

Wallace Hall

NEWSLETTER



April 2017

Together we grow, learn and achieve

Pegasus Takes Off



Wallace Hall's fantastic new hospitality facilities were opened with a flourish recently with two high-profile events taking place in the venue. For a full report and pictures featuring both occasions please turn to pages 30 to 33.

Songs with Skerryvore

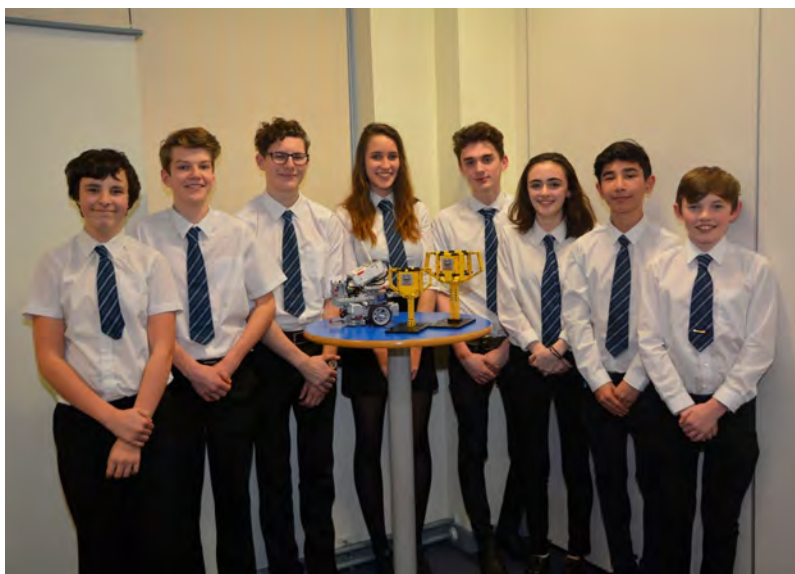


Pupils from Wallace Hall cluster primaries have been working with contemporary folk band Skerryvore in a series of weekly workshops where they composed their own original songs. For a full report and photographs please see pages 28 and 29.

In this edition:

- Star Quality
- First Aid lessons
- Rotary Shoebox Scheme
- Top of the Form
- School Trips
- Queensberry Initiative news
- A tribute to the Bard
- World of Work day
- Head Boy and Girl elections
- Spanish visitors
- Wallace Hall welcomes
- Celebrating success
- Charities Committee
- Day at Dumfries House
- Meet the Researcher
- Rotary Young Chef
- Permaculture project
- Transition time at Wallace Hall
- Hot Air Balloons
- Young Enterprise news
- Songs with Skerryvore
- The opening of Pegasus
- Eco Group in action
- Wonders of the World
- You're Hired
- Sports news

Robotics competition



From building and coding an entire robot from scratch to designing and developing an Animal Ally project where a high frequency collar will be used to allow guide dogs to go to unfamiliar places, it has been a fantastic six months for the Wallace Hall robotics team.

We successfully won the First Lego League regional competition for the West of Scotland and finished runners up in the project design category against 48 other teams from the UK in Bristol. Reaching this level has qualified us to compete in the International competition, which is to be held in Bath at the end of June.

This opportunity has presented us with many challenges that we have had to work as a team to overcome. It has given us

important life lessons that we will take on board in order to develop our design even further, and hopefully we can come home from Bath with a very positive result!



Contacting the school

The telephone number for Wallace Hall is 01848 332120 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.



Star quality

report by Josie Fairley Keast

Ailsa Black, S3, has recently had the chance to perform alongside contemporary folk singer Robyn Stapleton at the Befriending Burns Supper in Dumfries.

Robyn, who won BBC Radio Scotland's Young Traditional Musician of the year in 2014, invited her after judging her exceptional performance at last year's Burns Festival, where Ailsa won best in her class, best secondary performer, and best overall singer.

Ailsa said: "Performing at the Befriending Burns Supper was a huge opportunity for me.

I was amazed that Robyn invited me to perform with her and, although I was quite nervous, it was really nice to get lots of good feedback from the night."

At this year's Burns Festival Ailsa was placed second in her class and proceeded to the National final which took place in Carlisle in April (see report on page 7). Head Teacher Barry Graham said: "Ailsa has an extraordinary voice. We are very proud of her at Wallace Hall Academy and wish her the best of luck in future competitions."

Primary 1 cooking in the Academy

report by Fearnie Tait (P6)



This term P1 have been learning about lots of different countries for their topic, and as a result of that, they have been cooking different traditional dishes.

They have been going up to the academy kitchen learning a different meal to cook each week. So far they have learnt the following: Anzac biscuits, Damber bread, spring rolls

and pasta salad. They have also prepared fruit for fruit salad. They learned lots of useful skills during the five weeks that they have been cooking.

P6 first aid lessons

report by Iona Menzies (P6)



For the past few weeks P6 have been learning how to save a life.

They have been taking part in first aid lessons in their General Purpose room with Mrs McDiarmid, their Depute Head Teacher, and they have been learning lots about how to

perform CPR and how to help somebody who is choking. For a couple of lessons, they used the resuscitation dummies.

Fearne Tait said: "I can save someone's life now!"



Angus MacCormick added: "I liked how I had to remember my skills from lifesaving class."

We certainly think the class enjoyed the lessons. P6 can now officially save someone's life!

Rotary Shoebox Scheme

report by Angus MacCormick (P6), Bryce Mckie (P7) and James Hunter (P7)

Wallace Hall Eco Committee and Pupil Councils wanted to change some other people's lives by taking part in the Rotary Shoe Box Scheme.

