

Wallace Hall

NEWSLETTER

June 2014

Working Together to Achieve More



Royal Approval for QI



On Monday 19th May, the Queensberry Initiative (QI) welcomed HRH the Earl of Wessex to the Buccleuch and Queensberry Estate.

Prince Edward's visit was a memorable day for all involved and enabled both primary and secondary pupils to gain recognition for the work they produce in the 'outdoor classroom' throughout the year. Anne Marie Wood, QI Project Officer, saw the visit as "a fantastic opportunity for the Queensberry Initiative to raise our profile and to demonstrate the effectiveness of partnership working."

See pages 4, 5, 6 and 7 for a full report and more photographs.

Our Outstanding Journalist

Against fierce competition from talented young journalists from all over Scotland, Robert Guthrie has been chosen as the recipient of the 'Outstanding Pupil of the Year' award at the impRESS Scottish School Media Awards.

Robert and three other Wallace Hall Academy pupils - Lucy Doig, Emily Kennedy and Sarah Kerr - represented Wallace Hall Academy at the prestigious ceremony held in 'Our Dynamic Earth' on Friday 13th June. Wallace Hall Academy was featured on the shortlist in three categories: Front Cover, Scottish School Newsletter of the Year and Outstanding Pupil of the Year.

Although Wallace Hall did not win the Cover or the Newsletter Award, there were celebrations all round when Robert was announced as the winner in his category. A full report and more pictures will be featured in next term's edition of our Wallace Hall Newsletter.



As Wallace Hall is now a 3 - 18 school we have featured some news from our primary pupils in this issue. We hope to build on this in future newsletters.

Also in this Issue:

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The Tenner Challenge

report by Josie Fairley Keast and Georgia Harris



The Tenner project is a Young Enterprise opportunity offered to schools across the UK. It gives students aged 5-19 a chance to start up their own business with just ten pounds per person, to do what they like with. This term, our S3 Business Management class attempted the Tenner Challenge.

Our class was split into several different groups, each group forming its own business idea, strategy and marketing plan. The project continued throughout February and the businesses were implemented during March, with chosen ideas ranging from a clothes swap to a smoothie stall.

During this time, we used the skills we had been learning in class to choose a target market and arrange for supplies to be procured while dividing jobs between different members of the group. We also

learnt the importance of accurate market research and good teamwork.

The businesses had various levels of success, but everyone involved had a good time working as a team to try and make a profit out of their ideas.

Mr Arrowsmith, teacher of Business and ICT who organised the challenge, commented: "It has been very useful for the pupils to experience the challenges faced when creating a new enterprise. They have developed many new skills - for example, working effectively together, managing their time and finances, using their skills of creativity and innovation. This is also invaluable in terms of their greater understanding of the concepts within **their Business Management studies.**"

Thanks to Mr Arrowsmith and to Mrs Fraser for giving us the opportunity to take part in this challenge.

Contacting the school

The telephone number for Wallace Hall Academy is 01848 332120.

The fax number is 01848 332564 with the email address: woffice358@ea.dumgal.sch.uk. Our office staff are your first point of contact. They will be pleased to deal with any enquiry you wish to make regarding your child and to put you in touch with the relevant member of staff. Outside office hours you may leave a message on our answering machine. Please contact us if you have any problems. We are here to help. Visit the school website: www.wallacehall.co.uk for the latest news and information.

QI nominated for a Scottish Education Award



For the fourth year in a row, Queensberry Initiative (QI) was nominated for a Scottish Education Award. This year, the nomination was for the 'Parents as Partners in Learning Award'. The Scottish Education Awards are one of the highlights of the educational year and to be shortlisted for a fourth time in succession is a remarkable achievement.

The positive relationship QI has developed between the Buccleuch and Queensberry Estate, local businesses and the wider community has been hugely beneficial for the pupils of Wallace Hall Academy and

the six local primary schools. Parental involvement is at the heart of this relationship. Parents work with senior pupils on practical aspects of career planning such as CVs, interview techniques and work placement opportunities through QI's Career Mentoring programme. Parents also help to deliver vocational courses which develop the employability skills of pupils and they raise awareness of local opportunities. In addition, parents support whapples, Wallace Hall's social enterprise, which is based on the idea of a community orchard which provides a working model of

collaboration between pupils and local business leaders.

Jamie Pape, QI Development Officer, said: "Involving parents and other partners from across the community is vital in providing pupils with a competitive edge when they progress to full-time employment, training or further/higher education."

The current success and continuing development of QI is built on partnerships and parents play a vital role in this respect, helping to ensure that all parties are focused on enhancing learning opportunities, developing employability skills and contributing to local communities.

Unfortunately, QI was not awarded 1st prize in their category at this year's Scottish Education Awards. However, the project was highly commended by the judges from Education Scotland and recognised as sector-leading.



QI receives funding from the NFUS Centenary Trust

The Queensberry Initiative (QI) recently had the opportunity to acknowledge the support of one of their core funders, NFU Scotland.

Jamie Pape, Queensberry Initiative Development Officer, was interviewed by Border News as QI are one of a variety of organisations who have been allocated funding from the NFU Scotland Centenary Trust for their work in enhancing connections within local communities.

During his interview, Mr Pape highlighted the importance of this significant contribution to QI's everyday activities and future development, and warmly thanked NFU Scotland for their support. He added that without the funding the Queensberry Initiative has received to date from a variety of sources, it would be impossible to take the project forward.

QI welcomes HRH the Earl of Wessex



the partnerships which are essential to the continuing development of QI.

The Earl was then introduced to S3 Biology pupils who were refreshing their understanding of sampling techniques such as pitfall traps, dissecting owl pellets and tree beating.

The final stop on the tour was Slate Loch where P7 pupils from Closeburn and Penpont were using their sensory experience of the beautiful surroundings to inspire creative writing pieces. Books of poems, created by S1 pupils on a recent visit to the Estate and then combined with stunning photographs of the area, were presented as gifts to both the Earl of Wessex and the Duke of Buccleuch.

The P7 pupils were then able to wave to the Earl as his helicopter passed over them at the end of a memorable day which had enabled both primary and secondary pupils to gain recognition for some of the fantastic work they produce throughout the year. The visit was also recognition of the success of the partnership between the Estate, Wallace Hall Academy and Wallace Hall's cluster primary schools; a partnership which the Queensberry Initiative will continue to develop and enhance.

The QI team, Jamie Pape, Leanne Peoples and Anne Marie Wood, were delighted with the response of the Earl of Wessex to the work of the Queensberry Initiative and would like to thank everyone who helped to make the day such success.

On Monday 19th May, the Queensberry Initiative (QI) welcomed a royal visitor to the Buccleuch and Queensberry Estate. HRH the Earl of Wessex, Prince Edward, visited the Estate to see the range of learning opportunities created by QI's development of the partnership between the Buccleuch and Queensberry Estate, Wallace Hall Academy and Wallace Hall's six cluster primary schools.

The Earl's first port of call was the famous Drumlanrig Sycamore where he spent time talking to an S2 Maths group about their impressive use of

trigonometry to solve the puzzle of the tree's height.

The next stage of the itinerary was a visit to Drumlanrig Castle itself where Higher English pupils were busy filming scenes for a production of *Hamlet* which they've been working on in recent weeks.

The Earl was clearly interested in the production and was also very enthusiastic about the practical skills being developed by the Rural Skills pupils at the next activity – dosing sheep. At this location, he was able to talk to three of QI's volunteer farmers - Andrew and Aileen Marchant, and Sinclair Barbour. In doing so, he gained an insight into



Poetry Inspired by the 'Outdoor Classroom'

In the gardens of Drumlanrig Castle, supported by their teachers Mrs Black and Miss Carson, 1C2 created poems based on a poem by Sylvia Plath. These poems were collated and compiled into a book which was presented to the Earl of Wessex and the Duke of Buccleuch. Below are three of the published poems. They were written by Edward Martin, Ellie Arnold and Bethany Krease.



We are your trees
*Through the night the leaves
 Rustling furiously,
 Loud with anger,*

*Everybody sees,
 Everybody knows,
 Everybody makes way,*

*We are old!
 We are bold!
 We own the forest.*

*When the weather gets rougher
 We get tougher,
 We get stronger,*

*We are secretive,
 We are enchanted,
 We are the voice of the forest.*

*Listen to us,
 Learn from us,
 We know everything,*

*We move slowly,
 We grow slowly,
 Slow but consistent,*

*In our prime we were angry,
 We were energetic,
 We could not be stopped,*

*Now with age,
 We are older,
 We are frailer,*

*We are old,
 We are wise,
 We are wisdoms,*

*We are like mansions,
 We are like fortresses,
 We are like old castles,*

*Through the ages,
 Through the years,
 We are your trees.*

By Edward Martin

Tree Poem
***I speak only when necessary,
 Meek yet wise,
 Meaningful words, moral phrases,***

***I am unique:
 You cannot compare me to anything else in this
 Vast forest.***

Ellie Arnold

THE WOODEN GHOST

OLD, WISE WOODEN AND WET,
 DAY IN, DAY OUT, I SHALL LET
 THE WATER PASS UNDER,
 AS THE WIND BLOWS WILDLY ABOVE.

THE SUN GETS STRONGER,
 AND BURSTS THROUGH THE CLOUDS,
 TO REVEAL A GOLDEN GLOW,
 AND GOES TO SHOW MY DARK, DAMP, WOODEN SKIN

I 'M CREAKY, I'M SQUEAKY,
 AND I CAN HEAR,
 TREES RUSTLING,
 CHILDREN RUNNING.

LAUGHING IN THE SUMMER,
 PARENTS MOAN,
 TO ONE ANOTHER,
 THEY COME AND GO.

I LET THE WATER SCURRY UNDER ME,
 THAT'S THE WAY IT SHALL ALWAYS BE,
 UNTIL THAT DAY I HAVE FEARED MOST,
 AND I SHALL BE A WOODEN GHOST.

PITTER PATTER OVER THE BRIDGE,
 DAY IN, DAY OUT, IT'S WHY I LIVE,
 PEOPLE CONTINUE THEIR JOURNEY.

BUT THAT WAS THEN,
 AND THIS IS NOW,
 I'M GETTING CLOSE TO THE GROUND.

EVERYDAY COULD BE MY LAST,
 THE RIVER IS VERY FAST,
 IT COULD TAKE ME ANYTIME,
 THIS COULD BE MY LAST LINE...

