

Wallace Hall

NEWSLETTER

October 2015

Working Together to Achieve More



Achieving Excellence



This year, twelve Wallace Hall Academy pupils achieved straight As in their Higher and Advanced Higher examinations.

Photograph on the left shows: Back row L - R Emma Holden, Archie Harkness, Elspeth Nicholson and Fraser Lethardy, Front row L - R Nick Willetts, Reid Paterson, Hannah Jones and Connor Barnes. Missing from the photograph are Angus Bruce, Joe Kirkpatrick, Robert Guthrie and Oliver Rideout.

Head Teacher Barry Graham said: "We are absolutely delighted with our exam results this year. They are amongst the best in the last 15 years and this is due to the hard work of pupils, parents and staff. My sincerest congratulations to all our young people on these outstanding results."

Battlefields Trip

Our annual Battlefields trip was once again a memorable and moving experience for pupils and staff. Thirty pupils and four members of staff spent four days visiting the Battlefields of France and Belgium remembering those brave soldiers who fought for freedom.

Photograph on the right shows Robert Ponton, Georgie Blount, Mrs Andrews, Hannah Graham and Niall Holden laying wreaths at the historic Menin Gate memorial which, since 1927, has held a "The Last Post Ceremony" each evening to honour those who fought during the First World War.

Full report and pictures inside this issue.



In this edition:

- QI news
- Artistic Achievement
- Houses and homes
- Thank you for the music
- Flash Mob
- Pupil achievement
- Willow tunnels
- Story time in the Nursery
- Rotary landmark
- Drama Department news
- Operation Safety
- WHPS Pupil Council
- Harvest Festival
- Kingswood trip
- Teambuilding training
- Our new Primary 1
- Active sports
- Zoo Lab visit
- House Captains
- Music in the Nursery
- P7 Open Evening
- Our new First Year
- Battlefields Trip
- Oliver!
- Tanzania trip
- Charities Committee news
- New York trip
- Sailing Club news
- Sports news
- Parent Council news

Our S6 Office Bearers



Connor Barnes, S6, has recently taken up the position of Depute Head Boy for Wallace Hall Academy. Donald Kennedy, our previous Depute Head Boy, has left to pursue his rugby ambitions at Hartpury College.

Connor is a welcome addition to the team and we wish him well in his new role. Photograph above shows L - R: Emily Morton (Head Girl), Ben Wicks (Head Boy), Olivia McCabe (Depute Head Girl) and Connor Barnes (Depute Head Boy).

Celebrating Our Pupils' Achievements

We are very keen to celebrate our pupils' achievements in the school newsletter, whether these achievements happen either in school or in the pupils' own time. However, we cannot do this unless we know about them.

To help us with this process, we would ask that parents and/or pupils send us an email at gw08officewallace@ea.dumgal.sch.uk or via the link on our school website, detailing any achievements and attaching any relevant photographs. Thank you.

Contacting the school

The telephone number for Wallace Hall is 01848 332120/332140 with the fax number 01848 332564. The email address for our secondary is: gw08officewallace@ea.dumgal.sch.uk and for the primary/nursery it is: gw08officewallacehal@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 about the whole school.



Career Mentoring

Career Mentoring continues to go from strength to strength at Wallace Hall.

Business people and professionals visit the school regularly and engage on a one-to-one basis with students.

Organised by Queensberry Initiative, 15 mentors and 34 mentees participate in this project. The mentees gain access to the wealth of experience such individual mentors offer on a voluntary basis. This contact supports not only pupils striving towards university entrance but, very importantly, those pupils who wish to pursue a more practical career. Such opportunities can lead to successful apprenticeships and the like.

One of the senior pupils opting into the scheme stated: "The most important part of this scheme for me was the chance to talk about my future plans with someone who wasn't a teacher but who was willing to listen and help me think about my future". Another said: "...brought a new perspective to future goals and how they can be achieved."

Amongst other things, mentor discussions can involve planning for CVs and Personal Statements as well as what might be expected at interviews (mock interviews also take place).

Each year the role of mentors has evolved not least because the demand from the young people is growing and they can see the advantage for them of joining the scheme.

A mentor is asked to give about an hour per month for four or five months of the year and is provided with training as well as session notes. If you would like to learn more about Career Mentoring, please contact any member of the Queensberry Initiative team at Wallace Hall.



Queensberry Initiative at the Game Fair

Queensberry Initiative (QI) staff were delighted to be asked to attend the Galloway Country Fair again this year. This is an annual two-day event which features food and drink, country sports, entertainment, children's activities and much, much more. There truly is something there for everyone to enjoy.

The QI team was based within the Buccleuch tent which was ideally situated, allowing lots of visitors the opportunity to pop in and learn more about the project. Anne Marie Wood, Project Officer with QI, said: "We see Galloway Country Fair as a fabulous opportunity to showcase our partnership with Queensberry Estate while meeting up with funders and partners such as Holywood Trust, BASC, Nith Catchment Fishery Trust, our partner farmers and placement providers."

Artistic Achievement



Sarah Kerr



Eden Fisher

At the last Inset Day for Art teachers in Dumfries and Galloway, it was agreed to organise an exhibition to celebrate the successes of the Advanced Higher students and raise the profile of Art & Design across the region.

It was decided that Gracefield Art Centre would be the perfect venue to ensure the exhibition could be accessed by as wide an audience as possible. Before the exhibition, Art teachers from seven local secondary schools including Wallace Hall Academy came

together to hang the work of their students. The exhibition was open to the public from Tuesday 19th to Saturday 23rd August and the standard of all work on display was inspiring and excellent. Representing WHA were Joanne Hutcheson, Eden Fisher and Sarah Kerr. Congratulations to all the students who took part.



Sarah Kerr



Eden Fisher



Sarah Kerr



Jo Hutcheson



Mr Davolls at the private view



Jo Hutcheson

Hygiene in Health and Food Technology



Last term, Miss Wilson's S4 Health and Food Technology class at Wallace Hall Academy worked for, and sat, the Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland (REHIS) Elementary Food Hygiene qualification. Seventeen of them were successful and were presented with their certificates last week.

Photograph shows: Back Row L - R: Erin Dobie, Amy Dalglish, Mhairi Morton, Kelsey Huxham, Annabelle Hiddleston, Iona I'Anson, Elaina Bray and Mhairi Watret. Front Row L - R: Travis Kelting, Emma Bennett, Amy McKeand, Charli Thwaite, Alice Best and Cait Kostka. Missing from the photograph: Kaitlynd Bell and Mia Osborne.

Creativity at the Castle

Report By Alexander Bettaney 1C1



On Monday the 21st September, 1C1 went to Drumlanrig Castle with Mrs Black, Mrs Halliday and Miss Peoples to take photographs of landscapes and look at paintings that are inside the Castle. I didn't go inside the Castle this time as I spent my time looking at the gardens and taking photographs. The gardens looked lovely. Overall I really enjoyed the whole trip.

Houses and Homes



Also as part of the Houses and Homes topic, Primary Two pupils enjoyed a visit to Dumfries and Galloway College to brush up on their bricklaying and joinery skills. They all had great fun and learned a lot of new skills as they used equipment and materials in the workshops. The children all individually built their own pyramid walls and made some art work to hang in their own homes.

Back at school the children used their ICT skills to design and make thank you cards for all the people who had helped to make our visit to the college possible.

Primary Two pupils have been learning all about how houses are built as part of their Houses and Homes topic. They have been looking at house plans and have even planned their own model houses.

A local plumber and parent, Paul Fergusson, came to their classroom to show them lots of materials that he used every day. He even let the children try out some of his tools! Paul is returning soon to help Primary Two learn about electricity as well.



Thank you for the music



It was the end of an era at Wallace Hall Academy recently when Hugh Drysdale retired from teaching piping after over forty years of service. Hugh taught pipes to countless students at Wallace Hall, working alongside the late Bill Clement MBE, instilling a love of Scotland's national instrument in generations of young musicians.

Born in Annan, Hugh began playing the pipes aged 9 with McLean's Pipe Band. He moved to the Thornhill area aged 15, spending his final school days being educated at Morton Academy. After working on a local farm, Hugh served his time as a drystone dyker and quickly built up an international reputation for constructing magnificent ornamental stone walls. One of the many highlights of his career came when he was commissioned by Maggie Keswick Jencks and Charles Jencks to create, amongst other features, a dragon wall in

the Garden of Cosmic Speculation at Portrack, Dumfries. He was awarded a Pinnacle Award by the Drystone Walling Association of Great Britain for this work and is the only person to hold two of these awards – the other award being for work done for Lord McLaurin at his property in Stevenage, Hertfordshire. Hugh was also awarded the B.E.M. in 1992 for services to both piping and dyking.

After moving to Thornhill, Hugh joined the Buccleuch and Queensberry Caledonia Pipe Band as a band member although he still played with Annan Ex Service Pipe Band and competed regularly with them for a number of years. After ten years, Hugh was asked to take on the role of Pipe Major of the Thornhill band, a role he carried out with pride for forty five years, stepping back only a few years ago. To prepare for this honour, Hugh attended college in Glasgow, learning from many of the highly regarded Pipe Majors

teaching at that time. Hugh's exceptional teaching style prepared pupils for concert performances, awards ceremonies and public events and ensured that each one of his students who chose music as a certificated subject achieved success in their SQA examinations.

The positive rapport Hugh enjoyed with his pupils was highlighted when Becky Walker, one of Hugh's pupils at Wallace Hall, independently organised a collection to mark his retirement. Becky presented Hugh and his wife Sandra with this before the summer holidays. Hugh and Sandra would like to pass on their warmest thanks to everyone who contributed to this kind gesture.

Hugh said: "I have enjoyed every minute of my career and it is nice to watch the pupils develop and advance as musicians. All of the pupils I have taught achieved excellent results in their SQA examinations and I am proud of every one of them."