When we all got together to pack the boxes we were amazed by the amount of donations that we received from pupils and families in the community.



After decorating the boxes and packing them we piled them up and sent them away to people that need them more than us.

We would like to say a huge thank you to members of the Thornhill and District Rotary Club for organising the collection of the boxes and everyone who made donations, as well as Miss Meegan and Mrs Innes for helping us get everything done.

Top of the Form

The Rotary Primary Schools' Quiz was recently held at Wallace Hall Primary School. Seven teams representing primary schools from the area took part.

In a closely run contest, previous trophy holders Wallace Hall Primary were once again victorious.

The team, pictured with Thornhill and District president Andy MacKay, are: James Hunter, Fergus Bainbridge, James Hobman and Alex Flannigan.

The team will go on to compete in the regional final later this year.



P6 and P7 visit Glasgow Science Centre

report by Fearne Tait (P6)



On Thursday the 2nd of February, P6 and P7 went to the Glasgow Science Centre. As space was their topic, they learnt lots of interesting things in the Planetarium and the IMAX cinema, and then had lots of fun exploring the different floors.

The first floor had lots of different activities, the second floor was Energy and the third floor was Body Works.

Angus MacCormick, P6, said: "It was very interesting."



Evaluating our Queensberry Initiative



Queensberry Initiative (QI) held an evaluation event with **S6 pupils from both Wallace Hall and Sanquhar Academies.**

The S6 pupils from Wallace Hall have been involved in many of the QI programmes including P7 transitions, subject use of the Outdoor Classroom, Career Mentoring, vocational courses and tailored work experience. This was their last opportunity to give feedback on the project's impact before they leave.



A tribute to the Bard



narrowly missed out on being placed in the class on this occasion. In the singing section, **Bethany chose to perform "Ye Banks and Braes"**, accompanying herself on the guitar. Although Bethany just missed out on being placed, she delivered a lovely, musically accomplished performance which was much enjoyed by all. In the S3/S4 singing category Ailsa also **performed "Ye Banks and Braes"**, delivering a hauntingly powerful version of this Burns' classic to a very appreciative audience. The judge, Emily Smith, commented on the beautiful tonal quality of **Ailsa's voice and awarded her a very well deserved second place.**

Ailsa represented Dumfries and Galloway at the next stage of the competition which was held in Carlisle in April. Although Ailsa was not placed on this occasion, she was awarded an outstanding certificate for her performance.

The annual Scottish Schools' Burns Competition was held in Dumfries Academy on Saturday 4th February 2017. This competition is open to pupils from Primary 4 up to S6 with sections for singing, instrumental, recitation and bagpiping in the various age categories.

Four pupils from Wallace Hall Academy took part: Ailsa Black, Hannah-Kate Fisher, Bethany Nicholson and Baillie Paterson. Hannah-Kate and Baillie took part in the recitation section. Both girls did really well, performing "A Red, Red Rose", and "Willie Wastle" respectively. However, after confident and polished performances, both girls



Stationery Shop in the Library

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

World of Work Day

report by Fearne Tait and Iona Menzies (P6)

On Thursday 30th of March it was World of Work Day and Wallace Hall Primary School was buzzing with excitement. We had lots of visitors from different professions coming into school to explain all about what they did in their jobs.

Primary and nursery pupils dressed up as what they wanted to be when they were older. There

was a wide variety of costumes and job ideas, including chefs, vets, teachers, police officers, doctors, nurses, firefighters and many more. The visitors set up their stations in the games hall and had lots of equipment on display to show what they did in their job. The pupils could choose who they wanted to talk to based on what jobs they liked.

We asked some pupils what they thought about their time in the hall.

Angus, P6, said: "The paramedic was my favourite because he inspired me to save lives."

Giulietta, P2, said: "My favourite was the chef, because I want to be a waitress when I'm a teenager and a chef when I grow up."

Daisy, P6, added: "I think it was a great idea because I learnt a lot about jobs I'd never thought about before."

The day was a huge success and thanks go to all who took part.





Head Boy and Head Girl elections



The Head Boy and Girl Elections recently took place in the Bailey Hall. Following a rigorous selection process, two boys, Gavin Wilson and Jack Roberts, and five girls, Georgie Blount, Maia Smyth, Marianne Willetts, Hannah Graham and Alice Best, went forward to the voting stage.

All of them fought an excellent campaign with the results being announced as follows: Head Boy - Jack Roberts, Depute Head Boy - Gavin Wilson, Head Girl - Hannah Graham, Depute Head Girl - Georgie Blount. Mr Blair, DHT at



Wallace Hall, said: "Congratulations to all who took part and in particular to Jack, Gavin, Hannah and Georgie. I look forward to working with them when they will take up their duties at the beginning of the new timetable in June."



Our Spanish visitors

Last month Wallace Hall Primary hosted a group of pupils and parents from León in North Western Spain. They were in Scotland on a cultural tour to learn more about the country, its heritage and culture. The pupils were aged between six and nine years old

and spent time learning about life in a Scottish school and comparing it to their own school experience.

Throughout the day they had a tour of the school campus, joined the nursery for their weekly Welly Walk into the forest, created Scottish thistles with Primary Four



and participated in a game of dodgeball with Primary Six. The language barrier disappeared very quickly as the pupils engaged in the range of learning and play experiences. Depute Head Teacher **Mrs McDiarmid said: "This was a fantastic experience for both sets of pupils. They all learned a great deal about the culture and school life in each other's country, and we hope to be able to continue this link in the future."**



Wallace Hall welcomes

report by Emily McVicar, Gemma McLeod,
Sarah O'Connor and Shona Buckley



On Monday 7th of November, pupils from Hungary, Belgium, Germany, Estonia and their teachers arrived in Dumfries. After arrival, the hosts took the pupils back to their individual houses. We spent some time getting to know our guests before heading off to bed.