BY BETHANY KREASE

QI



QI



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QI





S1 Normandy Trip

On Sunday 25th May, 37 S1 pupils accompanied by Mr Murray, Mrs Bruce, Mrs Gall and two senior pupils, Nick Willetts and Sean Wicks, left Thornhill for Ambrières, in Normandy.

The journey to and from Normandy was long and not the highlight of the trip. Our experiences in France, however, made everything worthwhile. Their reports below sum up our trip.

mardi 27 mai - Thomas Gashi

"On Tuesday we all woke up and got ready to go for breakfast. Once we were all dressed we met just outside the dorms. We went to the cafeteria and had breakfast. For breakfast there was a varied choice of cereals, toast, fruit, rolls and croissants. We then had to go into the classroom to learn about the market and to learn new words to use. Our challenge was to make a lunch, spending only 10 euros to buy ingredients. We then set off for the market which was quite a distance away. We then got into our groups of 4 and were given our 10 euros and everybody was left to get their ingredients. When everybody had got everything we were allowed to go and buy stuff for ourselves. The crêpes were amazing. I also enjoyed the market because I got to put my French to



the test. We then got back on the bus and went back to the camp. We were given 30 minutes to prepare our lunch and make it look nice. I really enjoyed doing this as I am a bit of a perfectionist. I liked how there was a bit of competition and it was also a good activity to bring people closer and to learn a bit more French.

"In the afternoon we had two activities. Archery was really good and I enjoyed it very much. We played a game where you had to start from the outside of the target and hit each colour in turn before getting a bull's eye. I came second but I also got a bull's eye twice. Our next activity was Trapeze which was basically a leap of faith. My first attempt wasn't really good because I jumped past the bar. My second attempt was successful and I managed to grasp the bar. We then

had a bit of free time and most people chose to go to 'The Tree'. 'The Tree' is basically a massive tree with trunks and branches growing all over the place, making it the best natural play park. You could climb, swing and jump on the branches. Some people would just sit and chat. It was the perfect hangout place.

"We then had to go for dinner. We could choose either roast chicken or stuffed peppers. After dinner we had more free time and most people went to the bar to play pool or table tennis and to buy PGL's 'diablos'. These are drinks with lemonade and a syrup of your choice. They were really nice and not too expensive. We then had to go back to our dorms and get ready for bed. Tuesday was really good. It was really exhausting because of all the activities."





we went to a small, but very busy, market. In our groups (along with a teacher) we made our way round the market. Another load of crêpes were ordered by our group...

"Before lunch we went to a local 'boulangerie' and we were shown how to make croissants. We all got to make and eat a croissant. They were delicious. We had a packed lunch in the village before going back to the centre.

"When we got back to the Château we had some free time before raft building activities in the afternoon. Each group was given 6 barrels, 3 long poles of wood and about 6 pieces of rope to build the raft. All of the groups' rafts looked very similar, but not all would stay that way. Once we had finished we sat on the rafts and were pushed into the river. All the rafts ended up going downstream and only a few of the groups managed to get their raft going in the right direction. Almost everyone fell in the river at some

mercredi 28 mai - Annabelle Guthrie

"We went on a walking tour of Fougères with Isaac, our group leader for that day. We had to answer questions that we found in our trip packs about things like: "What is the name of the church?" If you wanted a challenge, you could have answered the questions in French! I don't think anyone did that though!

"In the afternoon, we went to Mont Saint Michel. As a group we travelled from the car park on a shuttle bus and then we climbed quite far up Mont Saint Michel. When we reached as far as we wanted to go, there was a wishing well. Most of us threw some money in. Then we climbed down and went to the shops dotted around.

"In the evening, we had a campfire. We listened to "The Strawberry Story" which Thomas Gashi acted out and then we were treated to a story called "The Sloth Story", which was written and told by Aidan Connor. After that, we toasted marshmallows, some of which got set on fire and burned and some of them became suicidal and fell off the sticks that people were toasting them on."

jeudi 29 mai - Lauren McKinna

"On Thursday we were meant to go to a hyper-market (which is just a huge shopping centre). Unfortunately, that Thursday was a Public Holiday for Ascension and almost everything was closed. Also on the way to the hyper-market there was a gas leak coming from a building in the main street of the town so we had to take a small detour. Instead of the hyper-market



point. The water was very cold! In the end we had a winner. I was in the winning group. I really enjoyed the raft building.

"In the evening there was a disco in the 'auberge'. The music was very loud but everyone enjoyed it. After the disco we had to pack. We were all really tired after another exhausting day."

Throughout the trip, pupils were keen to speak French at the markets and in shops. They enjoyed French food, and some even tried snails with garlic on our last evening. They enthusiastically took part in all activities and seemed to have a great time.



Awesome Ardèche

report by Kate Lethardy, Rhianna Lawson,
Jess Fergusson and Ailsa Morton



On Friday 6th June, 28 pupils from S5 and S6 set off for the Ardèche and Aosta. Spirits were high as we started the 28 hour bus journey to the Ardèche area of France, via the ferry from Dover to Calais.

When we arrived at the campsite in Labeaume we felt an immediate change in temperature as a wave of heat hit us when we stepped off the bus. There was not much time for settling in as we had to prepare for the two-day descent of the Ardèche Gorge and an evening of fun and games in the swimming pool certainly got us in the mood for things to come.

On Sunday morning, after packing barrels with all we would need for the following two days, we started the descent. Everyone got off to a good start by getting used to paddling the two-man kayaks and we were able to watch Dr Fulton and Mrs Miller's "demonstration" capsize on the first rapid! The river was especially busy on the first day as it was a Bank Holiday in France and all the canoes in the area were hired out. We had lots of opportunities to jump into the refreshing water to cool down from the scorching heat.

After a lot of hard work paddling down the river we reached the bivouac site where we would spend the night out under the stars. After tea and a swim in

the river we had hot chocolate whilst the teachers prepared a barbecue. When darkness fell, just as we settled down on the "comfy", rocky ground, we were visited by a wild boar! It was surprising that anyone got any sleep in such uncomfortable conditions.



On our second day on the river we had the chance to play more games such as Angry Pirates where



we tried to steal things such as water bottles, suncream and paddles from other people's canoes, and trying to get as many people as possible onto an upturned canoe. At lunchtime we played canoe-wrestling and there were lots of good tussles, particularly the one between Ewan and Thomas. We were also able to do a 10m rock jump which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

At the end of the 35Km descent of the gorge we headed back to the campsite to enjoy our last night in the Ardèche. The evening included music and singing from Peter, Aiden, Beth and Fleur and the Acorn staff provided guitars and drums and lead a sing-a-long.

On Tuesday morning we boarded the bus once again and headed for the Aosta valley in Italy. By that point in the trip the six hour journey through the Mont Blanc tunnel felt like nothing and seemed to fly by. When we arrived at the campsite in the village of Villeneuve the Acorn staff organised a "slip'n'slide" activity for us all to enjoy. This consisted of



sliding along slippery mats, getting covered in soapy water.

Our main activity on following day was white water rafting. Once everyone had squeezed into wet suits we set off down the glacial waters of the Dora Baltea, navigating our way through the challenging rapids and splashing the teachers, and each other, with ice cold water. By the end of the afternoon most people were happy to jump into the freezing water for a refreshing cool down.

That evening we struggled up to the top of a steep hill to visit the

ruins of a castle before coming down the other side to a local restaurant where we enjoyed some delicious Italian pizza.

everyone to face their fears of heights, water and confined spaces as everyone took part in all three activities. On her fourth visit to this gorge, with support and cheering from the pupils and Acorn staff, Miss Wilson managed to do her first jump off the rocks.

That evening we enjoyed a night out at the local 10 pin bowling alley and congratulated Dr Fulton on his top score of 101 points. On returning from bowling, the traditional last night competition was held. Four boys and four girls competed for the titles of "Miss Villeneuve" (the boys) or "Bob the Builder" (the girls) and the well deserved winners were Sapphire (Regan) and David (Rebecca). It was hilarious and a great night was had by all.

When Friday came there was time for two more activities before having to say goodbye. In "Nightline" we were blindfolded and had communicate effectively to guide each other around a route in the woods and in "High ropes" we had to make our way over the swings and bridges of an aerial assault course.

Everyone agrees that this trip was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and we all had a fantastic, fun-filled week. See our next newsletter for more photographs.



The last full day in Aosta was spent near a beautiful village called Cogne. There we took part in rock climbing, gorge scrambling and squeezing through small spaces in the rocks. Gorge scrambling involved jumping off rocks into the ice-cold water below, sliding down the sides of rocks and walking in conga-style through strong currents in front of a huge waterfall. It was day for



whapples working days

report by Lucy Doig



This term, the whapples board grasped the opportunity to schedule two working days into a busy school calendar.

The first of these took place on Monday the 12th of May. Pupil and adult members of the whapples board met in the school library to discuss a variety of topics. These included fundraising ideas, the need for new board members and the general maintenance of the orchard. Following on from their discussions, members spent time

advertising vacancies on the whapples board both to pupils within the school and to the wider community. After a break for lunch, members donned their waterproofs, wellies and gardening gloves and headed to work in the orchard; facing the task of weeding, as the heavens opened, with good humour and fortitude.

The second working day was held on Tuesday, May 27. At the start of the school day, following a brief discussion on progress made during day 1, board members continued to work on important publicity and recruitment tasks.

Later that morning, the board took a short walk to the orchard where they met with Graham Anderson, from Anderson Engineering, to discuss the design of a monument that will acknowledge tree sponsors. After considering a number of interesting ideas, the board decided on a design that they felt was both aesthetically pleasing and functional. After lunch, board



members turned their attention to matters more practical, weeding round the base of the apple and plum trees in order to encourage new growth. Nobody minded getting their hands dirty and a significant amount was achieved over the course of the day.

Following the most recent recruitment drive, the board are delighted to announce three new members: Richard Gauld, Tree Specialist, Amanda Hannah, Business Development Executive for the Dumfries and Galloway Chamber of Commerce, and Andrew Wood, local SNP councillor for Mid and Upper Nithsdale.



DyeNamic Achievement



Wallace Hall's Young Enterprise group 'DyeNamic' were featured in the last newsletter, where they talked about their work designing and selling tie-die products. Since then, the fantastic news is that they won the Dumfries and Galloway Regional Finals at Easterbrook Hall in Dumfries!

DyeNamic, run by S6 pupils Alison Maxwell, Lewis Morrison and Luke Bell, came through as Best Overall Company as well as also claiming the Best Report prize. They were up against 13 companies from

across the region – the largest line-up in the history of the competition in Dumfries and Galloway.

