



KILGRASTON
SCHOOL

JUNIOR YEARS · SENIOR · SIXTH FORM

Kilgraston News

Autumn Term Edition



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Half term trip to Venice

Our cultural trip to Italy was a joyous occasion with the Kilgraston pupils being impeccably well behaved, attentive to the sites and people they met with good manners and interest.

We arrived late; the sun had left deep black water for our three water taxis to skim across. Stepping off the boats we were greeted by the magic of a tranquil Venice wrapped in moonlight. That late evening, we began our enthusiastic routine of eating classic Italian cuisine.

But then we hit the ground running because the jaw dropping scale of inspirational work on show at the Venice Biennale made for a staggering first day. Room after room of world leading architectural practice filled the old Venetian Arsenal. The Upper Sixth even got immersed in the Spanish pavilion for over an hour. In the French pavilion the Upper Fourth were in hysterics as their voices morphed



Meet Kilgraston pupil, Jenny.

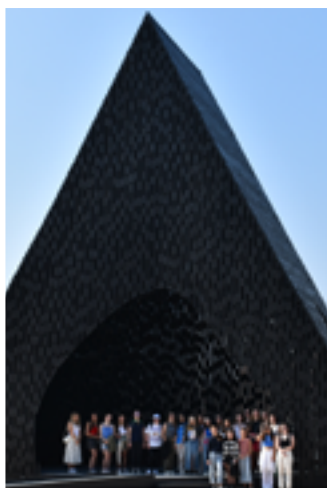
into those of high-pitched animated chipmunks cascading over the crowd.

And it didn't stop! We went everywhere we could. Memories were made on gondolas, on top of St Mark's Basilica, using mirrors to examine the handiwork left by artisans on golden ceilings. The swish of the Vaporetto took us to the quaint islands of the lagoon where we all happily peered into ancient glass. We took mass in our beautiful local church which included a stunning Tintoretto. In Verona we followed our hearts and rested under Juliet's balcony. We discovered that Vivaldi doesn't just sound best in Venice but looks better too as the costumes dazzled us.

But there was one place we visited that we would all implore you to venture out to: the town of Possagno home of Canova. In the white walls of the artist studio, we cast plastered ourselves inspired by the stunning range of Canova's work kept in the Gypsoteca, truly stunning.

In short what a superb visit!
Oh, and the girls enjoyed the pizza.

Mr Lapeyre, Kilgraston Head of Art



What our boarders have been up to?

From ice-skating to fireworks and a lot in-between, our boarders have had a busy six weeks since the half term break.

Being outside makes up an important part of our weekend boarding activities so our boarding team has overseen trips to the Scottish Deer Centre in The Bow of Fife and we were lucky enough to feed some of the animals. At the start of November, we travelled to Dundee for some laser tag, and we have enjoyed some stunning autumnal hikes and walks, soaking up the stunning Perthshire scenery. After our fun-filled Saturdays, we have also had a lot of fun cooking up a storm on Sundays with some delicious recipes including pasta and pasta sauce made entirely from scratch.



Meet Kilgraston pupil, Martina



Sports Round-up

Our sporting teams have been busy on pitches and courts across the region with our hockey and netball teams out in force in recent weeks.

This month, our Upper 4 netball team progressed to knock outs of the Netball Scotland Plate competition against Perth Academy, and our Senior Hockey 1XI are playing in the Challenge Plate next round with Scottish Hockey.

