

Wallace Hall Academy

NEWSLETTER

October 2011

Working Together to Achieve More



Bill Clement - A Teaching Legend

Bill Clement MBE recently retired from Wallace Hall Academy after an unparalleled fifty five year teaching career at the school. 'Clem', as Bill is affectionately known, taught in all three school buildings beginning his career in the Technical Department at the original Wallace Hall Academy in Closeburn, moving to the Thornhill site when Wallace Hall Academy amalgamated with Morton Academy in 1973 and latterly teaching piping in the current new build. Although Clem retired as a classroom teacher in 1983, in his later years of asso-

ciation with the school he passed on his skills both as a piping tutor and through teaching Scottish Country Dancing.

Head Teacher Barry Graham said: "Bill Clement has influenced generations of Wallace Hall Academy pupils to aspire to be the best they can be. As Principal Teacher of Technical Bill has had an influence in the lives of many, including teaching our own Mr Laurie his technical skills when he was a pupil at Wallace Hall Academy, and through his association with piping and Scottish Country Dancing Bill has played a significant part in our school being recognised world wide. We are very grateful for



all the years that Bill has given willingly to Wallace Hall Academy – he truly is a teaching legend."

See page 2 for photographs and a report written by S6 pupil Angus Blair.

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WHA Students make the Grade!



Wallace Hall Academy students' successes in the UCAS application process have been highlighted in a recent report in TESS. The school has been ranked 23rd in the UK for pupils gaining places at highly selective universities. Full report on page 3.

Are we going to be a Star school?

The Queensberry Initiative at Wallace Hall Academy has been short-listed for one of the prestigious Scottish Qualifications Authority Star Awards in the area of Innovation.

This is a national recognition of the sector-leading 'bright ideas' which have



been put into action through the partnership project of the Initiative, the hard work of staff and pupils and the support from the community.

The winners of the Star Awards will be announced on Friday 4 November at a national event in Glasgow.



“Mr Clement gives me confidence”

by Angus Blair

Bill Clement is a piping and dancing virtuoso. His feet caress the floor like lightly dusted icing on a beautiful cake and his fingers, too, move with flair and finesse across the chanter. Appreciated not just throughout his own community, but internationally, ‘Clem’, as he is affectionately known, has received great acclaim for his services to piping and dancing, including an MBE presented by the Queen.

Bill had a sickly childhood, starting primary school in Perth at seven and a half years old, only to leave school for good another 6 years later. For a while he endured a short-lived period as a message boy. But after missing out on secondary education, Bill, driven by a surge of ambition, enrolled in evening classes in Perth, and it was then that his love of education really took root.

It was during Bill Clement’s time in the army during World War Two that he perfected the skills he has given so much pleasure with throughout his adult life. Called up to the Black Watch at 19, he spent 5 years in the army as a piper for the Blackwatch and ended up Pipe Major of the 10th Battalion. Never being called upon to fight abroad, he spent the vast majority of his army life piping and learning to dance – which incidentally, was a chore he hated before this episode of his life. Hard to believe it now, but he was one of three boys regularly made to sit down in primary school when learning to dance.

In 1944 Clem was given one day off army duties to study in Lockerbie. It was during this time that Clem was able to embrace the workshop, kicking off his great interest in the technical subjects at Lockerbie Academy. He began his first teaching job at Rockwell Junior Secondary School, a modern school in Tayside where Clem would spend eight fine years. It was at this time that he began to spend hours teaching country dancing to

his students, passing on the light magic of his own two feet.

Looking for a change of scene, Clem was excited by an advertisement for a job at Wallace Hall Academy and so the glorious fifty five years long connection with Wallace Hall began. Following an early dispute about the quality of breakfasts for boarders and staff at the old Wallace Hall, he earned the title of ‘the starving school master’. He found very soon that he had a lot of free time to play with and decided to make sure people knew that if anybody wanted to learn the pipes he was happy to teach them. He was also on a mission to spread his dancing magic too. And so the famous Wallace Hall Academy Scottish Country Dancing team was formed. It would go on to perform (and still does, as Thornhill Scottish Country Dancers) with distinction throughout the world.

In 1973, Wallace Hall joined with Morton Academy and a new Wallace Hall Academy was created in Thornhill. It was another new era for Bill, one which drew to a close when he finally retired from teaching in 1983. But far from the gentle retirement many might have expected, Clem continued to teach piping and dancing, passing on his skill and technique to countless young men and women. Aside from a hectic life filled by his interests and hobbies, Clem too found love through Scottish Country Dancing, marrying Atsuko Mikami in 1986, and claiming rather humorously that “by this point, I hated being single.” They celebrate their silver anniversary this year.

There can be no finer recipient of an MBE than Bill Clement. There is no arrogance or ignorance with this man, only a willingness to educate, and be educated by, those around him. He maintains a modest attitude but it cannot mask his altruism and amiability. “Mr Clement gives me confidence”, read a comment from a child’s English homework. There can be no greater tribute to Bill Clement than that.



Wallace Hall ranks top in Dumfries and Galloway for entry into 'Highly Selective' University Places



In an article published in the Times Educational Supplement Scotland (TESS) in July it was reported that Wallace Hall Academy is ranked 23rd in the UK for pupils gaining places at highly selective universities. Only seven Scottish schools were placed above Wallace Hall and Wallace Hall Academy was the only school in Dumfries and Galloway to be highlighted. Kerry Fraser, Principal Teacher of Pupil Support, has managed and led an innovative approach to support senior pupils through the increasingly complex and competitive UCAS process, building on previous successes. This UK wide acknowledgement of the success of her approach and her team's hard work is a great achieve-

ment, particularly as such university places have become so difficult to gain.

The new S6 cohort is currently busy preparing applications for the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS), local colleges and some further afield, apprenticeships and jobs and polishing their CVs in preparations for interviews.

They know they will face fierce competition in all their career pathways and are working hard to put themselves at the top of interviewers' lists when it comes to decisions about places for 2012.

In preparation for this process, Mrs Fraser organises an extensive selection of talks, lessons and resources. This programme ensures that Wallace Hall Academy students are in a strong position to begin

their applications. In the lead up to the UCAS deadline, all students are allocated a key member of staff to work with on their application and personal statement. Specialists from UWS visit the school on a weekly basis to coach a number of students through the "Step Up to University" module. In addition, members of the Thornhill and District Rotary Club visit Wallace Hall Academy, offering mock interviews to work on how each student approaches interviews for UCAS courses and indeed the world of work. Mrs Fraser then checks all UCAS applications personally prior to sending these away to ensure that each individual's application is the best it can be. Mrs Fraser said: "I am thrilled that Wallace Hall Academy students have been so successful in gaining places in competitive universities. It is testimony to our students' hard work and their willingness to be involved in a variety of extra curricular activities both within school and in their own time that their applications are of such a high quality. I am sure this year's students will build upon previous success and I am looking forward to supporting them through the application process."