The rigorous process on the day included: a presentation to the judges and other groups, construction of a trade stand to showcase their products and interviews with the judges to scrutinise their company report.

Mr Arrowsmith, Young Enterprise Link Teacher here at Wallace Hall said: "Having spoken with the judges after the event, they were particularly impressed with the professionalism of the group. They presented very well, clearly knew their business inside out, and took pride in every aspect of their work".

Following this success, the pupils were invited to Young Enterprise Scotland's 40th Anniversary Conference at RBS Head Office in Edinburgh. After attending, Alison Maxwell, company Managing



Director, said: "I found the conference inspirational. It was great to hear from many previous Young Enterprise company members who have gone on to achieve so much in their chosen fields. Without exception, they were clear that participation in the Young Enterprise Company Programme had given them the confidence to do this."

As regional winners, DyeNamic will now represent Dumfries and Galloway in the national finals in Glasgow; the second year in a row that Wallace Hall pupils have achieved this, following the success of last year's company 'Record Time'. We wish them well!



Stationery Shop in the Library

The following items of stationery are for sale in the School Library: pencils (40p), pens (40p), erasers (40p), sharpeners (40p), protractors (50p), highlighters (40p), 15cm rulers (40p), 30cm rulers (40p) and 4GB data pens (£9.00). As a result of pupil demand, scientific calculators (£10.00), headphones (£2.50), headphone jacks (50p) and jotters (60p) are also now on sale. Any profit that is made from this venture goes towards purchasing new resources for the Library. We also accept donations of good quality books for our Library, in particular junior fiction, senior fiction and study skills books. Please hand any book donations in to Mrs Menzies in the Library. Any books that are not suitable for our shelves will be taken to a charity shop. Thank you.

Relishing our Rural Opportunities

report by Robert Guthrie



At Rural Opportunities Day, held in Wallace Hall Academy, on Tuesday 3rd June, S3 – S6 pupils from Wallace Hall and from Sanquhar Academy had the opportunity to engage with local employers, training providers and personnel from colleges and universities. This opportunity provided the pupils with a unique insight into the world of work and life after school.

Organised by the Queensberry Initiative (QI) - which strengthens links between Wallace Hall Academy, the community and the Buccleuch and Queensberry Estate - the event saw more than 30 companies from a wide range of sectors visit the school to build strong partnerships with pupils and encourage them to think about the next step in their lives. At the end of his session, Travis Kelting from S3, said: "I got the information I needed. Everyone I spoke to was very helpful."

Feedback from exhibitors was extremely positive. Rob MacKenna of James Jones & Sons Ltd, one of the largest timber processing groups in the UK, said: "It's been great to have the opportunity to speak to a wide range of pupils from Wallace Hall and Sanquhar to find out about their aspirations.

Some are definitely interested in forestry and other careers in our sector. We've also strengthened our connections with other businesses and with the schools."

John Bell of The Royal Navy agreed that the event was a huge success: "We've had a lot of interest today – a lot more than we expected. The response from S5/6 has been phenomenal and very promising for the Navy. It's great to see so many are ahead of the game in thinking about what they want to do when they leave school."

Wallace Hall Academy's Head Teacher, Barry Graham, praised the



QI team: "Rural Opportunities Day is a fabulous chance for young people to learn about the wide variety of career pathways available in rural areas. Sometimes pupils might think that there are only certain jobs available in the countryside, but today has allowed many of our students to see that **there are endless possibilities.**"

Leanne Peoples, QI Project Officer, continued: "The day has been a real success. Pupils really engaged with the opportunity, making the best possible use of their allocated session. QI staff would like to thank all the exhibitors who gave up their time to help the young people make informed choices about post-school destinations. We would also like to thank the pupils and staff of Wallace Hall for helping to ensure the day ran smoothly."

Feedback from pupils has been very positive and several have already seized the opportunity to work with the QI team to set up a work placement with an exhibitor or with one of their many contacts in the local area.









Our Awesome Activities Week



Activities Week is always an eagerly awaited event in the Wallace Hall Academy calendar. This year was no exception with a huge selection of activities available for pupils to choose from.

These included: a water sports day at Loch Ken, fly fishing at Slate Loch on the Queensberry Estate, a pony day at Camplebridge Riding Centre, a song writing session, hillwalking in the Durisdeer hills, a visit to the Time Capsule, Cleudo, rugby, cricket, field games, a construction challenge, craftwork, bowls, rehearsing for the school show, a demonstration from Buccleuch gundogs on the Queensberry Estate, clay pigeon shooting led by the British

Association of Shooting and Conservation, archery led by MRM Archery, a traditional music activity, a trip to M & Ds, board games, making cupcakes and a cupcake stand, trip to Laggan Outdoor Centre, go-karting at Scotkart, creating a cushion, making a clay piggy bank, laserquest and bowling, a beginners photography session, golf, a trip to Blair Drummond Safari Park, sailing, French cookery, a remote control rally, racquet sports, a treasure hunt, and a visit to the Happy Potter.

As well as the above many of our S2 pupils enjoyed a trip to Liverpool visiting a number of attractions including the White Scar Caves and Blackpool Pleasure

Beach and thirty seven of our S1 pupils travelled to Normandy, France for a week of exciting activities.

At the end of each activity, pupils were asked to offer a ten word 'Tweet' about their experiences. Ellie Arnold said that the photography day was "fun and I learned how to take professional photographs and Photoshop them." Emily McVicar reported that the Time Capsule was "great fun – the flumes were fast and furious." Eilidh Thomson and Chloe Williams said Loch Ken was "fun, exhilarating and most of all WET! A great day out." Mollie Anderson said that "M & Ds was the best day ever!" with Ms Stephen, our new Modern Languages teacher, adding "the dodgems were the business!"

Neil Corrigan, teacher in charge of organising the Activities Week, said: "I was delighted with the positive feedback from Activities Week. Everyone seemed to get something out of the activities on offer. It was a very busy few days and by Friday night there were lots of tired but happy pupils and members of staff."

A selection of photographs and reports follow on the next few pages. Photographs can also be found on our 'Twitter' page - be sure to 'follow us' for all the latest news from Wallace Hall Academy.

Fly Fishing

The fly fishing activity was organised with support from Nith Catchment Fishery Trust. Their fly fishing project is being part financed by Axis 4 of the European Fisheries Fund 2012-13 programme and the Hollywood Trust.

The Trust asked us to acknowledge the support received from their funders and thank the following organisations for donating fishing, time or fish for the project: Nith District Salmon Fishery Board, Solway Firth Partnership, Dalswinton Estate, Drumlanrig Estate, Upper Nithsdale Angling Association, Invicta Trout Fish Farm, Caerlaverock Estate and Douglas Hall Fisheries.



Solway Firth
Partnership



Dumfries
& Galloway



Nith District
Salmon Fishery Board





Thursday Activities



Friday Activities

Loving Liverpool

Report by Nathan King



This year's Liverpool trip, involving most of the second years, was an exciting experience which taught us how to cope on our own without help from our parents. The Liverpool trip has been running for many years and

always takes place during Activities Week.

The trip allowed us to take part in a lot of different activities. As always, some activities are enjoyed more than others. For me the most enjoyable activity was when a group of us visited Anfield (Liverpool FC Stadium) and were given a full tour of the stadium. We saw things from the players' changing rooms to Liverpool's array of trophies. The tour guide stated at the end of the tour that it was one of the shortest he had ever done. This was obviously due to the lack of Liverpool fans in the group! Ruairidh Fair loved standing at the front of the Mersey Ferry with the wind blowing through his hair. Amy Brown loved the café's hot chocolate. We also went to Knowsley Safari Park. When we reached the monkeys' enclosure we saw the monkeys climbing on every car in sight. Luckily for the bus company, the bus driver avoided



going in with them which was probably rather a good move. He got to keep his windscreen wipers. The ice cream was also rather good.

On our final day we visited Blackpool Pleasure Beach. As I am not a big fan of rollercoasters, I was more of the bag and phone holder. However, the rest of the group absolutely loved it. Errin Clark Wyse went on the Pepsi Max three times while Ross Crawford had a great time on Infusion.



In my opinion the Liverpool trip was extremely enjoyable and I hope that future second years for many years to come will get the chance to take part in it.



A day in the life of a university student

report by Nathan King



Fifty S2 Students recently visited Cumbria University to spend a day in the life of a university student. The day started off by us splitting up into two separate groups. We then headed off to two different workshops.

My group firstly visited the Weird and Wonderful Courses workshop and this workshop

involved us finding out about the wide variety of different courses across the UK. The courses ranged from knitting to learning Icelandic. In this workshop we again split into three groups to prepare a short presentation on a particular course which we thought would be a good addition to the university courses already available. Overall, the Weird and

Wonderful Courses workshop summed up that there really is a course for everyone at universities across the UK.

We then moved onto a second workshop. This was the Health and Wellbeing workshop which focused on more common courses such as nursing and midwifery. In this workshop we were again split into smaller groups and we all had four activities to do. One of these involved us all having to complete a range of everyday tasks that are usually second nature to us such as putting on a tie or a shirt. However, we had to perform these simple tasks with one arm behind our backs and this obviously made things a lot more difficult. One further activity that we were set in this workshop was to identify selected objects and say what they were used for such as an oxygen mask.

Throughout the day we were given a tour of the university and had the chance to visit one of the **students' rooms**. The rooms were basic and clutter free with an attached kitchen which six students all shared.

Overall the Cumbria University trip has given us an insight into what to expect in the future should we choose to apply for university.

Working Together

As part of their 'Higher Administration' course, a group of our S4/S5 pupils have been working with the Primary 2 class in a recent collaboration.

The Administration course covers a range of skills including planning and communication in the workplace and developing knowledge of a range of different types of software. The senior pupils

onto working on a booklet where they filled in the blanks which required that they count the windows, count the chimneys, name the type of house and identify the colour of the door."

Alexander Jackson said: "My task was to teach the children how to use the promethean board and the active inspire software and they did really well."



with spelling of big words and a reminder of the different types of houses but they did very well and completed all the tasks."

Poppy McMillan and Natalie Hutchinson concluded: "We all found keeping the children interested and engaged a challenge but think we rose to the occasion. We all enjoyed the opportunity to help and work with the Primary 2 pupils."

Both sets of pupils have gained enormously from this work. The tasks helped P2s develop their software skills and strengthen their knowledge and understanding of their topic. From the senior pupils' perspective, they gained a greater appreciation of the need for planning, organisation and effective communication; it also helped develop their confidence as they stepped outside their 'comfort zone'.



took the chance to put these two elements together to plan and deliver a lesson to the primary pupils.