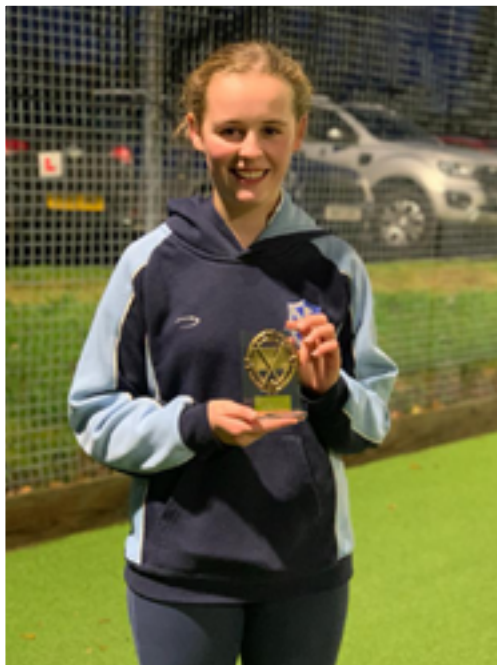
Our hockey teams have shown resilience and strength across several events, and in November our Senior 1XI Goalkeeper, Melissa was named Goalkeeper of the Midland Hockey Senior Tournament.

In the U15 Midland Hockey Tournament, we must give special mention to Hockey Academy players Lara, Ishbel and Olivia for being voted Players of the Match and special mention to Goalkeeper Georgina for her outstanding contribution to all matches.

Our junior swimmers visited St Leonards for a competitive gala – after weeks of hard training in our lunchtime Swimming Academy, the pupils performed well above expected and some brilliant displays from Lower 3 Heidi and Upper 3 Florence and Lyra. Lara from Upper 4 also competed in Scottish Schools Tayside event where she narrowly missed out on medals. A great experience none the less which she took forward to her own club championships with Perth City and recorded a number of personal bests!

Our new Judo coach, and Gold Commonwealth Games medallist, Louise Renicks Scott has been delighted with the work from both juniors and seniors at this new club this term – learning throws and holds which are very impressive to watch.

Mrs Ferry, Head of PE



Kilgraston pupils at polo

Over at the Kilgraston Equestrian Centre, our riders have been enjoying polo sessions. These are held at Kinross polo club and we had nine pupils from Senior School and four from Junior school attend the first taster session.

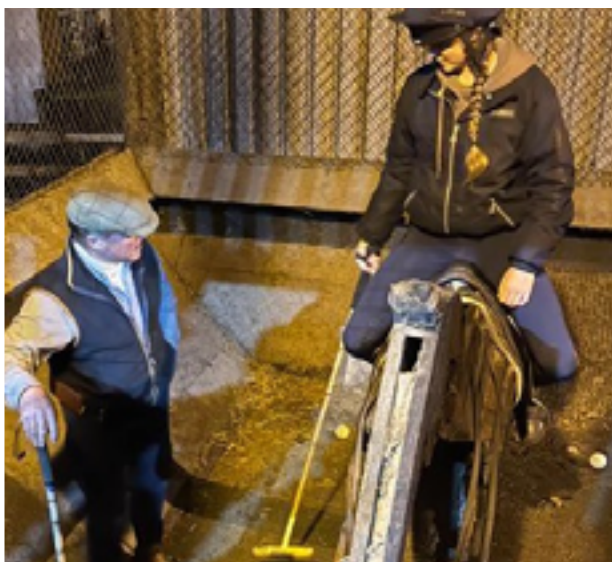
In order to learn club control, all the pupils started the session on a wooden horse. This was so they were able to hit the ball correctly and not to hit the horse.

After some time to master this, pupils were able to practise on a pony, trying steering and riding only using their left hand.

The Seniors then entered the large indoor arena where they first learned to canter around only using their left hand. They were then given a club and a ball and were all then practising navigating the ball around the school. They then finished the two hour session with a match.

The Juniors had a great time in the smaller indoor arena practicing with the balls and clubs. All the pupils had a fantastic experience and we are looking forward to re-starting polo sessions after the Christmas break.

Alasdair Matheson,
Kilgraston Equestrian Centre Manager



Art Competition Winner

This term we launched the Kilgraston Art Showcase. This competition was open to children aged three to five year olds and we were inundated with entries. We were thrilled to announce Tommy, won £200 for his nursery, Perth-based Apple Tree. We look forward to running this event next year again.