Barry Graham, Head Teacher, said: "We hope that each of our school leavers will gain the places they are seeking, whatever their chosen courses or other plans. Wallace Hall aims to support all pupils to set and achieve their goals for their futures – 'working together to achieve more'."

Representing QI

The Queensberry Initiative Strategic Group Pupil Reps (2011-12) have now been chosen. Thanks to all the pupils who put their names forward for membership of the QI Strategic Group.

Our new pupil reps are: Joe Kirkpatrick 2.N1 and Ailie Bryson 5.4. They are your representatives on this group so do let them know if you want issues raised at the QI meetings. The next QI Strategic Group meeting will be held on Tuesday 25 October.



WALLACE HALL PREFECTS



A rigorous application and selection process has resulted in Wallace Hall Academy choosing its new S6 Prefects for this school year. Wearing a new tie which has been designed by last year's Prefect cohort, this year's group of 25 Prefects have been divided into teams with each group allocated specific duties. By providing a range of clubs throughout the school day, Prefects are working hard to ensure that pupils of all age groups have an opportunity to engage in extra-curricular activities. The Prefects have also been helping

the new first year pupils settle into the school and have been accompanying them during registration each morning.

This year, the S6 Prefects are being led by Blair McMenemy, Head Boy; Cara Halliday, Head Girl; Maili Mackenzie, Deputy Head Girl and Nathan Moore, Deputy Head Boy (see photograph on the left). All four of them have embraced their

roles with enthusiasm and are looking forward to the challenges of the year ahead.

Mr Cubbon, Depute Head Teacher (S4/5/6), stated: "I am looking forward to working with Cara, Blair, Maili and Nathan and all of our S6 Prefects. This is an exciting opportunity for them to become fully involved with the running of the school and become excellent role models for our younger pupils."

WHA prefects with DHT Phil Cubbon and PT PSN Kerry Fraser



Wallace Hall Press Pack

Are you interested in journalism? That is one of the questions posed to S6 students as they embark on their final year at school.

Every S6 pupil at Wallace Hall Academy is required to take part in a Personal and Social Development Programme for two of their periods throughout the year. A number of committees and groups are formed focusing on activities such as Young Enterprise, Charities Committee, Classroom Support, Year Book and, following an affirmative response to the earlier posed question, the Publicity and Website Group. Participating in this group offers students the opportunity to display their creative talents whilst being mindful of the importance of meeting tight deadlines, valuable training for life beyond school whether through further education or the world of work.

The intrepid reporters volunteering for the Publicity and Website Group this year are: Grant Thorburn, Sam McNair Johnston, Angus Blair, Natasha Moss, Matthew McMillan, Adam Lawrie and Alastair Parkin – see the photograph on the right. Led by Mr Pape (Website) and Mrs Menzies (Publicity and School Newsletter), the group are given the opportunity to shape the school website and source, photograph and report on news taking place around the school.

Angus Blair, one of the group, commented: "Our termly newsletter is the perfect manner in which news and knowledge of Wallace Hall Academy's events and achievements can be easily and professionally distributed. Along with exciting events and flamboyant excursions, its pupils dive into a sea of academic, artistic and sporting achievement. Dipping our feet into the exciting and passionate pond of journalism and news-gathering, we strive to produce articles of the finest quality. What is most important however is that we are able to spread and encourage a deserving appreciation of success and talent."

This newsletter is the first this group of students have been involved in. We hope you enjoy their efforts.



Wallace Hall Pupil Council 2011 - 2012



The Pupil Council elections for the 2011/2012 session have now taken place. The following pupils have been successful:

- S6 Cara Halliday and Blair McMenemy
- S5 Emma E Sloan and Lenny Greatorex
- S4 Lauren Dalgleish and Connor Holland
- S3 Elspeth Nicholson and Robert Guthrie
- S2 Kirsten Clark and Joe Kirkpatrick
- S1 Lorna Rideout and Robert Ponton

Pupil Council meetings take place on a regular basis throughout the school year. Please feel free to approach any of your Pupil Council members if you have any suggestions or concerns about the school that you would like discussed at the meetings. Missing from the photograph on the left are Cara Halliday (Mairi Mackenzie attended the meeting on behalf of Cara that day), Emma E Sloan, Connor Holland and Robert Ponton.

QI Celebrating Success Event - 6 July 2011

The Queensberry Initiative at Wallace Hall Academy finished off the school year with a night devoted to highlighting the key events of the year and letting pupils, staff and community volunteers have their say about the parts of the project they have been involved in during 2010-11.

It was particularly moving to listen to pupils talking about what they had achieved through the Initiative. Their comments were the main factor in the number of business volunteers who came forward at the end of the evening to sign up for either the business mentoring scheme or to offer work placements.

The Queensberry Initiative is supported by the Dumfries and Galloway LEADER programme, the Holywood Trust, Dumfries and Galloway Council, Dumfries and Galloway Housing Partnership and Keir and Tynron Community Councils. The photograph on the right shows Wallace Hall Academy Head Teacher Barry Graham, QI staff and members of the QI Strategic Group receiving a cheque from Nicola Hill of the Dumfries and Galloway Leader Programme.



Photographs below show some of those taking part on the night.



Business Mentor Launch

All pupils in S4, S5 and S6 have an opportunity to apply for a business mentor through the Queensberry Initiative. Don't delay - get your form in today!

Wallace Hall walks tall

by Robert Guthrie



The heavens may have opened at the start but it did not dampen the spirits of over 500 Wallace Hall Academy pupils as they recently ventured out into the back roads of Thornhill on a sponsored walk to raise funds for the school. They also danced to music provided by West Sound



FM's Breakfast Show presenter, Bruce McKenzie, and played rounds of hockey, rugby and football.

This was the third year that sponsored events have been organised at Wallace Hall. Pupils were sponsored by friends and family to take part in one of the five physical activities during one afternoon.

