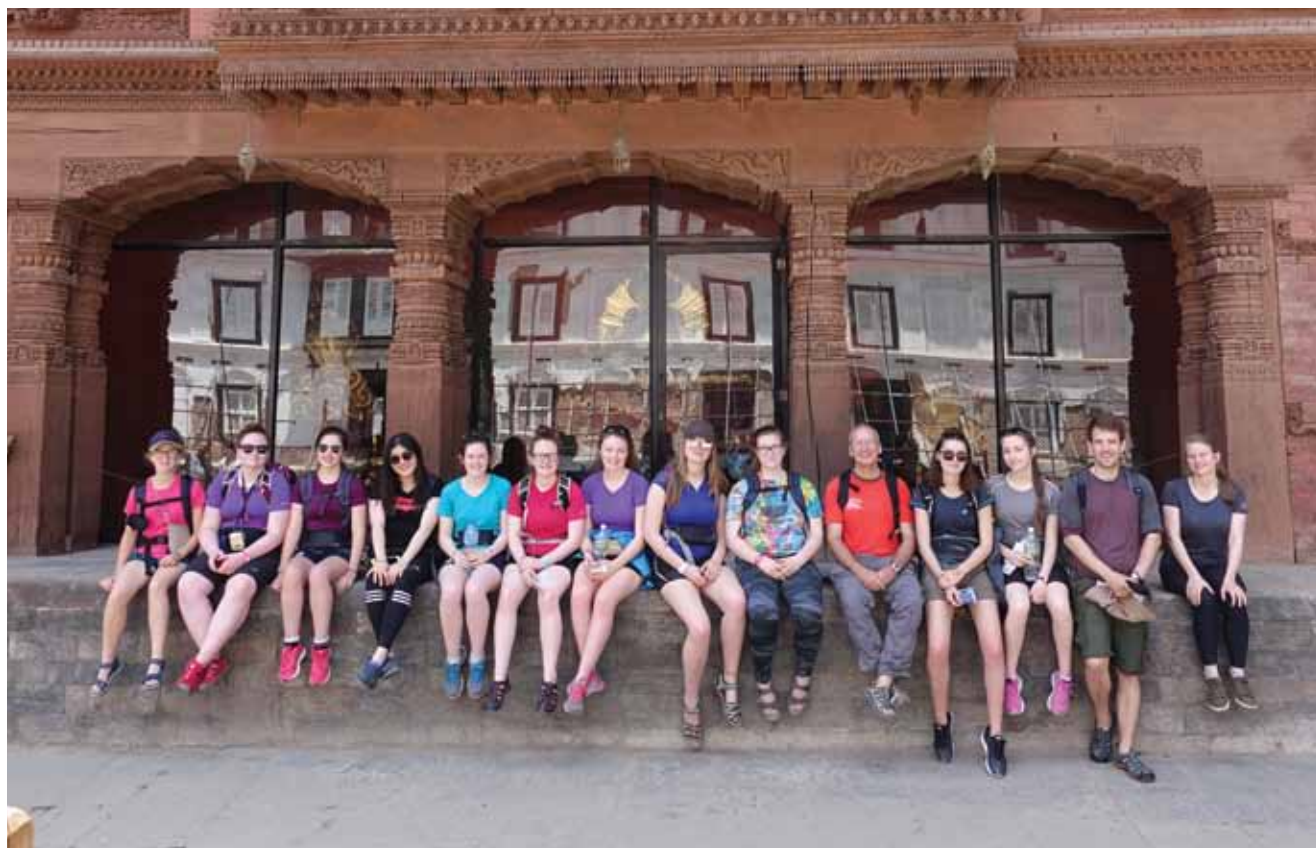
The goals of this exchange have been flexible enough to incorporate teaching and learning around the value of flexibility within collaborative, intercultural contexts. In the words of Henry Ford, "Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress and working together is success."

In the years to come, we would like to tighten the bond of our partnership and focus on a number of curriculum based or cross-curriculum areas which can be delivered in a number of ways. May we have a long lasting and fruitful association!

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Headmistress Mrs MacGinty, the Bursar Mr Farrell, the Deputy Headmistress Mrs Lund, the Deputy Head Pastoral care Mrs McFadden, the Director of Music Mr McGarva, to Mr Stewart and to all the academic as well as boarding staff, the dining hall staff and the loving pupils of Kilgraston who have been very supportive, kind and helpful. Thank you for welcoming us so warmly, accepting us, helping us and letting us be a part of Kilgraston and Scotland. Thank you so much!

The UWS girls were very excited to visit Kilgraston and delighted with the amazing hospitality they received. They praised the warmth of the welcome they received from the Kilgraston girls. The food, accommodation, classrooms and general environment were appreciated. They enjoyed their busy sightseeing programme which included going to the theatre and visiting castles, museums and palaces. Highlights also included the varied cultures of the school, the friends they made, shopping and visiting Glasgow.

The girls were very pleased with the opportunity they were given to share aspects of their own culture and traditions with Kilgraston.



BEAUTIFUL NEPAL

LUCINDA TURQUAND YOUNG L6

AT THE BEGINNING OF THE TRIP, WE HAD THREE DAYS OF ACCLIMATISATION IN THE BUSTLING CITY OF KATHMANDU. WE EXPLORED THE BUSY CITY AND SHOPPED FOR SOUVENIRS IN THE BEAUTIFUL STREETS, LINED WITH QUIRKY STALLS THAT SEEMED TO RUN ON FOREVER. WE VISITED THE SACRED MONKEY TEMPLE, WHICH WE REACHED BY CLIMBING 365 STEPS: A CHALLENGE IN ITSELF. OVERLY FRIENDLY MONKEYS BUSTLED AT OUR HEELS AS WE CLIMBED THE STUPA TO REACH THE MAGNIFICENT TEMPLE.



Our first major challenge was the six day long trek up Poon Hill on the Annapurna mountain range in the Himalayas. This was definitely one of the toughest things most of us had ever experienced and there were a lot of ups and downs, but luckily we mostly had ups.

Unfortunately, we were doing the hike during monsoon season, so the rain never stopped. By the end of each day, we were soaked and picking pesky leeches off ourselves, but we always managed to make light of these tough situations. The hike was full of beautiful scenery, magnificent forests and sacred mountains that could easily take your breath away. Every night we stayed in a different cosy tea house where we could recover from the day with a cup of tea and a good book. There were wonderful sunset views and we would sing campfire songs at the top of our lungs, which always succeeded in lightening the mood when needed.

On the trek, we met so many lovely unforgettable Nepalese people, such as Pasang who accompanied and entertained us, all the way up the treacherous mountain. The Nepalese are definitely some of the

friendliest people I've ever come across. The next place we went to was the beautiful city of Pokhara where we had a chance to rest and relax after the gruelling trek. We also tried some fun activities such as going on the highest and fastest zip line in the world over the beautiful rainforest and white water rafting in the stunning Nepalese rapids. Both of these experiences were spectacular and unforgettable.

Our second big challenge was the project work where we volunteered at Hillside school in the countryside, just outside Kathmandu. We were able to play and chat with the constantly smiling children for the first few days before we set to work.

Then we painted the classrooms, including creating our own mural in one of the nursery rooms to put our own stamp on the school. The money we had previously raised went to buy painting supplies for the school. Another activity was when we helped to build a path to make the school more accessible for the children going there every day.

We learned new skills that would be impossible in the four walls of a British classroom and we got to see how the Nepalese people live from day to day. It is something you have to see for yourself, because their lives are so different from our lives over here in Britain.

This trip was a huge culture shock for the whole team. From the cheeky monkeys, hanging from the tangled telephone wires, high above the rowdy city, to the traffic, carefully swerving around the sacred cows enjoying a casual nap in the middle of the main road, there was always a new sight to behold.

We were definitely changed for the better by Nepal: we realised how fortunate we are in our comfortable lives and we all got to make a difference, even if it was in a small way. I hope that future Kilgraston girls will have the same brilliant life-changing experience that we had and I would encourage them to take the opportunity if it is offered to them whether it is during their school career or after they leave. It is such a great opportunity to visit a new country, learn new things and make a difference.



TREKKING FOR TEWA

SOPHIE JACOBS U6

AN ANNUAL HIGHLIGHT FOR MY FAMILY IS TO ATTEND THE DUNDEE MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL. OVER THE YEARS, I HAVE SEEN MANY EXCITING FILMS SET IN THE MOUNTAIN REGIONS OF THE WORLD AND THIS HAS INSTILLED IN ME A LOVE OF ADVENTURE. SO IT IS HARDLY SURPRISING THAT I SHOULD HAVE BEEN KEEN TO SPEND THE SUMMER FOLLOWING MY LAST YEAR AT SCHOOL IN SOME KIND OF ADVENTURE. IT WAS WONDERFUL THAT SCHOOL LIFE PROVIDED ME WITH THE CHANCE TO FULFIL A TRULY MEMORABLE ADVENTURE.

The opportunity arose, thanks to a morning assembly in the school theatre. We were told about a possible expedition to the incredible country of Nepal. When I heard about this, I jumped straight in to sign up without really being aware of the full implications of the immense task that would be ahead of me. My parents did try to discuss it with me before I actually applied for a place but I have to admit that I had already made up my mind the minute I heard the word, 'Nepal'. As I had heard so many wonderful stories about Nepal and had also watched many films set there during the Dundee Mountain Film Festival, I longed to go there for my summer adventure.

On further discussion with my family, we soon decided that as well as participating in the three week long school expedition with World Challenge, I would spend an extra couple of months in Nepal, volunteering with a charity. So I gained two more tasks with that decision! I would need to raise extra funds for the charity on top of what I had to raise for the expedition and I would also need to choose that charity.

After considering a variety of good causes, TEWA was the organization that stood out for me above all the rest. TEWA is a Nepalese charity, aiming to foster human rights, freedom and peace. The focus is on educating rural women and girls and helping to give them empowerment and a sense of self-reliance, through training and providing grants. It is special because the Nepalese people themselves are very much the leaders of the charity and those who benefit from the charity, in turn provide training and funds.

Although I was anxious beforehand about fundraising, it turned out to be an enjoyable experience although it was time consuming and meant that holiday time before the expedition was taken up with tasks such as waitressing or sorting flower bulbs. Among the most rewarding events were a sale and a concert. For the sale, I hired the pop up shop in Edzell and, with the help of my

grandmother, we sold a whole lot of unwanted items from my house. There was all kinds of stuff for sale from clothes to skis and cycles and friends kindly volunteered home baking. It was an incredible week of meeting so many wonderful people, many of whom told me about their own experiences in Nepal. They reassured me that my time there would be incredible because the Nepalese are such kind and genuine people.

The fundraising concert was a challenge and we were worried about whether we would get an audience until the actual night. We were so pleased that the community of Edzell showed us their support and about seventy people attended the concert. The friends that came to play music did a fantastic job with Mr McGarva to direct them. After saying my welcomes, I had the daunting task of giving a speech about why we were holding the concert. However, it was a wonderful evening and everyone was very enthusiastic about the concert and the Nepal charity.

One moment that nearly made me cry with happiness and love for my peers was when we had to choose a school charity. I was able to talk about the aims of TEWA and I was so thrilled to learn that the unanimous decision had been made to support that charity. Several home clothes days and other events were held to raise funds. Mr Cook, father of Lissie, very kindly chose it as his charity when he ran the London Marathon raising an incredible £3,054.51! I am so grateful to him for his generosity and to the whole school for its support of TEWA.

Our Nepal group of eleven girls held many bake sales over the year to raise funds for our expedition. We did a sponsored abseil down the Titan Crane in Glasgow and we all worked to support each other. The year has taught me so much and to appreciate the incredible charity of those who take the time to listen. Finally, I owe a huge thank you to everyone who supported me and I would love to come back to school afterwards to talk about my experiences in Nepal.





LIBRARY

BRIDGET SPURGIN, LIBRARIAN

The autumn term opened with the Library having been refurbished over the summer to make for a more inviting environment, the Inner Library furnished with more comfortable seating and the Learning Resources turned into the ICT room with new computers and desks. These improvements have all resulted in increased use being made of the Library and its resources.

This year's National Poetry Day was on the theme of "light". There were a record number of entries to the Library poetry competition. The standard of entries was very high and they ranged in theme and mood from joyful evocations of firelight and candlelight to the new horizons of avatars and virtual worlds. Glass Square was decorated with posters and cards so that people could see the poetry whilst scurrying past. This year's theme fitted in well with Physics pupils who were studying the properties of light. In the ESOL department, sixth form pupils discussed their favourite poems.

Throughout the year, the Library was enhanced with changing displays. In connection with the UWS visit, there was a display of books relating to India with several on loan from Mrs MacGinty. Anniversaries with related displays included 150 years of 'Alice in Wonderland' and commemorations of the writers Cervantes and Shakespeare. The Library prefects, Xiwen and Christina wrote reviews and devised colourful posters. Xiwen wrote about 'The Hobbit' and John Green books while Christina described 'Fermat's Last Theorem' and 'Alex's Adventures in Numberland'. Thanks are also due to the many keen readers amongst the pupils and staff who have contributed so much to the Library this year.

ANIME OTAKU CLUB

JENNY CAPLAN L6

I only recently moved to Kilgraston in Lower 6th. Moving school can be daunting when you don't know anyone, so I thought that running a club would be a great opportunity to make new friends and help to contribute to the life of the community. It also provides a way to get to know people in different year groups and, as a sixth form pupil, to be a good role model.

The club that I decided to run was called the 'Anime Otaku Club'. It is based on Japanese culture and, in particular on anime. I have loved anime for many years. For those who don't know what this is, anime is a form of Japanese animation which is usually made as a TV series for a wide range of ages. 'Otaku' is a Japanese word meaning 'nerd' in English, so the club's name actually means 'the nerds/ anime club'!

When we meet, we primarily watch or talk all about anime. Some day we hope to attend comic cons (event in a large venue) where you can cosplay (dress up) as an anime character. I hope to buy some merchandise from Japan. Also, we plan to get in touch with the Sacred Heart school in Japan. We have tried making our own manga (Japanese black and white comic books) and entering a game design contest. It helps that we share a common interest together and we enjoy communicating our ideas.