Young Enterprise Update

A Kilgraston team made up of Jessica (Upper Sixth), Martina (Lower Sixth) and Harriet (Upper Fifth) and I were invited to the Enterprise Challenge Day at Glenalmond School.

The task was revealed on arrival and we were presented with three options of old churches to purchase and renovate into a profitable business. We walked away scooping the first place prize - with all three judges voting for us. Out of the options on offer, our team choose the church in the countryside. We opted for this one because this building was not listed so we were not limited by regulations in changing the building.

Our team opted to use the church as a multi-use wedding venue; a bar, dance floor, dining room, church and scenic grounds. As part of the process, our team had to present to a panel of judges made up of successful business-owners and business advisors from Business Gateway. The style was much like Dragon's Den and we thoroughly enjoyed this challenge.

Rebecca, Upper Sixth

Book goes on sale

Now on-sale is the book for this year's YES competition team – Hungry for Honey. The team is made up of Upper Sixth's Jess, Sophie, Maddie, Emily, Octavia, Erin, Anne.

Lower Sixth pupils in the team include Leonie, Martina, Afton, Fiona, Sara, Maisie, Aine, Francesca, Aspen, Aya, Erin, Clara and Jess. It has taken the team three months to write and produce the book.



The book is available to buy here:



Musical reflections with Mr Morley

"Since I joined Kilgraston as Director of Music in 2021, the music department has fitted in a huge number of projects and performances.

In 2021, we were still very much under the influence of COVID with choirs unable to sing together for two years and when we did sing we had to wear masks. At the 2021 Christmas Concert everyone had to perform one metre apart and instrumental lessons were happening but pupils and teachers were separated by Perspex screens. It all seems like a distant memory, but we endured this and got through it and now we have returned to 'normal'.

In the two previous Christmas Concerts, we have been 'Round the World' singing international Christmas music and last year we presented our favourite Christmas postcards. One of my personal highlights was when our talented Chamber Choir sang for Princess Anne in Dunfermline Abbey. But over the two years of my tenure, the many talents of the Kilgraston pupils have been on display at smaller scale events such as the St. Cecilia's recital and the Junior Years showcases.

In the last academic year, Kilgraston musicians were involved in nearly 70 events in the school calendar from barn dances, chapel services to dinners and sports days. But what really stands out for me in my time in this role is the daily and weekly round of rehearsals and music practise. This stretches from our junior orchestra, through to our pipe band and chamber choir; it's the music in the classroom whether it's pupils first discovering their singing voices in Reception through to our most Senior pupils sitting Highers and Advanced Highers. The Kilgraston music department delivers dozens of individual music lessons each week, given by our fantastically dedicated team of instrumental teachers, keeping the musical life of Kilgraston flourishing and well set up for the future and I wish you all the very best."

Mr Morley, Director of Music

Academic update

In an update to our previous exam news, post appeals, over 50% of both Higher and Advanced Highers, taken by Kilgraston pupils, attained a Grade A. Academic session 2023- 2024 is now well underway and academic accomplishments sits at the core of Kilgraston's reputation. Even at this early stage, our rigorous academic tracking demonstrates that we will once again maintain excellent overall attainment.

A notable and unique aspect of our academic offering is our flexible pathways. This session our most academic learners will be put forward for exams at the end of Lower Fifth instead of Upper Fifth in a range of subjects including Applications of Mathematics and Modern Languages.

In Upper Fifth, almost all pupils will sit nine National qualifications, a total significantly higher than in other schools. At Kilgraston, we are delighted to be able to offer over 20 different subjects at National Five level, another benefit to

the richness and diversity a Kilgraston education offers our young people. An exciting development in our curriculum is the addition of Leadership Awards as well as accredited programmes.

At Higher and Advanced Higher levels, our course choice widens further with courses such as Psychology becoming increasingly popular. A notable area is the accreditation our hugely successful Young Enterprise pupils receive in recognition of their work in this area which accumulates to the equivalent of an additional Higher. We are also delighted to continue our partnership working with a range of colleges who support pupils on bespoke integrated pathways.