Barry Graham, Head Teacher at Wallace Hall, said: "Hugh has given his pupils an excellent musical grounding. It is obvious that teaching piping has been more than just a job for him – it has been a true labour of love. I am sure that his musical influence will be heard for many years to come. I was delighted to welcome Hugh and his wife Sandra in for a cup of coffee last week and present him with a token of the school's appreciation for all his years of dedication at Wallace Hall Academy. Being an Annan boy myself, I was particularly interested to learn more about Hugh's connection to the two pipe bands in Annan and our conversation brought back many happy memories of my home town. I wish him very well for his retirement."

Wallace Hall enjoys some Uptown Funk



The "Street" was filled with pupils and staff demonstrating their finest footwork on the S1 Induction Days in June. Organised by Miss Haile, Probationer Teacher in PE, the fun Flash Mob captured some of our best dancers in action. Judging by the look on Dr Fulton's face, he was mightily impressed by Mr Graham's concerted efforts to be "down with the kids". Mr Dillon, on the other hand, has obviously decided the competition was too great and opted to quit while he was ahead! Well done to all who joined in the fun.

Crime-Solving Chemistry

Report by Lydia McMillan & Anna Wilson

On Tuesday the 25th of August, some S2 pupils from Wallace Hall Academy got the chance to go to Drumlanrig Estate and try forensic chemistry in an outdoor environment. This outing was organised by Mrs Davidson, our Chemistry teacher, and Miss Peoples and Mrs Wood, Queensberry Initiative Project Officers.

We were taken to a "crime scene" which was a taped off corner of the gardens, where somebody had dumped harmful chemicals near the water supply. We then spent an intriguing morning gathering evidence in order to work out who the culprit was. The activities we had to do included comparing contaminated

water and soil with uncontaminated water and soil, using pH paper and universal indicator. We also used chromatography to compare the blood sample found at the crime scene with different blood types to eliminate some of the suspects.

We took the evidence back to the science lab to continue our investigation the next day. Using flame tests and displacement reactions, we managed to figure out which chemicals had been used. Finally, after two days' work, we discovered who committed the crime.

The overall experience was enjoyable, different to a usual lesson and we would recommend it to any students our age.



Pedal Power

Report by Anna Wilson



On Sunday the 6th September 2015, Joseph Robertson and I cycled 57 miles from Glasgow Green to Murrayfield Stadium in Edinburgh in the Pedal for Scotland event. There were nearly 9000 cyclists taking part and raising money for different charities.

We were there with a group of family and friends. Our parents organised a minibus kindly donated by Murrays of Meadowbank. It was a tough cycle with only four stops at Drumpellier Park, Avonbridge, Linlithgow and Kirkliston where we got as much water as we needed and some food. It was hillier than I

expected but I didn't have to walk at any point.

I was doing it to raise money for Cancer Research UK and Alzheimer's Scotland and have raised just under £300, with a few more donations still to come. I trained all summer for it, even though the weather wasn't the best, but the furthest I'd done before the cycle was only 40 miles. So adding on the 17 miles was quite difficult, but I managed. Although I was on a racing bike, Joseph was on a bike which was heavier and had thicker tyres. Overall I think it was a great experience and would like to do it again.

Willow Tunnels

Report by Ben Hobman, WHP Parent Council

Parts of the outdoor area at Wallace Hall Primary have been transformed recently with the addition of 3 beautiful, natural willow structures. The Wallace Hall Primary Parent Council is very grateful to the SSE Clyde Wind Farm Community Fund for the generous financial donation of £1424, which covered the full cost of the purchase and installation of willow structures within the school playground.

The Pupil Council were fully involved in the design of the structures which include tunnels and tepees, as well as creating them. Every child in the primary and nursery had the opportunity to help with construction which has given a real sense of pride and ownership. These structures allow the children to engage in imaginative play and enhance their outdoor experience and have proved highly popular across the whole Primary and Nursery community. The willow



structures were carefully placed to enhance an under-utilised area of the playground. Exposing the children to a growing and natural resource will also allow them to develop a greater awareness of the natural environment and an understanding of and affinity with nature.



Story Time in the Nursery

Report by Chloe Clark and Emma Hamilton

On Tuesday mornings we both go down to the nursery to read stories and play with the nursery children. When we first went down we were both a bit nervous and wondered if the children would speak to us. When we arrived the children were all playing and the staff made us feel really welcome.



So far we have read two stories each to the children and, by watching and listening to the staff in the nursery, we are learning how important play is. We are realising what a big part play plays in the lives of the children and how it helps prepare them for life. We have observed cooking activities and action rhymes as well as playing with the children in the home corner and outside.

Our next challenge is to prepare an activity for the children to do. To do this we have chosen to base it on a story called "It's Mine!" To follow on from the story we have prepared a "We Share!" colouring sheet.

We really enjoy going down to see the wee ones and we think they like seeing us too and we hope that we can keep going down there.

Inventive Ice Cream

Report by Mhairi Morton and Kaitlynd Bell



Last term, Miss Wilson's S4 Health and Food Technology class at Wallace Hall went to Cream o' Galloway.

In class we had been working on a unit called Food Product Development in which we had designed and made our own ice creams so our trip gave us the opportunity to look at all the factors which food manufacturers have to

think about when they create new products.

We were told how the ice cream business started at Cream o' Galloway and it was interesting to find out that they are now also making their own cheeses which they sell in their shop. This is proving to be very popular. The main ingredient in both ice cream and cheese is organic milk from their own farm. We found out all about the hygiene regulations which food handlers have to follow and we also heard about the importance of choosing a suitable name for each of the flavours and ways of promoting products.

We then went into a kitchen where we washed our hands and put on hair nets and white coats. We were offered a wide range of ingredients and we had to work in pairs to create a new flavour of ice



cream. Our prototypes included chocolate, toffee and vanilla, honeycomb and chocolate, and banana, toffee and honeycomb (named "Bangin' Banana Honeycomb").

After tasting each other's ice creams we tidied up, then had lunch and we were allowed to spend an hour in the adventure playground before returning to school. Overall the day was fun and we learned a lot about product development.

Rotary Landmark



Photograph above shows Heather and Sam at Drumlanrig Castle

Congratulations to Thornhill and District Rotary Club on their 40th anniversary. The Rotary offers fantastic opportunities for young people and Thornhill members are a huge support to Wallace Hall and its pupils, providing mock interviews, running a quiz for the primary school as well as organising competitions for our young chefs, young

photographers and, of course, our talented young musicians.

Members of the club enjoyed an evening of celebrations recently in the beautiful surroundings of Drumlanrig Castle. Two Wallace Hall students, Heather O'Connor and Sam Solley, were invited along as part of the programme. Heather is this year's Rotary Young Musician of the Year vocalist and her talent was clearly

demonstrated throughout her very sophisticated set of tracks. Her powerful and distinctive vocal style combined with her mature and sensitive interpretation was much enjoyed by all. Heather was ably accompanied on both piano and guitar by Sam who is establishing a real name for himself as a musician. Sam effortlessly coped with the technically challenging set, and his capable musicianship perfectly showcased Heather's emotive performance.

Barry Graham, Head Teacher at Wallace Hall, said: "I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Thornhill Rotary on their 40th anniversary and thank all club members who have helped and encouraged our pupils over the years. As well as offering valuable career advice through the mock interview process and support at Rotary competitions, the club has offered financial support to some of our talented young people through the purchase of musical instruments or as they embark on life-changing expeditions. I hope that the positive relationship we currently enjoy with Thornhill Rotary will continue to grow and flourish over the next 40 years."

Raising money for Macmillan Cancer

Staff and pupils joined forces recently to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. As part of the World's Biggest Coffee Morning, the library tables were filled with a delicious selection of cakes and biscuits which were baked by staff and Mr Gilius's S3 Health and Food Technology class. Organised by Mrs Davidson, the coffee morning raised over £250 for the charity.



News from our Drama Department



The table at Tuk Tuk

The department got off to a very busy and inspirational start to the year with the Higher and Advanced Higher students going to see four internationally outstanding productions.

They began with the National Theatre's award winning touring production of *The Curious Incident of a Dog in the Night Time* at the King's Theatre in Glasgow. This was followed by three productions at the Edinburgh International Festival; *887* (by Robert Lepage), *The Encounter* (by Simon McBurney) both at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre and *Murmel Murrel* at the King's Theatre, Edinburgh. The pupils found these productions inspirational and these are some of their reflections: "enthralled and inspirational in their unique

and innovative production styles", "Simon McBurney gave an outstanding solo performance", "his use of binaural sound was truly amazing and this gave us different perspective of how theatre can communicate", "we came away with some great ideas of different performance styles and how we might use them ourselves."

The class also managed to squeeze in a meal out at Tuk Tuk in Edinburgh, "this really brought us closer together as a class and the food was delicious!"

On October 26th a Performance Evening took place in the Bailey Hall. This year's Higher Drama students performed nine (short) original plays, written, directed and performed by them. As inspiration, the pupils were given several stimuli to respond to all linked to their set text, the Greek Tragedy *Antigone* by Sophocles. The themes explored in these plays were broken families and fate and were a response in some form, to the family tree of Oedipus and the associated Ancient Greek myth. Photographs will be featured in our next newsletter.

In November it will be the turn of the Advanced Higher students to present their devised work. The date for this has yet to be finalised



Kerri and Lucy prepare for their "A Midsummer Night's Dream auditions

so watch this space and the school website for details.

Meanwhile, the rehearsals for this year's school show, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* are underway. Auditions have taken place, parts have been allocated and lots of team building drama activities have been happening at the Drama Club on Wednesdays after school.

The show will be performed during the week of Midsummer night, 21st June 2016. Pupils from S1-S6 are involved and make a great ensemble working together in an energetic, enthusiastic and creative way.

