



WALLACE HALL ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER: MARCH 2010



Hagen accepts the Dalziel Shield on behalf of WHA

Wallace Hall Academy's Head Boy, Hagen Patterson, has a lot to be proud of. A keen angler, Hagen is the driving force behind the school's Angling Club which he has been running on a voluntary basis for the past three years. The club now has a total of 34 members ranging from S1 to S6 pupils and meets regularly to fish in local waters.

As a young lad Hagen visited and took advice from another fishing enthusiast and family friend, Crawford Dalziel. Crawford readily supported Hagen with the club and donated various items of fishing tackle for the club to use. Unfortunately, Crawford's health deteriorated and he became unable to make his visits down to the water-side. Hagen elected to undertake regular visits to both Crawford and his wife Nettie to update them on the progress of the youngsters. Sadly Crawford's illness progressed rapidly and he passed away.

Hagen continued to visit Nettie on a regular basis and kept her up to date with the progress of the Angling Club. Nettie decided she would like to present some form of legacy to the club in Crawford's memory and the idea of the Dalziel Shield was conceived. Nettie chose a shield and made plans to present it to Hagen and the club once it was ready. Tragically Nettie's health declined rapidly and, although it was her last wish to present the shield in person, she passed away before this could take place.

Following Nettie's funeral her daughters, Helen and Christine, handed over a beautiful shield to Hagen. This will be presented on an annual basis at the Wallace Hall Academy Award Ceremony to the winner of the Loch League competition. Head Teacher, Barry Graham, said: "I would like to thank the Dalziel family for the support they have given to Hagen and the Angling Club and look forward to presenting the Dalziel Shield for the first time. The Angling Club is a great activity for our young people to be involved in and it is great credit to Hagen and the Dalziel family that the resources are in place to allow it to continue." Hagen has very warm memories of the time he spent with Crawford and Nettie. He is delighted that their memory will live on in Wallace Hall Academy and the surrounding community and that their support of the Angling Club will be formally acknowledged with the first presentation of the Dalziel Shield in 2010.



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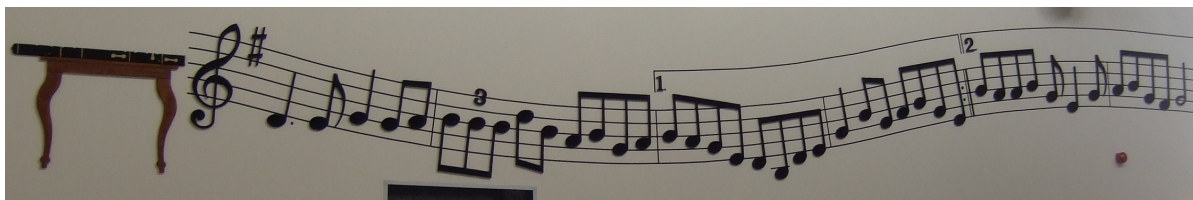
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Introducing our new Depute Head Teachers



Following the departure of Mrs Barbour, Mrs McCurrach and Mrs Watson to pastures new, three new Depute Head Teachers have recently been appointed at Wallace Hall Academy. Photographs show left to right: Mr Phil Cubbon (S4, S5, S6), Mr Mark Turner (S2, S3) and Mrs Yvonne Gall (P7, S1 & PSN).

Our New School *by Darcy Carson*



Throughout 2009, the pupils and teachers of Wallace Hall Academy watched as the new school grew and changed. The building seemed to transform surprisingly quickly from a mass of cement and machines to the place we teach and learn in today. It is an exciting time for everyone as new experiences will be had and invaluable memories made in this new space. We are the first people to live in and benefit from the new facilities.

The area of land on which the school is situated is particularly advantageous. We are surrounded by the undeniably beautiful countryside of Thornhill and light shines in abundance through the large windows, especially in "The Street" area. This gives the school a cheerful atmosphere. Whether you are sitting in class or walking along the balcony, the brightness of the place can be felt.