Later, project work was completed and we all went home.

On Wednesday, everyone had fun setting up the food court for lunch time. Lots of food from each country was thoroughly enjoyed and the food court raised lots of money for charity! In the evening, everyone headed back up to the school for a



The next day, we all caught the bus or walked to school and gathered in the hall. The first activity was ceilidh dancing where the hosts and members of the schools learned dances from the different countries. It was really interesting! In the afternoon, we all learned about ghost stories at Drumlanrig Castle and had lunch.

ceilidh, where the dances we learned the previous day were performed. As it was Gemma's birthday, the Estonians suggested an Estonian tradition which included Gemma being thrown in the air on a chair. It was so fun!

On Thursday we went to Glasgow which was enjoyable as we got to go to some educational museums, which were lots of fun!



The exchange students enjoyed experiencing some Scottish history and culture. After the first museum, we all went out for lunch which gave us another good chance to get to know each other more. That night, everyone went to the cinema



to watch Doctor Strange, which was a new experience for some.

Afterwards, we all went back to Alexandru's house where the evening was spent eating lots of pizza!

On Friday, presentations were shown of everyone's trip and the work we had done, which reminded us of how much fun we had. In the afternoon we took a trip to Dumfries for lunch and shopping before venturing off to Caerlaverock Castle. The exchange students enjoyed the experience and were pleased to be able to take so many lovely photos.

To conclude the great week we had, we went out for a meal in the evening. Everyone was sad to say goodbye at the end of what had been a truly brilliant experience.



S1 trip to Glasgow Science Centre

report by Olivia Andreassen



On Wednesday 22nd February 2017, S1 had the opportunity to go on a school trip to the Glasgow Science Centre. The Centre has three floors of entertaining activities and fascinating exhibits.

On arrival we headed straight to the second floor, all set for some fun. This floor had many activities: a skeleton mimicking what your bones do when you ride a bicycle; a magnetic bridge challenge where you had to try and make a bridge out of metal sticks before the magnetic field timer ran out; the spinning wheel podium, where you would spin the wheel and turn it on its side which would turn you around the opposite way without you even touching the floor; a magic harp which had no strings but instead had invisible beams that could sense movement to create a sound; a huge obstacle course where large yellow balls moved through a variety of challenges to complete their course; some magic mirrors which were concave or convex and turned your body into some very funny and interesting shapes, and finally there was a box with lots of different animal skeletons that you could only feel and not see. Overall the second floor was exceptional.

After a quick lunch we headed off to watch a presentation about

all three sciences on the first floor. First we learned about chemistry and how to make glow in the dark liquids using different chemicals. Next we learned about physics and how liquid nitrogen can make magnets move around a circular track. We also learned that if you get the right speed and the right angle you can get an object to fly in the exact same route each time. We tested this using Angry Birds. We also learned how some x-ray machines work in biology. Overall, the presentation was fabulous.



Excited for the final floor, we headed up the stairs to the third floor. When we reached the top of the stairs we were welcomed by many new and interesting activities. There was magnetic liquid; a mind controlled ball where you would wear a headset with a partner and then try and relax, then the person who was the most stressed or anxious would have the metal ball come closer to them; a jump test where you jumped as high as you could on this special mat and then it would tell you how high you could jump; a speed test where you would run from one end of the track to the other and the machine would time you and there were plenty of computer quizzes and tests that you could participate in to challenge your mind. My personal favourite was the ideas section, where you could write your ideas on a piece of paper and add it to the rest, or you could add onto **someone else's idea.**

To conclude, the Science Centre was amazing and I would definitely go again in the future. I recommend it to everyone!







Celebrating success at Wallace Hall

report by Josie Fairley Keast



Lucy Doig and Josh Notman present flowers to Yasmine McLurg

The Senior Celebration of Success Ceremony took place on the 22nd of March, giving teachers, students and their families the opportunity to celebrate pupil achievement throughout the school year.

The evening began as per tradition, with pupils being piped into the hall by S6 student Mhari Prentice. This was followed by introductory speeches from Mrs Robertson and Mr Graham, expressing the importance of the event in the school calendar and summing up the many highlights of the past year. S6 pupils Lucy Doig and Owen Davies gave a spellbinding performance of 'For

Good' from the musical *Wicked*, before the S4 awards were presented.

Following a slight change of plan, the awards were presented by Yasmine McLurg, who has been an instrumental part of organising these events at Wallace Hall. Yasmine is leaving Wallace Hall at the end of this term to begin her career as a personal trainer and we wish her well.

This year's guest speaker was Ross Wylie, a professional motor racing driver and former Wallace Hall student. Although Ross was unable to attend the evening in person due to a scheduling conflict, he took the time to

record a short video speaking about his achievements and encouraging pupils to work for their own success in the future. The S5 awards were followed by a performance of 'The Pink Panther' by S6 pupil Josie Fairley Keast on the saxophone. After the presentation of the S6 awards, the event drew to a close with the **Head Boy and Head Girl's speech.** Josh Notman and Lucy Doig summed up both their time in office and their experience over the last six years, wishing the best of luck to all students throughout the school. Finally, Mrs Robertson closed the evening by thanking everyone who had helped to organise, performed or spoken at the ceremony: "The evening was a great success, with wonderful performances from a number of our talented pupils. It was a delight to celebrate the achievements of so many of our students."