In the year of intellect, a relevant aspect of the club is about discovering more about yourself and others, understanding a different culture and learning to keep our minds open to new ideas and possibilities. The club has been very successful and I hope to keep it going and develop it further next year.



PI PAPER CHAIN



THE 14TH OF MARCH (OR MARCH 14TH) IS A DATE THAT ALL MATHS NERDS HAVE CIRCLED ON THEIR CALENDAR. MARCH 14TH OR 3/14 CELEBRATES THE MATHEMATICAL CONSTANT π (PI). PI REPRESENTS THE RATIO OF CIRCUMFERENCE OF A CIRCLE DIVIDED BY ITS DIAMETER. WHILE IT IS OFTEN ABBREVIATED AS 3.14, PI HAS AN INFINITE NUMBER OF DIGITS BEYOND THE DECIMAL POINT, STARTING WITH 3.141592653.

This year we celebrated Pi Day by making a Pi Paper Chain. Each digit was given a corresponding colour which was then linked together in the order of the digits of Pi. Pupils from Reception to U6 helped with the construction of the Pi Paper Chain and we linked together the first 1000 digits of Pi.

Here are the first 1000 digits of Pi.

3.141592653589793238462643383279502884197169399375105820974944592307816406
28620899862803482534211706798214808651328230664709384460955058223172535940
81284811174502841027019385211055596446229489549303819644288109756659334461
28475648233786783165271201909145648566923460348610454326648213393607260249
14127372458700660631558817488152092096282925409171536436789259036001133053
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05118548074462379962749567351885752724891227938183011949129833673362440656
64308602139494639522473719070217986094370277053921717629317675238467481846
76694051320005681271452635608277857713427577896091736371787214684409012249
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77477130996051870721134999999837297804995105973173281609631859502445945534
69083026425223082533446850352619311881710100031378387528865875332083814206
17177669147303598253490428755468731159562863882353787593751957781857780532
1712268066130019278766111959092164201989

THE ROYAL OAK

EARLIER THIS YEAR, QUEEN ELIZABETH II CELEBRATED HER 90TH BIRTHDAY, BECOMING THE LONGEST-LIVED BRITISH MONARCH IN HISTORY. WHEN SHE ACCEDED TO THE THRONE IN 1952, KILGRASTON WAS A MERE 22 YEARS-OLD – WE ARE NOW 86. BY ANY ESTIMATION, THAT’S A LONG TIME.

To celebrate Her Majesty’s milestone, an oak tree was planted in the grounds between the school and Beech House. While girls from the junior years shovelled soil over its roots, the mythical power of trees came to mind as I looked at the many great trees standing resplendent in the grounds, the oldest symbols of beauty, strength, wisdom and eternal life.



LATIN AND CLASSICS REPORT

ANNIE BLUETT, HEAD OF CLASSICS

THE CLASSICS DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO FLOURISH! MISS MASSON LEFT US AT THE END OF LAST YEAR TO TAKE UP AN APPOINTMENT AT AN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL IN ROME AND WAS PARTICULARLY MISSED BY HER LOWER AND UPPER 4TH CLASSES, BUT MRS LUND KINDLY STEPPED IN TO TAKE OVER THE UPPER 4TH CLASSICAL STUDIES GROUP AND GAVE THEM A WONDERFUL TASTE OF GREEK CIVILIZATION.

The annual “Bluett Tour” was rather more artistic than classical this year - although we did visit the amphitheatre in Verona in the course of our travels and the cross-curricular value of such a trip was not lost on many of the girls - particularly as at the time said amphitheatre was being set up to stage a series of Opera performances.

The whole of the Upper 4th spent a happy afternoon at the University of St Andrews in May enjoying various classically related activities laid on by the department there - these ranged from

participation in Aristophanes’ “Frogs”, the building of a temple with paper, card and plasticine and the writing of curses! Four girls sat Higher this summer - three of whom will continue to Advanced Higher in 2017 - and six the new National 5 - four of whom will be taking Higher Latin next year.

I confess that I had been dreading the changes in syllabus brought on by the new exams, but in reality this has meant that I have had to do some quite extensive research and note making for the various different set texts which proved to be a surprisingly stimulating and interesting “chore!”

MURDER SHE WRITES

GILLIAN GALBRAITH REFLECTS ON HER TIME AT KILGRASTON AND ITS INFLUENCE ON HER WRITING.

The Kilgraston Gillian Galbraith left behind was a very different school to the one we know today. But then, it was also a very different school to the one she had entered. ‘When I arrived at Kilgraston as an eight year old Protestant, I’d had no preparation for the culture I was coming into,’ she says. ‘Nuns took lessons in full habits and wimples; every day began with a mass – the chapel smelled constantly of incense; the rest of the day was punctuated with complines, at midday the Angelus...’ But Vatican II put an end to all this, and almost overnight, nuns were wearing skirts and jackets, the mass was in English and the place felt as though it were modernising.

Yet her early experiences were such as to have made an indelible impression on the young Galbraith, an impression still felt today. None of her best-selling detective novels so far have totally avoided the influence of her early experiences of Catholicism. Her first detective, DS Alice Rice solves murders in Edinburgh, but frequently harks back to her formative years in a convent school.

And a Priest with whom she becomes friendly in the last DS Rice mystery, Troubled Waters, takes centre stage in her latest novel The Good Priest. Father Vincent Ross is a move away from the police procedural novels with which she made her name, but a step closer to the culture she imbibed as a teenager.

The Good Priest sees the eponymous cleric thrown into a world of scandal and cover-up, guided only by his innate morality and the conviction that only he can straighten matters out. Surrounded by a community riven by mistrust, and set against the operational backdrop of a diocese coming to terms with its responsibilities, Vincent Ross must stop a murderer from killing again. But this is no traditional ‘whodunnit’, notwithstanding the twist at the end of the tale. ‘In crime fiction, I’m more concerned with the why, than the who or the how,’ Galbraith says.

Her earlier career as an Advocate meant that she became well acquainted with forensic details, but this is not her principal interest in her works of fiction. ‘It’s easy to get too bogged down in the technical details – trying to present something as being accurate –



when the reader is already aware that they are reading fiction.

I find the motives behind a crime far more interesting than the means used. That’s where the real story is.’ And she is keen to present the difference between right and wrong as the grey area it so often is, rather than the stark difference defined by law.

‘I find it interesting to look at people’s responses to particular issues,’ she adds. Her books navigate the challenges thrown up by matters as varied as wind farm protests, mercy killing, religious cults and social exclusion; but she doesn’t feel the need to preach. ‘It’s important that the reader makes up their own mind,’ she says.

Having written six Alice Rice novels – the latest, Troubled Waters (2014) was called ‘Highly readable’ by Alexander McCall Smith - and successfully moved on to a new protagonist, has she completely closed the book on the Edinburgh detective? ‘I don’t know,’ she admits. ‘I had certainly reached a point where I felt like a change. But that’s not to say I won’t return to the series if I think of anything new I’d like to see happen with it.’

For the time being, though, she is contentedly working on the second outing for Vincent Ross – the ‘good priest’. His first is available in all good book shops now!

GILLIAN GALBRAITH



MOVING TO KILGRASTON

LUCINDA TURQUAND-YOUNG L6

IN MY SEVENTEEN CRAZY YEARS OF LIFE, I HAVE BEEN TO A GRAND TOTAL OF SEVEN SCHOOLS. MY FAMILY AND I HAVE MOVED AROUND THE WORLD FOR VARIOUS REASONS, RESULTING IN A LOT OF SCHOOL HOPPING. I HAVE LIVED IN MALAWI, SCOTLAND, ENGLAND AND SOUTH AFRICA.

It has been a wonderful adventure moving around from place to place and school to school, making new friends and memories along the way. When I was fifteen, I moved back to Scotland, where I was born, from South Africa. I sat outside in the warm African sun at home in Cape Town with a cup of tea, scrolling through websites of schools I had never heard of in Scotland and I had to make a decision within a mere two weeks. The school I chose would be the last. It would be the school where I would take my important exams and, when it would be time to leave, I wouldn't be looking for a new school, I would be going to university.

I had found three good schools but I was finally swayed towards Kilgraston, an all-girls school in Perthshire, when I saw that there was an equestrian centre right on the school grounds. This was a massive positive - going to a school with horses would be the same as a young super crazed child going to a school with a massive sweet shop inside. The decision was made and my parents agreed on my choice, making me feel very grown up. The emails had been sent off and I had been accepted by Kilgraston before leaving Cape Town.

Once I had left Cape Town and began settling into my new home in Scotland, the nerves grew quickly and I was dreading my first day in case it went terribly wrong. Being aged fifteen, I knew that friendship groups



at Kilgraston would have already formed and I wasn't sure if I could fit in. I prepared by getting my uniform, looking at all the Kilgraston Facebook pages and Instagram tags so I could try and figure out what type of people I was about to meet.

When the day finally came to get on to the shiny, silver Kilgraston school bus, my head was full of panic, nerves and excitement. I got to school and I was shown to Reception, and taken to my new tutor room. I sat down. I was the first one in the class and I watched the girls quickly file into what must have been their usual seats. The girls were all very friendly and smiley and were filling the room with stories about their holidays and one girl in particular, was extremely loud and obviously slightly hyper, Rosie. She started talking to me about her dog and her new puppies and I instantly knew that she would be the girl who I would remember when I thought of my first day at Kilgraston, which turned out to be true. After my first Kilgraston assembly experience, it was time for class and this meant I was going to meet everyone. I followed my allocated buddy, Susie, through the busy halls that seemed to swallow me in as we walked in the opposite direction to everyone else and past the groups of giggling girls who were catching up after the holidays. Susie showed me to my seat in Biology and I looked around the class and I saw two girls waving at me. As you can imagine, I was very confused and I had to think back to remember if I knew them. It turned out that I had never seen them before, they were just being friendly and I just knew I would end up being friends with them. I instantly felt more welcome and less terrified.

After a few more classes, I had told countless people my name and where I had come from and spoken to many teachers about my abilities, skills and interests. Susie showed me to the locker room, where everyone hangs out and she introduced me to the two mysterious waving girls. The first girl, tall with wavy hair and a pretty face full of freckles asked me what my name was.

On my response, her face instantly lit up with a big smile. I looked at her and she screamed, 'Oh my God! My name is Lucy, too!' I laughed and high-fived her and she went back to decorating her locker with pictures of her pets and friends. I then met Georgie, a pleasant girl who appeared to be obsessed with a football team completely unknown to me. I stuck with these two girls for the rest of the day and they told me everything I needed to know, such as the strict do's and don'ts: don't leave the lunch table until every last girl there has finished their meal unless you have an important appointment; don't try to sneak off with a Merchiston boy at a social, being caught is inevitable; do ignore the irritable Upper 6th when they say you are only allowed two biscuits at break and do ask Mr Campbell to repeat himself if you are struggling to understand his Glaswegian accent. I learnt about the ongoing feud between the boarders and day girls, although whenever I asked why, nobody had an answer, but everyone seemed content with this fact.

Lunch time at Kilgraston was completely different to any I had experienced previously. As the bell went for lunch, the almost hysterical

girls quickly escaped the class rooms as if the doors would lock them in if they hung around for an extra minute more. Suddenly I was trapped in the hallway, trying to fight through the groups of ravenous girls who slightly resembled animals at the zoo waiting for their allotted time to be fed. We lined up in a not-so-neat queue for lunch, which seemed to be a big deal. As we ate lunch, the girls told me their hilarious stories and adventures they had had in their years at Kilgraston.

The stories made me feel as if I had entered a family who all knew each other inside and out. Everyone had their own inside jokes and embarrassing stories from when they were at the prep school together. I knew it would be quite difficult to join an established friendship group, but on the other hand, most of the girls seemed really friendly and sweet which gave me enough hope to enjoy the rest of my day. Throughout the day, I met more friendly faces and more teachers who were all willing to show me the ways of the school.

Kilgraston was definitely not like any other school I had been to. Everyone knew each other and different cliques or friendship groups happily interacted with each other. When I look back on that first day, I realise how instantly I was accepted and how welcoming everyone had been, even though I was the new girl who came from a foreign country and who didn't know one person at Kilgraston. Moving to Kilgraston was definitely one of the best choices I have made and I have definitely become the typical, slightly weird, but also happy, Kilgraston girl.



DYNAMIC APPROACH



THE BUSINESS DYNAMICS DAY ALLOWS THE NEW UPPER SIXTH TO LOOK AT THE WAY BUSINESSES WORK.

A VISITING GROUP OF BUSINESS EXPERTS DELIVER A VARIED PROGRAMME OF WORKSHOPS WHICH INCLUDE PROJECT MANAGEMENT, CRISIS MANAGEMENT, INTERVIEW TECHNIQUES AND PRESENTATION SKILLS.

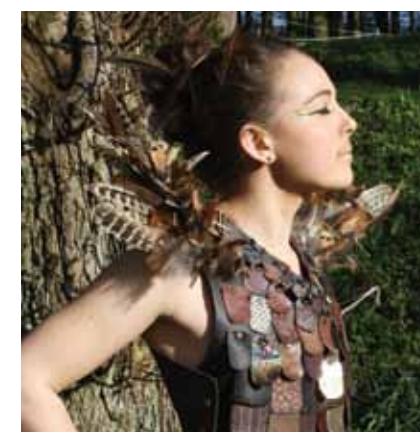
The session on interview techniques was particularly useful to the girls as it gave them an opportunity to look at interview situations from both sides of the table.

There is also a competitive edge to the whole programme as the class is divided into teams. Each team of girls is given a different project to develop through various stages including planning, finance sales and PR. After the final presentations and valuable feedback, the winners are chosen.

Comments from the girls ranged from, 'I have learned how to present myself in an interview situation,' to, 'I did not know I could be so competitive!' It's no wonder that Business Dynamics is one of our most popular leadership events.