My personal favourite room in the school, and I know I share this opinion with many others, is the Bailey Hall. It is dedicated to the much loved Physics teacher and friend, the late Kevin Bailey. Displayed across the far wall is part of the tune "The Christmas Reel" which was one of Kevin's favourites. His music and influence on so many people's lives will always be remembered, and I believe this part of the school to show creative flair, much like the man himself, and it is a fitting tribute to his character. It marks our respect and love; two important sentiments in a learning environment and, indeed, in life.

After the initial hiccups of getting lost and the finding of feet everyone is settling in. It is true that the people in the school make the place what it is, but having such a pleasant and spacious school can only be excellent. It is a joy and a delight.



New School Open Day - Sunday 18th April 2010

We would like to invite parents, former pupils and members of the community in to have a look around our new school on Sunday 18th April 2010 between 1pm and 4pm. The event will be advertised through posters, school website, local newspapers and Facebook. We look forward to welcoming you on that day.

Young Enterprise Embrace the Challenge *by Katie Austin*

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This year Wallace Hall Academy's Young Enterprise committee consists of Scott Emmerson, Jonny Blair, Charles Leask, Richard Stonehouse, Christian Bonn, Ryan Tait, Phaedra Snailham, Amy Dykes, Rachael Thompson, Kirsty Bryson and Katie Austin. We named our company "Embrace" and aimed to provide entertainment for younger people rather than a product which most Young Enterprise committees have done before us. Initially we hoped to have an outdoor music festival specifically for under 18's as we felt there wasn't much to do in this area for young people. Unfortunately we were unable to do this for many reasons. However, undaunted, we still hoped to hold a professional gig in our new school's Bailey Hall.



So on the 26th of February we hosted Jakil supported by our very own Room 16. Jakil are a major up and coming Scottish band based in Glasgow. Room 16 are one of our school bands with a line up of Ewan McCall, Kyle and Ronan McLellan, Finlay McCall and Andrew Gordon. It was a great success as the two bands played excellently and it was an evening enjoyed by all. Light refreshments were on sale as was Jakil merchandise both of which proved popular. All members of Embrace are glad it proved such a hit with those who attended. We would also like to thank all those who supported the event, the teachers, the lighting and sound crew and everyone who made the night a success.



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Wallace Hall Academy Pupils visit Dumfries Prison *by Alice Murray and Kate Morrison*

On the 22nd January, Wallace Hall Academy Advanced Higher Modern Studies pupils went on a trip to Dumfries prison. We were joined by pupils from Moffat and Lockerbie Academy. Once we got there we had to hand in all our personal items i.e. car keys, camera, iPod etc. Following a brief introduction from the Governor and some prison wardens, we went on a tour of the prison where we got to go inside a suicide watch cell, cells for the elderly and cells for people who have been fighting. We then went up to the training room where we met 3 prisoners – 2 short term prisoners and 1 long term prisoner. We got the chance to ask our own questions and get the feedback we needed in order to complete our Advance Higher Modern Study dissertations. It was good to get first hand information rather than information from textbooks. We then got to sit down with staff to ask questions and eat a prison lunch. We had the choice of fish and chips or a cheese pastry with chips! After a very interesting morning we headed back to school.



World Book Day Activities



World Book Day, this year held on Thursday 4th March, is the biggest annual celebration of books and reading in the UK and Ireland. The main aim of this event is to encourage people to explore the pleasures of books and reading. This year to mark the event schools were invited to take part in a live webcast by novelist and poet Michael Rosen. The webcast, organised by the Scottish Book Trust, featured Michael Rosen reading from his work and answering questions from a live studio audience. A healthy number of Wallace Hall Academy students chose to participate in what was a very lively and successful broadcast. Pupils who attended the event said that “the poems were really interesting and funny”. S1 pupil Robert Guthrie commented that the whole event was “very entertaining” and said he particularly enjoyed the subject matter of the poems and thought that ‘No Breathing in Class’ was “extremely funny”.