Look out for more details about this exciting production in the New Year.



The Drama Club enjoying one of their teambuilding activities

P7 Trip to Operation Safety

Primary 7 recently went on the annual P7 class trip to Operation Safety.

This event, staged by Fire Scotland and hosted by DuPont Teijin Films, gave the children the opportunity to experience various situations and hazards which they may face in real life. During these

scenarios, the children were encouraged to interact in the most appropriate way under the guidance of the various agencies involved, including the Fire Brigade, Police Scotland, Scottish Power and the Ambulance Service.



"It was really interesting because there were lots of fun activities," Joshua Cooper said.

Anya Graham said: "I enjoyed working with the Paramedic because we all got a fright when the model screamed."

"I learnt how to put someone in the recovery position and it was really fun," said Rocco Rinaldi.

Abigail Maxwell added: "I liked the chat room station with the police because we learnt how to be safe online."

"I thought that it was fun when we had to spot all the dangers in a bedroom and make them safe" said Lewis Fergusson.

It is clear that the pupils enjoyed the visit and learned a lot about keeping safe.



Gambia Toy Appeal

Report by Brogan Wood and Lewis Fergusson, Pupil Councillors

Wallace Hall Primary Pupil Council organised a toy donation appeal to help raise money to support their partner school in Jarreng Village, Gambia.

Pupil Councillors wrote letters to parents asking them to donate any unwanted toys that their children don't play with any more. The toys were collected in Mrs McDiarmid's office and there was a big pile of them! This was so that we could kindly donate them to Mrs Keane who runs the Kuffin Farm Charity, and she would sell them in her charity shop at New Cample Farm Tearoom, Thornhill. The money that was raised would be used to

help support the children in Gambia to get a better education.

In total we managed to gather 6 big bags full of toys which we took to New Cample Farm. There were teddy bears, books, board games, dolls, lots of stuffed animals and many more. Mrs Keane was delighted with the donation and said that lots of money will be raised by selling these toys, and that the money will make a big difference to the lives of the pupils in Gambia.

Pupils from Wallace Hall had previously made posters for the classrooms in Gambia after learning that the pupils there learn in classrooms with bare walls. We made posters with the letters of the



alphabet, numbers up to 20 and colours on to decorate their classrooms. We also wrote letters to the pupils telling them about our lives here in Scotland and we took photos of our school so that they could see what our school looks like. We even sent blu-tack so that they could put the posters up because we were not sure if they would have any of their own! We are already talking about our next joint project.

Pupil Council 2015/2016

We are the new Wallace Hall Primary and Nursery Pupil Council for 2015-16. We are made up of eight House Captains from P7 and two class representatives from each of the classes from Nursery to P7.

In Pupil Council meetings we talk about any issues within the school and then try to solve them. Our aim for this year is to work together to make our school an even better place. We have already discussed some ideas including the playground rules, the dinner hall and the newsletter. We are very keen and eager to get started making a difference!



Harvest Festival

Report by Rocco Rinaldi, Isabel Stewart, Jake Fraser and Innes Cottle

On the 8th of October 2015, Rocco, Isabel, Jake, Innes and Mrs Park went to deliver the massive harvest boxes which were full of yummy foods which the nursery and primary pupils kindly donated.

It was a long afternoon going to lots of different houses. Here are some comments: Isabel said: "It was fantastic and I had a really EPIC time and I met lots and lots of new people."

Innes said: "Lots and lots of fun and I met a lot of chatty people." Rocco said: "We felt that we had helped people by giving out the boxes of food."



P7 House Captains with the harvest boxes

S1 pupils visit Kingswood

Report by Alexander Bettaney

On Friday the 25th of September seventy eight S1 pupils from Wallace Hall Academy went to Kingswood Outdoor Activity Centre near Hexham. We left at half past one and arrived at 3 o'clock. I shared a bedroom with Aiden and James. It was ok and we enjoyed trying to make the beds to our teachers' high standards!



After unpacking we had a tour of the site. Group A's first activity was High Equilibrium and then it was time for dinner. Some people didn't like the food but I enjoyed it. The fire drill was at twenty to eight. Group A, B and C had Scrapheap Challenge at night, we had to make a container to protect a water balloon out of scrap material. Back at the dorm we had supper and I played cards with Aiden, James was fast asleep. Lights had to be out by quarter past ten but we still talked quietly!

On Saturday we had to be up at half seven ready for a busy day

ahead. I enjoyed the sausages for breakfast. Abseiling was my group's first activity. It was a lot higher than I thought it would be but I really enjoyed it. Team Challenge was an obstacle course and then in Bush Craft we had to go into the wood and collect branches to make a shelter. After lunch it was Problem Solving first, some of the puzzles were difficult to solve. Archery was good fun and I really enjoyed the challenge of hitting the target. For the Nightline activity we were blindfolded and had to go over and through obstacles in the wood.



Then it was time for dinner. Group A, B and C's activity for Saturday night was Hotspots, it was like a huge game of twister. It was very noisy in the hall and I was pleased to get back to the relative peace and quiet of our dorm.

On Sunday I woke up early, we packed our bags ready for home and then went for breakfast. The first activity was the 3G Swing, it was the best. I loved it. Then we did orienteering. Before leaving for home we had lunch then it was onto the bus and back to Wallace Hall. I was tired when I got home but overall the weekend was a good experience and I would like to go back.



Teambuilding Training

Report by Adam Dalgleish



On Tuesday 30th of June all S6 Prefects and other S6 pupils involved in the peer mentoring programme attended an all-day teambuilding event with the aim of building on teamwork and cooperation skills.

The day kicked off at 9.30am in the Bailey Hall where we were promptly registered and assembled into our 5 Prefect teams, each led by an individual team leader; Team 1 led by Ben Wicks, Team 2 by Emily Morton, Team 3 by Donald Kennedy, Team 4 by Olivia McCabe and Team 5 by Ian Carlisle. The day consisted of various games and activities which allowed us to get to know each other a little bit better and to develop our group work and communication skills. One of the

activities which many found most challenging was the throwing and catching of multiple balls being passed around in a circle, which required the Prefects to remain alert and to be continuously communicating with their group members. Other activities included the staging of particular scenarios in which Prefects would have to step in and resolve a problem.

Many who attended the teambuilding day found it to be both a worthwhile and enjoyable experience, including new team leader Sean Wicks who stated that, "It allowed the prospective prefects to work together and bond as a team." This view was shared by fellow S6 pupil Melissa Dundas who described the day as "a good chance

to get to know our team members better and have fun at the same time!" Archie Harkness of S6 also found the day to be a rewarding experience, "Everyone enjoyed the teambuilding games and came away from the day feeling like they had achieved something." Mr Blair, Depute Head Teacher of Scaur and S6, said, "I was really impressed by how all the pupils were actively involved in the day, making it enjoyable for both the teachers and the pupils. The number of pupils who have volunteered to help out with paired reading and in classes has been fantastic. They will be a great support to our junior pupils."

Overall the general consensus amongst everyone who attended the day was that it was a valuable experience and everyone looks forward to using the developed skills in their daily Prefect duties.



Wallace Hall Science Department would like to introduce their new pets!

Joining Camillo Golgi (our goldfish) are 5 male rats: Darwin, Copernicus, Galileo, Avogadro and Tesla. All named after famous Scientists, and forming a useful acronym for remembering the bases of DNA! These highly intelligent, social animals make ideal pets for young people as they (despite their reputation!) are very clean and are able to form close bonds with their human friends.

These pets will be looked after by Mrs. Belford and her Advanced Higher Biology class (shown in the picture, each with their own rat!) and in the holidays will be cared for at the animal care centre at the Barony.



Presenting our Pets

Primary 1 settle into Wallace Hall

Our new Primary 1 pupils are settling in well to life at Wallace Hall. They have had their first group photograph taken and have enjoyed working with pupils from the Academy.

Iona McVey said: "At school I like going to Assembly because I might get the merit badge." Indy Murray said: "At school I like going to PE because you get to juggle." Esme Potter said: "I like painting because it is fun."

We look forward to hearing more from our new Primary 1 pupils in future editions of our newsletter.



P4 Active Sports Morning

Report by Alexander Bailey

On Tuesday the 29th of September all P4s in Upper Nithsdale schools participated in an Active Schools sports morning at Wallace Hall. There were six events and they were hockey, athletics, endball, team building, football and rugby.

First we did team building, it was really fun. We played a number quiz but the other team won. Next I went to hockey and it was so much fun. We played a game and it was like real hockey. Then we also did some dribbling through cones. The next game was athletics so we did running and throwing. Then we got a snack break. Fourth we did football, we got to play one match. Rugby was fun because we got to play two of my favourite games which are octopus tag and tunnel tag. Last but not least, endball which was chest passes, bounce passes and overhead passes. My favourite event was football because we got to play a match.

Hayden Allardice said: "Lots of P4s from different schools came. The first activity my team did was hockey. We learned how to hold the stick and practised dribbling. It was fun! I was quite good at it. Next thing was when we got to play Banana Tig and Mario Tig. I liked that one! Then it was football. Even though the Oranges won both matches it was my favourite because I got to do lots of kick-ins. After that it was rugby. All we got to do was Chain Tig. Next was team-building. I liked the quiz part. It was well organised. I got to meet someone called Faith. She was nice and friendly. There were people I already knew."