ART & DESIGN



BEAUTY OF ART

MADELEINE CALDER U6

When I first entered the Art Department, on my arrival at Kilgraston in U5th, the artwork on display was mind blowing! I immediately knew I was right at home and I was so excited to start on my journey of discovery.

While at Kilgraston, I have completed Intermediate Two, Higher and now A Level Art and Design. My most successful endeavour has been my piece for Higher which was a poncho inspired by African tribes, specifically the Mursi and Maasai tribes. It was especially exciting to find that my poncho has been accepted into the Dundee Wearable Art Show 2015.

I was so excited to show off my dramatic catwalk skills in front of hundreds of people.

As well as my own artwork being accepted, other Kilgraston girls had designs in the show. Ailsa Edwards was a fellow contributor with a silvery grey piece inspired by pylons. We decided that we wanted to present our artwork ourselves on the catwalk; this involved going to dress rehearsals, photo shoots and getting our hair and makeup done.

After the first set of rehearsals, Ailsa and I walked along the streets of Dundee, looking for a chip shop – Ailsa had a thick black stripe painted across her face and I had on tribal face paint of many colours. We got so many odd looks, but it was worth it for the glorious fish supper!

At last, the fashion show day arrived. The whole day agenda included rehearsals and hair and make-up sessions. Coming up with a routine and practising for the catwalk was more complicated than I had previously imagined as everything had to be timed perfectly to fit exactly with the music.

Artists specialising in make-up and hair had volunteered for the show and insisted on doing my face and hairstyle. I was flattered and excited at the opportunity of becoming a tribal princess and I will never forget how much my hair was backcombed to create what looked like a structured bees' nest, a masterpiece on the top of my head. I am so grateful for the women that gave me an unforgettable experience.

Costume on, face done and hair sprayed as though to feel like straw, lights up, music starts and action! I discovered I was pretty good at being serious on stage for longer than three minutes, which was a real challenge for me.

After the show, some lovely ladies came up and complimented me on my poncho and modelling. I was so bewildered and happy and couldn't stop smiling for hours. Being in the Wearable Art fashion show has furthered my interest in the worlds of fashion and art.

This is my last year at Kilgraston and I have enjoyed every minute tremendously. I would like to thank Miss Macleod and Mrs Martin for being so open minded, art crazy and for all their support. Not only that, but they are both fabulous teachers and have been wonderful company for the three years I have been at Kilgraston.



MADELEINE CALDER U6
Poncho

Out of Africa was Inspired by African tribes and patterns, in particular by the Mursi and Maasai tribes. I created several screen prints on fabric. The beading is inspired by the unique Maasai tribe dresses. I also experimented with mosaic felt to add surface interest.

TORID BICK U6
Girl leaping with Blue Wing

It was designed as a stage costume for the character Papagena in a futuristic staging of 'The Magic Flute'.

AILSA EDWARDS U6
Power Dressing

I have been inspired by the complicated angular structures of electrical pylons.

They are seen as a blot on the landscape but I wanted their complex shape and structure to inform an elaborate piece of wearable art.

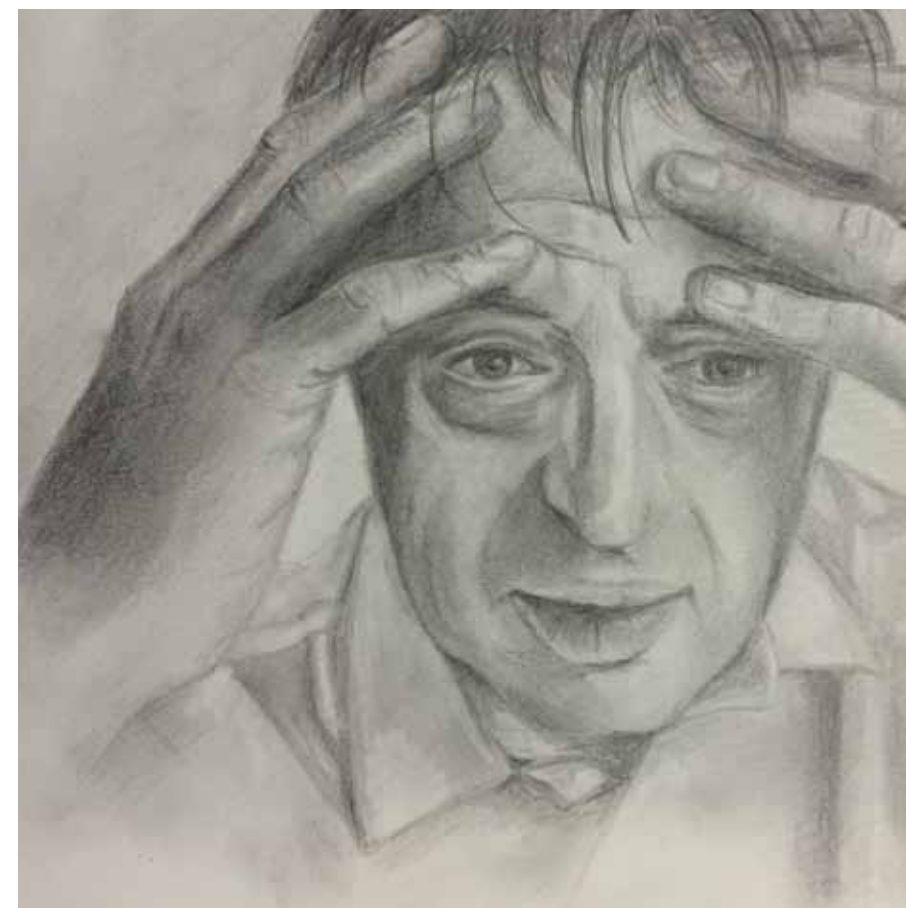
SAMANTHA BRYAN U6
Everlasting Spirals

This piece was influenced by architecture structures – mainly focusing on the dome of St Paul's Cathedral in London. This piece is a strong structure and uses simple techniques to create a unique and rather complicated design.

Sheer Connection
This piece was created by experimenting with the distortion of different metals. I have used recycled aluminium from cans. By connecting each section together, the structure can be changed into an array of different shapes.

EXPRESSIVE ART

SOPHIE DOWNES L6



Studying Higher Art and Design has been an amazing experience for me this year. It has allowed me to express myself in a creative way. As there are both Expressive and Design sections to the course, this subject as a Higher suits all those wishing to experiment with different techniques and to stretch their artistic ability to the utmost. Choosing the subject matter for both sections was a tricky task but eventually, I settled on Mechanical Form for Design and Portraiture (painting my father), for Expressive.

With the wide range of resources available in the department, I was able to manipulate features of Mechanical Form through using different materials and techniques. I set out to create small samples that I would use to develop my Final Design. My choice settled on the technique of Devoré burn-out velvet which I dip dyed to match my colour scheme of blues, silvers and blacks. Taking the form of interlocking cogs and gears, I transferred my hand cut stencil of these onto the velvet dress which led to giving a transparent effect on the fabric. Taking inspiration from the

talented designer, Iris Van Herpen, I created a cycle spoke informed structural piece, that would be worn over the dress.

In the Expressive section of the course, I was inspired by the works of Stanley Spencer and Lucien Freud. In Spencer's 'Self-portrait', 1914, I was intrigued by the way he used dramatic lighting to create an eerie mood and therefore tried to capture an image of my father in a similar composition. Freud commonly used the technique of etching and I decided to use this myself in another portrait of my father. Along with this, I experimented with a variety of background colours, creating different moods and using a range of media.

Although many long hours were spent in the Art department this year, I loved every second. Higher Art and Design has allowed me to gain skills in various disciplines across the subject. My Art teachers have always pushed me to do the best I could and helped me so much. Next year, I plan to take Art and Design at A Level which is incredibly exciting and I am looking forward to this very much.



ROCK FACE PAULINE MARTIN

To those pupils studying Art and Design at exam level, the first phase of their new syllabus is an exciting time, with the empty canvas of the year stretched and primed before them. However, it also brings a great deal of soul-searching, with each individual choosing unique topics making their artistic journey a highly personal one through uncharted territory. It has always been my belief that in order to succeed at this level, art students must take ownership of the projects, becoming fully engaged with their themes, while developing the core skills through a wide range of approaches.

It seemed like a natural choice, therefore, when Sophie Jacobs opted to incorporate her passion for mountaineering into her Higher Art & Design Expressive folio. As a talented portraitist, she was keen to explore the possibilities of capturing the characteristics of her fellow climbers with the rugged beauty of the landscapes she had studied. This keen knowledge stemmed both from her physical endeavours, and through her love of Geography, the subject which will occupy her next four years at University. Her commitment to the topic was further highlighted by her work as a volunteer at last year's

Dundee Mountain Film Festival, which not only fuelled her passion, but also proved to be a valuable source of research for her Art work.

Sophie worked steadily, producing stunning work in a variety of media, and was quick to follow leads and suggestions regarding artists connected to her theme who she could study for inspiration. I showed her the work of the highly successful Dundee Graduate, Ellis O'Connor, who had been one of my students at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art, Dundee, and who at that point had been awarded a residency in Iceland, spending six months capturing the icy landscapes of the far north. Sophie was so captivated by her work and by the realisation that there was a tangible link to the artist, that she set out to make contact with her, and very soon had an email dialogue ongoing. Ellis O'Connor was delighted to be able to answer all her questions, and took time to discuss which artists had also inspired her practice. Needless to say, I was as thrilled as Sophie was to see her engagement with the subject pay such high dividends.

As her practical work developed, Sophie experimented with a range of portraits that would fit the bill. The folio title, 'Rock Face', had emerged by this point, and she was determined to find a face that would reflect the strength and structure of the mountains. Driving to work one day I happened to hear a fascinating interview discussing a film about the climber and writer, Gwen Moffat, and couldn't wait to share my thoughts with Sophie. Speaking to her about this woman was like watching a light being switched on, and it then seemed obvious that we had found The Face. This inspirational climber who was born in 1924, was the first female British mountain guide, and was closely associated with the RAF Mountain Rescue Service in the 40s and 50s. She was a fearless mountaineer, rising to the top in a man's world, and famously usually climbed barefoot in her earlier years.

Sophie pursued every avenue to make contact with Gwen Moffat, and again she managed to set up a dialogue with her subject. First hand contact with the 91-year-old climber was an incredible source of inspiration, with Moffat sending Sophie photos and information about her life's work. She was also most gracious in agreeing to be the subject of her portraiture, and was delighted to be part of the project.

It was such an honour to help Sophie pursue her goals in Art, and to witness her emerging talents as she produced built her folio. Sophie was rewarded with an A for her achievements in Higher Art and Design. Her combination of intense concentration on her practical skills with a mature, proactive approach saw her recognised and rewarded by the school with the Kitty Cameron Award. She provided inspiration to her peers, not only through her work, but by highlighting the achievements of the two inspiring females she focused on in her studies.

Climb every Mountain, Sophie!



ARCHITECTURE AND PHOTOGRAPHY

VALERIYA BUKA L6

IN 2009, WHEN I WAS TEN YEARS OLD, I ATTENDED THE KILGRASTON SUMMER LANGUAGE SCHOOL. I REMEMBER ARRIVING AT THIS BEAUTIFUL MANSION HOUSE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.

My first memory is of the singing birds outside the windows, which as a city girl, I found very unusual. I loved the summer camp so much that I decided to attend Kilgraston School for an academic year, a decision which I have never regretted. In fact, I went on to continue with my secondary education at Kilgraston to complete my Highers and apply for university in the UK.

For my Higher Photography assignment, I set myself the task of studying architecture and, in particular, old churches. I wanted to record every little detail and I also wanted to convey the natural beauty and the forgotten history of old ruins. To begin with, I started by researching and looking for interesting places around Perth and Kinross as I believe that each building has a fascinating history. I love when old architecture and nature engage together with the patterns of the trees and the rustic ruins. Every small detail contributes to a great creation, and I think the subject of decay inspired many of my most successful

close-up shots. Lindores Abbey, near Newburgh, was a great source of images of stonework and ivy or rust coloured iron contrasting with turquoise paint.

Living in Scotland has given me a huge opportunity to be able to explore a new lifestyle and widen my horizons. My aim in my photography has been to get closer to nature and to find a balance between man-made and natural forms. Over the years, I have visited many different castles and I am fascinated by ruins and preserved artefacts.

Once, I overheard someone talking about an abandoned church in the old forest behind the main building. So I decided to visit it. There, I was fascinated by the influence of nature with architecture. This small ruin of a church in the middle of the woods left me speechless. At the time, I was scared, yet interested in this magical place. When I began studying photography, my main idea was to capture the feeling of a long history. I enjoyed taking photographs as I was able to record evidence of the presence of the past.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

STEPHEN JOHNSTON, HEAD OF RELIGIOUS,
MORAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL STUDIES

'RELIGION IS THE CLEAREST TELESCOPE THROUGH
WHICH WE CAN BEHOLD THE BEAUTIES OF CREATION,
AND THE GOOD OF OUR CREATOR.'

WILLIAM SCOTT DOWNEY, PROVERBS

This has been another positive year in the Religious Studies Department. There has been much stimulating discussion and a great sense of achievement throughout the school.

The Upper Fourth class pondered over some big questions in life. For example, they tackled the fascinating philosophical question, 'What does it mean to be human?' We have some budding philosophers amongst us, with many attending Philosophy Club.

The Sixth Form core Religious Studies group also reflected on considerable issues, such as the concept of 'Forgiveness'. In The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant, Jesus says that we must forgive not seven times but seventy-seven!

This prompted earnest discussion as to how often should we forgive and can all wrongs be forgiven? Lower Sixth girls attended the Dunkeld Diocese Schools' Conference in Dundee where the founder of Mary's Meals, Magnus McFarlane-Barrow gave an impassioned talk about his work.

As part of the National 5 RMPS course, Judaism is studied as a World Religion. It is always important that girls understand how the different world Religions are lived by their adherents. In this way, the values of the Religion become more meaningful to them. Girls had the opportunity to prepare the Shabbat meal and to bake the Challah loaf. Even Mary Berry would have approved at the attempts to knot the special Jewish bread!