Wallace Hall Academy staff also entered into the spirit of World Book Day by having their photographs taken in unusual places and poses with a book of their choice to fit the theme “Look Who Got Caught Reading”. The photographs have been put on display around the school and have caused great amusement with some very creative poses being struck including staff being photographed in the lift, standing on their head, under their desk and in the fridge! Photograph shows pupils in class 1C2 “Getting Caught Reading” in front of one of the displays. In addition, pupils were issued with a £1 World Book Day Token which can be redeemed locally or nationally for a number of selected books (priced at £1) until Sunday 28th March 2010.

S4/S5 Eco Module need your help!

As part of the S4/S5 Eco Module, pupils are working on a recycling project constructing a greenhouse out of recycled plastic bottles. We need as many 2 litre plastic bottles as possible and would appreciate any bottles that can be brought in from home. Ideally, bottles should be rinsed and labels removed and then handed to Mrs VanDyke in Room 2016. Thank you.

Creative Inspiration

The National Galleries of Scotland “Inspired? Get Writing!” competition has attracted a large number of entries from Wallace Hall Academy this year. Pupils viewed the National Galleries of Scotland online art collections and wrote a poem or story in response to a picture of their choice. For Mrs McMillan’s S2 English class this competition became the focus of an enjoyable cross-curricular project. Mr Hall of Art and Design joined the class to show the pupils a selection of varied and challenging pictures, and led a thought-provoking discussion. Their poetry and stories are now on display on the English/Art and Design notice board, alongside the pictures which inspired them.

Geography Trip to Dalveen *by Emma Kennedy*

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As part of our Standard Grade Geography course, we have been studying glacial features and erosion. With perfect examples of some of these features nearby, our Geography Teachers, Mrs VanDyke and Mr Miller, arranged a field trip to the Dalveen Pass. Richard Clark, a ranger from Drumlanrig, told us more about the history of the Dalveen Pass and showed us real life examples of glacial features, like drumlins and roche moutonnees. We then completed a field sketch of the U-shaped valley including misfit streams and truncated spurs, which we have been studying in class. Despite the cold temperatures and the odd bit of snow, everyone enjoyed the experience and it helped us understand more about glacial features, which are necessary for our exams.

Wallace Hall Academy Photography Club

Wallace Hall Academy's Photography Club has been running successfully for nearly two years with students taking part from S2 to S6. This club has been a great way of allowing these pupils to share their ideas and thoughts through the medium of photography. Last term the Photography Club and the two year Higher Product Design class travelled to Glasgow to have a whirlwind tour of two of Glas-



teachers involved – Mrs Blackburn who teaches Product Design and Mr Williamson who takes the photography club – thought the day was a great success giving the pupils a fun day out while gaining inspiration for future projects. Both teachers hope to run the trip again this year and plan to visit even more of Glasgow's fantastic museums!

16+ Learning Choices

16+ Learning Choices is the Scottish Government's model for supporting positive and sustained progressions post-16 within a Curriculum for Excellence. Scottish Government are working with local authorities and their partners to ensure that every young person has an appropriate, relevant, attractive offer of learning made to them in advance of their school leaving date. All pupils reaching their legal school age must be made an offer post-16. This offer can include continuing in education (school, college, university); National training programmes; jobs with or without training; non formal learning including personal and social development opportunities; Volunteering.

If your child is currently in S4 or will be aged 16 between now and the end of September 2010, they will be made one of these offers. Maurice Gilligan, Careers Adviser of Skills Development Scotland, is working closely with Mrs Fraser to ensure that all pupils have a positive destination post-16. Leaflets giving more information to parents are available from the school. Please contact Mrs Fraser for more information.

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Pupil Work



These photographs were taken outside the new school at the beginning of March. I then made a collage out of the photographs on the computer. It shows different scenes all on one picture. I love how the bright blue sky contrasts with the clean, white snow.

Collage by Connor Sloggett S5

S1 History

First year pupils have been studying "Hitler and the Holocaust". The final task in the unit is to address the issue of "why it is important to remember The Holocaust". This poem was written by Beth Johnstone in 1.C1.