Val Inglis presents Lauren Johnstone with the Joan Inglis memorial rosebowl



The senior girls' hockey team is presented with their certificates for winning the Dr Turner's hockey tournament



Lucy Doig is presented with the Class of '74 Award by Linda Shields



Gregor Black



Emily Kennedy



Shona Buckley



Ruairidh Fair



Molly Kitson



Hannah Graham



Maia Smyth



Caitlin Harley



Caitlin Greenwood



Morgan Tait



Gavin Wilson



Declan McGarva



Josie Fairley Keast



Ellie Thorburn



Alice Best



Emily McVicar

S6 Charities Committee Primary Fundraiser



On the 24th of February the S6 charities committee held a fundraising day to raise money to help Holly Clarke in the

nursery receive cerebral palsy treatment.

It was a fun filled day for all of the primary and nursery pupils who participated in activities. In the morning we held fun games in the primary hall. The pupils enjoyed trying to beat the goalie, win relay races and playing with the parachute.

In the afternoon we held a concert where pupils from the secondary entertained the entire primary with fantastic music.

The whole day was a huge success and we would like to thank



everyone involved for their charitable donations. We raised over £900 through the bake sales and other activities throughout the day.



Raising funds for Queensberry Initiative



Queensberry Initiative (QI) Strategic Board and Wallace Hall hosted a fabulous Casino Night fundraiser for the QI charity. This was the first time such an event has been hosted in the school and it proved very popular with a great turn out from supporters, partner businesses, parents and the wider community.

Hospitality pupils did a wonderful job of looking after guests, and providing tasty canapés throughout the evening. It was a very sociable night and gave the QI team a chance to chat with some of their supporters and partner businesses while raising the amazing sum of £2744.

Thank you to the QI Strategic Board for organising this successful evening and to everyone who came along to support us. We must also say a special thank you to Clare and Graeme from Bank of Scotland, who joined us as volunteers.

P3 Skyping

As part of their Night and Day topic, P3 recently used Skype to speak to an Australian teacher. They asked lots of questions about what it is like to live in Australia. They found out that Australians are eight hours ahead of us and learnt about the animals that live there. They also found out that they ate lunch outside every day because the weather is so nice!

Day at Dumfries House

report by Hannah Kate Fisher



A group of S1 pupils were selected from Mr Corrigan, Mr Lees and Mr McKenna's Design and Technology classes and taken to Dumfries House to learn about coding and programming.

When we got to Dumfries House we put our bags on racks and sat down at tables with boxes on them. We were asked to figure out what was in the box, and it turned out it was a computer.

It was an Arduino Uno, which is for programming and animating. We created our own animations and then they appeared on the Arduino, which was cool. We had fish and dogs appear on them which is quite clever. Then we had to create our own animations. My partner and I created a dog walking then sitting down and wagging its tail and then we made a beating heart.

After lunch we went outside to the water park. It was amazing! There were sprinklers that you had to operate. The first needed cycling to make it work and for the second one you had to stand on a big box and tilt it from side to side. There were many different machines there that were water powered such as the sprinklers, the wheel, the pump, the maze and the waterfall. It was very exciting figuring out what you had to do with all the machines.

Two of the students, Sorcha Corrigan and Joel Hall, constantly ran through the sprinklers, which was crazy because they were drenched every time they did this!

We had a fantastic time and we are very grateful to Dumfries House for teaching us about coding.



Finding out about forestry

report by Harry Grant

The Forestry group recently embarked on an adventure down to Lockerbie to visit James Jones and Sons Ltd.

Firstly we learnt a little bit about the business such as the jobs they provide and what the wood they process is being used for. Then they gave us a tour round the sawmill showing us the machinery they use to process the wood such as: the sawing machine, the kiln and the quality check machine. We learnt a lot about the process of producing wood.

Overall the forestry group enjoyed the trip and it was really interesting to see how the business and the sawmill works.



Meet the Researcher

Experiences, opportunities and careers in medical research were highlighted to Wallace Hall pupils at Medical Research Scotland's 'Meet the Researcher' event at Glasgow Science Centre recently.

They heard how pioneering studies into malaria, osteoporosis, cancer, and lung and kidney disease have been carried out in Scotland, and had the chance to meet university students and researchers and find out more about their work.



Learning about lambing

report by Elaina Bray

The Queensberry Initiative's (QI) Rural Skills course has given me great opportunities to meet local farmers and have excellent hands-on experiences with all kinds of livestock from dairy cattle to free range hens to sheep and pigs.

Lately we have been lucky enough to visit Hayfield, Clonhie and Dressertland farms during their busy lambing period. At these farms we have learned new skills related to working with new-born

lambs and their mothers. We got involved with bedding the sheep and docking lambs tails for hygiene, and we were able to work together to move the sheep and lambs to different pens. We really enjoyed feeding and getting a lamb cuddle once the work was done.

We gain so many skills from our practical visits to working farms, which will really help us with our career choices after school.



Congratulations to Morag Stewart, S5, who won the Rotary Young Chef District Final. In a tight contest held recently at West Lothian College, Livingston, Morag came out on top beating five other finalists from Kelso, Duns, Edinburgh and Dalbeattie.