Early New Year will be a busy time preparing for formal Prelims and the completion of externally marked coursework. In keeping with Kilgraston's strong reputation for individualised education, every pupil will be supported to continue achieving their best.

**Mrs Fraser,
Kilgraston Deputy Head**



Junior Years review

We thought the highlights of this half term were the class assemblies. We especially enjoyed Reception & Lower First's assembly about the history of our wonderful school. Upper First and Lower Second were also very entertaining when they shared their learning on Winnie the Pooh.

Another highlight of this term was our brilliant school trip to Edinburgh Castle. We learnt more facts about World War 2 and saw the gun that goes off at 1pm every day. It was informative and interesting and good to spend a day out of school. It's always fun visiting the gift shop!

Last Friday was St Andrews Day, parents were invited, and we participated in many dances that we had been practising in previous weeks. It was fun and the youngest pupil in Junior Years, Amy, got to cut the cake, which we all enjoyed! Upper Third then joined Lower and Upper Fourth for their ceilidh.

Interhouse hockey was another major highlight, pupils had lots of fun playing against classmates and friends and being competitive. The winners this year were Arran. Well done to everyone who played.

House Challenges on Fridays are always fun. One week we had to make a marble run, the aim was to get all the marbles to a certain point in a time frame. We also do paired reading, it's a good opportunity to work with the younger pupils and help them with their reading. They are very sweet and funny.

A big congratulations to everyone who has won Class of the Month or Pupil of the Week this term.

Matilda, Sofia and Rosie - Upper Third



KPA news

The KPA continue to work tirelessly behind the scenes at Kilgraston. We have raised funds to upgrade the hockey facilities with the purchase of two new dugouts, as well as to buy a greenhouse for junior years, provided funds to upgrade the library, bought books for learning support and the last of the apiary equipment for the senior school. Our current project is to upgrade the facilities at the sports pavilion (log cabin) to include a new kitchen area, new seating, sanding of the floor, external repairs and drainage works, signage and external storage benches.

The KPA always endeavour to offer support to the parents and school if needed and where we can. Building relationships is very important to us as it further strengthens the Kilgraston family. This term we provided support at the Open Day and St Andrews day events. We have also been busy organising the Christmas fair, Christmas concert stall and a wreath making night this term. Going into 2024 we will be again offering support at the Open day in February and finishing our pavilion project. We are also looking at an afternoon tea event or burns supper.

The second-hand uniform shop continues to be open every fortnight and it has been encouraging to see how well used its been by existing and new families. We have also been selling more house hoodies and our new sash pins. Coffee events have continued to be run monthly to enable the parents and wider Kilgraston community to come together when the children are in school.

In 2024 we will be introducing some changes - we are going to circulate a KPA newsletter each term to avoid us sending so many emails. This will include a survey to gather views on fundraising efforts going forward.

Recently committee members have also given up their time to assist with the school's maintenance by filling tar into potholes, assembling the greenhouse, painting, making scrunchies, making an outdoor blackboard for the junior years playground, renewing the concrete at the foot bridge and clearing the burn after Storm Babet. A massive thank you goes to the whole KPA committee who willingly volunteer their time to benefit the children, the parent body and Kilgraston School. If you want more information about the KPA please see the school website at:

<https://www.kilgraston.com/parents/kilgraston-parent-association>

or contact us at:

kpa@kilgraston.com

In the meantime we wish you all a very happy Christmas.

Mrs Morris,
Kilgraston Parents' Association Chair





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**The best education,
past, present and future.**

Open Day

Saturday 3rd
February 2024 - 10am

openday@kilgraston.com

Scholarship Day

Wednesday 7th
February 2024 - 8.45am

admissions@kilgraston.com

Register here:





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Contact Kilgraston School to find out
more: admissions@kilgraston.com



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