Despite the torrential rain after a sunny start, pupils completed the challenges in good spirits, laughing and talking to each other on the way. At the halfway stage, staff from Tesco Extra in Dumfries provided us with cups of water, which we were very grateful for! Grant Marchbank, an S3 pupil at Wallace Hall, said "I enjoyed the walk and it was a good laugh at some bits."

Meanwhile, in the school playing fields, the dancing kicked off with music from West Sound's Bruce McKenzie who features in the morning show



'Bruce@Breakfast'. Pupils also played football with staff from the Dumfries and Galloway Council Active Schools programme and games of rugby and hockey on the Academy's new sports pitches.

All in all, pupils raised a total of £1091. Organiser Diane Jarvie, School Support Manager at Wallace Hall, said: "Thanks to all of you who participated in the organised events. This fantastic sum of money will be used to support after school activities and the school minibuses over the coming year. If you have any suggestions for improvement to the event next year please pass them to your Pupil Council member and they will be considered. Well done to all who took part!"



Promoting Good Health

Health and wellbeing is high on the agenda at Wallace Hall Academy. Depute Head Teacher, Mark Turner, said: "Encouraging a healthy lifestyle embodies the aims of the Curriculum for Excellence and to support this the school, in partnership with our Parent Council, decided to organise a special Health and Wellbeing event to coincide with the final day of the school's P7 induction days."

The event was open to the wider community and around 40 exhibitors and specialists came along and offered information and advice on areas such as nutrition and looking and feeling good. Mr Turner said: "One of the highlights was when HE teacher Ann Wilson organised an excellent Ready, Steady Cook session ably supported by our school kitchen staff. Competition was fierce with 'chef' Heston Graham's efforts narrowly edging in front of my own culinary masterpiece!"



"Parent Council member Sandra Harkness added: "Some of the participants were genuinely surprised at the variety of information and activities that were available under the heading of health and wellbeing. All in all we believe the day was very successful and we hope to be able to organise further Health and Wellbeing events on a bi-annual basis."

Dumfries and District Music Festival

Over the past few years, Wallace Hall Academy pupils have achieved significant success in all sections of Dumfries and District Music Festival.

The school has been consistently praised on the high quality and number of participants coming forward. This year we would like to build on that success by encouraging as many of our pupils as possible to enter. The sections

are: Accordion and Fiddle, Country Dance, Music, Piping and Drumming and Speech and Drama.

If you would be interested in taking part please see Mrs Whyte, Mr Riley or Mrs Menzies for entry details.

The photograph on the right shows Ellie Davies, Catherine Anderson and Emily Morton with their certificates from last year.



Your House Captains for 2011/2012



Cairn

L - R: Nathan Hogg, Catherine Anderson, Emma Harkness, Kerris Parkinson, John Holden, James Robertson, Rachael Sims and Caitlin Harley. Missing from photograph: Adam Dalgleish, Rachel Shnapp, Connor Holland and Matthew Holden.



Nith

L - R: Cameron Robertson, Nick Willetts, Oliver Rideout, Hannah Jones, Finlay McCall, Ryan Sims, Morgan Crosbie, Martha Ferguson and Lucy Doig. Missing from photograph: Laura Kennedy, Rebecca Moodycliffe and Connor Manson.



Scaur

L - R: Alison Maxwell, Kathryn Park, Ally Taylor, Abbie Houston, Craig Neill, Sean Wicks, Declan Hill and Kelsey Hirst. Missing from photograph: Imogen Gordon, Niall Holden, Aaran McLachlan and Molly Beattie.

Operation Wallacea

During July five senior pupils (Vivienne Clark, Hannah Ferguson, Eliot Willets, Muir Coulter and Robert Peacock) and a teacher (Mr McEwen) from Wallace Hall Academy visited Honduras in Central America to take part in Operation Wallacea. Operation Wallacea is an organisation that operates biological and conservation management research programmes in remote locations across the world.

The Wallace Hall expedition involved taking part in a large scale scientific survey of the cloud forest in the national park. The group had to rise early every morning to trek to the location of the survey where they measured

the number and size of trees in an area to determine how much carbon dioxide was trapped within the forest. Another day they set pitfall traps baited with fresh horse manure to work out the number of dung beetles in the forest. Surveys were also done of the birds, small mammals, lizards, frogs, bats and snakes.

After a week in the mountains the group left for a coral island off the coast of Honduras to study its delicate ecosystem. To do this they first had to learn to Scuba dive before being taken out into the Caribbean.

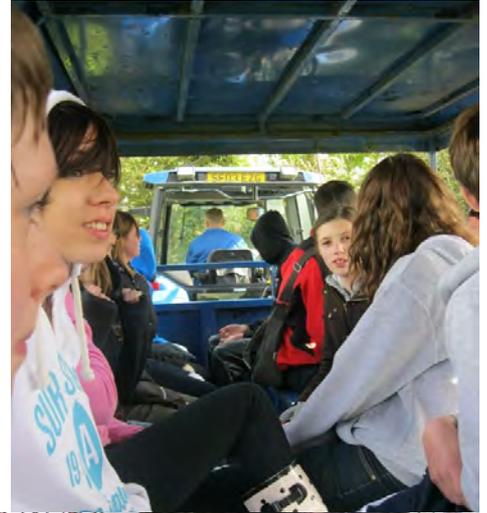
The group experienced two very exciting weeks and returned home with many tales to tell of their adventures.



Crichton Capers

Geography students embarked on a visit to a local Dairy Farm early in September. They were met by Emma Boyes who had visited the school the previous week and introduced students to life on a modern dairy farm. Fiona Jamieson, who represents the Royal Highland Education Trust, was on hand to ensure everyone got hot chocolate and biscuits. The

pupils were given a tour of the calving pens, calves and milking parlour by Emma. They were fortunate enough to witness a calf being born. Hugh McClymont, farm manager at the Crichton, took the group on a tractor and trailer tour of the maize fields, lucerne crop and agri-environment schemes on the farm. Everyone enjoyed an informative and rewarding visit.