Morag was sponsored by Thornhill and District Rotary Club and went on to represent the district in the Scottish final which was held at Dundee and Angus College. Although Morag narrowly missed out on progressing to the next level, Andy MacKay from Thornhill and District Rotary Club said: "We at the club are all very proud of Morag. She is a credit to her parents and to the school. The menu and table dressing she created at Livingston was to a professional standard and she clearly has flair and a feel for food."

Rotary Young Chef



Permaculture project



Our Permaculture Project is gardening in a sustainable, environmentally friendly way. It has three principles: Earth Care, People Care and Fair Share.

We have made excellent links with our local community. The Community Council has given us £250 towards the project and we hope to be able to grow plants to fill planned street planters in

Thornhill. Carronbridge Sawmill donated and delivered wood chips for the muddy raised bed paths and we enjoyed putting the wood chips down.

We have used maths to measure the area and produce scaled planting plans, as well as critical thinking and problem solving skills to develop our project on site, especially when the wood chip delivery truck got stuck

in the mud and had to be towed out! We came up with the solution of filling plastic bags and trays with wood chips to transport to the path area. Many hands made light work!

Primary 6 have already achieved their Levels 1 and 2 Royal Horticultural Society school award and are now aiming for Level 3. We are also part of a scientific potato research project measuring crop yields using different varieties of potato.

We are about to plant out sweet peas, runner beans, herbs and flowers to produce food and increase the biodiversity of the school environment.

Being outdoors is known to help improve health and wellbeing and is certainly an enjoyable way of addressing many areas of learning.







Transition time at Wallace Hall

Hot Air Balloons

Report by Iona Menzies (P6)

In March 2017, P2 pupils made Papier Mache hot air balloons because they were learning about air transport. They said it was hard but fun! It was messy and there was glue everywhere. They learned that the hot air balloon was invented in 1783 by the Montgolfier brothers. They all had lots of fun.





World Book Day in Wallace Hall Library

Our Enterprising Idea

report by Wallace Hall Young Enterprise Group

For our Young Enterprise group, *Bespoke Green Glass*, we came up with the idea of slumping glass bottles in a kiln.

This was the product we settled on after dismissing ideas such as smoothies, wooden pallet furniture and cutting glass. We felt that turning old glass bottles into attractive products was sustainable as well as marketable and we could make use of the

facilities in the Art Department in school.

We received excellent support from Mr Peter Harrison, our link teacher in Wallace Hall, and Mrs Senga Greenwood who was our Business Mentor.

After trading for a few months, we attended the regional finals and, despite not winning the overall prize, were placed 3rd for our presentation and received several encouraging and positive comments.



Songs with Skerryvore

report by Josie Fairley Keast



Classes from the cluster primaries have been working with contemporary folk band Skerryvore in a series of weekly workshops to compose their own original songs.



Over a six week period starting in January, the band had pupils consider their own personal tastes in music, thinking about different artists and genres ranging from traditional folk to pop and rock. This led to them choosing the style they wanted their own piece to be. The next step was to choose a subject to base the song on. After much discussion, each class eventually came up with their own unique idea, ranging from 'what would I do if I had a million pounds?' to moving up to secondary school. After learning the basics of rhythm and rhyme, the classes had to write their own lyrics, including multiple verses and a chorus. Skerryvore set each piece to music according to the earlier decisions made about style and genre; the last stage was to

decide on the final order of the verses and to prepare for performance. Two extremely successful concerts were held in Wallace Hall Academy at the end of February, featuring half the cluster on Wednesday 28th and the other the following day. The latter concert also included the Wallace Hall P5 accordion group, accompanied by secondary students Ellie Arnold, Declan McGarva, and Darroch Wood. The group have been taught by Keith Dickson since the start of the school year and have been making excellent progress.

Molly, P6, said: "I liked Skerryvore because it was fun and we got to write our own song," and Lilly, P7, added: "It has encouraged me to be more musical in my own life. I really enjoy music and would like to encourage others." Miss Dalgliesh, a teacher at Duncow Primary,

said: "The guys were fantastic with the kids and gave them a real insight into the songwriting process. The 'Join Our Band' project was a great opportunity for the children and at the end they were able to perform their song to family and friends. I loved watching the kids perform and was very proud of them. A massive thank you to Skerryvore and Kate Picken for all their hard work!"

This fantastic opportunity was organised by Kate Picken, Youth Music Development Officer for D&G. Kate is also responsible for many other music projects currently taking place around the region, including the P5 accordion group and the Dumfries and Galloway Youth Jazz Orchestra. The work that Youth Music Initiative does to promote music



both in and out of schools around the region is irreplaceable, and it is thanks to their dedication and influence that young musicians are able to work with professional artists like Skerryvore, gaining experience and skills which will stay with them for a lifetime.





The Opening of Pegasus

report by Eleanor McKie



Down in the bottom of school, in what most of us remember as the H.E. classroom, is now a large, modern kitchen and restaurant suite, the first Inspiring Spaces project in the region. The project, generously funded by the Scottish Government in cooperation with teachers and Amey Ventures, is one of twenty projects that aims to give young people hands-on experience. It is appropriately named 'Pegasus', in honour of the mythological beast that stands on Thornhill's mercat cross that many of us see every day.

On Monday, the 6th of February, Scottish Chef of the Year, Ian McAndrew, helped pupils who were cooking for a party of roughly thirty staff and guests. In addition to this, Ian acted as a consultant to ensure that the suite was fitted to professional standard and the funding used to get the best possible end product.