Why We Must Remember

All those bodies burned in a shed,
All those people,
Who are now dead.
The Nazis fought a one way battle,
Sending people in trains for cattle.

If we don't remember
What we've seen,
All those fellow people
Who have now been.
What will soon become of us,
If someone looks at you in disgust?
No, you may not be a Jew,
But what may happen if they come for you too?

by Beth Johnstone 1C1



Motorsports a winner at Barony College

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Scottish Education Secretary Michael Russell dropped in on the last day of a unique motorsports project at Barony College recently which highlighted potential career opportunities within the motorsports industry to local schoolchildren.

Motorsport Week at Barony College was developed jointly with Wallace Hall Academy as a way to encourage schoolchildren to think about careers in this important industry. Eight lucky Year One pupils were selected by the school to take part and went through a rigorous selection process to secure their place.

The UK is a world leader in motorsports, an industry that employs over 40,000 people with annual sales of over £5billion. But while Scotland has

produced world class competitors, such as Jackie Stewart and David Coulthard, the number of people working in the lucrative vehicle preparation industries in Scotland remains small. Drew Easton, Section Head of Engineering at Barony College said: "Motorsport Week was all about inspiring local children and showing them how exciting and rewarding a career in engineering can be. The motorsport industry is arguably the UK's biggest engineering success story at the moment and the potential is there for our young people to create tremendously exciting futures for themselves in this field. "The week's activities included assisting with the pre-race preparation of 2 racing karts, a day learning about off road motorcycles and motocross, a trip to M Sport at Cockermouth to visit the home of Ford world rally cars, a talk from Ross Wylie who is set to be Dumfries & Galloway's next big racing champion, a run in a Mk II historic rally car and a timed trial kart race. "I think we've found some very able future engineers who have been inspired by what they learned last week, and I hope that we can run this programme again and make Motorsport Week an annual event at Barony College."

Education Secretary, Mike Russell, said: "This project has allowed local school children to visit the college and experience one of its innovative courses firsthand. The pupils were clearly motivated by the talks, lessons and demonstrations of engineering in the context of motorsports. It has made learning fun for all those involved from Barony College and Wallace Hall Academy and I am quite sure there will be a few budding engineers in Dumfries & Galloway following Motorsport Week!"



WHA Young Musicians hit the right note



The Dumfries and Galloway zone final of the Rotary Young Musician of the Year competition was held recently in Annan Academy. Twelve young contestants from across the area took part in what was a very closely fought competition with some fine examples of musicianship. In the instrumental section Wallace Hall Academy students triumphed with flautist Julian Pombo just edging ahead of fellow student and pianist Kelvin Riley. Both boys will go forward to play in the Rotary District 2010 final in Edinburgh's Melville College on Sunday 21st March 2010. We wish the boys every success in the final stage of this competition.

Julian has also achieved national success recently by winning the Strictly Composing competition organised by the UK Government as part of the Tune In Year of Music Initiative. The Year of Music has been designed to get children and young people across the UK more involved in musical activities in the 2009/10 school year. The competition, judged by a jury chaired by Antony Hopkins CBE, invited students aged 19 or under to compose a tango lasting no longer than five minutes for any ensemble provided it includes violin and piano. Julian's winning piece "Amor Joven" is set to be professionally recorded by London violinist, Sian Phillips, later this year. Congratulations to Julian on this fantastic achievement. Photo-

graph shows Julian Pombo on flute and Kelvin Riley on piano.

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London Trip *by Cara Halliday*

On the 15th of February, a group of 50 pupils and staff from Wallace Hall Academy set off on an extremely long journey to London at 5.30am in the morning. After a premature lunch stop in Birmingham at 10.30am, we were on our way! We eventually arrived at the YHA Youth Hostel in Rotherhithe at about 2.30pm and had an hour to settle in and get changed before we headed out. We had our dinner at Sticky Fingers (co-owned by Bill Wyman of the Rolling Stones), where we were interested in looking at all the old Rolling Stones pictures, posters, and records displayed over the walls. After tea we started getting excited about our first show of the trip: "We Will Rock You." We could tell when we were getting close because there was a massive statue of Freddie Mercury outside the Dominion Theatre. The show was amazing. None of us could believe how good it was. After an early start on the Tuesday morning, the drivers took us on a tour of London. We passed St Paul's Cathedral, Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament and the London Eye and we also drove over the Tower Bridge. We had three hours of shopping heaven on Oxford street – most of which my friends and I spent in the enormous Topshop!