First Year Feelings

Report and photographs by Grant Thorburn, Matthew McMillan, Sam McNair-Johnston and Adam Lawrie

As one of our first tasks for the newsletter we decided to interview six first year pupils (Callum Williams, Brionney Prowse, Caitlin Harley, Scott Neilson, Luke Wells and Georgia Harris) to find out how they felt about Wallace Hall Academy so far. All six pupils said that they are enjoying their time at Wallace Hall. We asked them what their favourite subjects are and received a range of replies from PE and Drama to History and French. As all first year pupils are required to eat in the dining hall during lunchtimes we asked if they found it to be a nice area to have lunch and chat with friends. All said they felt it was good but it would be better if it was bigger with more

space. Of course we had to ask who their favourite teachers are! The majority reply by our six S1 pupils was Miss Birch. Other favourites were Mr Bell, Mrs Weir and Mr Harley. Our final question to our interviewees was if there was anything they would change about Wallace Hall Academy. Most of them said there wasn't anything they would change other than faster computers and lunchtimes at a different time. We had a good time interviewing the first years and hope they continue to enjoy their time at Wallace Hall Academy. Photographs on the left show Scott and Caitlin, Georgia and Luke and Callum and Brionney.



Reach for the stars!

by Robert Guthrie

You could say we got off to a shaky start. In fact, some of us were terrified! This was the first time that Wallace Hall Academy had taken the eight pupils from each year group who had received the largest number of merits from their teachers, for a day out in Edinburgh, including an assault course at the Indoor Climbing Arena, 100ft off the ground.



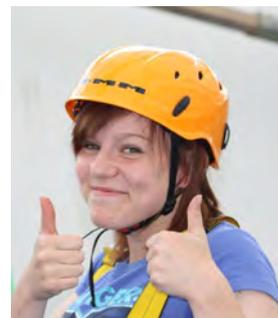
So at 9.30am we all climbed into the bus, wondering what we were going to face in the afternoon. We arrived at Edinburgh about 11am. First on the itinerary was a tour starting from the Scottish Parliament Building at Holyrood to Edinburgh Castle led by Mr Turner.

Once we reached the end of the Royal Mile, we walked down to Princes Street Gardens where we bought lunch and enjoyed some free time. The girls decided we should all look at the shops, such as New Look and River Island, much to the frustration of the boys – who cheered loudly when it was realised that the five storey Primark had shut down for refurbishment!

After lunch we reassembled in the gardens and went back to the bus. We made our way to EICA: Ratho (Edinburgh International Climbing Arena: Ratho). The whole building is in a big pit dug out of the ground and there are even plants still embedded in the walls. As we walked through the entrance we went over to big windows and looked up at the aerial assault course, 100 feet off the ground

We all got a quick safety talk and then made our way up a spiral staircase to a big platform to get ready. We were shaking the whole time! We got up to the top and looked down. It was scary! Things like this look so easy in photos but when you are actually there it's a different story. However most of us completed the abseiling and the aerial assault and, looking back, it was a great experience. The buzz you got at the end was great!

We went back very tired to our families, able to tell them what a fantastic day we'd all had. Thanks go to Mr Turner, Mrs Miller, Mr Wilson, Mrs Bainbridge and Mr McEwen for organising the trip. And we all ended on a high!



Pupils and Staff testing out their climbing skills!



Heraldic Historians

On the 15th September I went with the rest of my class to Drumlanrig Castle to look at and draw the coats of arms on the castle walls.

When we got there we passed the magnificent entrance of the castle in order to get through to the courtyard. Here we were asked to look at the various coats of arms carved on the castle walls and sketch them onto sheets of paper. This exercise was to help us with our History homework which involves either researching our own family coat of arms or picking a coat of arms and drawing this carefully into our workbook.

The trip was very interesting and I learned lots about the history of Drumlanrig Castle and why families had a coat of arms.

Report by Becky Walker



On Thursday 15th September our History class travelled to Drumlanrig Castle Courtyard. We were there to look at the heraldic coats of arms on the castle walls.

We sketched as many coats of arms as we could and while we were there learned lots about Scottish History and saw a painting of the battle of Stirling Bridge.

Report by Daryl Hurley

Our New S1 on Day 1!



1.C1



1.C2



1.N1



1.N2



1.S1



1.S2

Natasha takes 'The Long Way Round'

article written by Natasha Moss



My name is Natasha Moss. I'm 17 years old and currently in S6 at Wallace Hall Academy. Motorbikes have always been an interest to me so I was very eager to pass my bike test. When I turned 16 I got myself a job at WHSmith in Dumfries and not long after applied for my provisional licence. I then passed my CBT and quickly bought a Rieju - a sports bike instead of a sissy moped (sorry lads, had to be said). Although it was 50cc it could still do just over 60mph.

After a year, I sold my Rieju and bought a Honda RVF400 NC35 before I had even passed my bike test as I was determined that I would pass in no time. Both parts of my test, Module 1 and 2, took place at the test centre in Glasgow, which is also where I did my lessons. The day I passed my test I couldn't wait to get back home and drive my new bike. That day I remembered that last year, when on holiday with my parents, I watched Ewan McGregor's 'Long Way Round': a documentary of Ewan

McGregor and Charley Boorman taking a life changing adventure around the world on their motorbikes. This film inspired me to get a bigger bike and to put it to a use that no other schoolgirl has ever done before: to drive my motorbike to the North of Africa and back through 15 different countries for Children in Need. At first I wasn't sure about making this journey but as it is for charity I'm glad I made the decision to go for it.

I've been planning this whole journey with my dad, (who will also be coming with me on the trip for support), since way before the summer holidays. However, it is only recently that I have been able to publicise the trip as Children in Need have only just given us permission to go-ahead. Two other charities will also receive donations from our adventure; Cash for Kids and Yorkhill Childrens' Hospital. Yorkhill Childrens' Hospital has a special meaning for me as my youngest brother, who is now nearly 4, had an operation there when he was only 12 weeks old.

These past few weeks have been very stressful as preparing for this trip hasn't been easy: finding every single road we need to take, checking when all the ferries leave and the costs for each of them, locating every single petrol station we need to stop at, upgrading insurances for me, my dad and the bikes, finding a school en-route in each country to talk to the students about what my aim is and also to raise awareness and identifying different organisations and individuals who might sponsor us. So far we have managed to get our

fuel sponsored by St Michael's Petrol Station with Atlas Communications sponsoring any phone calls we make and the internet connection. I will be keeping an up to date record of each place we get to and posting plenty of pictures on my website. By the time you read this I will be almost home as I leave on the 20th September 2011 and the journey will take around 2 and half weeks. However, there is still plenty of time to make donations to my chosen charities. My family and friends have been extremely supportive of this venture and hopefully you will too. Thank you.

To make a donation, text Tash94 £(1-10) to 70070, or you can visit my website www.scotlandtoafrika.com where you can follow the updates of the journey and also links to my 'Justgiving' donation page. Or just go to www.justgiving.com/scotlandtoafrika and my 'scotlandtoafrika' facebook account where there will also be regular updates of the journey including plenty of pictures. Thanks Guys!!