Dumfries Provost Ted Thompson, who is civic head of

Dumfries and Galloway Council, began proceedings by officially opening the restaurant. Mr Thomson said: "The restaurant will provide pupils in Mid and Upper Nithsdale with outstanding opportunities to develop professional skills and secure jobs in the hospitality industries. I hope that in the future the suite will help give many an insight into the world of hospitality and hopefully help them put their best foot forward as they search for jobs themselves."

Mr Graham stepped forward to welcome the guests, in the process recording his warmest thanks to Ian McAndrew for his exceptional support throughout the project and for his hard work in the lead up to the opening. He also thanked the Buccleuch and Queensberry Arms



Afterwards, the chefs received a token of thanks for their hard work.

Many pupils enjoyed being a part of the day. Ella Cavani said: "It went really well and I think everyone was a credit to the school". Danny Ronan added:



Hotel for sponsoring the chef's whites used in the training suite.

Guests were then served a delicious menu, consisting of salmon, duck and lemon sorbet, by S4 waiters and waitresses.

"There were no accidents and everything ran smoothly."

Overall, the opening of the restaurant was a great success and it is hoped that many pupils will benefit from having the facility in the school.





Stars of the small screen

report by Josie Fairley Keast and photography by Lottie Bramley



environment for staff to come to. We don't even have a phone in here. It's an escape, and a chance for us to learn skills we wouldn't normally develop in school. It doesn't feel like school, or even a classroom - we're all friends here."

The intense level of teamwork and planning required to run even this relatively small-scale kitchen is evident from watching the team of volunteers as they work. The final broadcast will have been filed down from nearly five hours of footage taken as the team prepared, cooked and finally served a variety of dishes. Also featured in the segment is current Scottish Chef of the Year Ian McAndrew, owner and Head Chef of Blackaddie Country House, Sanquhar. Dave Dillon, Depute Head at WHA, said: "It's fantastic to have the skills developed by our students in the hospitality kitchen showcased on television." Callum Rennie, another member of the team, added: "Being filmed was an exciting but nerve-wracking experience. I really enjoy working in the kitchen; we have a lot of fun."

The 'Pegasus' team look forward to developing their abilities in the kitchen and producing new and exciting menus for their customers to enjoy. The restaurant has already been described as "a great opportunity to have a nice lunch" by satisfied customers, but the facility's true value lies in the professional work experience and range of practical skills pupils will gain through working in the kitchen. Harvey Buchanan, S6, said: "It really shows off what the school can do for its kids."

Wallace Hall's hospitality suite and its team of student chefs were recently visited by a team from ITV Border News to film a six-minute segment for the Border Life programme which was broadcast in March.

This exciting opportunity comes hot on the heels of the official opening of the restaurant and kitchen under the name 'Pegasus.' Since the start of the year, the suite has become a much-valued part of the school, offering both freshly prepared meals to groups of staff once a week and a platform for students interested in pursuing a career in hospitality to develop their skills in a professional environment. Grace O'Sullivan, one of the senior pupils involved in the team, said: "It's a really lovely





Wonders of the World

report by Josie Fairley Keast



This term, P1's topic is 'Wonders of the World.' They are currently enjoying lots of fun activities to help them learn about what it's like to be in another country.

When learning about the Amazon Rainforest, P1 invited their family members in to help them build their own treehouses. They had to find a stick to use as the trunk and then add a treehouse, making

sure there was a way for people to get up the tree and into the house. Afterwards they added leaves and animals such as sloths, monkeys, snakes and frogs.

Bonnie Smith, P1, said: "My favourite bit was when I got to paint it," and parent Ray Fulton added: "It was a really fun and engaging activity for pupils and parents alike." P1 have also visited the hospitality suite in the secondary school to have a go at preparing their own Australian and Italian recipes, and will soon be doing some charity work to raise money and awareness for deforestation in Kenya and the Amazon.



Rocket Building with Dr. Fulton

Report by Sebastian Young (P6)



On the 16th of February, Dr. Fulton from the Academy came to help P6 build rockets and then launch them in the playground.

First they had to get a small tube and wrap it in paper, and then they had to get a penny and stick it to the paper on the top of the tube. They stuck fins to the bottom of the rocket and then they had to put the cone on top and design them.

Finally they got to launch them, and some of them landed on the roof. "It was brilliant!" said Corey Findlater.



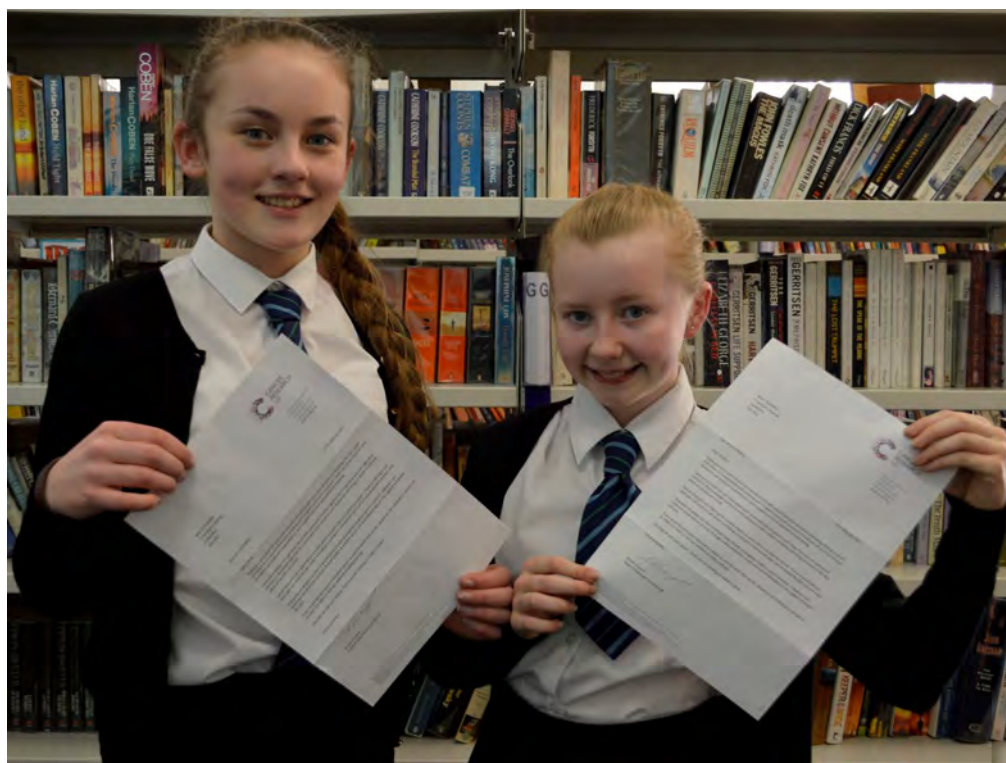
Olivia and Charlize raise funds for Cancer