Jenna Laird explained: "First my group went to team building. We played over and under. Then we played a number quiz. In the game there were 12 questions. When you worked out the answer you had to zig zag out the cones with the number. Sometimes there

was more than one number like 23 then two people would zig zag out the cones then through the hoop then hold the number up in the right place. We got a point for the right answer and a point for being first. After that we went to hockey. Our group got split up. We were all given a number. When one of the numbers was called out the person with that number from each team ran round the goal. After that the ball would be rolled in and each person had to roll the ball in the goal with the hockey stick. Then the ball would be rolled in and we had to try and roll the ball in the goal. Then we went to athletics. We played tig for a warm up. After that we got put into groups of three. We did races. We did the hurdles, sprint and hop races and running races. After that we went to football. We had two matches. First I was the defender then on the second match I was the goalkeeper. We went to rugby after that. We played Octopus with rugby balls. Then we played tig. There were two rugby balls and two people were it. If you got caught then someone would crawl through your legs or pass you the ball. After that we went to endball. We played piggy in the middle. We played a game where there was a bib team and a non-bib team. I enjoyed every activity because it is good to get sporty! I think I did very well. My favourite activity was athletics because I like running and jumping. It was definitely worthwhile. It was well organised.



The skills we were practising were throwing and catching, running and jumping and teamwork."

Edward Colvin added: "I was put into group 4. Our first activity was team building and we played a number game and my team ... won! When we played over and under my team ... won again!!! The next event was hockey and I was numbered 3 and 4 and it was fun controlling the ball. After a break we did athletics and hurdle jumping. I was very good at hurdle jumping. The fourth event was football and we drew against the oranges, my team was yellow. The fifth event was rugby and we played my favourite game which was octopus tig and we had a great time. The last event was endball and we had a match and the score was one all.

"I think it was very well organised, I would give it 100%. I was practising throwing, catching, running and hockey skills. My favourite game was hockey because it was **AWESOME!!!!**"

The whole event was a huge success and we all enjoyed the activities. I thought it was amazingly well organised and very well done. Thank you to Active Schools for giving us such a great morning of activities.



Visit from Zoo Lab

By Alex Flannigan (P6/P7)

On Monday the 5th of October, a man from Zoo Lab called Tristen came to show P2, P4 and P6 a variety of African rainforest animals. Before he got to show us the animals he told us some interesting facts about the rainforest.

After that Tristen told us facts about the animal he was going to pull out next, he said that it could hide and it preferred nice damp places on the ground. P6/7 guessed correctly! It was of course the large African snail, he was called Sonic. He was very slimy and muddy. Then Tristen brought out 3 cockroaches and most people did

not want to hold them because they freaked them out. Next, Tristen brought out an African tree frog and put it on the wall and the frog stuck there for about 1 minute before Tristen brought him down.

Then Tristen got to the final two animals. The first was a yellow corn snake which was really quite cool because it felt cold and smooth. Last and certainly not least, Tristen brought out a rather large and hairy Tarantula which we were obviously not allowed to touch and was probably the coolest animal of them all. Here are some quotes - James Hobman: "It was really fun learning about the



animals.", Freya Lord: "My favourite animal was the tree frog."

Working with the animals from Zoo Lab was great fun and I wanted to take the frog home.



Gathering whapples first harvest



The John Muir Trust Award encourages young people to visit the outdoors and take part in conservation.

This term we helped collect the first harvest of apples from the whapples Orchard. These were planted by primary and secondary pupils from Wallace Hall and are part of the school's exciting social enterprise. The whapples pupil committee are planning to use the fruit to make some totally organic and home grown toffee apples in time for Halloween so keep an eye out for them soon.

The group has also visited Dabton Loch to investigate environmental quality. They have completed questionnaires and footpath erosion studies at Drumlanrig Castle and studied rivers in the Dalveen Pass.

Science is Fun

Report by Alfie Grant (P6/7)



On the 28th of September 2015 a group of young scientists - Heather, Jamie, Ariana, Jess and Irene - from the University of Edinburgh's science department came to teach us science for the majority of our afternoon.

The first thing they did was set up our tables with equipment.

When they finished doing that each of them introduced themselves, and Heather then told the class of Primary 6/7 what was planned for us on the afternoon.

We soon realised why we had the equipment - we were going to build a model structure of adrenaline and H₂O with a kit that

was sat on the desk of each person.

Jess helped my group that consisted of Jessica Hiddleston, James Hunter, Kerr Hamilton, Ellen Moore and me, Alfie Grant. Our group was finished first and we used blue to represent nitrogen, red to represent hydrogen, carbon was represented by black and white represented oxygen.

Soon after we did an experiment on a nappy and a piece of cloth. First we cut the nappy or infant absorbent under garment into a 10cm 2D shape and then did the same with the cloth, then we put the cloth into a small tub and poured 50ml of water over it but it could only hold 17ml. Then we did the same process on the nappy it also took 50ml and 500ml more. We were all blown away with the quantity the nappy could hold.

We all really enjoyed the afternoon. It was exceptional and proved that science is awesome.

Learning about Road Safety

Report by Jessica Dickson, George Willis-Fleming and Charlotte Potter (P5)

On Monday 28th September, P5 set off on an unforgettable walk to learn all about road safety. "Do you all know your Green Cross Code?" Mrs Renwick asked hopefully.

"Yes," we all chorused, "It's Stop, Look, Listen, Think!"

"Good," said Mrs Renwick, pleased, "Well, let's go..." she continued. (Jessica)

It was a boiling hot day and we were pleased because we weren't stuck in school doing maths. We were recapping the Green Cross Code and believe me it was super fun! (George)

We were put into pairs and began to set off. Suddenly we came to a halt because we were about to cross the road. Then we

caught sight of Carron, the lollipop lady, so we greeted her. She asked us whether we knew the Green Cross Code and we all put up our hands then chanted, "STOP, LOOK, LISTEN, THINK!" (Charlotte)

Alongside the lollipop lady and Mrs Renwick we had Mrs Park and don't forget Mrs Copeland! After a little walk we decided we had found a good place to cross. We all discussed what were good things to do as we crossed meanwhile Carron guided us across the road. (Jessica)

Passing the Brownrigg's Garage carefully we again repeated the Green Cross Code before we crossed in fours. We got to Fusi's we crossed the road with Carron's



help and using the Traffic Island. We continued to look and listen and think as you should while we crossed the road. (Charlotte)

Then we returned safely to school following the Green Cross Code every time we had to cross a road on our Traffic Trail. (George)

Respecting our Rights

Report by Eleanor McKie



On Thursday the 24th of September Mrs Andrews organised a meeting for our school's 'Rights Respecting Schools' committee that included the primary's members as well as our own.

There was a brief recap regarding what it is we are doing and how we will achieve our targets. Over the course of the next term, all members will be working on informing the school on what we are achieving as well as trying to get everyone involved either through advertising, PSE or indeed assemblies.

Our notice board in the canteen will also have relevant information regarding Rights Respecting Schools as we expand and develop to making everyone aware of their rights and that their voices will be heard no matter how big or small.

P5 Financial Education

Report by Yusif Bayaty

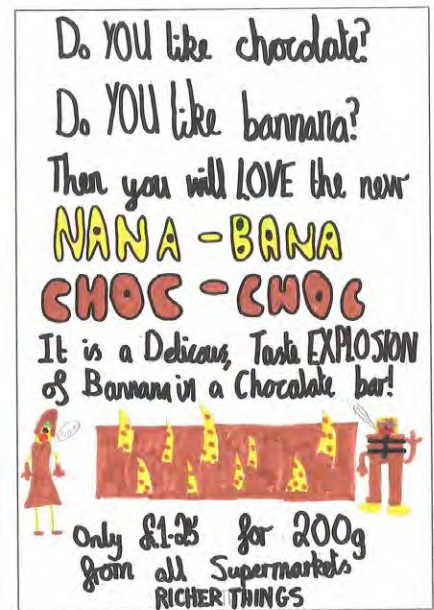
**"What is Financial Education?"
I thought when I saw it
written on the board.**

It turned out to be about money, we were learning about how companies invent new products. I was surprised when Pam came in with a new assistant called Julie. It was very fun. My partner was Skye and we were designing a new chocolate bar. We designed a wrapper for a banana chocolate bar, tried to figure out lots of different logos and listed what we needed to make a banana

chocolate bar. We were also learning about profits and the cost of everything you need, but not in that order.

Remember when I said that we designed our own wrappers? Well, we had a competition to see whose wrapper was the best. We also designed our own poster advertisement and the best three would be sent to Pam and Julie to hang on their blank wall.

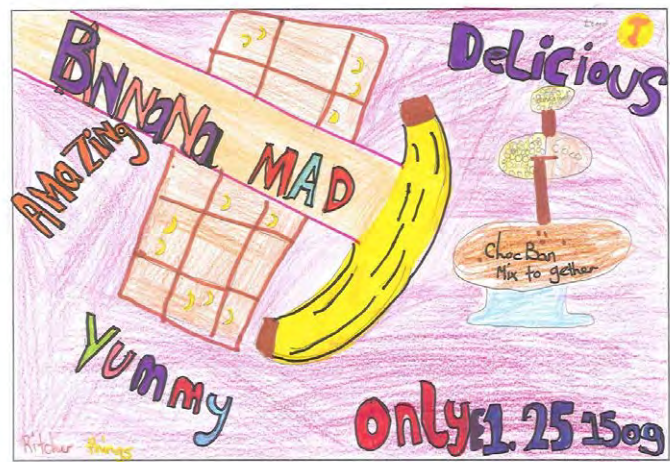
The three winners were Fearne, Brooke and Iona and their posters are shown on the right and below.



Fearne Tait



Iona Menzies



Brooke Bridges

Our New House Captains

Cairn

Left to Right

Irvine Maxwell (S2), Emily Kennedy (S3), Caitlin Harley (S5), Matthew Godridge (S3), Reid Paterson (S6), Emily Hunter (S1), Harris Maxwell (S4), Andrew Patterson (S1), Ewan Robertson (S2), Catherine Anderson (S6), Maia Smyth (S4).