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.wallacehallacademy.com for the latest news and information.

S5 pupils are up for the Challenge

On Thursday 15 and Friday 16 September eight S5 pupils took the short trip to the Crichton Campus in Dumfries to take part in the second University of the West of Scotland Enterprise Challenge. This competition is open to all secondary schools within the region and this year's theme was local food and drink. Each of the nine teams taking part had to come up with an ingenious and creative idea for a new product or service which would be produced or sourced locally.

The team from WHA was called Risco and their business idea was to produce a range of healthy and low fat cupcakes using local produce. After much thought and de-



liberation, it was agreed that the company name should be Gallolicious - due to the fact that the cupcake ingredients were all sourced from Dumfries and Galloway and, of course, because their cupcakes looked and tasted delicious!

Before the actual event the



team spent a lot of time coming up with their idea and their company name as well as planning their strategy and identifying their target market. During the two days at the University, the pupils were involved in getting their business up and running by producing a radio advert, press article, display stand and, of course, the final presentation. The pupils were given useful information and tips for success by University staff and local business people. After all teams had presented, the winners of each category were chosen and Risco were successful in winning the 'Best Radio Advert Award'. The team were delighted with this victory and overall had a fantastic two days finding out everything that is in-

involved in creating and running a successful business.

Many thanks to everyone at the University for their help and support prior to the event, as well as during the two days. Also thanks to the local businesses who sponsored the event and gave up their time to provide excellent advice to all teams.



Turning Japanese

by Euan McIntosh

Recently I have been teaching a small Japanese class within the school. I have been enjoying it. All of my students have been really intuitive and I am lucky to have found a fluent Japanese speaker to help me with the class now.

The class was started after a lot of people expressed an interest in certain aspects of Japanese culture such as Manga and the Samurai. When I men-

日本語を勉強しています

tioned that I had taught myself Japanese, I was asked to teach others and so the class was formed. I hope to have a few students sitting N5 level JLPT exams by the end of the school year, thus recognising their abilities to understand core points of the Japanese language.

If you want to join my class, feel free to come along to A1015 on Thursday at lunchtime or after school on a Thursday.





On Friday 9th September almost all of Wallace Hall Academy S1 pupils travelled to Kingswood Activity Centre near Hexham for an adventure weekend.

After lunch and after we all tried to ensure that we got the best bunk bed, the programme of activities began. Pupils were separated into groups and through clever planning and good timekeeping we were all able to take part in 10 different challenges over the 2 day period.

The activities included problem solving and CSI Kingswood in which we used ICT, science and investiga-

Kingswood Adventure Weekend

Report by Lucy Doig S1

tion skills to solve a crime. We had two different assault courses to overcome. One was done blindfold in lots of mud which took a real team effort to get to the finish and the other tested our endurance. Other activities included a climbing wall and crate stacking, where two people were harnessed and had to build as high a wall as possible in the given time. There was also a 3-G swing, which was exhilarating and frightening at the same time and which was nearly everyone's favourite thing.

The staff at Kingswood were great fun and very supportive. I think they were determined to make us lose our voices with all the singing and shouting that took place over the whole weekend. It

was especially good fun on Saturday night when we toasted mallows around a campfire, sang songs and told jokes. All too soon it was Sunday lunchtime and we had to pack up for home.

The trip is something new for first years and we are all glad we had the chance to participate. It gave us all a chance to get to know each other. Since most of the activities were based around team building and trust, we are sure we will settle into Wallace Hall much more easily as a result. Everyone had a great time and we would all like to say a huge thank you to Wallace Hall Academy staff for taking us and making it great fun.



DRUMLANRIG ADVENTURE DAY

Curriculum for Excellence and transition on the Queensberry estate

On Wednesday 29th of June 105 primary 7 pupils visited the Queensberry Estate to enjoy a range of teambuilding activities based around numeracy, literacy and health and wellbeing. The pupils were split into three groups (Cairn, Nith and Scaur) with three activity walks organised for each group around the lake, in the adventure playground and through the grounds of the castle.

Although the weather was damp the day was a great success. Ross Bell and James Robertson, new S1 pupils from Loreburn Primary, said: "We really enjoyed our day and

made lots of new friends from other schools. When we arrived we were put into a group with people we didn't know. This has helped us be more relaxed and confident about coming to a new school. The best bit was having our lunch in the tent and having a chance to chat with our tutors and new classmates."

Yvonne Gall, Depute Head Teacher with responsibility for S1 said: "This was a new and exciting venture for our induction days and we are very fortunate to have such fantastic facilities on our doorstep. Thank you to staff and pupils for making the day such a success."



Introducing your new Careers Adviser



Juliet Campbell is the new Careers Adviser at Wallace Hall Academy and will be in school every Monday. Juliet has been a Careers Adviser with Skills Development Scotland

for 5 years and has worked with a number of secondary schools in Dumfries & Galloway. Previous to this Juliet worked for Scottish Enterprise supporting local businesses to grow.

Appointments can be made for S4, S5 and S6 pupils on a Monday in school. Pupils can request an interview with Juliet, either by asking their PT Pupil Support or a member of the SMT to arrange an interview or by contacting Mrs Menzies in the Library.

Juliet offers 1:1 careers guidance appointments through a self-referral service and will also carry out group sessions throughout the school year with a range of year groups to support pupils with career planning.

Careers guidance interviews look at stages of career planning

and will help you:

- decide on the career options available
- explain how school subjects give you the knowledge you need for further education and entering employment
- look at College/University/ Training opportunities
- improve job search and interview skills

Juliet's contact details are as follows: Juliet Campbell, Careers Adviser, Careers Scotland Centre, Loreburne Centre, High Street, Dumfries, DG1 2BD. Email: Juliet.campbell@sds.co.uk. Telephone: 01387 272500. Information about all of Skills Development Scotland's services can be found at: www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk

Getting Active and Learning in the Community

The Queensberry Initiative at Wallace Hall Academy is delighted to get two new courses launched and started this term. Partnership has been the key word for the success of QI over the past two years and it is once again the underpinning for both these new courses.

Activity Tourism (AT) is both a new course for the school and also for Scotland, as we are the first educational establishment to be offering it at an Intermediate level anywhere in the country. Miss Peoples is leading this course and there are 11 Sixth Years undertaking AT on a pilot basis.