First-year pupils Olivia Andreassen and Charlize Huxtable have recently put in a huge effort to raise funds for Cancer Research UK.

report by Josie Fairley Keast

As both girls lost their grandmothers to cancer, the charity is very close to their hearts, and they wore white and purple throughout their campaign to raise awareness for lung and pancreatic cancer respectively.

During the winter the girls went round their local streets and handed out letters to raise awareness for their cause. Olivia also raised a further £75 through participating in 'Sugar-Free February', going the whole of February without eating sugar. Overall the girls raised £185 for cancer research, and have already received a lovely reply from the head of fundraising.



P6 & P7 Build Your Own Rocket Project

Report by Asher Thomson (P6)

On Friday the 17th of February, P6 & P7 were given the task of building their very own rockets! All of the rockets were brilliant and pupils surprised their teachers with their fantastic ideas.

Afterwards they had to write a report about how they constructed their rocket. P6 & P7 have been very enthusiastic with their space topic but sadly it will soon be coming to an end.



The Eco Group in Action



Litter is waste in the wrong place. Unfortunately some of it is on our school grounds, instead of being in a bin or recycling container.

Cleaning up demonstrates that littering is not tolerated in our community and encourages pupils to maintain the cleanliness and appearance of our school.

In March, the S1/S2 Eco Group decided to tackle the problem head on by arming themselves with litter pickers and wearing very fetching bright yellow tabards. Suitably attired, they headed for the school grounds where they found an assortment of litter in the undergrowth and on the playground. Despite the inclement



weather, the group went about their task enthusiastically and after 45 minutes they had filled a large number of bin bags.

The pupils are also in the process of designing anti-litter posters which will be displayed around the school in the hope that pupils will dispose of their rubbish responsibly.



Belgium Bound

report by Gregor Black, Aidan Connor and Connor Kelly



At six o'clock on a Sunday we woke from our sleep in our snug homes to go to school. There was a good reason to this however, as we were to go on an airplane to Amsterdam, then take a five hour train journey to Waregem. It was definitely worth the wait.

Once we arrived in Waregem we were given a warm welcome by our hosts and got a quick insight to their everyday lives, which were actually not unlike ours. Sadly we were tired and needed an early night's rest.

On Monday we awoke in our new homes and were offered breakfast by the caring parents of our exchange partners. All of us arrived at school at 8:00 and were



greeted by some of our partner's friends. When we arrived in the exchange room it was filled with what seemed like a hundred exchange students. We socialised with as many as we could but unfortunately we could not talk to them all.



We then proceeded to follow our exchange partners around the school, which was definitely larger than Wallace Hall Academy, sporting three gyms and three dinner halls. For the rest of the day we worked on our project. On Monday night there was a food court featuring national foods from all the visiting countries: Scotland, Norway, Hungary, Iceland and Germany.

The next day we went to the historical city of Bruges which had an amazing town square. We went to a café and were served some delicious hot chocolate. Sadly it was very foggy on the day so we



weren't able to take good pictures or take in the full experience.

On Wednesday we went to a local factory that recycled 100% of its products. It was a very good experience that taught us that anything can be recycled if you try hard enough. On Thursday we went to Ghent which was a very large and beautiful city. To make the most of the time we decided to travel by bike. Although a few of us were not very experienced in the ways of public biking, we managed to pull through. On Friday we had to deliver our presentations on 'The School of the Future' to a representative of the Belgian Minister of Education. After our presentations we were allowed one more look at Waregem where we had the chance to buy some mementos to remember Belgium. We relished every moment right up to the point when we said our goodbyes as our train left for Amsterdam.



Enjoying Erasmus

report by Marianne Nicholson, Lottie Bramley, Alexandru Nan, Iona Warrior and Sam Hamilton



On Sunday the 12th of February, we travelled to Urspringschule in Germany. We flew from Edinburgh airport and arrived in Stuttgart at 2.30pm. The scenery was beautiful; all the trees were really frosty and the ground was covered in a light dusting of snow.

We arrived at the school and were taken to our rooms by the Germans. As it is a boarding school, some of us were staying in the dorms! We got a good look at all the school buildings and most of them were very old and picturesque. That evening we just hung out because nothing in particular had been planned.

On Monday, we started with project work. It was mainly focused on being more eco-friendly, and for this we were split into groups which gave us a chance to mix with all the different nationalities. At the end of the week we had to present what we had done.