The primary pupils have been working on a 'Houses and Homes' topic and so this formed the basis for the lesson. Using a variety of materials, the two groups worked together to help the younger pupils develop their knowledge of the topic and improve their IT skills.

Morgan Crosbie, Freja Grant and Kerris Parkinson explained: "For our visit to Wallace Hall Primary, our class planned fun tasks and ICT activities for small groups of Primary 2 pupils, focusing on their current topic 'Housing and Homes'.

Ross Whyte and Morton Harvey continued: "We had four Primary 2 pupils in our group. We started by giving them a jigsaw puzzle to complete and they seemed to enjoy this activity. Then we helped them cut out two houses which they glued onto a piece of paper and coloured in. After that we moved

Sophie Lawrie and Blair Ross added: "The Primary 2 pupils were very enthusiastic and enjoyed their activities. They needed some help



Thumbs up for Transition

report by Lucy Doig



As part of the transition process at Wallace Hall Academy, our Depute Head Teacher, Mrs Lesley Wilson, and Mrs Christine Robertson, Acting Principal Teacher at Dunscore Primary School, worked together to organise a programme of transition days, enabling pupils to interact with their soon to be peers, familiarise themselves with the secondary building and help prepare these pupils for the next step in their education.

The first of four organised transition days was held on Friday the 9th of May, when primary six and seven pupils from our cluster primary schools (Moniaive, Dunscore, Closeburn, Duncow and Penpont) joined Wallace Hall Primary pupils to work together on activities based on a variety of themes. The chosen theme for the first week for the primary six group was World War One (WW1) and the primary seven's tasks for all four sessions were to be based around the theme of Kidnapped. Each group of primary 6 and primary 7 pupils had an S1 buddy to help them with the activities.

As an effective ice breaker, all primary seven pupils were invited to share their "All About Me" sheet which they had already completed in their primary schools. This self-explanatory sheet allowed pupils to learn more about one another and it acted as a great prompt for further discussions. A mock kidnapping was the crime that had to be solved by

the pupils throughout their transition days. To set the scene, a video clip giving information about the disappearance was shown. The various teams started their investigation by searching the school for clues. This treasure hunt like activity enabled pupils to familiarise themselves with the school building and grounds.



Meanwhile, the primary six classes were discovering more about WW1 through a range of activities including using the computers to research and make a poster on life in the trenches and spending some time handling and identifying WW1 artefacts. All pupils visited the WW1 memorial in Thornhill where they spent some time reading the names of the soldiers who were killed during WW1. They also learned how to use the Commonwealth War Graves

Commission website to research where these soldiers had died and were now buried.

An enjoyable day was had by all. New friendships were formed and new activities/skills experienced and learned. Caitlin McKenzie, one of the primary seven pupils, said: "It was fun to meet and work with new friends and I enjoyed exploring the school". Luke McKay, a visiting primary six pupil, said: "I enjoyed learning about an area of history that is so relevant just now due to it being the 100 year anniversary of the conflict."

On the second transition day, the primary seven pupils continued with their Kidnapped activity. Firstly, to refresh their memories, the pupils watched a clip which re-capped the **previous week's assignments**. Then they received an e-mail from the forensics team explaining that a watch had been found. The watch belonged to the boys who had been kidnapped and it was broken, probably broken when the kidnap took place. However, there was one problem – the watch was set 7 hours ahead. This meant that the pupils had to do some work on time zones to eventually work out the time the kidnap took place. This really tested **the pupils' numeracy skills**.

The second half of the day was spent in the ICT rooms, listening to interviews from the 6 suspects. The pupils took down notes and an incident board was set up to help them decide who the kidnapper might be. Finlay Bainbridge, one of the primary seven pupils taking part said: **"I am really enjoying the Kidnapped project and the experience of being in the academy and meeting other pupils is great."** All the primary seven pupils are really looking



forward to taking the case a stage further next Friday.

Primary six pupils focused on four topics, spending an hour in each of them. In Science the pupils learned about the physical and emotional changes that take place during puberty and what to expect at the various stages. They spoke about the fact that everyone is individual and the changes will happen to everyone at different times.

In Design and Technology the pupils were asked to complete a short design and make task. They had to create a pencil block that held a minimum of three pencils and a maximum of four. They also had to look at their chosen shape and decide what creature it could be and link it with a name using alliteration.



The examples given were 'Harry the Hedgehog' and 'William the Whale'. The pupils then had to bring their ideas to life by drilling holes, sanding their products smooth and sticking on googly eyes. They had a great deal of fun with this task and every pupil left with a pencil block to take home at the end of the session.

PE organised games of badminton, softball and rounders where the pupils competed in leagues against each other. This was a great opportunity for the pupils to enjoy some healthy exercise while having fun.

Friday, 6th May was, according to Jamie Oliver, "Food Revolution Day". The Primary 6 pupils who visited the Home Economics classroom on that day were able to



practise their chopping and grating skills when they worked in pairs to follow Jamie's recipe for Rainbow Salad Wraps, a dish which was being made around the world for this event. Jamie is well known for his attempts to encourage children to eat healthy meals and everyone enjoyed preparing the dish, knowing that others across the globe were doing the same.

Various utensils were used and both safety and hygienic practice were important features of the lesson. Even washing up at the end was a new experience for some!

Cailan Milligan, a primary 6 pupil at Wallace Hall Primary, commented: "The activities today have been really good. I am really enjoying our transition days and am

looking forward to our third visit next Friday."

Week three of the transition programme saw the Kidnapped activity continuing with Primary 7 students experiencing a forensic lab where they had the chance to carry out a number of experiments focusing on solubility, reaction rates and electricity. They also got to set up some chemical reactions and see an explosive energy release involving lemonade and Mentos sweeties. In the afternoon they looked at more evidence and identified a tyre track pattern in preparation for completing the task and solving the mystery on the final day.

Primary 6 pupils spent the morning with Hugh McMillan, the renowned poet and author who is





currently researching local tales for Wigtown Book Festival. After reading them a spooky story set on local iron age landmark Tynron Doon, he helped them get creative with their own adventure stories set in the local area. Hugh will be coming back for the last transition day to award prizes to the P6 pupils who

and feeling comfortable in the surroundings.

In Modern Languages, primary 6 pupils took part in a "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire" style quiz answering questions on a variety of topics including geography, food, fashion and sport. Alison Pinkerton, Modern Languages teacher, commented: "The primary 6 pupils

On Friday 13th June, the final transition day, Primary 7 pupils pieced together the Kidnapped mystery by working in groups to solve the final clues, leading them to discover where the kidnapped children were being held in Scotland. They investigated and filtered earth samples to try to find out where in Scotland the earth comes from, they used time, speed and distance strategies to solve which mode of transport would be the quickest way to get to the captive children, they investigated online maps and all of their prior clues to work out possible locations of where the children could be held and they will be finding clues around Wallace Hall Academy in a treasure hunt to look for the location of the final piece of evidence. This solved the mystery and finally revealed the kidnapper to the eager Primary 7 detectives!

Mrs Robertson, Acting Principal Teacher at Dunscore Primary School, said: "The Kidnapped topic has been an exciting investigative project for the pupils of the cluster primaries to be involved in. It has been an excellent opportunity for them to work together on a wide range of collaborative tasks and use the different resources and facilities within Wallace Hall Academy. Each group has been created from a mix of pupils from the different cluster



wrote the best tales.

In the afternoon, three activities were organised for the Primary 6 pupils. One of these activities was a quiz in the library where the pupils had the chance to familiarise themselves with the library and find out what happens in the busiest place in the school. They had to look for books on the shelves, research information on the computers and even look at the wall display to find out what is the most popular book at Wallace Hall Academy. The primary pupils hopefully left the library confident about the library's function at Wallace Hall Academy

all enjoyed the quiz and were coming up with some very good answers. In fact, they were so good, that I had to add in some extension questions to stretch their knowledge of European culture."

The Maths activity for Primary 6 pupils focused on mathematical puzzles. Pupils were put into groups and moved round the different activities. Sophie McCabe said: "I found the puzzles really challenging but good fun. It was nice to meet other people from different primary schools and have the chance to get to know them before we start in August."





the day by the pupils themselves. Each primary produced a display of the productions which they took back to their schools.

Mr Arrowsmith, who organised **the final Primary 6 event said:** "The activities gave the pupils an opportunity to work in a different kind of way with each other, working within tight timescales. The superb quality of materials produced demonstrates that new skills can be learned very quickly and applied to a **practical task.**"

At the end of the four transition **days Mrs Wilson said:** "I am absolutely delighted with how the project has worked. The Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils have all really engaged with the activities on offer and have been a delight to work with over the past four sessions.

schools, giving the Primary 7 pupils the opportunity to make new friends **before starting WHA in August."**

The Primary 6 pupils finished their transition activities in the Business Education department.

This provided pupils with the **opportunity to work on a 'tourism marketing and publicity campaign'** for Thornhill.

The pupils used a range of skills including leadership, team working, researching, planning and creativity to produce a number of products. The products included a promotional magazine, a radio advertisement, a 3 minute slide presentation, a financial budget to ensure they did not overspend and a gallery of photographs of the area taken on



"It was an ambitious project but I think it has been well worth the effort. The primary pupils all seem to be much more comfortable with each other and many new friendships have been forged. Although the Primary 6 pupils still have a year to go before their transition, good foundations have been laid for the future. Plans for **next year's transition project** are already underway.

"Thank you to all the staff and pupils who have helped out and been instrumental in making the experience such a success for all those involved."

“A Midsummer Night’s Dream”

A Theatre Review

by Zara Kennedy



Recently, I went on a trip to Newcastle to see the well-known Shakespearean play, “Midsummer Night’s Dream”. The reason for this trip was to give us a different perspective of the play, and to see the book brought to life.