Barony College is the key partner in this venture and has arranged that Graeme Scott of Active Summits provide the input from the activity tourism business world. Graeme was a member of the national team who developed this course and he is very pleased to be working with the school to pilot AT at the school/college level. The first 'day out', starting their field work on AT, will be held in late September, when the Sixth Year group will be trying to survive in the wilderness of Dalswinton Woods. Wish them luck!

An introduction to hairdressing is also being offered in a new type of partnership, with Hajoko Salon's Ann Patterson of Penpont and with Dumfries and Galloway College. The six pupils from S4 and S5 are receiving a theory input from a college lecturer in the school each week and are then having a very hands on opportunity,

working in a real-life salon for an afternoon each week. So far the feedback from the pupils has been very positive and we hope that this type of community partnership will be the model for a variety of future course developments.

The photograph below shows the S4 and S5 pupils on the introduction to hairdressing course with their college lecturer Joyce Litster. L to R: Ainsley Huxham, Joyce Litster (Dumfries and Galloway College), Meghan Chesney, Hayleigh Watson, Kreetta Seep, Kaylee McNeil and Stacey Haugen.



World Class!

report by Robert Guthrie



'Kick off', 'Golden Goal', and 'Shoot to Win' - these are just some of the great titles written by world class football author Dan Freedman. The nationally and internationally renowned writer visited Wallace Hall Academy on the 6th July and scored a big success with pupils from the school and other local primaries.

Dan, who was a top football journalist between 2000 and 2007, had many exciting stories to tell. He told us he dreamed of becoming a footballer when he was at primary school, but nearing the end of the 6th form, he realised that he wasn't able to go down that career path. Instead he chose to pursue a writing career, enabling him to be paid to watch and write about the subject he loved.

Throughout his extraordinary career, Dan has interviewed top footballers from the England team, such as Rio Ferdinand and Frank Lampard, and has travelled abroad to places like Germany for the 2006 World Cup. As well as some great times, he described some more challenging ones – like when Steven Gerrard didn't understand a question he asked him, even when it was repeated two or three times! It just shows how difficult an interview can be.

In 2007, Dan looked for a football novel to buy as a present for a boy. Amazingly, he could not find one! So, Dan decided to leave his position as a top sports "journo" for England, and to write a 'full-on' football story which would get kids interested and share his passion for football. Dan was even offered help from his football contacts, including the England squad, so he knew he had support.

Dan quickly finished writing the first draft of his new book, featuring a young fictional footballer, Jamie Johnson. Then his next challenge was to get published. Dan casually sent it to a publisher, thinking it would not be difficult. However, he got a letter back saying "Dear Dan, we really loved your story, we thought it was great. Unfortunately we won't be publishing it, but good luck for the future." That was it!

But Dan did not give up hope. He got the manuscript back, made changes, got footballers, friends,



family, even random people from the street and loads of others to read his story before he sent it off again. By now, three years had flown past, but Dan knew he now had the right result.

This time Dan sent off the story to about five different publishers, and guess what? Letters came back from each of the companies begging to publish the book! Dan eventually chose a company and soon the book was a best-seller.

Dan has now written five books in the series, plus an extra one which he was commissioned by World Book Day to write for a special edition.

Dan released his new book only a few days ago and it again features Jamie, playing for Scotland in a big championship game against Argentina.

All of the pupils enjoyed the event very much and special thanks go to Jane McMillan (Head of English and Modern Languages), Caroline Menzies (Librarian at WHA), and of course Dan.

So, how did we feel after the visit? World Class!



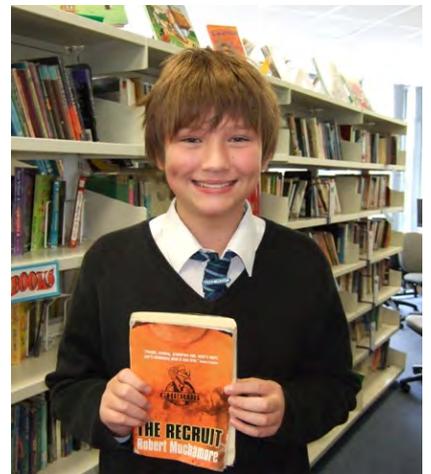


Joe's Opinion Counts

Last term budding book reviewers were invited to submit reviews to Mrs Menzies in the Library for submission to the Scottish Book Trust website. S2 pupil Joe Kirkpatrick took up that challenge and reviewed "The Recruit" by popular author Robert Muchamore.

Heather Collins, Children's Programme Coordinator at the Scottish

Book Trust, contacted Mrs Menzies recently with the news that she has chosen Joe's review for publication on the Scottish Book Trust Website. Joe's review is published below and can also be viewed online at <http://www.scottishbooktrust.com/children-and-young-people/books/reviews-and-recommendations/recruit>. Congratulations to Joe on making his opinion count!



"The Recruit" by Robert Muchamore



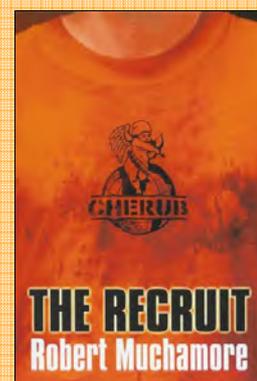
James Choke, a fairly normal English 12 year old boy who goes to a fairly normal English school, suddenly finds himself parentless where upon his world changes completely. He is forced to go to a children's home where he is recruited by Cherub, a top secret govern-

ment agency that recruits children as spies.

The Recruit is a modern 21st century thriller that describes James's adventures. The characters in this novel are strongly depicted and come alive right in front of you. The setting of England is familiar, which is good. This story ends on a rather happy note and definitely leaves the reader wanting more. This is a good thing because there are 11 other books in this series, each one just as enjoyable.

The Recruit is a must read which will have you on the edge of

your seat one moment and rolling on the floor laughing the next.



Stationery Shop in the Library

A reminder that the following items of stationery are for sale in the School Library: pencils (30p), pens (30p), erasers (30p), sharpeners (30p), protractors (50p), highlighters (40p), 15cm rulers (30p), 30cm rulers (30p) and 4GB data pens (£9.00). As a result of pupil demand, scientific calculators (£7.50) and jotters (60p) are also now on sale. Any profit that is made from this venture goes towards purchasing new books 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 books 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.