Upper Fifth also visited Dundee Synagogue which was a great class trip, allowing them to broaden their awareness of Jewish beliefs.

To supplement the study of Islam as a World Religion, the Higher class visited Dundee Mosque. Our host, Imam Hamza Khan, is always welcoming and girls were able to witness afternoon prayer by the local worshippers. The class informed me how much they enjoyed this experience.

Erin Rennie commented, 'I found the visit to the Mosque in Dundee very useful in aiding my learning through reinforcing everything we had covered in the topic of Islam. It was also beneficial to hear someone speak first-hand about their religion. Seeing the reverence and enthusiasm of the Imam as he spoke about his faith helped me to understand how important the Islamic faith is to Muslims and the impact it has on their daily lives.

I learnt a lot through seeing the actual act of prayer and where it is performed in the Mosque as it is sometimes hard to get a true sense of what the religion is really about when you're in the classroom. It was also great to have the chance to ask questions and discuss aspects of Islam more in depth which went beyond preparing for the exam.'

I would like to praise the efforts of all our RMPS candidates from National 4 to Advanced Higher who have worked very well. The Department is continuing to go from strength to strength with an increasing number of girls choosing RMPS as a subject and going on to achieve success.

INTELLECT AND DRAMA

LILLA SCOTT, HEAD OF DRAMA

"THE WORD 'THEATRE' COMES FROM THE GREEKS. IT MEANS THE 'SEEING PLACE'. IT IS THE PLACE THAT PEOPLE COME TO SEE THE TRUTH ABOUT LIFE AND THE SOCIAL SITUATION." STELLA ADLER

Stella Adler developed the Studio of Acting in New York and she spent her lifetime exploring the powerful effects of theatre upon the individual. Like many others since, she was also a champion of the acting system created by the Russian master Konstantin Stanislavski who understood the importance of harnessing the imagination.

During the year of intellect the end of year shows provided thought provoking entertainment with the Junior Years performing 'Peter Pan' and the Senior School performing 'Guys and Dolls'



Consider these words from 'Peter Pan' sung by the Mermaids:

"You have to take a leap. Jump in the tale you're telling. Dreams aren't just for sleep. Living them's more compelling."

The Mermaids of Neverland urge Wendy to participate in order to get the most out of life; use your imagination and take action!

The young cast in Peter Pan worked hard in rehearsals to create the different worlds depicted in the script by connecting strongly with their characters and with each other in role. Tinkerbell's pixie dust worked its magic during the performances as the audiences delighted in watching the Prep School act, sing and dance their way past "the second star to the right and straight on till morning."

And consider these words from 'Guys and Dolls', spoken by Sarah and her grandfather Arvide from the Mission:

Sarah: I just want to get away from this whole place. To go some place where – where –

Arvide: Where the sinners are all respectable and well behaved?

When Sarah wanted to duck the responsibilities facing her, Arvide's wisdom reminded her that life's challenges present an opportunity for engagement, growth and resolution.

The performances in 'Guys and Dolls' were outstanding. The Senior girls gave it their all, in the way that Kilgraston girls do, and, more importantly, can. The show packed a positive punch full of energy, humour, song, dance and sheer talent!





GUYS AND DOLLS

KILGRASTON SCHOOL



CHOREOGRAPHY FOR THE JUNIOR YEARS SHOW

MANDY MALLOCH



EVERY YEAR WHEN THE TITLE OF THE JUNIOR YEARS SHOW IS ANNOUNCED, THERE IS GREAT EXCITEMENT. OFTEN THE GIRLS ARE FAMILIAR WITH SOME OF THE SONGS WHICH IS A GREAT ADVANTAGE. BEFORE I START PLANNING THE CHOREOGRAPHY I LIKE TO SIT IN ON AS MANY MUSIC CLASSES AS POSSIBLE SO I CAN GET A FEEL FOR THE SONGS AS I HAVE TO LEARN THEM TOO!



With a plan in mind, I start teaching each class individually before I bring the younger girls from Reception to Lower Third together. After a few rehearsals in the atrium, I like to sit in on the U3 & L4 drama classes so I can watch some scenes which helps me see where the chorus numbers fit in. Often there are changes to be made but the girls take this in their stride.

With eighty-seven girls on stage at any one time in 'Peter Pan Jr.' I wanted to make sure that each individual could be seen. First of all, they are arranged in height order and from this I form them into a shape which can vary from song to song. Each girl has their space and we spend a lot of time practising where and when to go on and off the stage. This can be laborious but they work hard as they know that their part in the show has to be slick. It is vital that I make the movements enjoyable and fun so the girls stay

focused. Often they suggest some themselves which I am happy to include in the show.

As well as the chorus, the named characters need choreography. At first, the girls are often rather self-conscious as they may be on stage alone or in a small group. With encouragement, they soon lift their heads high and become confident enough to perform in front of their peers. This stands them in good stead for the final performances.

When each girl comes on stage, positioning herself in her space, her eyes are drawn to the audience to search out family and friends. Soon the nervousness of the performers disappears. The audience plays a big part too as applause, laughs, smiles and cheers can lift each performance.

As the girls present the show with confidence and enthusiasm, I know that every minute of our rehearsals has paid off.



MUSIC

ANDREW J MCGARVA

ANOTHER FANTASTIC YEAR OF MUSIC MAKING IS BEHIND US AND, AS ALWAYS, I AM INCREDIBLY PROUD OF WHAT OUR GIRLS HAVE ACHIEVED. WE HAVE HAD MANY HIGHLIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, INCLUDING OUR PERFORMANCE IN THE VATICAN, THE CHRISTMAS CONCERT, SENIOR MUSIC RECITALS AND MANY OTHER VERY SUCCESSFUL EVENTS.

In September, the start of the school year found a number of our senior String players performing on stage at Perth Concert Hall with Nicola Benedetti. The players had a very intense start to the year and worked hard in rehearsals to ensure they were ready in time. Nicola was a real pleasure to work with and quite inspirational with some very helpful advice for the girls – some of the boarders even managed to gain access to the VIP reception after the concert.

The Christmas concert was once again the main musical focal point of term one and, as always, there were many excellent performances to enjoy. Sadly, we could not arrange for Gary Barlow to join us on stage at the Christmas concert but I am sure he would have been impressed with our Kilgraston rendition of 'Never Forget'. I think it is safe to say that this performance was a special moment for everyone in the concert hall.

Spring Term was full of music. In February we took a choir of 80 girls to Rome to sing for the evening Mass in St Peter's Basilica. We saw many of the sights of this amazing city, thanks to Mrs Bluett's walking tour and Miss Littlejohn's fluent Italian skills. The musical performance at the Vatican was certainly a memorable experience! It coincided with one of the busiest days ever seen in St Peter's Square. While Mrs MacGinty was having lengthy discussions with the Swiss Guard at the entrance, we decided to have an informal sing in St Peter's Square, much to the surprise of the thousands of visitors waiting with us. All roads lead to Rome - but not all doors are open at the right time! Thankfully, we were finally able to enter, just as Mass was

starting. It was at this moment that we realised the scale of the building and the fantastic opportunity we had been blessed with to sing there. The choir sang beautifully and it was an occasion to treasure.

While in Rome, we were also special guests of the Order of Malta at the Chapel of the Aventine, where they provided us with a special 'butlered' picnic. In addition to this honour we visited the Sacred Heart School of Rome where the original 'Mater Admirabilis' painting is on display - the choir sang an impromptu version of our hymn 'Mater Admirabilis', a Kilgraston tradition.

This year's Young Musician of the Year competition saw excellent performances in all age categories. The overall winner was our Head Girl, Iona Godfrey Faussett, on the recorder. The Grade 8+ winner was Yoyo Cheung on Piano, Grade 6/7 winner was Jenny Whitaker on trumpet, Grade 3/5 winner was Pippa Boyle on piano, Senior Prep winner was Isabel Gilmore-Heezen on cello and the Junior Prep winner was Lily McNamara on cello. March saw the annual competitions at the Perform in Perth festival and we had some excellent performances from our choirs, ensembles and soloists.

In April, Mr Flower organised a concert in St John's Kirk for a number of our senior musicians. The level of musicianship that evening has to be some of the finest quality that I have had the pleasure to listen to during my musical career. The standards being achieved by our instrumentalists continue to improve and I must pay tribute to the wonderful team of Instrumental instructors that we have working

at Kilgraston. A number of our girls have successfully completed instrumental exams but I would like to highlight our Grade 8 performers: congratulations to Yoyo Cheung, Sophie Leaver, Beth Barlow, Phoebe Reilly on piano and Ruth Faherty on piano and clarinet.

Rebecca Black and Georgina Kemp have both been successful with the National Youth Choir of Scotland and Jenny Whitaker gained a place with the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland. Jenny also won the Perth Youth Orchestra Concerto competition, performing the Haydn trumpet concerto with the orchestra in Perth, Edinburgh and Prague.

The Prep School annual production saw us flying to 'Neverland' with 'Peter Pan Jr.', produced by Mrs Scott and Mrs Malloch. There were some outstanding performances which delighted the audiences. Less than a week later the Senior School performed 'Guys and Dolls' with the principals and chorus led by the production team of Mrs Scott, Mrs McFadden and Mrs McGarva.

As I write this review of the year, I realise that it will be my final one as Director of Music at Kilgraston. The memory bank is full of wonderful experiences, music and friendships. I have been privileged to work with a wonderful team of staff throughout the school and girls with limitless enthusiasm. Kilgraston has music at its core and I am so glad to have had the opportunity to work here over the last seven years. I will always keep a place in my heart for Kilgraston – Cor Unum.

With all of my best wishes for the future.

ROME 2016

KAYA MACLEOD L4



KILGRASTON IS RENOWNED FOR ITS WONDERFUL OVERSEAS EXPERIENCES AND CERTAINLY THIS YEAR OUR EXPEDITION TO ROME IN FEBRUARY WAS NO EXCEPTION. OUR KILGRASTON CHOIR HAD THE GREAT HONOUR OF BEING INVITED TO SING AT THE 5 O'CLOCK MASS, AT THE CHAIR OF ST PETER, IN ST PETER'S BASILICA AT THE VATICAN.

This was a very special invitation. After many rehearsals, we set off from Kilgraston flying from Edinburgh to Rome via Frankfurt. We arrived early on Monday morning at our hotel which was very nice and a few of our Kilgraston parents who had come along to support were also staying there. Our first morning was spent touring the Coliseum and we were in amazement at such an incredible part of history. We made our way through the Roman Forum, then into the heart of Rome, trying hard to resist the many vendors on the street desperate to sell us "selfie" sticks along the way! Having walked all the way, we experienced the highlights of Rome including the Pantheon and Piazza Venezia. We got back to the hotel, had a lovely dinner and it was lights out for an early start on Tuesday morning.

After breakfast we made our way over to the Vatican Museum, which words cannot describe. The Sistine Chapel was truly memorable and the art work difficult to

comprehend. How the artists managed to paint so beautifully, all around the interior including the roof, is a wonder!

In the afternoon, we met with our Kilgraston parents at St Peter's Basilica. Despite a slight hiccup with some uncooperative security guards, we kept our spirits high, warming up our voices in massive queues as well as getting sashed up in preparation for our performance. We finally made it into the Basilica, escorted by a very kind Swiss Guard, albeit at the eleventh hour! As we sang our prepared music it was, I have to say, an emotional experience. I had no idea beforehand of the vast size of the Basilica.

After singing at Mass, we headed off to a nearby restaurant in the Vatican area, reflecting on the day and our experience, whilst also enjoying our meal. Our final day was spent visiting a Sacred Heart School called Trinità Dei Monti, located at the Spanish Steps, where we were greeted warmly and sang for the staff and pupils.

We had the privilege of viewing there the original fresco of Mater Admirabilis, copies of which can be found in Sacred Heart Schools all over the world.

We went on to visit the Aventine Chapel at the Order Of Malta and afterwards we enjoyed the privilege of afternoon tea in the beautiful gardens. Some of our Kilgraston parents also attended a Papal Audience being held on this day and had some amazing photographs having been "up close and personal" with Pope Francis, as he and his Cardinals addressed thousands of people from all over the world, in so many different languages. Finally, we ended our trip with some delicious ice cream from a 'gelateria' close to the recently refurbished Trevi Fountain. We tossed our coins backwards over our shoulders into the fountain and wished for a return trip. It was all a marvellous experience, which will never be forgotten and an amazing opportunity for which we would like to thank Mrs MacGinty and Mr McGarva.

VIOLIN WITH NICOLA BENEDETTI

VICTORIA YEUNG U6

PLAYING THE VIOLIN HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PASSION IN MY LIFE. I AM VERY ATTACHED TO MUSIC AS IT IS SO AMAZING THE EFFECT IT CAN HAVE ON PEOPLE. WHEN THE MUSIC STARTS, A DIM AND GLOOMY HALL CAN BE TRANSFORMED INTO A LIVELY AND DELIGHTFUL PLACE.

This is also what motivates me to push my limits higher and higher every time I practise the violin.

At the beginning of the autumn term when a few of us were informed that we were invited to play with Nicola Benedetti on stage in Perth Concert Hall in September, I was over the moon, filled with happiness. There were actually only a couple of weeks for us to practise before the concert. However, I believe this was also the main reason that really motivated us and brought us so close together in each of the practices.

On the day of the concert, we met Nicola Benedetti for the first time in person and I can still remember this vividly now. She was a very bright and encouraging young lady. During our rehearsal with her, we

did not feel a tiny bit nervous. It was all absolutely enjoyable. We blended in with each other well and she was so understanding and helpful to each of us. Finally, at the concert, what struck me so much was her communication. She was communicating with all of us so clearly throughout the whole piece and one of the things that I could never forget was the expression on her face when she was playing the violin. It was filled with true and pure joy.