Nith

Left to Right

Kirsty Masters (S6), Morgan Tate (S3), Kerri Canham (S5), Tammy McWhirter (S3), Connor Barnes (S6), Zara Weir (S1), Nathan King (S4), Nirvana Singh (S2), Marianne Willetts (S4), Conal Flanagan (S1), Lucy Doig (S5), Lukas Andreasen (S2).



Scaur

Left to Right

Josh Notman (S5), Jack Roberts (S4), Annabelle Guthrie (S3), Caitlin Greenwood (S4), Niall Holden (S5), Connor McAvoy (S1), Sean Wicks (S6), Kara Jeans (S1), Chloe Williams (S3), Molly Ayres (S2), Sam Godfrey (S2).



Over the summer, two groups of Wallace Hall Academy pupils attended engineering focused residential courses run by the Smallpeice Trust.

Engineering can provide a fantastic, well paid career opportunity for our young people, yet is known to be an area of employment where there are national shortages at present. The Smallpeice Trust is a charity that tries to promote engineering to youngsters through seminars and residential courses all over the UK. Based at some of the country's leading universities and other secure venues, courses are available to young people in school years 8 - 12. This isn't stuffy, dull classroom work – in fact, many students say how intriguing, inspiring and surprising they found their event.

The two groups of Wallace Hall Academy pupils attending these courses were based in different parts of the country. A group of boys stayed for several days at Strathclyde University to take part in a Marine Engineering course. At the same time, a number of our girls travelled to Lancaster University to work with BAE systems on Aeronautical Engineering. The boys had access to water tanks for prototype boat building, whilst the girls had access to Typhoon fighter jets and robots.

Feedback from both sets of pupils was extremely positive and, even if they choose not to pursue engineering any further, every one of them had great fun, met and worked with people from all over the country and had an amazing exposure to student life beyond school. The next two reports - Enjoying Engineering and Our Trip to Lancaster University - tell us more about the two groups' experiences.

Enjoying Engineering

Report by Greig Dunbar



On the 26th of July Gregor Black, Joseph Blaylock, Thomas Gashi, Aleksei Wishart and I departed for Strathclyde University for an amazing opportunity to be part of a Smallpeice Trust Marine Engineering course. I think I can speak for all of us when I say that we thoroughly enjoyed

the entire experience from the boat building to the evening activities. It was an all-round great time.

The whole course lasted four days in total. The evening we arrived we had a chance to meet everyone at dinner and then we all watched a film in a lecture room. The next day was all about our

introduction to the Marine Engineering course and all that is involved in being a marine engineer. The second day was a little more active and fun. The main challenge was to build a wooden model boat from a box of parts including a motor, a receiver and a battery pack.

The third day was much the same, apart from the company presentations we had later on. The companies were very keen to tell us all about what they did and how they did it. That evening's activity was adventure golf at the nearby indoor sports centre.

Day four was a little more eventful as we raced our model boats. Unfortunately, the teams we were part of didn't win. After that we had more company presentations and then we had a formal dinner on the tall ship behind the Transport Museum. The formal dinner was a nice ending to the course and we didn't get back to the university until 10:30pm that night. The next morning was all goodbyes and finishing all the final bits of the course.

Altogether the course gave us a good insight into what it takes to be a marine engineer. On behalf of all of us, I would like to say thank you to Mr Corrigan and to all at the Smallpeice Trust for giving us this great opportunity. It was a great insight into the world of engineering and really demonstrated the skills required to be a successful engineer.

Our Trip to Lancaster University

Report by Mikyla Prowse



On 7th July, Eleanor Burns, Laura Carruthers and I attended a course at Lancaster University after applying for it through The Smallpeice Trust which gives

young people opportunities to try different courses in a wide range of careers.

The course we chose was engineering with BAE Systems. I have always had an interest in mechanics and thought it would be interesting to have a go at engineering.

Day 1: On the first day we met a lot of pupils from different schools and were then shown to our rooms. We were then taken to Warton base where we were given a tour of the Typhoon workshop. We then carried out an experiment to build a mechanical arm which would diffuse wires from timers - we made this out of Meccano. In the evening we had dinner then had a DVD night watching Big Hero 6.

Day 2: We went to the engineering block to work on the design for our tanks and started the planning. We were then

collecting materials. In the evening, after dinner, we had a sports night. I played squash which I enjoyed.

Day 3: We began building our tanks and made headlights which had to be wired independently. We also got to test drive our tanks and we also had to make our exhibition stands.

In the evening we had a formal dinner so we got the chance to dress up and present our tanks and exhibit our work. The evening ended with a lively disco.

Day 4: This was the final day. We finished by test driving our tanks and had our presentation of prizes. My team, Team 2, won overall which I was really happy with.

I really enjoyed the course and may consider a career in engineering in the future. I would like to thank Smallpeice Trust for the opportunity.

Raspberry Pi

On Friday 19th June, S2 and S3 pupils had the chance to learn more about computing and programming when a group of students from the University

of the West of Scotland (UWS) visited Wallace Hall.

They brought along 'Raspberry Pi' devices, which are low cost, credit-card sized computers that

plug into a computer monitor or TV, and use a standard keyboard and mouse. They enable people of all ages to explore computing, and to learn how to program. They can do the things that a standard computer can do; however as they are so small and portable they can be attached to remote control vehicles and airborne 'drones'.

Grahame Arrowsmith, PT Employability and Teacher of Business, who facilitated the event at Wallace Hall said: "The pupils enjoyed the sessions immensely and learned to assemble the kits, connect to their keyboard and monitor, and then begin programming. Hopefully this will provide inspiration for more pupils to become involved in this area; it is predicted that career options in computing and programming will continue to grow strongly around the world."





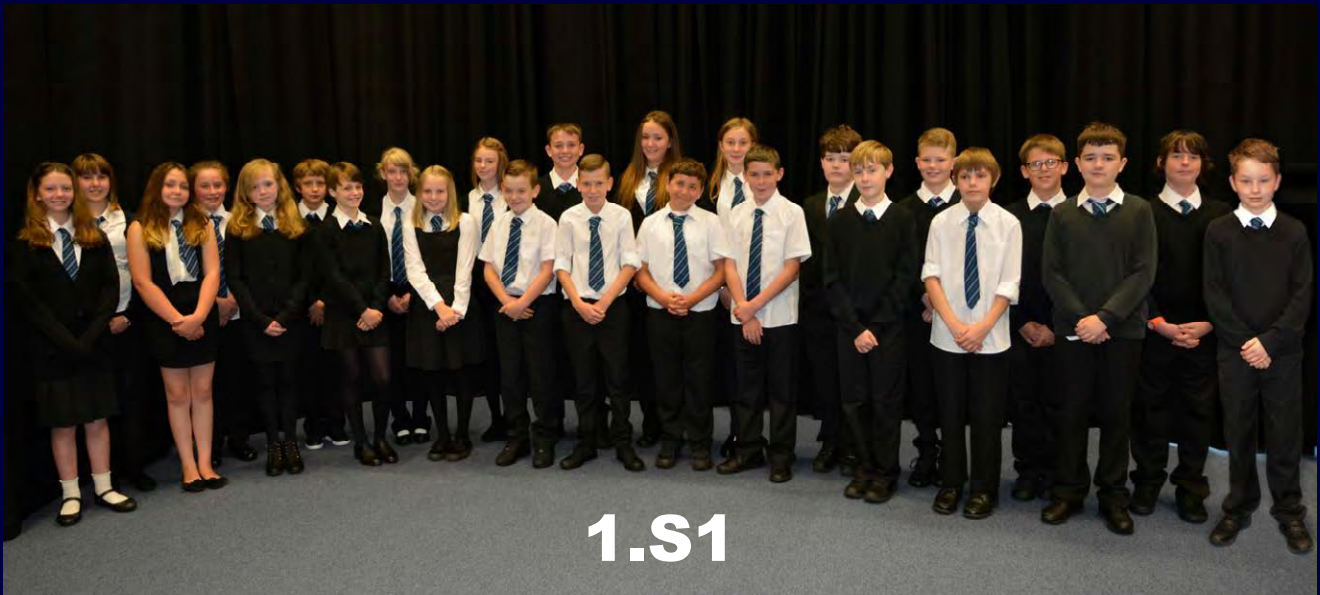
Making Music in the Nursery



P7 Open Evening

Our new First Year pupils on Day One





Countdown Congratulations

Congratulations to David Vernon, a former Wallace Hall Academy pupil currently in his fifth year studying medicine at Aberdeen University, who appeared on Countdown recently.

David was up against stiff competition in Jonathan Wynn, a seven times reigning champion of the popular Channel 4 game show. Although he didn't win the battle, David gave Jonathan a real run for his money, finishing with an excellent score of 65 points.

Learning in the Outdoor Classroom



Everyone in the Forestry elective has been getting their teeth into tree identification and forest mapping this term.

We visited the Drumlanrig Castle Policy Woods on a beautiful autumnal morning to learn about coniferous and deciduous tree species. We stopped at the viewpoint overlooking Drumlanrig Castle and compared our maps with the landscape spread out before us. The next step will be to look at the GIS maps foresters use to plan their operations and meet the Forestry Commission so they can explain how they go about it.

Remembering in the Battlefields of Ghosts



During September, a group of thirty 4th and 5th year pupils from Wallace Hall Academy took part in the annual Battlefields trip to France and Belgium, where they spent four days visiting cemeteries, memorials and museums which commemorate the sacrifice made by so many during the First World War.

New to the itinerary on this year's trip was the recently installed Ring of Remembrance at the Notre Dame De Lorette French cemetery. Designed by Philippe Prost, the names of 579,606 casualties of the war are inscribed on bronzed stainless steel sheets which form a ring. The names are in alphabetical order, with no distinction of nationality, rank or religion. They are linked together in unity and for eternity. This was a very poignant start to the trip and was to be followed by many more.