Bursary Bonus by Eleanor Burns

For 4 weeks during the past summer holiday I have been working for the RSPB in Dumfries and Galloway. I was given the opportunity after gaining a bursary through the Nuffield Foundation Science Bursary Scheme. The bursary scheme gives S5/S6 pupils an opportunity to work alongside practitioners in scientific research and development and carry out their own research projects.

My project, titled "*Demographics of Red Kites Attending Bellymack Hill Farm Feeding Station*", consisted of field work and analysis of data relating to the population of the birds that visited the feeding station daily. This involved being outdoors for

about 3 hours every day studying the kites and spending the rest of the day analysing data. Due to the dreary Scottish summer, I ended up being clad in full waterproofs for the majority of my project, not something that should be acceptable in summer months!

For the final stage of the placement I had to produce a full scientific report and present my findings at an award ceremony earlier this month. At the award ceremony I found myself as only one of three from Dumfries and Galloway and one of 107 from Scotland. Many of the students, including myself, have used this opportunity to gain experience in the field they go on to study at university.



Overall the experience was very much worthwhile and I definitely recommend any students wanting to further their studies in science to consider applying for the bursary.

S1 Palaeoquest Activity

Report by Kyle Stitt



On Friday 9th of September most of S1 went to Hexham but some people didn't go. I was one of the ones who went to Palaeoquest at Drumlanrig Castle.

We were learning how to throw spears properly and how to kill an injured animal

with a spear without getting too close in case the animal attacks you. We also learned how to make string. It was very hard. You had to get bits from a plant and twist them till there was a kink in it. You kept on twisting till eventually you made quite strong string. We learned that one weapon was called a sparrow. It was a combination of a spear and an arrow.

We tasted some things like nettles and sorrel. The nettles were absolutely amazing but I thought the sorrel was horrible.

Ryan and I went down a hill head first. We were absolutely soaking. We then walked up a giant hill. When we got to the top the guide Gary Bonn showed us how to carry a spear. He said you carry it a certain way to be ready should an animal charge at you. He explained that you go down on one knee and then you make sure you have the point at the end facing forwards. This way, if the animal ran at you then it would run into the spear.

Then he asked us to go and stand where we thought the perfect place for a camp was. Once we had chosen our spot he then showed us what was the best position for a camp and explained why.

Another activity had Ryan lying down and we marked the length of him with spears. Next we moved all the leaves. We were all asked to find some roots which we used to tie three sticks together. Having done all of this we finally made a shelter. It was really comfy.

All of those taking part learned a great deal about the hunter-gatherer lifestyle. All together it was a great day.



Texas Scramble 2011

We held an Open Texas Scramble at Thornhill Golf Course on Saturday 25th June which was a successful and fun event attracting sixteen teams of four.

The winners were Wallace & Gromit (Robert Kerr, Iain Ireland, John Wallace & Robert Haddow), 2nd place went to The Four Amigos (Phil Cubbon, James Hannay, Ian Scott & Graham Anderson) and 3rd place went to Galloway Hire Tools (Kevin & Lynda Robertson and Malcolm & Greg Jarvie). Wattie Yule won the 'Nearest the Pin' at the 8th and Aki Davidson won the 'Longest Drive' at the 18th.

Our thanks go to Wm Marchbank Haulage Contractors, Nith Valley Construction and Nith Valley Embroidery for their generous team prizes and also to Thornhill Golf Club for allowing us to host this event. The plan for next year is that the fixture will go into the



'open' section of the members booklet which means that all other clubs will know about the event and we hope to attract a bigger entry. It's a great fun day out and you don't need to be a handicap golfer to enjoy it and even be in with a chance of a prize. Look out for the date of next year's event in a future newsletter and on our website.

Sophie Rules the Waves

report by Sophie Logan



On the 14th to the 19th of August I travelled to Ipswich to sail on a tall ship called Duet for 6 days. I had not had any sailing experience before so this was something very new to me. The trip was part of my

Gold Duke of Edinburgh and counted as my residential section. The criteria for this meant I wasn't allowed to know anybody on the boat prior to the trip. In total there were eight of us on board, two of whom were in charge of the boat (captain and skipper).

The boat that we were on is 100 years old so constantly floods and is incredibly small. We all got split up into groups to cook, clean and go on watch and, for some of the time, sit on the deck and eat cake! Over the 6 days we travelled 201 miles, some of which we did in the middle of the night.



This meant that great care had to be taken over the navigation side of things to avoid the sand banks. Over the six days I made very good friends. I am still in contact with most of the people on the trip and will definitely keep in touch.



Cantering for Charity

Wallace Hall Academy pupil Shona Rhodes, S4, recently took part in a sponsored ride to raise money for the British Horse Society, World Horse Welfare, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire Air Ambulance, the Mark Davis Injured Riders Fund and ACE (Animal Care in Egypt).

The ride was around the famous Burghley cross country course. The tracks take riders onto the cross coun-

try course which some of the best eventers in the world aspire to ride round. Riders can walk or trot around the fences and enjoy the experience of seeing the massive fences first hand from the back of their own horses!

Shona raised an impressive £328.50 in sponsor money with the help of teachers, friends and family. The experience was amazing and she hopes to take part in it again next year.

Swimming Sensations by Abbie Houston



During the summer holidays from the 29th of July to the 4th of August my fellow Dumfries Dolphin team members, including WHA pupils Alix Muir, Shannon McClelland and Con-

nor McClelland and I drove down to Wales to compete in the Welsh Nationals.

With a long eight hour journey there and back we brought back an astonishing amount of medals amongst us all. I was delighted to collect three gold medals for my front crawl events, two silvers and a bronze. Along with my three gold medal winnings I managed to break three Welsh records.

The medals were well deserved to us all as we train hard nine times a week, completing seventeen hours among those sessions at DG1 Leisure Complex.



Sign up and support your school

It's only a few weeks till our Half Marathon, 10k and Fun Run at Drumlanrig Castle on Saturday 29th October. Entries are coming in now and it looks very promising. When we started talking about organising a half marathon we had a 5 year plan to make it into an important event in our community and the wider race calendar. Indications so far are that we are on track to make year two even more successful than last year.



The event is organised on behalf of Wallace Hall Academy and any profits are paid into the school's Fundraising Account. The money raised from fundraising events is used to support pupils in a variety of ways

i.e. school clubs, musical equipment to ensure continued high standard at school concerts and whole school projects. For this reason we think it's important that pupils are represented on the day, either by entering a race or by volunteering to help. Last year we had 100 volunteers and unfortunately not many of our pupils amongst them. Without a high number of volunteers we couldn't possibly continue with our plans.