Playing on stage with Nicola Benedetti was a wonderful experience which I will always treasure in my heart. Music has definitely played an important role throughout my life at Kilgraston and this particular experience will always be my highlight.



THERMIDORIAN REACTION: LOBSTER CONSERVATION IN NORTH BERWICK

MILLIE BROWN L6

THERE ARE REASONS THAT MARINE BIOLOGY IS A POPULAR COURSE FOR UNDERGRADUATES. FIRST OF ALL, YOU GET TO WORK WITH SOME OF THE MOST INTERESTING ANIMALS AND ECOSYSTEMS ON THE PLANET – WHERE NEW SPECIES CONTINUE TO BE DISCOVERED AND VAST PARTS OF THE LANDSCAPE REMAIN UNCHARTED.

Secondly, the field work is amazing – few careers plumb such depths. And then there are the prospects: successful marine biologists can go on to work as academics or environmental agents; they are scientists with a specialist knowledge people want to tap. But popularity makes for strong competition to get a place on a Marine Biology course, so I decided to give myself an edge by looking at what was going on in Scotland in the field. I ended up taking a visit to a ground-breaking new venture in North Berwick.

The Firth of Forth Lobster Hatchery came about when a feasibility study concluded that lobsters were being overfished, and if lobster-based businesses were to be sustainable, their numbers needed to be safeguarded. The lobster hatchery in North Berwick gives lobster larvae a head start in life, by rearing them in a series of tanks as they mature. Local fishermen supply the hatchery with female lobsters, called Berried Hens; they are kept in an environment with a controlled temperature to increase or decrease the production of larvae in order to maintain numbers efficiently.

Whilst lobster is still considered a luxury food item, demand for its meat has soared in recent years. Seafish – the Sea Fish Industry Authority – has categorized European lobsters as 'high risk', as their numbers have plummeted. Various voluntary measures are already in operation, but the hatcheries sprouting up across the Continent are evidence of how seriously the threat is being taken.

Jane McMinn, who is in charge of the project in North Berwick, showed me around the facility and talked me through the conservation work being done there. When new lobsters arrive at the hatchery, they are tagged with rubber bands round their claws - this also prevents them from fighting with the other lobsters as they have exhibited cannibalistic behaviour in captivity. After being weighed, they are allocated to tanks depending on the progress of how ripe their eggs are. This can be identified as the eggs develop into a dark red just before hatching.

Once larvae have been harvested, they are retained in a continuous movement of water. This also prevents fighting and avoids polluting the water with the lobsters' feed. In order to grow, larvae must moult; by their third shedding of skin the larvae are now referred to as juveniles and take the form of small lobsters. The juveniles are now bottom feeders, meaning they are less vulnerable to predators and, after being gradually introduced to sea temperatures, they are ready to be released by divers into the Firth of Forth.

It is possible to look at the venture cynically in view of the fact that it is the fishermen and women themselves who are at the helm of the conservation work – principally, in order to maintain supplies. But there is no doubting the scientific interest in the studies being carried out. Not only has funding enabled the project to open a visitor centre to acquaint tourists with the lobsters' life cycle and display their usually hard-to-reach habitats, the scheme also aims to strengthen the local

marine ecosystem, hopefully leading to an increase in populations of crabs, langoustines and oysters.

My visit was highly illuminating and showed me just how diverse and important the work of marine biologists can be. From the plight of one humble crustacean, livelihoods are being secured, families are being educated about aquatic life, and other species are expected to reap the incidental benefits. When Sebastian the crab, advised Ariel in 'The Little Mermaid' that 'The fish on the land ain't happy', he had clearly not strayed far from the ocean floor he was singing about. In an unassuming corner of an East Lothian car park, the lobsters are thriving. That is, until they're old enough for the cooking pot!



AIMING FOR MEDICINE

REBECCA HUBBARD U6



IT WASN'T UNTIL I BEGAN TAKING A PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE CARE OF MY OWN GRANDMOTHER WHO HAD BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH TYPE-1 DIABETES, THAT I REALISED I WANTED TO PURSUE A PATIENT-CENTRED ROLE WITHIN THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY.

The scientific theories alone were no longer enough; I now knew that what I needed to experience were clinical practice and patient contact.

As part of my skills for Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, I used an online platform allowing students to collect and analyse data and study ECG, electromyography and blood pressure. This helped me acquire independent investigative skills which I then applied in my summer research project at Robert Gordon University where I carried out an ergonomic assessment of the cardiovascular risk assessment [the screening that healthcare professionals do to measure and reduce risk of heart disease.] The primary aim of the study was to determine whether it

was a suitable teaching and learning activity for second-year pharmacy students. The results of our study were accepted for publication in the student journal *Communicare* for which I also wrote an editorial, discussing the importance of ergonomics in healthcare and patient safety.

I have also been lucky enough to gain some incredible work experience. Spending a week in a Pathology Department allowed me to develop investigative skills in relation to clinical cases, as I was shown how to identify different tissues under the microscope and to make relevant observations. I also applied to participate in a competitive programme for aspiring medical students and was accepted to spend a week moving between a variety of different wards and

departments throughout the hospital. Every day involved considerable travel around the hospital and different timings so it was a challenge to my organisational skills.

In a continuation of my previous work on patient safety, I spent a week during the summer holidays in a rural hospital in the Maharashtra region of India. My primary goal was to observe and record differences between the healthcare structures in Britain and India and how these affected patient safety. The week focused heavily on developing both teamwork and communication skills: helping to deliver a baby was definitely the highlight!

Having seen many examples of the way in which healthcare professionals work together, I

think that there must be good communication between the members of the team in order for procedures to work in a safe and timely fashion. My awareness of the importance of communication and presentation were fostered by the opportunities for Drama and LAMDA at school.

Throughout my school years, I have been warned countless times how demanding a career in Medicine will be, both physically and emotionally, from the start of university through to the day of retirement. However, I believe I have thoroughly reflected on the options and I remain convinced that Medicine is the career for me. I am looking forward to starting my study of Medicine at the University of St Andrews in the autumn.

GREEN ENERGY

Kilgraston has capitalised on a Scottish Government programme to cut carbon emissions and save money through investing in new plant equipment. Working with Resource Efficient Scotland, the school looks to realise annual savings of £17,000 which can be diverted to other things for the benefit of the pupils, and cut carbon emissions by more than 70 tonnes a year.

The Resource Efficient Scotland programme offers not-for-profit organisations and small businesses the opportunity to see where energy savings could be made, provides free technical support to make these changes and access to an interest free loan to cover the costs of installing any necessary energy saving equipment. The scheme has enabled Kilgraston to install four new condensing gas boilers to supply the Prep School and Barat and Swinton buildings; High Bay LEDs in the sports hall that not only considerably reduces energy demand but also improves the quality of lighting; new efficient commercial gas dryers in the laundries; and improved insulation throughout the site.

Mr Farrell, the School Bursar, said, "The whole school is committed to reducing its impact on the environment. We now actively divert more than 30 tonnes of waste a year from landfill, and these new measures will go much further by reducing our carbon footprint by more than 70 tonnes of CO2 annually. To put this into perspective, this is equivalent to powering the average family home for 5 years". He went onto say "The new plant and equipment guarantees energy savings upfront that we will use to repay the loan and continue to make energy and financial savings long after the initial costs have been met".

MIKE RICHMOND, FACILITIES MANAGER



CERN

In the spring, a group consisting of a combination of physicists from both Upper and Lower 6th travelled to Geneva for the annual trip to visit CERN. This trip was led by Mrs Hewett and Mrs Harrison. Flying on the Monday morning to Geneva airport, we explored the old town of Geneva and visited various landmarks such as Jet d'Eau.

On the Tuesday we travelled to CERN and explored their Microcosm exhibition, which explained the different stations at CERN and the experiments that are currently being carried out. We then toured the ATLAS station of CERN, which is involved in the search for the Higgs boson and particles that could make up dark matter. After our tour we were lucky enough to have Mr Farnham who works at CERN and whose daughter, Freya, goes to Kilgraston, talk to us about life at CERN which inadvertently convinced us that we all wanted to work there in the future.

On our final day we quickly toured the United Nations building before hopping on a plane and flying home. Though our trip was extremely short, everybody loved the whole experience and I'm sure we all would have wanted to spend more time there, given the opportunity. Thank you to Mrs Hewett and Mrs Harrison.

SOPHIE LEAVER U6

EQUESTRIAN CENTRE

OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS THAT I HAVE ATTENDED KILGRASTON, THE EQUESTRIAN CENTRE AND SCHOOL TEAM RIDING EVENTS HAVE PLAYED A MAJOR PART IN MY SCHOOL LIFE.



MURIEL PYM U6

I have been lucky enough to bring my own horse, Dakota to Kilgraston. Every day, I see the extraordinary efforts put in by Rachael, Ruth, Lauren and Kirsty who are the Equestrian Centre team. They are passionate about teaching riding and everything to do with the Equestrian Centre. Riding lessons have been run by them almost every day – even through some particularly 'delightful' Scottish weather – but that is all part of the fun!

Every time I would go down to the yard on Monday evenings, I would be greeted by some very excited Lower and Upper 1st girls, telling me which pony they were going to ride that day. They often asked me to help them groom their ponies too. This level of enthusiasm from such a young age is infectious and spreads though all areas of riding at Kilgraston. It is wonderful to think that nearly one third of all the Kilgraston girls take advantage of using the equestrian facilities: the activities range from lessons to competition clinics, Duke of Edinburgh Award skills to Pony Club.

The 2016 Kilgraston Scottish Schools' Equestrian Championships at Howe, organised by the Equestrian Centre were a great success. These Championships are the pinnacle of the equestrian calendar and there are teams from more than twenty schools from all over Scotland who take part. Kilgraston teams were placed in all classes.

The Open team won the 1m showjumping and combined training. To be this year's Equestrian Captain and part of the winning team really was the icing on the cake for me!

Over the past few years riding at and for Kilgraston, I have improved so much, due to the commitment of the riding staff, ever supportive atmosphere, training and clinics offered, and the overwhelming sense of camaraderie from everyone at Kilgraston. Knowing that even after the most stressful day, I could go over to the yard, tack up Dakota, hop aboard and my worries would seem to disappear, has been very special indeed. Horses will forever be a part of my life and working with them has helped to make me the person I am today. I have had success and prizes, but also the tears and falls which go with the territory and, in the end, make for a better rider. It has been a pleasure to work with Lucy Sinclair Scott who was Vice Captain this year. I wish all the Equestrian girls at Kilgraston the best of luck in the future and, in particular to Hannah Cuthill and Grace Reilly who take over as Equestrian Captain and Vice Captain next year.

As I leave Kilgraston, I am sure that the Equestrian Centre will continue to inspire and produce incredible results in the horsey world.

"There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man" - Winston Churchill

INTERVIEW WITH RACHAEL MACLEAN

STABLE BUT CRITICAL: THE IMPORTANCE OF EQUESTRIAN SPORTS

A LOT OF PEOPLE DON'T REALIZE THAT KILGRASTON IS THE ONLY SCHOOL IN SCOTLAND WITH DEDICATED ON-SITE EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES. YET 18 FULL ACRES OF OUR SCHOOL GROUNDS ARE GIVEN OVER TO THE 21 HORSES IN OUR CARE.

We have a 40x60m all-weather arena, totally floodlit, and offer livery to girls bringing their horses to school. For the uninitiated, it might be easy to dismiss equestrian sports as a hobby; but to those involved, it is a way of life.

About 90 girls come through the Equestrian Centre every week – from those attending weekly lessons, to the pony clubs and clinics catering for the range of experience in the school. This last year alone, we have supported girls achieving the highest accolades in their respective fields, from Daisy Cross in the Scottish U18 Eventing team, to Heather Halley on the Scottish Games team, Daisy Foniciello preparing for the tetrathlon (riding, running, swimming and shooting, respectively) to compete for Scotland and Bernadette McElhinney taking championships in working hunter showing all over Scotland and England. Regular visitors such as David Harland – one of the

top show jumpers in the country – help to keep the girls at their best providing excellent regular coaching.

Yet it is not just competitors who benefit from our facilities. Girls with learning difficulties get a lot out of their riding, and our specialist staff help them to make and work toward impressive goals. The centre has recently been working with Perth Autism Support, providing work placements for young people to help them on their way to having a career in the equestrian world. Add to that the girls who help out as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award, plus students from Perth schools coming through as part of their work experience, and it's easy to see how the Equestrian Centre has become something of a hub out with the regular demands of the school day.

It's a busy day for Rachael MacLean and the staff over at the centre. Together with Ruth, Kirsty and Lauren, she is responsible for feeding and watering, exercising, mucking



out and managing the health of the horses. In addition to this, the grassland requires constant management to ensure that the horses are able to feed the year round. Health and safety is a paramount concern, particularly when one considers the potential hazards facing a child on a large animal. The right animal has to be found for each rider in a lesson, to ensure that expertise, size and activity are matched to the particular objectives being worked towards. During both term time and holidays the equestrian centre is in full swing, running camps for local children and for the language school in the summer.

'Our only down time is the Christmas holidays and we try for a week or two at the end of August to give both the horses and staff a break before the new school year begins,' says Rachael. 'It means that you need to have a good bond with all the animals, I can often guess their next move,' says Rachael. 'You have to consider many factors to work out what kind of a mood they're in, weather, workload, routine...it's all taken into account.'

This means that Rachael's plans are being constantly adapted to account for changes in the animals' health and temperament. Time also needs to be made for visits from the vet and the farrier – the person responsible for fitting horseshoes – the physiotherapist and the saddler. It takes a certain type of person to be up for this kind of challenge.

Rachael took over management of the yard in 2014 following the departure of the previous manager. Having worked her way through agricultural college and earned her stripes grooming at various yards in the UK, Australia and New Zealand, Rachael took her British Horse Society (BHS) examinations and was ready to step up.

'It's a highly rewarding career,' she says. 'I love teaching and getting to see improvement in riders' confidence. Not to mention the variety. No two days are the same.'