The group visited many cemeteries and memorials where they learnt about particular people and their stories such as Nellie Spindler. Nellie was a nurse from Wakefield who treated many casualties before being fatally injured. She is one of only two women buried in the Belgium cemeteries. Rifleman V.J. Strudwick of the 8th Battalion, The Rifle Brigade who lied about his age

when enlisting and was sadly killed on the 14 January 1916 whilst serving in the trenches near Ypres. He was only 15 years and 11 months old.

Ellie Thorburn, Charli Thwaite, Haydn Payne and Murray Austin paid their respects at the graves of relatives whilst Josh Notman gave a moving speech about his family connections to the Hearts Memorial.

Josh said: "My uncle, Johnny Ramage, joined the Hearts team in 1919, firstly as a player and, in later years, as captain of the team. My papa and other members of my family have been involved with Hearts for many years and I felt a real sense of pride and emotion as I read the names of all the players

who had fallen. I was particularly proud to place my papa's college tie amongst the wreaths on the memorial."

Justine Crosbie gave a passionate recital of "Dulce et Decorum Est" by the war poet Wilfred Owen during a stop at the Vancouver Crossroads, whilst Deri Ronan gave a moving rendition of the Green Fields of France during the visit to Tyne Cot, the largest of the cemeteries where there are 11,956 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated.

Wreaths from Wallace Hall Academy were laid at the Menin Gate as part of The Last Post Ceremony which takes place daily at 8 pm. Mrs Andrews, Robert Ponton, Niall Holden, Georgie Blount and Hannah Graham represented the school in what was a very fitting end to a week which gave everyone so much to reflect upon.

The pupils took time to 'pause for thought'.

"It makes you think about how many young men and soldiers sacrificed their lives. It really makes you feel grateful for your life and what you have. It makes you think about the people who were buried as unknown soldiers with their families not knowing where they are. The whole week has been overwhelming and memorable, a





trip I will never forget." **Ellie Thorburn**

"At first I thought war was exciting and thrilling but that is rubbish, war is not fought by the rich and wealthy - it is fought by young courageous men. I found the British cemeteries very moving and sad and I had to hold in a tear, but what really got me was when I visited the German cemetery, just seeing it neglected and rotting away was heart breaking. It made me feel that one side was good and one bad but I realised the men on both sides were forced to fight and that the German soldiers were just the same. I realised that there are not really any winners after war, just families separated." **Niall Gauld**

"The past week has really made me think about how it would feel to be a soldier in the First World War and how a family member lives with the dread of their loved one not returning. The experience I have had this week I will never forget, I have learned so much. Seeing the sheer number of graves really stood out to me, I have always known how many people lost their lives but this really put it into perspective. **Hannah Graham**

"I feel that this week's experience has helped me understand about the amount of men who died and the countless selfless sacrifices these men committed in order to achieve victory and save their comrades. Too many soldiers died for reasons which many did not truly understand. Thankfully, each man who sacrificed his life received a war grave in a maintained cemetery or they are remembered on monuments or in commemorations like The Last Post at the Menin Gate." **Shaun Wilson**

"You wonder about the soldiers. You wonder if they knew just how many were dying every day, if they considered that one day they would be little more than a nameless grave and letters on a wall. You wonder who died first, who died last, who was killed in the time between the war ending and everyone knowing this and

stopping. You wonder if they cried – I can hear people crying now. I cried at Thiepval when I realised that for everyone remembered there were more who would never be visited specifically. For those it is as if they had never existed. Their lives ended on the battlefields and any legacy they may have left – children, inventions, entire lives – lies with them.



I have been trying to work out what makes the deaths of the men in the wars so different to anyone else – people die every day in accidents and naturally, old and young. I think we don't remember the deaths. I think we remember the way that human beings took up arms and marched towards each other, trained to kill each other. They marched over ground which was once flat and green and became shell marked and barbed. I feel that somewhere out there in the mud and dying, the definition of 'human' changed and it has never really recovered. It is this that we mourn, that men and boys from all over the world stood and killed each other. It's as if madness took over the world, something which stopped them seeing people as humans and instead sees them as enemies, soldiers and now names engraved in stone. A little bit of the world ended, and it is this we are trying so desperately to remember in the battlefields of ghosts." **Josie Fairley Keast**







Oliver!

Report by Lydia McMillan

This year, Wallace Hall's Theatre Company put on a production of Oliver! We have worked hard all year, the auditioning process taking place in September 2014, to perfect the show, and it was a great success, receiving a standing ovation on two consecutive nights.

Over the past year we have really bonded as a cast, and everyone has been extremely supportive of each other throughout the whole experience. We also had the help of a team of adults, from the directors to set design and tech support, and the show couldn't have happened without them.

All in all, I think we can agree that the long, tiring rehearsals and singing practises were completely worth it, and Oliver! is an experience none of us will forget.





A life-changing experience



Accompanied by Miss Stephen, seven pupils from Wallace Hall Academy embarked upon an African expedition in the Republic of Tanzania. This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, organised by Camps International, allowed pupils to experience adventure, travel and community work.

Pupils had the chance to work closely with local communities and help improve living standards, improve education standards for children and also help protect wildlife habitats and make a difference. The adventure element of the expedition allowed pupils to



achieve their PADI Open Water Dive certificate; a world recognised Scuba diving qualification! Throughout the expedition, four camps were visited that spanned across the north and west of the country.

The first camp was Camp Kidia located right on the boundary of Kilimanjaro National Park. On a couple of occasions the peak of Mount Kilimanjaro was visible from the camp on a clear day. Here we were given our first task of project work. We had four full days of using tools to dig soil and fill flour bags. The task was to tie together the bags and lay them across the ground at the local school to avoid soil erosion. Throughout the four days we worked on this task we achieved a lot. We also had to contend with adjusting to a life far different from what we are used to at home. We quickly got used to bucket showers where our water was heated in an oil drum. We enjoyed the interaction with the local children who taught us how to make a ball from grass to play with and the football games on the grassland close to our camp.

We then moved to the beach on the west coast to our next camp, a distance north of Tanga. Kenya was only a 40 minute drive away! Our main activities involved building traditional houses out of mud for a family which we completed in a record two and a half days! We also learned how to carve animals from

flip-flops and make key rings and jewellery. Again, we received a warm welcome by the local community during our project work and we completed our PADI certificate for open water dives in the Indian Ocean. Tanga camp brought about our first experience of living in tents and cold showers. Luckily it was warm enough at the beach that we didn't mind so much!

The third camp, Mbokumo, allowed us to work closely with the local children and even allowed us to arrange an official football match with the students at the school. Here, we learned how to make cement manually and begin building the foundations of a new classroom to replace one that had fallen down. We took part in a jeep safari tour where we got to see lions, giraffes, elephants, zebras and all sorts of wildlife native to Tanzania. Unfortunately, we did not see a rhinoceros as they are an endangered species and can only be found in protected areas.



Our final camp in Ndrikwai allowed us to help dig out a watering hole for the surrounding wildlife such as zebras and giraffes to drink out of. Having spent a morning digging, we were able to see the animals come over and drink from the watering hole. We also made elephant dung paper here and we spent an afternoon with the Maasai tribe where we were able to see their lifestyles and buy jewellery that they had made.

The trip was a truly enjoyable experience and taught us a lot about a culture very different from our own.



Raising money for a good cause

The first fundraising event organised by our Charities Committee this year took place during the week before the October holiday. There were lots of activities on offer including a charity bake sale, a raffle and a non-uniform day. In addition, Mr Blair, Mr Dawson, Ben Wicks and Nick Willetts "volunteered" to have their legs waxed to raise money for the charity. The final total raised for Plan UK was an impressive £920.00.



WHPS pupils meet a Maasai Warrior



Picture above shows L - R: John Hastings Thomson, Bryce McKie, Ezekiel Katato, Mrs McDiarmid and Fergus Bainbridge.

A couple of weeks ago on Thursday 22nd September, Ezekiel Katato, a Maasai Tribe Elder, came to visit Wallace Hall Primary. He was accompanied by John Hastings Thomson, one of Joseph Thomson's descendants. We had a special assembly to hear all about Ezekiel's life in Maasai Land.

In assembly he told us about the long journey he had every day. He also told us about transportation in his village and how he got to school and back. Ezekiel explained that they do not go to school until they are ten or eleven years old and the reason behind that is because they have to run 15 miles to and from school every day. We were all glad that we don't have to run that distance to school each day!

He also told us about a special stick he carried, it was decorated with beads and made from the tail of a wildebeest. He told us about life in Africa. Lots of young people like football like us and some have mobile phones now. The difference is that communication isn't as straightforward for them as they have to actively find the signal.

We saw pictures of the animals that live near him like giraffes, hippos and lions. We learned such a lot about life in another land.

Learning about life in Massai Land



Ezekiel Katato also visited Mrs Andrews' Higher Modern Studies class. Picture above shows Ezekiel with Robert Ponton, Sean Wicks, Kerri Canham and Joan Neilson.

Trip of a Lifetime

report by Ally Muir



It was an early start as forty excited pupils, accompanied by five members of staff, set off on a trip of a lifetime to America. After a short bus ride to Edinburgh Airport, we boarded the short flight to Heathrow. From there, we took a longer flight, across the vast Atlantic Ocean, to John F Kennedy Airport in New York. After we arrived and had reclaimed our luggage, we boarded a coach to the place where we would be staying for the next four nights - The Comfort Inn. After unpacking and getting settled, we headed off on an evening walk across Manhattan. We also had a stopover at Grand Central Terminal, which is the largest train station in New York. We then arrived at Times Square, which is the largest thoroughfare in the world. It was filled with glamorous billboards as well as several street entertainers and mascots. We then retreated to have our evening meal at the Hard Rock Café. We headed back to the hotel afterwards to get some much-needed sleep!