“A Midsummer Night’s Dream” is a play set in Athens, in a world of fairies and creatures of wonder and curiosity. The play focusses on two couples, Hermia and Lysander – deeply in love with one another – and Helena and Demetrius – Helena in love with Demetrius yet Demetrius in love with Hermia. Egeus, Hermia’s father wants Hermia to marry Demetrius, but she fights against her father in order to prove her love for Lysander. The lovers then agree to run away from Athens where they would be able to marry and love one another in peace. The tale continues as Demetrius, and a love sick Helena,

follow Hermia and Lysander into the magical woods in order to stop them, and only manage to get lost. The play then takes a turn and continues as King Oberon of the forest, notices Helena’s love for Demetrius that is not reciprocated. Oberon sends his servant, Puck, to put a love spell on Demetrius, so that when he wakes, he will fall in love with the first thing he sees (Helena). Puck, seeing Lysander in the forest instead of Demetrius, puts the spell on Lysander, causing him to wake to see Helena passing by him in the forest. Noticing Puck’s mistake, Oberon puts a spell on the correct Athenian (Demetrius) making him also fall deeply in love with Helena. This causes Hermia to blame Helena for stealing the love of her Lysander, as well as causing Helena to blame Hermia of pulling a prank on her. Eventually the lovers - Lysander

and Hermia - return to their love for each other and the tale ends.

The version of the play that we went to see was an all-male cast. This was a different way of doing the play as there are just as many female roles as there are male. I thought that some of the female parts were very funny played by a man, but others, I felt, were over acted. There were so many amazing movement ideas that they had also incorporated into the play. For the fairies when they were dancing, they used a white sheet to show off the wind and it looked amazing on stage.

The layout of the stage was quite cool as they had put a line of chairs along the back wall near the ceiling, adding a nice effect when fairies could walk along them, meaning that when the other actors were on main stage, the fairies could sit on the chairs as if they were listening to the conversations. I also liked King Oberon and Queen Titania’s thrones. I loved how the fairies could sit on and around the throne while their Queen sat above them, I thought it was a great idea, as it showed that Titania’s fairies were always by her throughout the play.

Overall, the play was quite enjoyable apart from a few small disappointments. If I was given the chance to go to see another version of a Midsummer Night’s Dream, I would go as I would love to see how each play is acted out and I think it would be good for me to experience the different perspectives each director takes for their version. However, I would find it more enjoyable if there were actresses as well as actors taking part in the play.

Wallace Hall Academy joins Twitter

Wallace Hall Academy has a Twitter account. This is now live and will be updated regularly to share Wallace Hall’s news, events and achievements with the wider community.

Follow us on <https://twitter.com/WHASchool> or click on the Twitter link on the front page of our school website at www.wallacehall.co.uk.

Comenius Trip to Belgium

report by Ellis Corrigan

The Comenius Project has given Wallace Hall pupils the opportunity to work with students from around Europe on a number of projects related to scarcity of resources and the effects of climate change. The last meeting of the group took place in Waregem, Belgium the week before Easter.

Our flight to Belgium was smooth and was followed by a car journey to the school. Once at the school we had the opportunity to tour the school before meeting up with our hosts and having lunch in the school canteen. Our hosts then took us back to their homes which were all extremely modern builds. At our new homes we got to know our host's family before heading back out to meet up with the other hosts.

On Saturday the 29th we all met up for a 20 minute bike ride and then went to a field for a picnic. At the picnic there was a variety of

Belgian food. Some of us played Belgian games and others decided to soak up as much sun as we could before returning home. After the picnic we all cycled back to our host's house.

The next day we went to Ostend, which has one of the many beautiful beaches in Belgium. There we sunbathed, paddled in the sea and got amazing ice cream and Belgian chocolate. The Belgian students played a game where you throw a block of wood at another block of wood which to us didn't sound like much fun!

On the Monday we went to the host's high school 'Hart College'. The students and teachers welcomed us to their school before giving us a tour of Waregem. We then had lunch at the school where they served us a curry like meal. That night we had a food event, where all the different countries had a table full of food from their



country. It was amazing to see the different things that people normally ate in other countries.

The rest of the week was full of project work or going to Ypres and Brussels. In Ypres we learnt about what life was like for a Belgian soldier at the front line and also visited a museum which showed us vivid images as well as re-enactments of what a soldier went through in the First World War. In Brussels we were given the chance to explore the beautiful city and a chance to hit the shops!

On the Thursday night before we left there was a party held at the school with traditional Belgian dances and a barbeque.



Robert Burns World Federation National Secondary Festival

report by Lucy Doig



On Saturday the 26th of April, Mollie Anderson, Justine Crosbie and myself, Lucy Doig, travelled to Prestwick Academy to represent Wallace Hall Academy in the World Robert Burns Federation finals 2014.

We all earned our place at the Scottish finals by winning a 1st or 2nd prize at the regional competition held at Dumfries Academy in early February.

The competition is split into various age categories over four disciplines: verse speaking, singing, instrumental and piping. The standard of competition was very high and we were against the best pupils from all over Scotland. We were all reciting verse and competed in our relevant age categories. I chose to recite "Address to the Haggis", Mollie recited "To a Louse", and Justine

picked "Willie Wastle". We all gave strong individual performances and were delighted when Justine was announced as the winner of the S3/S4 category for her fantastic rendition of "Willie Wastle".

Overall the day was a really good experience and great fun was had by all competitors taking part.

Trip to the Time Capsule

Report by Ally Muir

On Friday 30th May, a brave bunch of Third and Fourth years, accompanied by Mr Gilius and Mr Harrison, set off for the Time Capsule waterpark and ice rink in Coatbridge for a day full of swimming, skating and fun.

On arrival the excited group of pupils flocked to the swimming pool, keen to try out the new waterslides which lived up to all expectations. The waterpark also

featured a tsunami style pool and an island with a tipping bucket which could drench you as many of the group soon discovered! After lunch the party moved on to the ice rink. This proved to be somewhat challenging to some but was also enjoyed by all. There were a few tumbles but luckily no broken bones!

Finally, the exhausted and slightly battered troops returned to the bus for the journey back to



Thornhill. All are keen to visit the Time Capsule again as soon as possible.

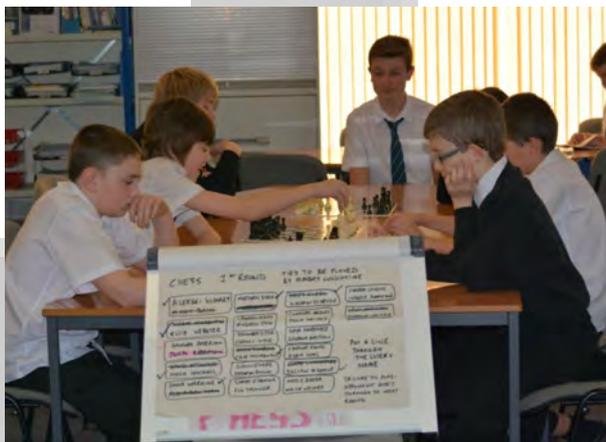
Overall, this was a hugely enjoyable trip and is highly recommended as part of the activities week.

Check Mate 2014

Appropriately named Nathan King of 3.N2 is the new chess champion of Wallace Hall Academy.

Over 20 students entered this year's tournament which was played out at lunchtimes in the library during the month of March. The final took the form of a nail biting three way contest between Nathan, Hayden Meredith, S2, and Aleksei Wishart of S1, with Nathan just managing to edge out his dogged opponents.

10 chess boards have recently been purchased for the library and all students may use them during any of the lunchtimes. Plenty of time to practise for next year's tournament. Some of our staff have started already by challenging the pupils and judging by the look on Mrs Belford and Mr Mack's faces, it looks like there is some serious competition underway already.



IDL is inspirational

report by Robert Guthrie

Learning how to save villagers from floods is not a lesson that you would expect to encounter in school. However, due to Wallace Hall Academy's Interdisciplinary Learning (IDL) Days, this kind of innovative educational experience has become a reality.

A truly cross-curricular approach to learning, IDL days focus on providing students with the opportunity to learn beyond the normal classroom setting and to apply their skills and knowledge to a wide range of real-life contexts. Pupils have the chance to develop their creativity, literacy, thinking skills and numeracy whilst enhancing their problem-solving abilities and teamwork skills by taking part in a range of individual and group activities. The idea reflects the values of the Scottish Government's new Curriculum for Excellence, which aims to incorporate many different subjects into one learning experience. It is widely recognised that interdisciplinary learning can be more meaningful than traditional classroom practice, and hence more motivational for many learners.

Pupils were divided by year-group, and, on their first day, each group looked at a selected theme.

S2 pupils delved into climate change, investigating flooding and its after-effects, United Nations

solutions and the science behind environmental changes. These activities are set to culminate with a mock United Nations General Assembly meeting where pupils will each represent a UN country and debate issues ranging from solutions to the planet's eco problems to resolving international conflict.

S3 pupils had the opportunity to learn about their national culture and heritage through their assigned IDL theme, Scotland. Pupils designed their own tartan, came up with ideas for inventions and presented them in the style of "Dragon's Den". In addition, S3 pupils took part in a lively workshop focused on Scots language and poetry, led by award-winning authors Stuart Paterson and Hugh McMillan. Having enjoyed reading an entertaining poem written in Scots by Stuart, the pupils explored the relevance of Scots words in their own lives and also had fun writing some lines of their own. Their work was displayed at the Parents' evening the following night, alongside the very attractive tartans they had created with Ms Beynon.

August 2014 will mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War and across the globe nations will come together to commemorate the Great War and remember those who lived, fought and gave their lives during the conflict. S4 pupils joined forces to

learn about this momentous period in our history, finding out about the various technologies created as a result of the war as well as investigating war refugees and their lifestyles.

S5 pupils were equally engaged in their study of China. Working with staff and pupils of Dumfries and Galloway College, their tasks included looking at the evolution of the language, Chinese culture, taking part in a Tai Chi class, enjoying a Chinese tea ceremony and a game using chopsticks.

Finally, our senior S6 pupils looked at the forthcoming Commonwealth Games. Pupils rotated in groups around several different stations and worked to put together presentations based on a variety of Commonwealth nations.

Barry Graham, Head Teacher, commented: "With the introduction of a Curriculum for Excellence, we have been asked to focus on the joint planning and delivery of learning. If we get this right, pupils will get a deeper understanding of topics and see the links that exist between lots of different subjects."

It is clear that pupils at Wallace Hall Academy really benefited from the first interdisciplinary day, taking many newly-discovered skills away with them. The second IDL day will take place on Monday, June 23rd. Further innovative learning events will be planned for the future, providing a fresh range of opportunities for pupils of all ages.





IDL Day Activities



IDL Day Activities

A night at the theatre

Pupils of Miss Carson's Higher English class were treated to a sterling performance of 'The Strange Undoing Of Prudencia Hart', a play based on the Border Ballads and written entirely in rhyming couplets.