Later that day we went to see "The Woman In Black". Some people said they didn't find it scary, but I think they just didn't want to admit it! We had our tea at Pizza Hut where we all sang "Happy Birthday" to Stephen as he had just turned 17 that day. The final show was "Wicked". We had great seats right at the top and we could see the set design perfectly. The music in the show was amazing and the actors played their parts very well.

When we came out you could tell that everyone was upset that it was our last show but we could look forward to a "Wicked" workshop in the morning. Back at the hostel some of us started to pack our things away. However, most of us were so exhausted from our busy day that we went straight to sleep. In the morning we loaded our bags onto the bus and set off to take part in the "Wicked" workshop. We didn't expect to have one of the main actors talking to us though! He showed us lots of acting games and people in the group were involved in short improvisations. It was great fun and a lot of people



who wouldn't normally express themselves in front of a lot of people felt very comfortable to speak up. We took a lot of pictures and then said goodbye to our workshop leader. We all got back on the bus and prepared ourselves for another long journey on the bus back to Thornhill. It was a lovely sunny day. At the service station we could sit outside and eat our lunch. We arrived back in Thornhill at about 9.30pm and by then we were all very tired and just wanted to get to our beds! I'm sure everyone will agree with me that our trip to London was brilliant – we all enjoyed ourselves so much and were very sad to leave! On behalf of all the pupils that went on the trip I would like to say a massive thank you to the staff that came with us.



Study Support Sessions - Reminder

A block of study support has been organised to take place during the Easter holidays to assist pupils with the preparation for final exams. Pupils are expected to make their own travel arrangements and should remember to sign in and out of school. See the school website for further details.

Haiti Fundraising Week *by Brenna Aston and Lisa Murphy*



The recent earthquake in Haiti has resulted in mass devastation leaving millions dead, injured and homeless. Although aid has been provided by countless countries and organisations the Haitian people are still in desperate need of assistance. This plight caught the attention of two Wallace Hall Academy pupils, Brenna Aston and Lisa Murphy, and they decided to organise a week of fund-raising events. They were quickly joined in this initiative by Tegan Kirkwood, Nicola Robertson and Elisha Scott and activities such as a "Beat the Goalie" competition, a home baking stall, a 2 hour hula-hoop session and a non-uniform day were organised to take place during the week beginning 1st of March. The week, although hard work and stressful for the organisers, was a fantastic success. The events raised the staggering sum of £1250 with still some money still to be collected. Thanks to all pupils, staff and parents who supported the cause.



Warhammer Club

The Warhammer Club takes place every Wednesday evening in the Library from 4.00pm until 5.30pm. Warhammer is a table-top miniature wargame produced by Games Workshop, set in a science fantasy universe. If you are interested in learning more about the Warhammer Club please feel free to pop in to the Library on a Wednesday night and see what it is all about.



Games Workshop



On Saturday the 6th of March 2010 a team of four from Wallace Hall Academy's Warhammer Club went to Edinburgh and took part in The National Games Workshop Schools League Tournament. The Scottish Regional heats were held in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen. A great day was had by all and the team were extremely pleased to come second in their first tournament. They narrowly missed qualifying for the International Final in Nottingham at Warhammer World, but were delighted to be placed Third in the whole of Scotland.



Ski Trip to Alpe d'Huez



March 2010

Thirty six WHA pupils and four Wallace Hall Academy staff travelled to Alpe d'Huez on Saturday 6th February. All had a fantastic time. Highlights included Callum Park ski Jumping, Shannon McNaught crashing and Andrew Gordon checking out all the fences. Roll on the next trip!