First on the agenda for Tuesday was the Rockefeller Centre. This is a complex housing 19 commercial buildings originally built by the Rockefeller family, which was once

one of America's most wealthy and powerful families. There we went to one of the buildings where we went Top of the Rock. From there, you could see a beautiful view of the whole of Manhattan.

Afterwards, we went on another stroll to have lunch in the middle of the stunning scenery and beauty of Central Park - one of America's most beautiful and most visited parks. We then moved on to Madame Tussauds which is a museum displaying wax models of famous celebrities. The next attraction was a tour of the Radio City Music Hall which is one of America's main venues for shows and concerts. We then went for

dinner at the Bubba Gump Shrimp Company which is very much based on Forrest Gump. The final highlight of the day was an evening visit to the Empire State Building. This is the main landmark of New York and at one point, was the largest building in the World. The Empire State Building boasted a picturesque view of New York at night.

Wednesday was an early start as we went on the subway to go downtown in order to go on a boat tour to the Statue of Liberty. This is another symbol of New York and for a main period of its history, was the first thing many immigrants saw as they arrived in America. We had some time on Liberty Island and we moved on to Ellis Island. This used to be the gateway to America for many immigrants and was the largest immigration centre during its operation. It was also known as the Island of Tears as some immigrants were denied entry to America while others were detained here for months or even years. We had lunch and then arrived back at the mainland to visit the 9/11 memorial which was on the former site of the World Trade Centre. This had two reflective pools, which were on the site of where the Twin Towers once stood. We also went to the museum where we learnt more about the 9/11 attacks and about





the thousands of people who were killed and those who witnessed the attacks with their own eyes. This was a very emotional moment for some. We then went back to the hotel and afterwards, we went for dinner at the Dallas BBQ.

The first point of call on the final day in New York was a walk down Fifth Avenue which is the main shopping street in New York. We then went on a shopping trip to Macys in Herald Square. This is one of the largest department stores in America. We went to the One World Trade Observatory or the "Freedom Tower". This is the largest skyscraper in the Western Hemisphere and it shows a wonderful view of the whole of New York. Afterwards, we returned to the hotel where we got dressed in our formal clothes in order to go out. After a hearty dinner at Mama Sbarros, we went on Broadway to watch an evening production of Chicago which concluded our time in New York.

The following day, we packed our things in order to go to Washington with a stopover in Philadelphia. There, we went to the Philadelphia Museum of Art which featured the famous "Rocky Steps", a result of the museum's contribution to the Rocky films. We also visited the Liberty Bell and had lunch in one of the food courts. We

then continued on the journey to Washington, arriving at the Harrington Hotel in the late afternoon where we got settled and had dinner.

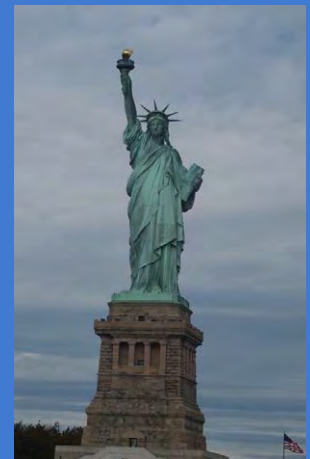
Saturday was the final full day in America and so the majority of the day was seeing sights around America's capital. We first went to the Capitol building which is the seat of the US government. Unfortunately the view was spoiled as renovation work is being carried out on the rotunda. Then we took a tour round Congress and learned about the history of the government buildings. We then continued on to the National Air and Space Museum which contains the largest air and spacecraft display in the world, and is part of the Smithsonian Institution. Afterwards, we continued on to the Newsuem, a museum which contains the history of journalism, past and present and is cleverly emphasised through the use of interactive exhibitions. The next highlight of Saturday was visits to the Washington Monument where we were able to put our feet up in this large monument. We then moved on to the Lincoln Memorial, dedicated to one of the most popular presidents in American history and where Martin Luther King recited his "I Have a Dream" speech in 1963. We then went to

the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, dedicated to the thousands of soldiers who lost their lives in America's most bloody and costly war. The final landmark on the agenda was the White House where unfortunately, we were unable to go inside and meet the President! Finally, we returned to the hotel for dinner and rest.

Sunday was the final day and after packing our suitcases and leaving them at the hotel, we had some time to go to a Starbucks and then go shopping and have lunch. Afterwards, we picked up our luggage and took the coach to Washington Dulles Airport where we departed back to Britain, eager to tell our parents about our experiences. The bad news was that we were jetlagged!!



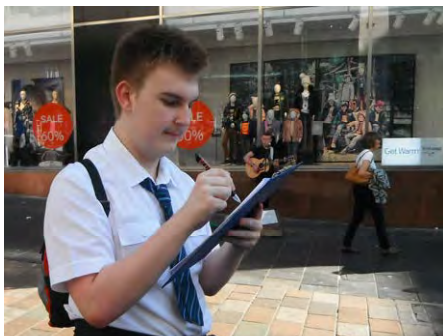








Geography Field Trip to Glasgow



Our Fieldtrip to Glasgow had lots of highlights and adventures. We learned a lot about Glasgow and its many famous landmarks.

One of our main tasks was to get questionnaires completed by the general public and we had a good deal of success with this in Buchanan Galleries, Buchanan Street and Princes' Square as those areas were particularly busy. The new Riverside Transport Museum and Tall Ship proved to be a highlight - as was the ice cream van parked out the front! At the end of the visit we all agreed that 'PEOPLE MAKE GLASGOW'.



Girls' Rugby Tournament



On the 23rd of September, the Wallace Hall Academy under-15s and under 18s rugby teams travelled to Castle Douglas.

We got to Castle Douglas Rugby Club at 10:30am and the first game took place at 11:00am which gave us half an hour to warm up and get ready for the day ahead. Each game lasted

about 14 minutes with half-time lasting two minutes every game.

The under 15s team came 3rd overall in their category beating Dumfries Academy 7-3, Langholm, Annan and Kirkcudbright.

The under 18s team played well and came 2nd in their category. The first two games played by the under 15s were difficult matches. The opposing teams had improved a lot since the last tournament and seemed more aggressive than we had expected, but this didn't faze us as we carried on and played as well as we could, only losing by a few points.

As the day went on, we got better and we won against the next teams we played against, which helped us to end our day on a high note.

Overall both teams played extremely well in spite of the weather and had a brilliant day.

Our confident and capable sailors

The school Sailing Club is once again proving to be a popular activity at Wallace Hall. Pupils who attend are swiftly progressing to be confident and capable sailors.

Ruairidh Fair has just achieved his RYA level 1 and Joe Robertson, Aleksei Wishart and Gregor Black also have done really well, achieving level 3 or level 4. This is fantastic for the boys and demonstrates that they are really at home on the water. Joe, Aleksei and Gregor have been doing a great job by teaching the beginners the finer points of sailing.



Success for Stephanie

Congratulations to Stephanie Lawrie, a former pupil of Wallace Hall Academy, who ran a fantastic race in the recent Great North Run. Stephanie finished 28th out of approximately 20,000 female runners and 635th overall out of a huge field of over 55,000 competitors. Earlier in the summer, Stephanie graduated with a degree in Medicine from Edinburgh University and has just started working as a junior

doctor at Stoke Mandeville Hospital in Aylesbury.

Barry Graham, Head Teacher at Wallace Hall, said: "The Great North Run is probably one of the most fiercely contested half marathon events in the world. For Stephanie to finish in such a strong manner is a fabulous achievement and clearly demonstrates what an excellent athlete she is. I am really delighted to hear of her success, both athletic and academic, and wish her well for the future."



Wallace Hall start rugby season with a bang

Report by Ally Muir

On the 7th October 2015, Wallace Hall U18s travelled to St Joseph's College for their first game of the season.

Wallace Hall got off to a cracking start when good work from Connor Barnes and Craig Scobie resulted in Haydn Payne going over for the try. Wallace Hall continued to dominate and this was later rewarded when Cameron Robertson barged through the St Joe's defence to score between

the posts. Wallace Hall continued to pin the St Joe's defence in their own 22 and soon afterwards, the visitors scored their third try courtesy of Connor Barnes. Nick Willetts then scored a fourth try which was then followed by a fifth from Josh Notman. This surely won the first half for Wallace Hall. However, the first half ended on a low note when St Joe's finally got back into the game. Numerous phases and pressure on the

Wallace Hall 22 resulted in the home team going over for the try by one of their locks.

Like the first half, Wallace Hall dominated sectors of the second. This was mainly the work of the forwards and Wallace Hall benefitted from their efforts. This was in the form of Sean Wicks exploiting some sloppy defence to go over for another try. This was followed by Liam Grierson ploughing over the defence to score the winner. However, the final minutes of the second half were dominated by St Joe's who fought for a consolation try and although they came close twice, they were not rewarded for their efforts and Wallace Hall walked away with the win 43-5. All of the team contributed well to the win. Tom Martin and Reid Paterson had the highest number of tackles and Tom also turned in the ideal captain's performance. Nick Willetts had the highest turnover rate, crucial in preventing St Joe's from scoring. Fraser Lethardy also had a good return game at scrum-half after being out for a year due to a shoulder injury.

Lineups: Connor, Grierson, Martin (C), Robertson, Willetts, Paterson, Lang, B Wicks, Lethardy, S Wicks, Payne, Barnes, Notman, Cringean, Scobie

Subs: Maxwell, Muir



Lois is on top of the world



Lois Geddes, S1, has just recently been crowned best in the world. Lois is a member of "New Kids", a dance team that has just won the Under 14 Novice Team World Championship for Street Dance. At the same competition which was held in Glasgow, Lois was also 7th in the individual Under 14 Intermediate class. This is a

fantastic achievement as competition was fierce, with dancers and teams travelling from USA, Japan and China to take part in the championships.