Wednesday 26th March saw the class travel to Glasgow to witness this incredibly popular show. Produced by the National Theatre of Scotland, the story follows academic Prudencia Hart who sets off to Kelso in the Scottish Borders

in order to go to a conference. As wintry conditions take their toll, Prudencia doesn't realise what awaits her there.

Miss Carson, one of our English teachers, said: "Bringing my students to see this play, which has had rave reviews across the country, has increased their awareness of contemporary Scottish drama. The play is certainly one of the best pieces of drama I have ever seen. What a treat!"



Mr Graham is 'On Fire'



Many of the weekly assemblies at Wallace Hall Academy are led by the pupils. Recently it was the turn of the pupils from the Advanced Higher Sciences to organise an entertaining presentation focusing on Science and then deliver this at all three House assemblies. They decided that the assembly should be interactive, involving the pupils throughout.

The Advanced Higher pupils compiled a quiz made up of a number of multiple choice questions concentrating on

science related topics such as 'How long does it take light from the sun to reach Earth?' and 'Who is the oldest Biology teacher in the school?'. Pupils in the audience highlighted their answers using coloured cards corresponding with the multiple choice answers. The pupils holding up the colour of the correct answer remained standing

until only one remained and they were declared the winner.

Lewis Morrison, Head Boy and one of the Advanced Higher Physicists, said: "It was really important to us to make the assembly fun as well as developing the pupils' knowledge of science. Along with the quiz we are holding a sunflower competition for each register class. We handed out sunflower seeds and soil and asked that they plant these after the Easter holidays. Once the sunflowers have reached maturity, we will measure them and award a prize to the class growing the tallest flower."

Daniel Holt, who studies Advanced Higher Biology, added: "We decided that the prize for the quiz would incorporate an experiment using fire which we had seen on a visit to the Glasgow Science Centre. The Nith winner was Aiden Montgomery who had the enviable task of setting our Head Teacher, Mr Graham, on fire. Reports that Mr Graham put Aiden on detention later that day are as yet unconfirmed!"



The opening of the Joseph Thomson Heritage Centre

report by Justine Crosbie



recite "Willie Wastle" by Robert Burns and "In Flanders' Field" by John McCrae. Sinclair Barbour and his Thornhill Scottish Country Dancers also performed, demonstrating why they are invited to dance at festivals all over the world.

Sophia Harkness, Chairperson of the Joseph Thomson Heritage Centre, said: "I was delighted to see Joseph Thomson's house be finally opened to the public as we have been working for a number of years on this project. The performances of the young people were very much appreciated and really made the day for us. We hope to welcome lots of visitors to the Centre over the coming months."

Joseph Thomson is a famous explorer who was born on the 14th of February 1858 in the building which has recently been renovated into what is now known as the Joseph Thomson Heritage Centre in Penpont.

Joseph Thomson attended Penpont School, the school at Gatelawbridge and Morton Academy. His monument is situated at the junction between Station Road and East Morton Street in Thornhill, next to Brownrigg's garage.

On the 29th of April, a large crowd gathered in Penpont to celebrate the opening of the new Joseph Thomson Heritage Centre. Along with the local residents, the Penpont streets were filled with visitors from far and wide, including many of Joseph Thomson's descendants. The official opening was performed by His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry.

It was a perfect day for the occasion and everyone was in high

spirits. Wallace Hall pupils and pupils from its cluster primary schools played quite a big part in the event by providing entertainment on the day. There were performances from Penpont Primary School singers, the Wallace Hall Academy dancers, piper Robbie Logan and me, Justine Crosbie. I was asked to



Higher Biology 'Fishing for the Future' project



Higher Biology pupils have been involved with the 'Fishing for the Future' project with the Nith Catchment Fishery Trust. The project aims to raise awareness of local fisheries by using the lifecycle of the Atlantic Salmon to demonstrate how freshwater and marine environments connect and how the sustainable harvesting of fish is important

to the rural economy and health of local communities.

Pupils cared for salmon eggs and watched them hatch into alevins. They then helped to reintroduce the young salmon back into the river. They learned about the lifecycle of the salmon and studied their anatomy in more detail by dissecting trout. In addition, they also helped to gather data for a river study of Marr Burn, where they observed



electrofishing and helped to record the details of the fish that had been caught. Whilst they were there some members of 'The Holywood Trust' came to observe and present the fishery trust with a cheque to help fund their project.



Our Dynamic Earth

report by Hannah Graham and Ellie Thorburn

On the 6th May 2014, our S2 National 4/5 Geography class went to the extraordinary Our Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh. This term we have been studying natural hazards and were excited when the opportunity arose for us to visit the natural hazard exhibition there.

On the journey to Our Dynamic Earth, Wallace Hall Academy's two Geography teachers managed to negotiate the tricky streets of Edinburgh and got us there safely with only one small detour.

The highlight of the day was when we participated in the

natural hazard workshop. Here we learned how disastrous some naturally occurring hazards can be and how hard it is to stay safe.

We travelled our way back in time throughout the museum and explored what happened at the time of the big bang as well as the ice age and other spectacular events which have occurred. We arrived home having had a great day and with a better understanding of natural hazards.

Our visit to Our Dynamic Earth will add to our memories of our time at Wallace Hall Academy so far.



Dancing to Success

report by Lucy Doig



Kate Lethardy, one of our S5 pupils, has been enjoying significant success recently in the highly competitive world of Highland Dancing. Since March 2014, Kate has competed in three championships and has been runner up twice in the over

16s Pre-Championship age group.

On Sunday 27th April 2014 at the Aberdeen Highland Dancing Championship event, held in the prestigious Music Hall on Union Street Aberdeen, Kate finally won her Highland Pre-Championship. There were 12 in her age group with Kate coming 1st in the Highland Fling, 1st in the Swords, 4th in the Seann Triubhass and 1st in the Reel. This was enough for Kate to win the Brian Seivwright Memorial Cup "Lord of the Dance" trophy for over 16s. Kate also won the Arlene Lindsay Cup for the most overall points in all age groups.

Barry Graham, Head Teacher at Wallace Hall Academy said: "I was really delighted to learn of Kate's success at the Aberdeen Highland Dancing Championships. Kate practises very hard and deserves to have her talent for dancing recognised at such a high



level. Hopefully there will be an opportunity for Kate to demonstrate her winning dance routines at Wallace Hall in the very near future."

Geobus is great



Geography pupils at Wallace Hall Academy were treated recently to their second visit this year from *GeoBus*.

GeoBus is a free educational outreach project for schools developed and run by

the Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences at the University of St Andrews. This time the pupils learned about volcanoes.

This interactive session gave students the chance to see just what goes into volcano monitoring

and prediction. They learned what *GeoBus's* research team does when they are on the island of Montserrat and had the chance to look at equipment that is used by volcanologists such as infra-red cameras and seismometers.

The highlight of this session was when the students carried out an experiment using party poppers to simulate a volcanic eruption. From the data gathered, they were then asked to form an evacuation plan in which the experiment is repeated to see how well they have done, highlighting to them just how hard it is to predict something as volatile as a volcano.

Laura Livingstone, Geography teacher at Wallace Hall Academy, commented: "Our pupils really enjoyed their visit from *GeoBus* and the session on volcanoes was really informative and interesting. We hope it won't be long until the *GeoBus* stops again at Wallace Hall Academy."

A Celebration of Success

report by Lucy Doig

On Wednesday 23rd of April, the Bailey Hall played host to the annual Wallace Hall Academy Celebration of Success evening for senior pupils. Parents, pupils and teachers attended the ceremony which celebrated a wide variety of pupil successes and achievements.

grasping such opportunities will help pupils as they prepare for life beyond school. The evening was punctuated by our three Depute Head Teachers, Mrs Gall, Mrs Wilson and Mr Blair, inviting the S4, S5 and S6 pupils up onto the stage to be presented with their award, recognising their success.

The final musical item was



Ruari McNeill presents the Drama prize to Tilda

Lewis Morrison completed their final duties as Head Girl and Head Boy with the customary end of term speech. This reflected on their six years at Wallace Hall Academy, picking out highlights such as the Ardèche Trip and reminding Dr Fulton of how many sleeps he has left before accompanying the current S5 on **this year's trip**. They rounded their speech off by warmly thanking all staff at Wallace Hall Academy for their help and support over the years. Mrs Fraser closed the evening by congratulating everyone who won an award and by thanking everyone for coming along to the celebration.

Staff, pupils and parents then adjourned to "The Street" for refreshments, rounding off a very enjoyable evening.



Harry, Donald, Fraser, Tom and Liam collect the Scottish Schools' Under 16s Glasgow South Regional Bowl

Robert Guthrie and Rihanna Lawson created a lovely mood for the evening by playing a selection of their Higher Music pieces on the keyboard as the audience gathered in the hall. Once everyone was seated, the evening's prize recipients were piped in by Tom Kehoe on the bagpipes. Mrs Kerry Fraser opened the ceremony by welcoming Barry Graham, Head Teacher at Wallace Hall Academy, onto the stage for his report and photographic presentation about the academic year so far. To follow, Alice Dale performed Chopin's "Nocturne in E flat major" on the piano. This was a stunning rendition with the audience so quiet you could hear a pin drop.

The prizes were presented this year by Chairman of the Wallace Hall Academy Parent Council, Mr Brian Johnstone. His address focused on opportunities available to pupils both inside and outside of school and highlighted that

Lauren Dalglish accompanied by Peter Wall on the guitar. Lauren has a fantastic voice and her **performance of "Make you Feel My Love" by Bob Dylan was just beautiful**. Chloe Davidson and



Sophie, Rhianna and Lewis collect the Sports and Academic Shields on behalf of Cairn



Angus receives the prize for Graphic Communication



Morgan receives a Saltire Award for Volunteering



Archie is awarded a certificate for French



Dr Shirley Turberville presents Martha with the UWS Dux prize for Achievement



Alice performs her piano piece for the audience



Rebecca is awarded the prize for Higher Art & Design



Ailsa is presented with the Margaret Mair Sloan Trophy for Hospitality/ Home Economics by Mrs Nancy Sloan



Sophie is awarded a certificate for History

Talented cluster pupils hit the high notes

Report by Lydia McMillan

Pupils from the cluster schools (Penpont, Closeburn, Moniaive, Wallace Hall, Duncow and Dunscore primaries) recently had a great time working with visiting specialists from Scottish Opera to produce mini opera *Curse of the Macabbra Opera House*. The P6/7s had been working on the songs and music with their music teacher prior to the event held at Wallace Hall Academy, also having gone to a practice session during the early stages of the production.