Add to this, the annual preparations in April for the Kilgraston Scottish Schools' Championships in Howe, Fife – at which up to 140 competitors represent 20 schools – and in October the Interschool Hunter Trials, and it's not difficult to see how all-encompassing the job can become. And things are only due to become more busy.

This year, Kilgraston extended its stable provision substantially, meaning that 11 horses can now be kept indoors over the winter. As of September 2016, 8 girls are bringing their ponies to Kilgraston on livery, and the centre continues to attract new riders, whether expert or beginner. Rachael is keen to see as many girls and their families passing through as possible.

'I'd encourage anyone who ever wondered what it's all about to come across and give it a shot. Even if you only come to pet the horses, you will be made very welcome'.

WIMBLEDON



HONORARY STEWARD. LIBBY RODGER, PE DEPARTMENT

AFTER PRIZE DAY AT THE END OF THE SUMMER TERM, MOST TEACHING STAFF WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO WINDING DOWN AND RELAXING OVER THE HOLIDAY MONTHS. FOR ME, ON THE OTHER HAND, AFTER PRIZE DAY, IT WAS A CASE OF FLYING STRAIGHT DOWN TO LONDON TO TAKE UP MY FIRST YEAR AS AN HONORARY STEWARD AT WIMBLEDON!

After ten years of taking Kilgraston groups to the Wimbledon championships, giving a total of over 120 girls the opportunity to watch their heroes during this historical grand slam event, I was now about to live the dream by helping to manage the crowds of spectators. I was also looking forward to watching a lot of brilliant tennis!

I was only eighteen when I first went down to SW19. There was standing room only on both the 'show courts'. The top players included John

McEnroe, Pete Sampras, Martina Navratilova, Chrissie Evert and the British hopeful, Tim Henman. As a former player at Kinnoull Tennis Club in Perth, then as a coach, tennis has always been one of my passions. Indeed, as part of Perth and Kinross Tennis Development, I became involved in first spotting the talents of Elena Baltacha. It was an honour to coach Elena when she first came to Perth and, every time I travelled south to watch Wimbledon tennis and she was playing herself, she would recognise me and come and chat with me and my group of girls from the school.

Even before this special year at Wimbledon, I was sure that Andy Murray was the man to win. The Scot is by far the best player Britain has ever had. For him to compete so strongly against the likes of Federer, Nadal and the stalwart Djokovic is a massive achievement.

What an amazing year for Scottish/British tennis it was at Wimbledon 2016! As part of my duties, I was a steward on Court Two while the Men's Singles Finals were being screened live to the over flow from Murray Mound. I was also lucky enough to see Gordon Reid win his Wheelchair Singles Final and, as a further bonus, to get one of the Stewards' seats on Centre Court to witness Heather Watson win in the Mixed Final. Phew! It will be very hard to top my first year as an Honorary Steward at Wimbledon!

NETBALL

CATRIONA NORVAL L6

THIS ACADEMIC YEAR, I WAS SELECTED INTO THE SCOTTISH THISTLES' LONG SQUAD FOR NETBALL, GIVING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE IN THE OPEN SQUAD FOR SCOTLAND TEAMS AND TO PLAY ALONGSIDE SEVERAL COMMONWEALTH GAMES TEAM PLAYERS.

When I represented my country in the U17 European championships this year in Gibraltar where Scotland won the silver medal. This was my third European championships and it was an exhilarating experience, flying abroad with such a close-knit team. Following that, in the summer I went to Belfast, having been selected for the U21 national team to play in the Celtic Clash tournament. Training and playing at this further level taught me so many new skills and it was an extra bonus for us to win both our matches against Northern Ireland.

It soon becomes apparent that a team is not all about the captain or the top player. Everyone has to give 100% and to be positive all the time. To be part of an elite team, every player must put in the hours of training to reach their full potential and do their best not to let the team down. We all sacrifice things to play at this level - this could mean missing out on weekends with friends and family which is difficult at times but a true athlete gives 100% to their sport and for their team. Something I have learnt through netball is the dynamics of how team work is so vital in life and how not every game will go your way but yet you still learn something new from every game.

Many people will know that in netball, only seven players take the court at one time although it takes all twelve players to make a team. All of the twelve players support and encourage each other from the warm up to the cool down. For example a netball game consists of four quarters and some players may only get a few minutes on court but they cannot

feel self-pity because it is all about supporting the team, as a team sport is not for individual glory but for team glory.

It is the captain's role to ensure each and every member of the team feels valued and important to the final whistle. I was selected as captain for the U17 Performance Development League in April where I used every part of my ability to include, encourage and support all twelve of my players - whether they were supporting from the side or supporting on the court. I was very proud to lead Team Alpha as captain into the finals, keeping spirits high and determination strong for all twelve players regardless of the score on the board. As a Scotland Institute of Sport athlete, I am very appreciative that my training and wellbeing are overseen by a strength and conditioning coach, physiotherapist, lifestyle adviser, nutritionist and a performance adviser to help me maintain a balance between my sport, school work and social life.

My most recent achievement was on 11th of June 2016 when I was informed that following the U21 National trials, I had been selected into the U21 World Youth Long Squad in which after a series of trials, a short squad will travel to the World Youth Games in Botswana in 2017. Before the WYG, the squad will be on tour to Fiji playing in a tournament against teams from countries including the Caribbean and African Regions. I truly appreciate the opportunities that netball has given me and I aim to give back to the sport all it has given me by always striving to give my best and encourage others.



ON MY HONOUR: PAULINE STOTT CELEBRATES HER MBE

INTERVIEW WITH PAULINE STOTT, DIRECTOR OF SPORT



U13 Hockey Team: L to R (back) Keira Forgie, Belana Negri, Kaya Macleod, Pippa Boyle, Joni Dalrymple, Emma Leslie, Iona Aldridge, Alex Brattesani, Kyla Grieve
L to R (front) Katie Nicholson, Romy Boyd

She's as important to the Queen as three quarters of The Beatles, but you wouldn't guess it from talking to her. Since her MBE was announced earlier this year, it's been business as usual for Pauline Stott, Kilgraston's Director of Sport. She's spent the summer doing the kind of things she always does – the kind of things that led to her being recognized. Apart from running the successful Kilgraston Summer hockey Camps, she plays hockey with younger players and helps with the District teams. She acts as a link to some of the international players and is often asked to speak to youngsters from all around the country, both able bodied and disabled groups through the Champions in Sports Scheme. But it's not just her expertise she's sharing. As an international hockey player who represented Team GB in Atlanta (1996) and Sydney (2000), she has a wealth of experience as well on and off the pitch.

'I take being a role model very seriously,' she says, reflecting on the part she still plays in the development of younger

players. 'A lot of athletes today are not accustomed to the idea of being a role model at all times, but that's the way it is – the way it has to be.' She recently shared her experience of preparing for the Olympics with the girls in a whole-school assembly. Her message was simple: if you're willing to work for something, you have a better chance of getting it than if you don't.

'Back in 1992 I had trained hard – I was in the top four in the country for fitness testing. Yet I didn't get picked for the team. I can remember waiting for my name to be read out, and then realizing that it would be another four years before opportunity knocked again.' But she didn't let it get her down. Indeed, it only made her train harder ahead of the selections for Atlanta.

'During the 1993 season I began to train with the men's team. That was the difference.' It is also, incidentally, how she came to meet her husband. 'The men's team was tougher, fitter, stronger. I can remember at least a couple of times



when I was completely delirious after the session.' It is worth bearing in mind – as she pointed out in assembly – that these were the days before the huge cash injections from the National Lottery (which only began in 1994). Mrs Stott could not be more pleased about the level of funding athletes get for their strength conditioning today. But the contrast between this and what she started out on is stark. 'I had £1000 per month to live on – just enough to pay the bills.' No state-of-the-art facilities for acclimatisation training for Atlanta, USA: 'Back then we had an 8x6m concrete room with three exercise bikes. Heat was provided with an ancient heater and the steam produced by a kitchen urn with the lid off!'

It is little surprise, then, that this work ethic landed her a place on the 1996 squad. She was Vice Captain of the team – but the pressure still wasn't off. 'In order to be considered an Olympian, you actually have to play the ball in the match. It's no good just being there.' But when the matches were over, there was the Olympic Village, in



which a person could gorge on just about any food they might care to imagine. 'It was unbelievable the variety and volume of food types available to the athletes. One night I was woken up by furniture being moved in the room above me – a boxer named Alex Arthur had eaten so much food that he had to exercise through the night to get his weight back down.' But the atmosphere was electric: 'You couldn't hear yourself speak at the opening ceremony. We had to walk down a huge ramp in high heels – not something we were accustomed to for sure and we were just met by a sea of flag-waving and cheering. 120,000 people all cheering us – amazing!'

Coming back from Atlanta was bound to be something of an anti-climax. 'Everything back home was just the same, even though I felt so different. It was weird.' Still, it wasn't long before she was training again, and in 1999 Mrs Stott was asked to come back to play for GB by the coaching team after the birth of her baby girl. Hours and hours on the training field with the baby seat to the side and then in 2000 she found herself named captain of the British Olympic team at the Sydney Olympics. Even tougher to leave behind your husband and 14 month

old daughter but it was going to be worth it for certain. It was a long journey from the disappointment in 1992 having worked so hard. But it was not surprising given the effort that had gone in. Gruelling training sessions three times a day whilst working full time were a massive challenge but as the saying goes, 'The harder you work, the luckier you get.'

And yet, even Mrs Stott had to pinch herself when she opened the envelope advising her of her nomination for the MBE. 'I couldn't believe it,' she says. 'There was an envelope with "The Cabinet Office" written on it. I wondered what I could have done! But the hardest part was keeping the award a secret: 'A condition of the award is that you are not allowed to tell anyone until it is made public.' The award itself officially recognizes Mrs Stott's services to hockey and to sports in Scotland, although she is keen to share the credit. 'People always say that the awards recognize one person, but there are a lot of people along the way who have contributed. Everyone who has supported and encouraged me, from David, my husband, my parents and family, to the Dundee Wanderers Men's Club and

Dundee United football club, have all had their part to play. I've been lucky. But I've worked hard.'

Luckily for Kilgraston, Mrs Stott has no plans to rest for the time being. She still has other athletes to bring up through the sport, including her own daughters who are each making their own impact in hockey. Katie (17) is currently playing for Scotland U18 team having recently returned from the UK School Games in Loughborough and Ellie (14) is working with Scotland U16 this season too. Both girls have aspirations to follow in their mother's footsteps.

The question was put to the school at morning assembly: "Does failure and disappointment lead to success?" In the case of Mrs Stott, that is true – devastated as non-selection for Barcelona which led to work, dedication and desire to succeed.

Just look at the GB Women's Hockey team in Rio 2016. They won the Gold Medal which was amazing. Could you be the next Olympian.... Why not?



NURSERY

KILGRASTON SCHOOL 2016



THE UPPER 1ST AND LOWER 2ND ART GALLERY

PAM FERGUSON

IN THE SUMMER TERM, THE UPPER 1ST AND LOWER 2ND STUDIED THE HISTORY OF ART AROUND THE WORLD. THE PUPILS STARTED BY FINDING OUT ABOUT THE FIRST ART CREATED BY EARLY HUMANS WHO PAINTED WHAT THEY OBSERVED IN NATURE ON THE WALLS OF THE CAVES THEY LIVED IN, USING NATURAL COLOURS MADE FROM PLANTS, MUD, CLAY AND BERRIES.

The first paintbrushes were made from chewed sticks. Looking at images of these early paintings can help us to discover something about the way of life in those far off days.

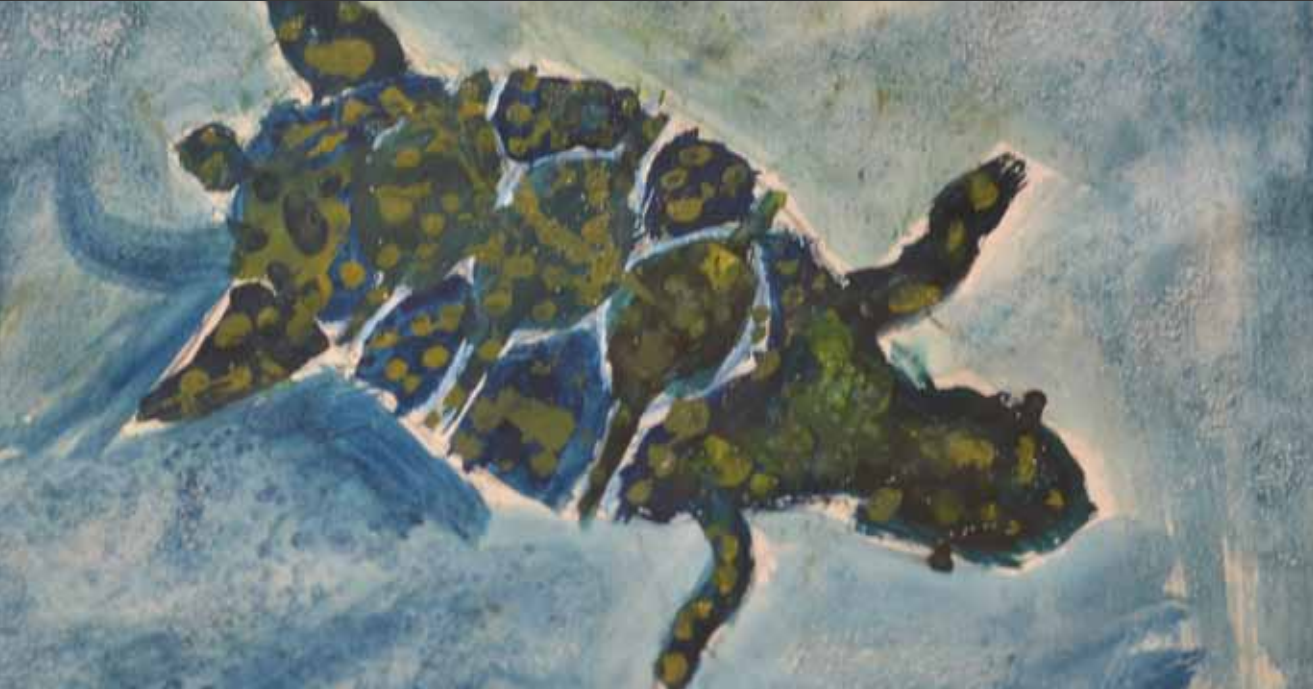
This led us to undertake research on Egyptian art. Colours were symbolic. People and gods were painted in their own particular style. The girls were fascinated to find out just how much history can be learned from looking at paintings or other artefacts. We can even learn about the Battle of Hastings from studying the Bayeux Tapestry.