Cross Country Championships

Wallace Hall Academy recently held their school cross country championships. 170 pupils took part and all acquitted themselves fantastically well in some quite tricky conditions. The hard ground and the sprinkling of snow certainly made for some interesting footwork! The results were as follows:



S1 Girls: 1st Kathryn Park, 2nd Philippa Weir, 3rd Lily Gonlag
S1 Boys: 1st Euan Murgatroyd, 2nd Aiden Halliday, 3rd Todd Hay
S2 Girls: 1st Abbie Clark, 2nd Claire Manson, 3rd Katrina Taylor
S2 Boys: 1st Craig Neill, 2nd Siôn Davies, 3rd Jack McQueen
S3 Girls: 1st Corrie Gracie, 2nd Kelly Carmichael, 3rd Shannon McClelland
S3 Boys: 1st Ally Barnes, 2nd John Carlyle, 3rd Struan McLellan
S4 Girls: 1st Maili McKenzie, 2nd Ariadne Weir, 3rd Amy Muirhead
S4 Boys: 1st Chris Ponton, 2nd John Holden, 3rd Matthew McMillan
S5/6 Girls: 1st Stephanie Lawrie, 2nd Stephanie Barnes, 3rd Fiona Stoddart
S5/6 Boys: 1st Kyle McLellan, 2nd David Sloan, 3rd Ronan McLellan

Well done to all those who took part.



Maili displays world class talent



Maili Mackenzie, 4.C2, has been accepted onto the World Class Talent Programme for Great Britain on an initial 3 month probationary period for the Modern Pentathlon. It is hoped after this she will receive official funding to prepare with Team GB for the 2016 Olympics. Maili competes most weekends and this involves lots of travelling up and down the country. The Modern Pentathlon involves 5 disciplines: Fencing, Swimming, Horse Riding, Running and Shooting. All disciplines are competed for on the same day. The fencing discipline uses the épée and is a round-robin competition. Each match lasts one minute and the first fencer to score a hit wins instantly. The swimming discipline is a 200m freestyle event with the equestrian side involving show jumping over a course on a horse paired with the competitor from a drawing that has taken place only 20 minutes prior to the event. The running discipline is combined with the shooting discipline and involves a 2km cross-country track with the competitor firing shots at targets along the route. The school wishes Maili every success on her quest for a place with Team GB for the 2016 Olympics.

Marathon Opportunity

With the kind permission of the Duke of Buccleuch the first Wallace Hall Academy Half Marathon/10K and 3K Fun Run will be held on Sunday 3rd October in the spectacular setting of Drumlanrig Castle and Country Estate and promises to be a fun day out for all. Our enthusiastic committee have put together the following challenging but scenic runs: Queensberry Half-Marathon; The Drumlanrig Demon (10k); Castle View 3k Fun Run (entry on the day for 3k Fun Run) and would like to invite you, your family and friends to take part. We are planning entertainment, stalls and refreshments. Further details and entry forms are available from our school website which is currently being updated. Please check this regularly. We depend on a friendly team of volunteers and sponsors. This is a rare opportunity to be a key player in what we hope will be a major annual event for the school. If you, or anyone you know, would like to be involved please register your details with our Race Administrator: Mrs Diane Jarvie, telephone 01848 332120, email wmaratho264@ea.dumgal.sch.uk.



Queensberry Initiative - some recent activities



Mr Docherty's S1 English classes following a language treasure hunt.



The P7 Transition Group enjoy a Technical lesson with Mr Laurie.



Mr Gilius's third year Maths class learning about measurement.



S4 Transition Group members coach a P7 activity.



Rural Skills Intermediate 1 Group visiting a past pupil's poultry enterprise.

Curriculum for Excellence - Non-Pupil Day

An additional non-pupil day has been organised by the Scottish Government to support the introduction of a Curriculum for Excellence. This will take place on Friday 11th June and pupils will not be required to attend school on this day.