Due to the number of pupils taking part, the project was spread across two days, with Penpont, Closeburn and Wallace Hall working on the first day and Moniaive, Dunscore and Duncow on the second. The first group performed on Monday 30th of March 2014,

with the second performing on Wednesday 1st of April.

In the morning, when the pupils first arrived, the professional singers introduced themselves and had a brief run-through of all the songs, before dividing into groups depending on which role they were playing. In two hours the children had perfected the songs and even learned full dance routines to go with them.

Having practised hard, in the afternoon the dress rehearsal took place, in front of the rather tough audience of younger Wallace Hall pupils who were quite happy to give their opinions and advice on the performance.

The opera began shortly after this, starting at 2 o' clock, and was a great success, enjoyed by parents, teachers and some secondary students. Joint head-teacher of Penpont and Closeburn



primaries Mrs McAleavy described the experience as "a fantastic opportunity for P6/7 in the cluster to work together with Scottish opera and produce a fantastic end result."

Penpont pupil Emily Young said: "I think it was really nice getting the schools together to do something different."

Visiting music specialist Mrs Marsh commented: "It was a wonderful experience and so exciting seeing it all come together after everyone putting in so much practice and rehearsal."



Send my Friend to School

report by Lucy Doig

Education is something that we all take for granted - but across the world there are still 57 million children who do not receive even a basic

education. More than half of these children have a disability.

On Thursday the 24th of April, all Wallace Hall Academy and



Primary pupils joined the "Send My Friend to school" campaign which aims to make sure that children in less economically developed countries receive an education.

To show their support for the campaign, pupils created a paper chain of friends each with a slogan or message about the importance of education for all children. These are being displayed in both the Primary and Secondary school, before being sent to our MP David Mundell as part of the campaign to ensure every child gets the chance of an education.



Leah Goes for Gold

All S1 and S2 students at Wallace Hall Academy take part in a reading award scheme which runs one period per week in the school library.

The scheme provides an opportunity for students to build up their reading skills. Accompanied by their English teacher, each student is invited to work their way through a series of reading challenges which will take them through four stages – Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum.

Leah Byar of 2S1, pictured on the right, is seen being presented with her Gold Award by Mr Graham, watched by her English teacher, Mr Docherty.



Paying our respects

report by Emily Kennedy and Aidan Connor



Recently, we went to Thornhill and Penpont graveyards to pay our respects to the fallen in WW1 and WW2.

The visit was organised by Mrs Wilson and during lunchtime we set off for Morton Cemetery for the

first ceremony. We walked down with two pupils from Penpont Primary who were relatives of one of the fallen soldiers.

Some members of the community joined us and gathered at the gate to listen to Reverend

Stuart Mill speaking. He delivered a very emotive speech and we all joined in with his prayers. Myself and Aidan were invited to hang a wreath on the gate.

We split off into groups and headed off round the cemetery to pay our respects to the soldiers who died.

Everyone spoke the 'Ode of Remembrance' at an individual grave. After we had visited the graves of all of the fallen soldiers at Morton Cemetery, we jumped into Mrs Wilson's car and set off for the second ceremony which was being held in Penpont.

At the church we got tea and biscuits. Then we got to hear another prayer and members of the Penpont community say some words. Some relatives of the deceased soldiers were upset at the kind words spoken and it was a good chance for them to remember their loved ones.

Overall it was a very thought provoking day and helped us understand the scale of the conflicts. We felt very privileged to be part of the ceremonies and will remember the day for a long time to come.

WHA Sailing Club News

May - June 2014

Our young sailors have been working towards their RYA Level 1 award this session.

They are doing well, progressing from being novices to becoming confident sailors. Well done to: Gregor Black, Fergus Hiddleston, Iona Warrior and Aleksei Wishart

who are now confident in tacking and gybing; Flo Trower, Chloe Lancaster and Eloise Coombs who are champions at person over board recovery (it's rarely plain sailing with them!); Erin Clark-Wyse and Ruairidh Fair who are stars at keeping Mrs Black and Mr Bell all at

sea; Caitlin Greenwood and Hugh Southall who know their ropes and enjoy sailing come rain or shine! Iona Warrior commented: "Sailing has made me realise my true potential and beliefs!". Fergus Hiddleston added: "What was good was getting in a Pico by myself and learning to use a jib sail for the first time." Ruairidh Fair said: "Sailing is fun in any weather - even the pouring rain."



Hockey Champions Challenge

On Monday 28th April, a group of S1 – S3 girls, all hockey enthusiasts, made a trip to the Glasgow National Hockey Centre to watch the Glasgow Hockey Championships Challenge.

Three matches were being played that night: India v Scotland, Spain v Ireland and South Africa v USA. The girls all really enjoyed the opportunity to watch the Scottish ladies delivering a fine performance



against the team from India, winning the match 4 goals to 0. At the end of the evening, some of the Scottish ladies spoke to our pupils and posed for photographs.

Mhairi Watret said: "It was good to see the professionals play to such a high level. We got the chance to speak to some of the players and ask them questions which was really interesting. The icing on the cake was watching our home team win their match against India - everyone in the team played brilliantly and the atmosphere in the stadium was electric."



Finlay is a Master of Martial Arts

recognised that taking part in martial arts helps young people with their self-discipline, self-confidence, concentration and mental alertness.

Finlay's first major success was in Birmingham last year where he won the British Championships in the purple/blue belt class for the 10 to 12 age group. He was also presented with the Sparring Trophy.

On March 9th 2014 at the Scottish Championships held in Dumfries, Finlay won two gold medals for the kick boxing drill and for sparring.

At his most recent outing on the 10th of May in Penrith at the Northern Championships, Finlay was again on top form. At this competition he won three gold championship medals for sparring, kick box drill and best kick and hand drill. Congratulations to Finlay for these significant achievements.



Finlay Smith, 1C.1, has been achieving national recognition recently with Matt Fiddes Martial Arts. Finlay is a member of the Matt Fiddes Martial Arts Academy based in the A/A Fitness Studio in Dumfries. It is widely



Half Marathon preparations get under way



This is the 5th year of our WHA Half Marathon event and we hope to make it better than ever. We are looking at new sponsorship and aiming to have 'goodie bags' for all competitors. We are also hoping to have entries in the pupil/parent category and will have a prize for that. We are introducing new team prizes for the Castle View Fun Run and a Junior Team prize for the Drumlanrig Demon 10k.

The entry fee will be increased by £2 therefore the fee will be £14 for members of Scottish Athletics and £16 for non-members. However, school age pupils will get a

£2 discount and parent/pupil pairs will be a joint fee of £23 for SAL members and £25 for non members. As in previous years, there will be no entry fee for the Fun Run. The event this year will be held on Sunday 9th November.

After the summer holidays Yasmine McLurg, one of our committee members who also works in our school office, will be offering after school training sessions one day a week. This is aimed at pupils who wish to follow a training programme to take part in either the Fun Run or 10k. For more information on Yasmine's training programme see page 49.

Kyle races towards success

We were delighted that Kyle McLellan, winner of last year's Queensberry Half Marathon, agreed to be interviewed by us following his phenomenal achievement in this year's London Marathon.

Kyle crossed the half marathon finishing line in a record-breaking time of 73 minutes 16 seconds, looking remarkably fresh having just faced Drumlanrig's challenging course.

Kyle spoke to Mrs Diane Jarvie, Race Organiser, and described his experiences in preparing for running a marathon. See next page for full interview. We hope it gives you inspiration.



Q: When you were a Wallace Hall pupil you were a keen athlete but always seemed quite laid back about it. When did you realise you wanted to take your running seriously?

A: Towards the end of high school I didn't think I would continue running - I got my first Scotland cap for running in my 5th year at WHA but the week after the race I had to knuckle down and study for my Highers. When 6th year came around I was preoccupied with other things and getting back into training was difficult. When I started university in Edinburgh I joined the athletics team and realised how much I'd missed the sport and the social side of being part of a running team - this was when I decided to work hard and improve at my sport.

Q: You often come home to Dumfries and take part in local races. How does running in Dumfries and Galloway compare with races you run in other parts of the country?

A: I always enjoy running back home as this was where I started - the Gallovidian 10k was my first 10km race and a race I looked forward to every year. Most athletes are based in the central belt and don't seem to want to travel to the region which is a shame.

Q: Last year you entered the Queensberry Half Marathon, and won by a considerable margin. What made you enter?

A: In order to qualify for the London Marathon, I needed to run 75mins or faster for a half marathon. I feel more relaxed racing when I know my surroundings and, having been to Drumlanrig when I was at WHA, I felt that this race was right for me. That, and I could show some support for the school!

Q: Can you sum up the race for us?

A: Hills galore. The views were amazing though and over the last few miles I was able to enjoy them in the downhill section to the castle. If you're reading this, I'd recommend you sign up and see for yourself!

Q: I spoke to you within minutes of finishing and you barely seemed out of breath.

I'm sure our readers would appreciate some training and preparation tips from you:

A: I read that a runner's body is like a finely-tuned engine - you have to put in the training in order to achieve the results. Consistent training and a varied diet seem to work for me.

Q: What advice/training tips would you give to a recreational runner who wants to run a half marathon?

A: Ideally you should be able to run a half marathon in training - this way, your body knows what it will feel like afterwards. Eat plenty of carbohydrates in the week leading up to the race - pasta, rice, potatoes, bread - and on the day of the race make sure to have an energy-dense breakfast with plenty of fluid. Porridge, bananas and coffee give me the energy boost I need.

Q: Injuries? Have you ever had a running injury and how did you recover and stay on track?

A: Runners walk a fine line between running well and injuries and unfortunately this is something which happens. I've got a recurrent knee problem which comes and goes. Long distance runners do some crazy mileage and I've got friends who run 100+ miles per week. I don't think I'll be able to do that yet - I've lost enough toenails! Thankfully, the gym is nearby so I use the spin bikes and the weight racks until my aches and pains subside and I can get back into training.

Q: How do you cope with any pre-race anxieties?

A: Visualise the race positively!

Q: You stepped up to the full marathon distance for the London Marathon last month and finished an incredible 30th in the men's club runner race. Can you describe how you felt during the race and how good it felt to finish so high up the field?

A: Looking back, the experience was amazing. The first half of the race I tagged onto my friend Patryk Gierjatowicz, who is a marathon runner, as I knew he'd pace the race at a sensible speed. At mile 17, my



legs started to ache and I could feel everything tightening up. The last 3 miles were painful and it felt like my legs were lead weights. People were shouting words of encouragement but I couldn't move any faster. The feeling of elation at the start of the race turned into depression (the body only has enough energy stores to run 18 miles and once this is used up your mood turns sour!) Finishing at the Mall was awesome - it was like a wall of noise. To find out I'd ran under 2h30mins made it even better!