The girls tried creating their own paintings in the style of different artists. They particularly loved painting in the style of Van Gogh, using acrylics and large brushes to give the impression of movement and nature. They used colour with boldness and imagination to create some of their own masterpieces! They also enjoyed painting the Blue Horse in the style of Franz Marc, using only the three primary colours. They were fascinated to learn that the artist painted what he thought the animal would see through its own eyes. The resulting pictures gave a feeling of calm.

Other paintings were created in the style of Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa, Monet's water lilies and The Wave by the Japanese artist, Katsushika Hokusai. Everyone was intrigued to find out about the stories behind the pictures and the life of the artists at the time.

The girls then set up an Art Gallery and invited family and friends to join them for an afternoon. This enabled each pupil to show what they had learned and also to have a platform to display their work. Mrs MacGinty and Mr Stewart also came to join our little gathering which proved to be a very popular event. It was a delight to work with my class to set up this activity and to show their abundance of creativity, imagination and talent.





THE DRAGON VS. TIDDLES!

LAURA INGLIS U2

ON ONE SCORCHING HOT DAY, IN A VILLAGE NEAR THE SEA, ELLA AND HER LITTLE SISTER ALICE WERE PLAYING ON THE SILKY SAND, LISTENING TO THE SWISHING WAVES. THEIR MUM AND DAD WORKED IN A LITTLE, WOODEN HUT SELLING FISH FROM THE SALTY SEA TO OTHER VILLAGERS.

All was great! Until, Ella and Alice, as they always do, went outside in the warm breeze and started building sand castles. Then, all of a sudden, they heard a tiny snore coming from a dark, gloomy cave. As they came closer, the snore became louder and louder and more and more terrifying! They ran down the beach and all the way back to the hut. The sand below their feet felt soft and sank in-between their toes! Eventually, they arrived home and told their mum and dad all about it. They were shocked!

The next evening, Ella and her Dad walked quietly down the beach staring at the beautiful sunset like a picture in the sky. Suddenly, they came across a little group of turtles! But they weren't happy! They were waddling hastily towards the sea, anxiously looking at the cave where the strange snoring was coming from. One turtle that looked like the youngest was far behind. It was trying to catch up, but the rest of them were already gone. He was alone. Ella asked her dad if she could keep the poor thing and he said yes! Ella was delighted! He was to be named Tiddles.

After a dream filled sleep, Ella and Alice went out to see Tiddles. He was lying peacefully on the sand. But wait, something wasn't right. Then it hit them! There was no more snoring! The news spread quickly around the village and soon everyone was talking about it.

Suddenly, someone screamed so loud that the whole village was staring at them! It had arrived. An enormous fire-breathing dragon stormed up the sand roaring majestically! Right at that moment, Ella had a great idea. Once, when it was raining on the beach, Ella came inside and read a book. This book was a book on dragons. She knew that the one thing dragons were scared of were.... Turtles! Ella made sure Tiddles was looking as scary as possible! She dressed him up in a mask made of seaweed. Bravely, Ella walked out of the hut (where they also lived) and placed Tiddles in front of the dragon. Tiddles was trembling. But Ella reassured him everything would be ok. Suddenly, there was an earth trembling ROAR! And as quick as a flash the dragon was gone.

Ella was ecstatic and extremely relieved! She gave Tiddles a big hug. She definitely couldn't have done it without him! Tiddles was still trembling but not as much as before. His brown scaly shell was small and cute. Alice and her mum and dad were pale and scared but very proud of Ella and Tiddles.

Soon, everything was back to normal. The sea was swishing and the trees on the horizon were still swaying peacefully. The crystal clear water glimmered in the sunshine and the village was still buzzing with excitement. Tiddles was very famous in the village! He liked it very much there.

THE ZARATAN



HETTI REID U2

The Zaratan is a friendly and understanding creature who lives in the sea. He has a life span of 200 years.

He eats fish and has magical powers to help sailors who are in trouble.

ABOUT THE BEAST

Name – Zaratan

Type – A magical whale

Size – 10 times bigger than a normal whale

Habitat – lives on the sea floor and prefers warmer seas

Diet – mainly salmon

Distinguishing Features – Black, Slimy, wet skin, Huge, blue eyes

Behaviour – He has an excellent sense of smell which he uses to find sailors in trouble.

He puts sailors on his back and takes them to safe places.

He loves to help people because he thinks it's fun.

THE AUTUMN BREEZE

The wind is swaying,
The children are playing.
The leaves are yellow,
The river is mellow.

The air is cold,
The night is dark.
The mornings are misty,
The frost is sharp.

The horses are neighing,
Energetically playing.
The harvest is done,
Time for fun.

REBECCA JOHNSTONE U2

AUTUMN CHANGES

The leaves on the trees are turning yellow,
The river's song is very mellow.
Cuddly ponies wearing winter coats,
Waiting for their autumn oats.

Misty mornings, sunny days,
Autumn is here in lots of ways.
Night comes faster every day,
Not so much time to play.

Crackling leaves as we walk,
I hear the sound of people talk.
Golden fields, haystacks towering,
Scampering rabbits, mice are cowering.

MISCHA STEELE U2

AS

As soft as a cat
As lifeless as a mat
As wise as a wizard
As bold as a blizzard
As fluffy as a cloud
As loud as a sound
As slithery as a snake
As thin as a rake
As foggy as mist
As big as a list
As white as a goose
As nice as chocolate mousse
As quick as a wink
As rose as pink
As light as snow
As spotty as a bow
As tall as a hat
As blind as a bat
As wet as rain
As high as a plane
As windy as a bend
As finished as the end.

AS

As moist as clay
As slow as the day
As crispy as chips
As pretty as lips
As ugly as a rat
As soft as a pat
As dark as night
As blinding as light
As fast as a clock
As busy as a dock
As playful as a dog
As bold as a log
As big as a ship
As small as a pip
As fluffy as fur
As loud as a purr
As green as spinach
Now I'm finished.

FLORA ALLEN U2

MARY SPEED U2



TITANIC DAY 2016

ZOË LEVY L3

LOWER THIRD TOOK A DAY TRIP TO BELFAST TO VISIT THE TITANIC MUSEUM IN MAY 2016. THE TRIP, IN MY OPINION, WAS ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.

I got up at 4.05a.m. and the flight was at 7a.m. so it was a very early start. We wore 'home clothes' on the day. We met at school and Mr Stewart drove the minibus to Edinburgh airport. Then we went through security and all the other stuff you do at an airport, including breakfast in a café.

The flight was very short. We arrived at Belfast airport at roughly 8 a.m. We took two buses to the museum. On both buses, we sat on the upper deck, near the front, and had a great view of the city of Belfast. On the buses we all behaved impeccably. Hopefully!

The museum building was unique. It was a very weird shape, but cool, nonetheless. The inside of the museum was really exciting. The atmosphere was buzzing with visitors and staff. We went to the café for a snack. There were little cupcakes with White Star Line flags on top. I thought that was a nice touch. At the café, we ordered our sandwiches for lunch.

We walked around the shipyard where the Titanic was built and where it was launched on May 31, 1911. Titanic's maiden voyage was on 10 April, 1912. Four days later she struck an iceberg in the middle of the night and sank almost three hours later. About 1,500 people died.

During the day, we had a tour of the SS Nomadic ship, which was very interesting. It taught us that the SS Nomadic was the last remaining White Star Line ship. I remember from the tour the model of a waiter in a smart uniform. You pressed a bell and he started talking. We were also allowed to wander round the ship on our own. We found some dressing-up clothes. We looked ridiculous when we had all dressed up. Mr Stewart and Mrs Snaith, Caty's mum, joined in. It was lots of fun and we laughed like crazy.

The trip to the museum really brought to life what we had been learning in class. We went to a workshop on the SS Nomadic called 'Get the Message'. It was about semaphore and Morse code. This was a fascinating workshop and we all learned something new. We used a machine to tap out Morse code.

At the end of the day, we went to the shop to buy souvenirs. After landing in Edinburgh, we drove back to school where our parents picked us up. There was a lot of laughing and goodbyes.

I learned from the experience that the sinking of RMS Titanic was a really tragic accident and one of the most disastrous events in history. I will never forget the day I went to Belfast with the school. It was incredible. A week later, our photos were in the Perthshire Advertiser.

THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS



ISABEL GILMORE HEEZEN. U3

THIS WAS ONE OF THE MOST FUN AND INTERESTING TOPICS I HAVE STUDIED IN MY HISTORY CLASS SO FAR. I GIVE ALL OF THE CREDIT TO MY HISTORY TEACHER, MR STEWART WHO MADE IT SO ENJOYABLE.

The battle of Hastings was fought on October 14 1066. It was important because the defeat of the English Anglo-Saxon king Harold Godwinson by the French noble Guillaume le Conquérant brought about the era of Norman rule in England. After the battle, William the Conqueror as he is known in English was crowned king of England in Westminster Abbey.

In order to learn about the background and context of this famous battle, the Upper 3rd class researched and read about those involved and why they fought each other. To start with, we learned about the two sides in the battle. The Norman-French army was led by William Duke of Normandy while the Anglo Saxon king Harold Godwinson led the Anglo-Saxon forces.

When we were told that we could dress up for the event, we were all bursting with good ideas. Personally, I used my Harry Potter robe as my cloak and one of my old Barbie ponies came in handy as my charger (some people mistook it for a unicorn!)

We had to make our own weapons so we all went home full of ideas, each one better than the last. My shield was made of cardboard painted with a traditional symbol. My sword was made of a stick wrapped in a lot of tinfoil. I made a helmet and tried to look menacing in spite of my cardboard shield, tinfoil sword, and paper helmet.

The class was divided into opposing armies and each group had a leader, who organized and motivated the troops. Tallie was the leader of the Anglo-Saxons and Celia was the leader of the Norman army.

Once we had all perfected our various weapons and clothing, we started to choreograph the fight. I doubt

that the original participants were so highly organized! We were each matched with a partner from the opposing army, and we used our faux weapons to practice taking each other out with deft sword blows and lunges.

Finally, it was the day of the battle and we all had come prepared with our equipment and clothes. Maybe because we are an all-girls school, we used the copious amounts of red lip gloss on hand for fake blood, smearing it all over our faces. It did the job and we looked suitably battle scarred.

I walked down the stairs to the atrium feeling like I was going to a Quidditch match rather than a battle. However, our excitement grew as we suddenly realised that almost the whole junior school was coming to watch our re-enactment of the battle.

We marched out of the doors and down to the battle field where the crowd was gathering. We lined up in our arranged positions and waited for the battle cries from our leaders, signalling the gallop onto the field on our horses. (Or in my case, a tiny, plastic Barbie horse.)

The battle cries sounded and we all rode onto the field to find our assigned partners and quickly remembered our choreographed moves. There was a lot of yelling and hand-to-hand combat. It was great fun.

This was a great experience because it involved getting up out of the classroom and waving a fake sword around. I will forever remember my time as a proud Norman soldier defeating the Anglo-Saxons. Our Battle of Hastings re-enactment will stay with us for years to come.



SIXTH FORM BALL 2016

KILGRASTON SCHOOL



GAIL MCFADDEN, HEAD OF BOARDING AND PASTORAL CARE

EVERY JANUARY THE THOUGHTS OF ALL BOARDERS TURN TO ONE THING... WHAT WILL THE NEW GAPPIES BE LIKE!

Each year in the depth of winter, three dynamic and, it has to be said, shell-shocked girls join the Kilgraston family from as far afield as Australia, New Zealand and Canada to embark on a year-long journey that finds them becoming big sisters to over a hundred girls and mentors and study buddies to as many as need their support or help. Their number is increased every autumn term as each August we are joined by a gap student from Europe who will enhance the language department by using their natural ability to help our girls to develop their conversational skills.

With talents in sport, music and a range of academic subjects, our gap students have left school with A-grade results and are waiting to go to university to study a vast array of subjects from Medicine to Accountancy, Fine Arts to Veterinary Science.

The support that they give to all departments is very much appreciated by all concerned but it is in the residential areas that their dedication and enthusiasm for the role really shines through. Evening study, hot chocolate and games, socials, weekend trips and Gap Sundays (where the girls plan a variety of diverse activities for all age ranges of boarders,) the girls really are a major part of the residential team and it wouldn't be the same without them. They are a smiling face at 'wake up' call and a sympathetic ear when the day just hasn't gone right.

As the year comes to an end and Christmas looms large, excitement for the end of term is tinged with sadness as we prepare to say goodbye to a group of girls whose talents we have appreciated and admired and who we can truly call our friends. We hope that Kilgraston has given them as much as they have given us.

GRATEFUL GAPPIES

HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN SAY THAT THEIR WORK STRAIGHT OUT OF LEAVING SCHOOL IS TO SPEND AN ACADEMIC YEAR IN AN ENVIRONMENT FILLED WITH SUPPORTIVE STAFF AND A STUDENT BODY MADE UP OF CREATIVE, CLEVER, AND KIND YOUNG GIRLS AND WOMEN?

Between the five of us, we share three languages (not including the mostly uninterpretable Australian slang) and represent three different nationalities - Austrian, Australian and Mexican - yet we all feel like Scotland has become our home away from home. We love getting involved in classes, sports and extra-curricular activities, while contributing to the school in any capacity that we can.