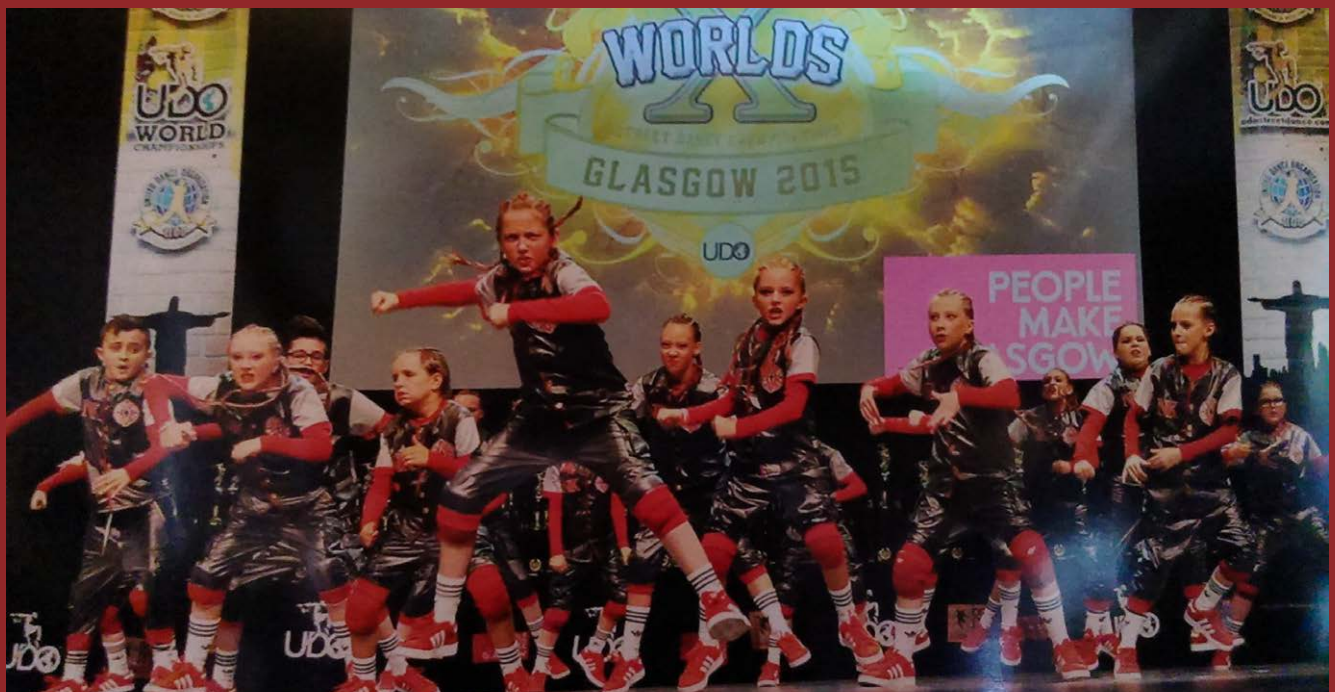
Lois started street dancing in 2011. She first joined FYD, a dance school in Sanquhar, then quickly progressed to MAD Dance Studios at Coatbridge – a 100 mile round trip which she does 3 times a week.

Lois has had a very successful year in 2015, winning the Scottish Solo Championship for Under 14 Novice and, with her partner Corey Owens, winning the Scottish & British Under 14 Novice Duo Championships. All of these achievements mean that Lois now moves up to the next level of Intermediate, with her team, solo and duo performances.

Sunday 20th September brought the start of the qualifiers with the first competition being the Scottish Championships held in Perth. New Kids shone once again, lifting the title of Under 14 Intermediate Champions. Lois achieved 2nd place in her solo at Under 14 Intermediate and 5th place with Corey in the Under 16 Intermediate. The next step for all



these young dancers is competing at the UDO European Championships in Germany. This will be an amazing experience for them all but preparation will require a huge amount of hard work and commitment plus a huge amount of background work from parents, supporting the young people and raising the funds required to compete at this level. Barry Graham, Head Teacher at Wallace Hall, said: "Lois has really shown great commitment, stamina, willpower and determination to compete and win at this level. These are amazing achievements for someone who is only 12 and I look forward to hearing how Lois and the team progress this year."





Congratulations to Cameron Thomson, S2, who has been selected as a Scottish Motor Racing Club rising star. As part of his prize, Cameron will visit the McLaren GT factory.

Cameron started kart racing at the age of ten and showed great potential from an early stage, winning his 1st race at Banff as a novice starting from the back of the grid. In the three years since then, Cameron has continued to have lots of podiums throughout Scotland including winning the Scottish Super Series in 2013 and the 2013 Scottish S Plate Open Championship.

Cameron graduated from the Honda Cadet class to mini max this year which was expected to be a steep learning curve for the 1st year but, after lots of determination, Cameron went on to surprise everyone by winning all 3 heats & the final in his 2nd race

Cameron has the drive to succeed

of the championship. This is a huge achievement as competition is extremely fierce with some very talented young drivers vying for pole position.

Cameron drives for Saltire Motorsport who have also supported Ross Wylie, a former Wallace Hall Academy pupil who is a McLaren GT "Young Driver". Ross has given Cameron lots of

encouragement and has taken him for a birthday lunch at the BRDC lounge at Silverstone. Cameron has also had lots of support from other racing drivers including being chosen for an award by Ryan Dalziel at the beginning of the year where he was invited to be a V.I.P guest at Ryan's world endurance race at Silverstone.

Cameron said: "I am



honoured to have been selected as a rising star and been chosen to represent Dumfries and Galloway. I love racing and also helping to coach newcomers to the sport. It so good to give something back and help those starting out."

Barry Graham, Head Teacher, said: "Cameron obviously has a real talent for motor racing and the drive and determination to succeed at the highest level. I understand that he will be moving up a class again this year and plans to compete in more races South of the Border. I have no doubt that Cameron will build on his existing achievements and I look forward to following his progress on the track. I wish him every success for the coming season."

Gold Medal win for Haydn

Wallace Hall pupil Hayden Meredith has recently won a gold medal in an IAKSA open competition held in Kilmarnock. This is a fantastic achievement as IAKSA is one of the most competitive and exciting forms of martial arts and requires great discipline and dedication.

Hayden said: "I train in Shotokan and Freestyle Karate at the Kickback Martial Arts Club. I have been training regularly for four years to get to this level both at the club and at home. This was my first big event and I was competing against people from clubs all around the region. The fight consisted of two 1½ minute bouts and, just to pile on the pressure, the fight went on to a sudden death finish. I saw an opening and landed a couple of solid moves which secured me the win. Our club came home with a gold, a silver and a bronze medal and we were all pleased with this result."

Mr Graham, Head Teacher at Wallace Hall, said: I was really pleased to learn of Hayden's achievement. Competing in any sport takes great dedication and commitment and this is particularly true for martial arts. I look forward to following Hayden's progress in future competitions."



Sports Stars

Euan Mack, our Principal Teacher of Health and Wellbeing, set up a competition at the start of this year to encourage competitive sport in schools across Dumfries and Galloway.

All regional school sporting competitions over the course of the year contribute to the final result and points are awarded for participation and achievement. Wallace Hall Academy was the winning school this year followed by St Joseph's College in second place and Dumfries High School in third place.

Councillor Jeff Leaver, Chairman of the Education Committee, said: "I think it has been a fantastic opportunity for schools to come together in friendly competition. This is the first year and I hope it will go on for many years to come



Josie Blount and Gavin Wilson are presented with the trophy

as the competition matures and more youngsters will join in."

Euan Mack, PT of Health and Wellbeing at Wallace Hall, said: "The competition was designed to encourage participation in competitive sport across the region. We have seen an increase in the

number of young people choosing to engage in sporting activities from all 16 secondary schools and a particular increase in the amount of girls taking part. I am delighted with the success of the competition and we will be looking to build on this success in 2015/2016."

Parent Council News

It was a key moment in the evolution of Wallace Hall on Monday 5th October, when an 'all school' Parent Council came into existence at the Annual General Meeting. The new Parent Council will take an interest in all aspects of the life of Wallace Hall school – from the nursery, through primary to the senior years. In other words, our 'through school' now has a Parent Council to match.

I was delighted to be asked to serve as Chair of the new group, supported by Jane Bailey (Vice-Chair) and Dawn Stirk (Treasurer). I am also pleased to say that we have a full complement of parent members, as well as scope for some external co-options. The

latter include Brian Johnstone, former chair of Wallace Hall Academy Parent Council, who I must thank for his excellent role in steering us to this point.

The new Parent Council will have several sub-groups and all parents are encouraged to take an interest in these and to get involved – please let Mrs Bainbridge know if you would like to do so. The groups are: Primary Social Events; Burns Supper; Carpark and Road Safety; School Trips; After School Transport; Learning and Teaching.

At the meeting Mr Graham gave us a report on the year just ended and pointed the way to exciting developments ahead. This starts with creating a new 'vision' for the whole school that can



inspire us all. Look out for more detail in the next newsletter, and contact Alice Bainbridge at the school if you have thoughts or ideas to share.

The nights are growing dark – but the bright light of inspiration is shining from our school!

Wallace Hall Parent Council

Craft Fair

Saturday 21st November 2015

from
2 - 4 pm
in the
Bailey Hall

Entry Free
Refreshments served

Ceramics, Cards, Hampers,
Jewellery, Knitted Crafts, Make-Up,
Woodwork, Toys and Gifts

For more information please
contact Alice Bainbridge on 01848
332120

Wallace Hall
Parent Council



Burns Supper

Friday 15th January 2016
at
7.00 pm
in the
Bailey Hall

Tickets cost £12.50 and include a
traditional 3 course meal with a range
of entertainment including recitations,
singing, dancing and speeches