Q: What now?

A: The marathon really zapped me and I've ended up injuring myself through over-training. I'm getting back to increasing my mileage and getting into consistent training now. I'm going to focus on 10k races and improving my time in this event for the next while.

Q: What's the best piece of advice you can offer anyone running a half marathon for the first time? And in particular the Queensberry Half?

A: Consistent training is the key: go out for a few shorter runs during the week and at the weekend go for a longer run. If you start training 3-4 months before the event then your body should be prepared. As for the Queensberry Half, do some short hill repetitions (i.e. 30s running uphill, then return to the start point) as this will come in handy for the course.

Q: Will you be coming back to the Queensberry Half Marathon in November to defend your title?

A: I would love to run the course again and see how much I can knock off of last year's time. This year I will be in Japan on a medical elective so it looks like a return in 2015 is on the cards. To quote Arnie: "I'LL BE BACK."

Our Sporting Stars



Eight talented rugby players from Wallace Hall Primary School travelled to Belfast recently to represent Dumfries and Galloway at the Belfast Active Games. They were part of a group of thirty nine children from the region who had excelled in one of eight Commonwealth Games sports.

The games in Belfast were part of the Glasgow 2014 Games which linked Dumfries and Galloway with the Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Council. This has been a huge success with great friendships and relationships being formed.

The boys from Wallace Hall - Finlay Bainbridge, Dean Carson, Aidan Dobie, Aaron Grierson, Leigh

Hyslop, Kieran Taylor, Lee Wood and Alex Gallagher - were selected for the games having won the Active Schools tag rugby competition for Dumfries and Galloway.

On arrival at the Mary Peter's Track, and following a police escort through Belfast City Centre, the children were welcomed by the Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Council along with Dame **Mary Peters, the Queen's Baton and Clyde**, the Glasgow 2014 mascot. At the ceremony, the young athletes became the first Scottish children to **be part of the Queen's Baton Relay**. A highlight was when some of the children were given the chance to hold the baton as it was carried round the track.

The next day saw a morning of sporting competition where the Wallace Hall Primary pupils were crowned joint winners of the tag rugby competition. Thereafter the **children returned to the Mary Peter's Track** to record an official good luck video message for our team for Glasgow 2014.

Finlay Bainbridge said: "The games in Belfast were a fantastic experience. It was a real thrill to be one of the first children in Scotland to see and hold the Queen's baton."



Wallace Hall Footballers in Cup Winning Team



Matt Gibson (S1), Jake McEwan (S1), Fergus Waugh (S1), Aiden Dobie (P7), Charlie Brown (P7 Penpont) and Finlay Bainbridge (P7) have spent the last football season playing for Nith Valley

United 2001. The team trains in Kelloholm and plays in the East Ayrshire league.

Travelling to play against teams including Troon, Prestwick and Valspar, the boys have trained hard

and played well throughout the season. The league title was a close fought race between NVU and Cumnock with the result being decided at the very last match of the season between these two contenders. Before the last game, NVU had secured an amazing 50 points from a possible 60 and Cumnock needed to win to share the title. NVU got off to a strong start taking an early lead but Cumnock came back fighting to eventually win 4-2 and share the title with NVU.

Earlier in the season the two teams had also met in the final of the Charles Hoggitt Cup. The match took place at Dan Park in Ayr and was a thrilling encounter. Honours were even at full time with the score at 1-1. A nail biting 30 minutes of extra time had both sets of supporters on the edge of their seats but Charlie managed to score the winner for NVU in the second period of extra time to lift the trophy.

After the boys' first season playing full eleven aside their coaches Sam Kerr and Jason Lamont said: "We were delighted with how the boys performed this year and look forward to working with them next season."

Race Training with Yasmine McLurg

As a Jog Leader I take on lots of different roles including advisor, motivator and friend. It is part of my job to be aware of the barriers that young people may face when they start running and then to help them overcome these. I also help students prepare for their first race, supporting them with the entry process and their training regime.

Running is an excellent form of exercise with far-reaching benefits including helping you to keep fit, to be healthy and to be happy!

My aim with the young people is to keep training fun while developing their running skills by following a running plan - see examples on the right. This will assist them in achieving their goal of completing the Fun Run, Demon 10k or even, for the more adventurous, the Half Marathon. Training plans which can be used to prepare for the races are available on our school website www.wallacehall.co.uk.

Before any form of strenuous exercise, it is a good idea to see your doctor for a thorough physical examination - particularly if you have not had one in recent years or if you have led a fairly sedentary lifestyle.

5k Beginner's Training Plan

Weeks until run	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
8	REST	1 mile walk/jog	REST	1 mile walk/jog	REST	30 minute walk	1 mile walk/jog
7	REST	1 mile walk/jog	REST	1 mile walk/jog	REST	30 minute walk	1 mile walk/jog
6	REST	1 mile walk/jog	REST	1 mile jog/run	REST	40 minute walk	1 mile jog/run
5	REST	1½ mile walk/jog	REST	1 mile jog/run	REST	40 minute walk	1½ mile jog/run
4	REST	1½ mile walk/jog	REST	1½ mile jog/run	REST	50 minute walk	2 mile jog/run
3	REST	1½ mile walk/jog	REST	1½ mile jog/run	REST	50 minute walk	2 mile run
2	REST	2 mile walk/jog	REST	2 mile jog/run	REST	60 minute walk	2½ mile run
1	REST	2 mile walk/jog	REST	1½ mile walk/jog	REST	REST	5km run

10k Beginner's Training Plan

Weeks until run	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
6	REST	2 mile jog/run	REST	2 mile jog/run	REST	60 minute walk	3 mile run
5	REST	2 mile jog/run	REST	2 mile jog/run	REST	60 minute walk	4 mile run
4	REST	3 mile jog/run	REST	2 mile jog/run	REST	60 minute walk	4½ mile run
3	REST	3 mile jog/run	REST	2½ mile jog/run	REST	70 minute walk	4½ mile run
2	REST	3½ mile jog/run	REST	2½ mile jog/run	REST	70 minute walk	5 mile run
1	REST	3½ mile jog/run	REST	3 mile jog/run	REST	70 minute walk	10km Run

Sporting Victory



Sadly the sunshine didn't make an appearance for Wallace Hall Academy Sports Day this year but the wet conditions did not dampen the enthusiasm of the competitors or the supporters for what was a fine display of sporting prowess.

After an early lunch, all of the pupils who were not competing turned out resplendent in House

colours to support their chosen champions. Congregating in House areas, the crowd really got behind the athletes, urging the competitors over the line with deafening cheers as they sensed victory for their House. Once all of the races had been run and the Tug of War well and truly fought, it was time for our two retiring members of staff, Mrs Gall and Mrs

Mitchell, to present the trophies to the well-deserved winners.

The results were as follows:

S1 Girls: 1st Chloe Williams (Scaur), 2nd Lauren McKinna (Cairn), 3rd Tammy McWhirter (Nith)

S1 Boys: 1st Logan Paterson (Nith), 2nd Charlie Carr (Nith), 3rd Fergus Waugh (Cairn)

S2 Girls: 1st Erin Dobie (Nith), 2nd Mhairi Watret (Scaur), 3rd Eloise Coombs (Scaur)

S2 Boys: 1st Gavin Wilson (Scaur), 2nd Owen Nicholson (Nith), 3rd Jack Bain (Nith)

S3 Girls: 1st Sarah Wilson (Scaur), 2nd Demi Brown (Scaur), 3rd Sarah Maxwell (Cairn)

S3 Boys: 1st Niall Holden (Scaur), 2nd Josh Notman (Scaur), 3rd Robert Ponton (Scaur)

Senior Girls: 1st Kathryn Park (Scaur), 2nd Emily Morton (Cairn), 3rd Lily Gonlag (Nith)

Senior Boys: 1st Ben Wicks (Cairn), 2nd Declan Hill (Scaur), 3rd Michael Godridge (Cairn)

The TS Herd Cup for the Girls' Mile was won by Eloise Coombs (Scaur) and the Walker Cup for the Boys' Mile was won by Fraser Morton (Cairn).

Cairn were victorious in the Tug of War with Scaur winning the overall House championship.





Parent Council News



This has been the season of celebrating successes, and I have been pleased to be involved recently in the senior Celebration of Success ceremony and in the 6th year leavers event.

Such occasions allow us to reflect on the many experiences which school brings. Academic achievement is of course important, and it was encouraging to see that many pupils have been accepted into

universities and to Dumfries and Galloway College. However, I was reminded of all the wider experiences gained at school through activities such as foreign trips, outdoor working, Queensberry Initiative, whapples, and charity events. Wallace Hall Academy is rich in these activities. The school's close working with the local community and in particular with businesses (future employers) again enhance

opportunities to learn from those outside school.

At the Parent Council we have recently been:

- Discussing how the Parent Council can best support the new 3-18 school.
- Finalising our curriculum leaflet, which summarises the changes in examinations and assessment under Curriculum for Excellence. This will be distributed to parents very shortly. Particular thanks are due to John Blair for his help with this.
- Continuing to work with the school on arrangements for first-aid presentations and we hope to be able to announce dates for events for parents and pupils soon.

Our new Facebook page is running along well, and we recruited some new members through attendance at recent parents evenings. However, we would welcome more people so **please don't hesitate to join us!**

Brian Johnstone
Chairman

We hope you enjoy our final school newsletter of this session.

It is packed with articles and photographs highlighting all the good things taking place at Wallace Hall along with features focusing on the achievements of our pupils and staff. We are always really pleased to report on the good news that is happening in our school and publish information about the many, varied interests and attainments of our young people.

This is our first newsletter since becoming a 3 - 18 school and we are delighted to include articles highlighting the successes of our pupils in Wallace Hall Primary along with featuring reports from pupils from our cluster primaries. It is hoped to build on this in future editions by regularly including news, articles and photographs from the Primary, the Nursery and our cluster primary schools as well as the Academy thereby ensuring that the publication meets the needs of everyone involved with Wallace Hall. If you have taken part in a competition, have an interesting hobby or if you have any pieces of work that you are proud of and would like published, please speak to Mrs Menzies in the Library and she will help with articles and photographs.

As ever, a big thank you to all pupils, staff, parents and members of the community who have submitted articles and photographs for publication. Thank you also to everyone who has helped proof-read and edit our newsletter.