Engaging with the Sacred Heart family has been an absolute honour along with meeting new people, working hard and discovering a new culture and values; there is so much for which to be thankful. Although two of us have attended boarding schools as pupils, being a member of staff has provided an endless series of new outlooks, experiences and skills that will no doubt benefit both our résumés and personalities. We are endlessly grateful to Mrs MacGinty, Mrs McFadden, the teaching, residential and support staff and, of course, the pupils of Kilgraston for this wonderful time.





FAREWELL MEMORIES

MARGARET MCCABE

A SHORT TIME AGO, LIKE THE U6TH BEFORE ME, I DECIDED TO DELIVER A LEAVING ASSEMBLY TO THE SENIOR SCHOOL. AFTER 28 YEARS AND NOW ON TO MY FIFTH HEAD, I AM BEING PUT OUT TO PASTURE (NOT LITERALLY OF COURSE AND OF MY OWN CHOOSING) BUT SET TO RETIRE ON 25TH JUNE 2016.



I have witnessed many changes in my time here and would like to share a few. When I came to Kilgraston, my two elder sons were seven and five years old respectively and many Sacred Heart nuns lived and worked in school. Sister Barbara, who many of the boarders see every Sunday at Mass, was my Headmistress and, in fact it was she who appointed me as a part-time teacher of Spanish. Ms Macleod will know of Sister Bystram and be aware of the sterling work she did in the Art Department. Teresa Bystram loved painting and even more, loved to pass her passion for it down to her students. When my youngest son, Chris was two years old, she drew a picture of him in pastels from a photograph and I still have it as a treasured memory of her.

Some of the nuns worked as teachers, in the kitchen, in administration and one, Sister Nancy Brooks, worked in the now staff office. On the face of it, she was quite fierce and kept us all in our place but she was also very clued up about how we were feeling and if we were having an off day, she would always be there with a cup of tea. Her favourite saying was, "let go and let God", and I have used this phrase over the years to help me through in times of stress or difficulty. The lectern in chapel was dedicated to the memory both of Sister Nancy and of Sister Mary Dwyer.

When I started teaching here, Mrs Bluett, who came just a few years later and I both taught in huts called "Outward Bound".

The connotations of that phrase may lead you to think about adventures or even the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Come to think of it, it was sometimes a bit of an adventure in winter, trying to get over there in the ice and snow to our corrugated iron classrooms which were cold in winter and too hot in summer. We were stationed in the grassy area just in front of Scotties' and often in winter, if my thermometer read that it was too cold, I would gather the girls together and we would head back to the warmth and inclusiveness of the Senior School.

We had other classrooms called Loreto, no longer visible: in fact, they were in front of the new Science Centre. Mrs Lund, Mrs Bluett, and I all taught out there at some point. One of my most vivid memories is the red flashing light on the roof which, on one memorable St Andrew's Dance evening, flashed non-stop following a fire in the kitchen. We were duly evacuated out there and had to spend the rest of the evening trying to keep warm. Also, I remember the fact that the huge cupboards which were like walk-in larders were so cold we used them as a fridge to keep milk cold for our tea!

The girls now are so lucky to have the Prep School building or the Grange as we used to call it. As a young teacher - difficult to imagine, I know - I used to love going to see the Junior girls but not where they are now. Oh, no! Junior School, as it was then, was in a space in a long corridor adjacent

to the Infirmary, roughly where the L5th common room is now. The younger girls used to have lunch before the Seniors and in summer came out to play with their pogo sticks directly in front of Outward Bound. So in the middle of the day, you might have three or four classes playing outside, running around and generally having great fun - an age without mobile phones or iPads to distract them!

Another memory I have is of the "cottage". It was an old dilapidated stone building near Mrs MacGinty's house, which was used at the weekend by the girls if they wanted to do a bit of cooking or baking. Thinking back now, Health and Safety would have had a field day but at the time this was a space the girls loved to go to at the weekend. One year, Miss Losty tried to have her traditional Arran Christmas dinner cooked there - a disaster waiting to happen!

Anyway, I have many great memories of things and people. I also have some sad memories. There were some dear colleagues who died too young: Mrs Rhodes, Miss Ling and Mrs Marshall. What I have realised, however, is that things will always be changing, things evolve, systems change but Kilgraston at its heart has not and should not change. Teachers, staff and pupils come and go but if they are here long enough, they will always take a little bit of K.G. with them.

Cor Unum. One Heart.

‘BOWING OUT’ - AN INTERVIEW WITH MRS PRENTICE

EMILY SCOTT L6

IT WAS A WARM AFTERNOON AS I SAT IN THE OFFICE OF OUR SOON-TO-BE EX-HEAD OF SIXTH FORM, MRS PRENTICE. SHE SAT OPPOSITE ME IN AN ARMCHAIR, POISED AND READY FOR THE SEA OF UNANSWERABLE, TEAR-JERKING, HEART-WRENCHING QUESTIONS I HAD PREPARED.



Appropriately, there was a large, flower patterned, box of tissues on a table nearby, which I was quietly hoping neither of us would need.

To begin, I opened with the obvious leaving interview question, asking what her greatest achievement at Kilgraston had been. Quickly, I saw the distress in Mrs Prentice's expression as she realised that this was not going to be an easygoing interview: I was going to ask difficult-to-choose, memory-racking questions.

"Trying to create a space for the day girls and for the boarders to enjoy," she answered, referring to the Sixth Form Centre, adding that, "When I first came here the Sixth Form was very small. With the help of the staff – it's not my achievement, it's the achievement of lots of other people – we have managed to increase the Sixth Form to the size it is today."

My second question was another brain-searching type. Asked about her biggest challenge, Mrs Prentice re-plied, "When I first started at Kilgraston, there was no Head of Sixth Form position, so it was establishing an identity for the Sixth Form."

Mrs Prentice has made numerous contributions to the school, so I asked her which of these she really hoped would be continued. She said, "Events like the Upper Sixth Leavers' Dinner. The Sixth Form Society evenings that we introduced this year have been popular, teaching the girls something but also enabling them to socialise at the same time."

So what would Mrs Prentice take away from her Kilgraston experience? She replied, "That Kilgraston, for the eight years that I have worked here, has proved itself to be a very unique school, a very special school with a huge amount of community spirit and one heart that's shared by all, cor unum."

Asked about her fond memories in her job, Mrs Prentice said that she was always delighted when, "Students achieve the results that they need in August and they go to university. Also, the end of the summer term is a favourite time of year when I see a year group that are leaving as successful, confident individuals." She then added that other especially fond moments for her were when, 'Girls who leave the school come back to say hello and want to come to a concert or Mass.'

It seemed fitting to ask if she had any advice to offer her successors: "As far as UCAS goes, it's definitely organisation and trying to keep the girls and the staff to their deadlines. It's a real privilege to work with the girls especially helping them decide what they want to do in their future."

For my final question, I thought I would stick with a classic, "What will you miss most about Kilgraston?" After a short pause she replied, "I'm going to miss the people at Kilgraston: the students, the staff, the friends; it's just a beautiful school, the setting is stunning. I have never worked in a school as beautiful as this. It's a great environment to work in."

Pretty comprehensive and it's difficult to disagree. But if it's the people that make Kilgraston the place it is, then it's people like Mrs Prentice. We wish her every success, and hope, like the girls she was always so happy to welcome back, that she pays us a return visit soon.

STAFF ROOM 2015-2016



Welcome: Miss Bain, Mrs Dunphie, Mrs Guthrie, Mr Milner, Mrs Müller, Mrs K Smith, Mrs L Smith, Mrs Speed.

Farewell: Mrs Whitaker has been a most dedicated class teacher in the Junior School and a valued member of the Music staff, teaching brass. She takes up the position of Head of English at Craigclowan School.

Miss Gardner, Head of Learning Support, leaves after four years to join family in Canada. She has made a significant impact through the support and guidance she has offered our girls. for which we are very grateful. We also thank her for her great contribution as Tutor, Arran Housemistress this year and for her teaching of Biology.

Mr McKinney is not travelling quite so far as he takes up the post of Housemaster at Strathallan. He has been Head of Maths for one year and was previously Housemaster of Arran. We thank him for his contribution to the academic and pastoral life of the school and wish him and his family every good fortune.

Mrs Clarke retires after ten years as Head of the Home Economics department. The girls thrived under her care, gaining valuable life skills and achieving excellent examination results. We are most grateful for all her commitment to Kilgraston. She has been very generous in her contribution including her great support of Arran House, charity events and open days, cookery competitions, World War One commemoration, taking the Badminton Club and serving as a guardian to school pupils. Her daughter Fiona attended Kilgraston.

Mr McGarva has made a huge contribution as Director of Music. He has generated enormous enthusiasm for Music in the school amongst the pupils. The number and range of Music Groups has expanded greatly. He has also held the post of Deputy Head of Prep and this year, he became Director of Communications. We are thankful to him for his impact. Mrs McGarva has been very

helpful with Admissions. We wish Mr and Mrs McGarva every success in their new lives in Jersey, where he takes up the post of Assistant Head at the Girls' College.

Mrs Prentice has been an excellent Head of Sixth Form. Calm, organised, unflappable, she has done sterling work with the UCAS application process. The Upper Sixth are most grateful for her interest and dedicated guidance. She has been a wonderful senior colleague and I am grateful to her for the support she has given me in my first year at Kilgraston.

Mrs McCabe retires this year after twenty-eight years of dedicated service to Kilgraston. She has made such a difference to the lives of very many individual girls. Mrs McCabe has taught French and Spanish throughout the school with Spanish as her first love and she has been Head of Modern Languages. She has also taught Religious Education, prepared girls for First Communion and Confirmation and supported staff and girls alike with care and concern. Mrs McCabe has been a wonderful Housemistress of Inchcolm House, where the girls often refer to her as their second mother. We wish her health and happiness in her retirement.

DOROTHY MACGINTY, HEADMISTRESS

"What a difference a day makes" was a single by Dinah Washington but we can say the same about Miss Seatter (or now Mrs Garson) – "What a difference a person can make?"

The effort, care and passion Miss Seatter brought to Kilgraston were amazing, due to her hard work and dedication. It wasn't long before Miss Seatter was in a promoted post as Head of PE and again she worked tirelessly for the department and the girls. Netball went from strength to strength. We thank her for all she did for Kilgraston and wish her every happiness with her husband and life in Orkney.

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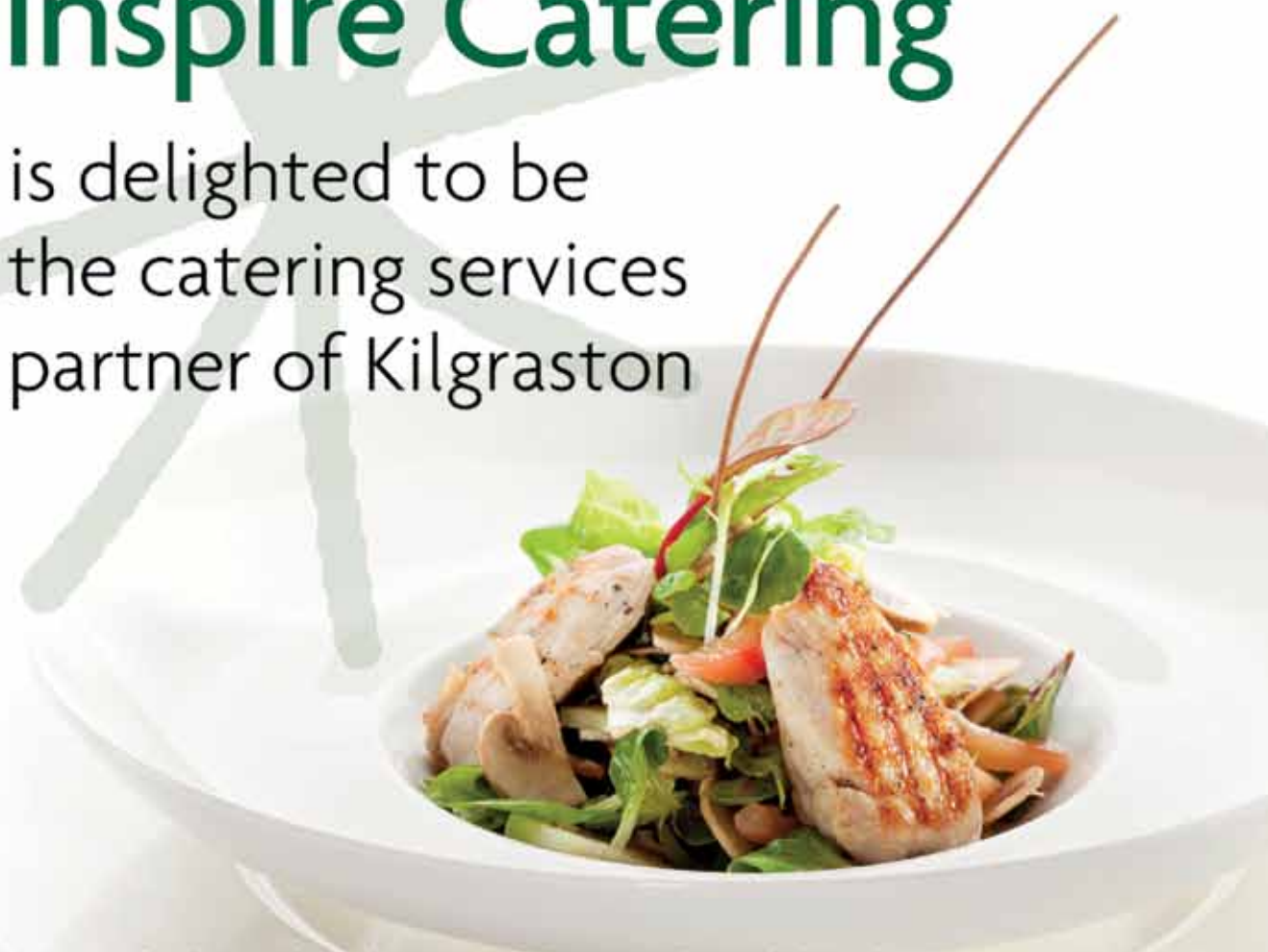


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