We would appreciate it if you could encourage your children to support the event in either capacity. Entry forms can be obtained from the school office and volunteers can either leave their names at the office or see Mrs Jarvie, School Support Manager. Parent volunteers are also most welcome. Look forward to seeing you there.

Find out more information about the event on our school website or visit www.whahalfmarathon.com.



A number of lunchtime participation activities and after school clubs are now running at Wallace Hall Academy. These include: S1 Haven, Sailing, Table Tennis, Crafts, Badminton, Sugar Craft, Football, Ultimate Game Fishing, Rugby, Eco Group, Warhammer, Japanese, Golf, Hockey, Chess, Computer Games, Creative Writing, Friendship Bracelets, Scripture Union, Drama, Spanish, Jewellery and Wallace Hall News Production. A full list with days/times is kept in the Library. Please see Mr McEwen or Mrs Menzies if you would like any further information.

Rugby Report: Wallace Hall lose nail biter at Annan

report and photographs by Adam Lawrie



An inexperienced Wallace Hall side nearly came away from Annan with a great win in the Scottish Cup but were thwarted by a last minute push.

The squad had been weakened by late withdrawals and there were five debutants in the side. Wallace Hall took the lead when Benjy Goodrich penetrated the defence with a fizzing run down the left; John Carlisle then scored the con-

version with ease. Wallace Hall's defence was rigid and the scrum led by Captain Adam Swift held their own against the larger and heavier Annan back row. Competition was fierce and the tackles were hard and strong. The game remained tight with Wallace Hall on top for the majority of the game. In the last ten minutes Annan began to dominate and their pressure paid off when they scored underneath the post. However Wallace Hall still

held the lead after the Annan fly half missed the conversion. With two points in the game, Annan sensed a victory and scored in the last minute to win 10-7 to put them through to the next round of the tournament. Despite the defeat, their performance against a tough and well organised team gives the squad something to build on for the remainder of the season.



Tour of Britain

by Declan Kostka

I arrived early in Peebles on Sunday 11th September for stage one of the Tour of Britain - Peebles to Dumfries.

I wanted to meet up with Andy Tennant, one of the competing riders from Rapha Condor Sharp. Andy gave me some advice on how I could improve my cycling. I also got my photo taken with him, got my Leopard Trek Jersey signed and my photo taken with the German rider Jens Voight, with Lars Boom of Rabobank and with the Irish Champion Matt Brammeier of Team HTC Highroad.

The Tour of Britain attracts

some huge names in the world of professional cycling such as Thor Hushovd "The God of Thunder" who is the current World Road Race Champion. He rides for Garmin Cervelo. Also in attendance was Mark Cavendish "The Manx Missile" who won 5 stages in this year's Tour de France. Mark rides for Team HTC Highroad. The photograph right is of me and the Swedish rider Alex Wetterall of Endura Racing, who was very excited about the race. Alex has been selected by Sweden to ride the individual time trial at the world championships later in the month.

The noise of the crowd was deafening at the final countdown to the race as they cheered on their favourites.



We followed the race down to Moffat. If the weather had been better the riders would have been quicker to reach Dumfries. They endured heavy rain and blustery winds.

It was no surprise that Mark Cavendish won the late sprint to take the stage win in Dumfries. After all he is the fastest man in cycling!

Parent Council News

by Annie Stoddart

It was great to see so many of you at our Health and Wellbeing event held at the end of June. With over 30 stalls and a variety of activities it proved to be both informative and highly entertaining – who realised we had such culinary talent in the senior management team! It was also a great opportunity to attract people into the school to see what goes on. Thank you to Sandra and her team for all their hard work organising this.

Next events on the Agenda are the **Half Marathon on Saturday 29th October** (runners, volunteers and spectators all required - see separate article) and the infamous **Wallace Hall Academy Burns Supper** which will be held on **Friday 20th January**.

If you have never been to a Burns Supper I cannot think of a better one to try. Tickets will be on sale shortly. Get the date in

your diary and drum up a few friends and family for a great night out. There will be top class music, recitals and highly entertaining speeches not to mention delicious food on offer. In addition you will be raising much appreciated funds for school groups and activities. Last year these went to the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme and the School Library; this year the Queensberry Initiative. So come on – book those tickets and let's fill the Bailey Hall!

Parent Council goes from strength to strength – we welcomed two new members last year and two new co-opted members from the community. We are always looking for new faces and ideas. With Curriculum for Excellence changes and new exam structures which will affect the younger end of the school it is particularly important that we have your views represented.

Meetings are held in the school meeting room from

7.30pm and usually last an hour. We are a friendly group and tea and coffee is served to add to the easy atmosphere. We usually have an invited guest to keep us up to speed with what is happening in education and in the school. Agendas and minutes are posted on the school website.

We have set our meeting dates and this year have varied the nights to make them more accessible to all. The dates are as follows:

Wednesday 9th November
 Wednesday 14th December
 Thursday 12th January
 Thursday 9th February
 Thursday 8th March
 Monday 14th May
 Monday 11th June

If you haven't already tried the parent council why not make this the year! We would love to see you. For more information contact a member via the school office or check us out on the school website.

The Importance of Good Attendance

Wallace Hall Academy believes that full time attendance is vital to secure a good level of education.

Parents/Guardians have a legal responsibility to ensure that children attend school regularly. If a pupil is in receipt of an EMA it is essential that we know why your son/daughter is absent as this could result in non payment for that week.

In order to ensure that pupils' attendance records are accurate it is crucial that if a pupil is absent the parent/guardian should telephone the school in the morning to inform them of the absence as early as possible. On a pupil's return to school a signed note, with the reason for absence, should be

handed in to the class tutor. If you know in advance that your son/daughter will be absent from school on a particular day you should send a note in with your child to give to their tutor. This will allow us to update our records as early as possible and will save the school sending out a Groupcall message.

All pupils are reminded that poor timekeeping and lateness is also recorded. It is crucial that all pupils arrive in time for Registration in the morning as well as for all classes during the day.

The Attendance and Liaison Officer, Miss Lorraine Harris, is in Wallace Hall Academy every Monday and Thursday. She works very closely with the PTs PSN to monitor attendance and latecoming on a



weekly basis. If there are any concerns or patterns of non attendance and/or latecoming Miss Harris will address these with pupils where appropriate.

Picture above shows Miss Lorraine Harris, ALO.

For more information on activities taking place at Wallace Hall Academy please visit our school website on www.wallacehallacademy.com