In the afternoon we went to a bakery which specialised in using spelt flour. We got a tour of the bakery and then had a chance to make our own pretzels. We had to roll and shape the dough, which some of us found trickier than others!

The next day we did some more project work in the morning before getting the train from Schelklingen to Ulm, where there is the tallest church steeple made of stone in the world (162 meters). We had a short tour of the church and then the town before being given free time to wander about. We went into some German shops and had

something to eat before getting the train back at around 6.30pm.

On Wednesday we took a coach to the Rittersport Chocolate Museum where we had the opportunity to learn about the chocolate making process and to have a go at making our own chocolate. Then we went on to the Mercedes-Benz Museum. Even for those of us who are not particularly interested in cars, this was very interesting as there was a lot of history and the layout was engaging.

Thursday was our last proper day and we were finalising our project work and then presenting it to the rest of the group and other Urspring students. We presented PowerPoints and posters before being awarded certificates for taking part in the Erasmus program. In the afternoon we had free time to do as we chose before going out to dinner with everyone.

We left on Friday morning after a brief but heartfelt farewell. There was some minor panic in Stuttgart airport when we thought we may miss our flight. Thankfully, we made it in time.





You're Hired!

As part of the Primary Careers Fair, P7 pupils were interviewed for the jobs that they would like to do when they leave school. The jobs ranged from firefighters and police officers to show jumping riders and fashion designers!

For the interviews, Mr Arrowsmith arranged for 10 of his S3 pupils to act as employers and go through the recruitment process with P7s. The interviews lasted for around half an hour with specific questions relating to the jobs and feedback from S3s to P7s on their answers. The great news is that all the P7 pupils were successful in their applications!





On Friday, a few weeks ago, a group consisting of thirty S1, S2 and S4 pupils travelled to Barhill plantation just outside of Dalbeattie. It was the grounds upon which an epic competition was to be played out: the Regional Schools' Orienteering Championship.

For those not familiar with orienteering, the aim is quite simple. You must navigate an area with a map to locate "control points", which you must then "dib" to record the fact you have been there. The person who can complete the course in the quickest time wins, so long as they found all the points in the right order. However, in reality, it is quite a tricky business with a difficult

course, the complex task of map reading whilst running around a muddy path, and the fact that with just one mistake, you can end up well off course and losing lots of time. Despite this, the pupils of Wallace Hall did an incredible job, with placed finishes amongst very large fields.

Jordanna Hall said: "The first competitor set off at around ten o'clock that morning. There were courses to suit all ages, primary and secondary. However, many still managed to get lost! I had expected it to be the original paper punching technique, but we used these devices



called dibbers which record your time to get to each control. The entire course was almost two kilometres long and quite a challenge for everybody but the

fastest time was just over 12 minutes."

The awarded results were: Gregor Black, who came second place in the Orange course for S4 boys, John McKay, who came third in the Yellow course for S2 boys and Zara Weir, who also came third in the Yellow course for S2 girls.

This is not forgetting the great performances of every Wallace Hall Academy pupil, who competed well and did the school proud with their performance and attitude. Also, the overall responses were very positive, with almost everyone saying they would come back next year.

Thank you to everyone who attended, and the teaching staff who supported us, Mr McKenna and Mrs Graham. Also a huge thank you must go to everyone at Solway Orienteering who did a fabulous job organising the event and encouraging all the competitors.

For more details on how to get involved in orienteering then please speak to Mrs Graham who will put you in contact with members of Solway Orienteering.



report by Luke McKay



Wallace Hall Boys' Hockey Teams Triumph at the Dr Turner's Tournament



S1 Dr Turner's Hockey Report

report by Rory Gordon and Josh Watson

On the 2nd of March, the S1 boys' hockey team went to King George V to compete in the Dr Turner's hockey tournament.

In our team were Rory Gordon, Josh Watson, Sam Irving, Ben True, Sean Thornley-Kyle, Finlay Forsyth, Andrew Oram and Vaughn Staples.

Our first game was against Douglas Ewart B which we won 5-0. Our second game was against Douglas Ewart A, which we won 2-0. Our third game was against Dalbeattie. Although it was a tough match we came out winners at 2-1. Our final game was against Moffat which we won 1-0.

We were very happy to win the tournament and be presented with the cup. Thanks to the people who helped run the tournament and to Mrs Miller for taking us.



S2 Dr Turner's Hockey Report

report by Ted Bowie and Findlay Young



Everyone at Wallace Hall enjoyed this tournament because teams from Wallace Hall Academy won the trophy in both the S1 and the S2 sections.

Once we arrived at the venue, we got a quick warm up and then went straight on to the field. We managed to win 3-1 against the Douglas Ewart A team, who were tough opponents. The second game was against Moffat and we knew they had some good players on their side. We didn't play our

best in this game and sadly lost 3-1, but this inspired us to dig deep and try harder.

The third game was a really good team performance and everyone did their jobs to win the game 8-0 against Douglas Ewart B team. After this game we were all getting worried because there was **only one team who hadn't lost a game - Lockerbie** - and we were playing them next.

Everyone was nervous and we **knew if we didn't win they would end up winning the trophy.** This

was clearly a good motive, because we ended up clinching a 1-0 win! It was the best performance over all and an especially solid performance at the back from Scott Landsborough in that game.

Our last game was against the Wallace Hall A team and we had to win by as many goals as we could because the competition would come down to goal difference. The score ended up 8-0 again.

When this game came to an end we were anxious to see what the other scores were. When we got told we had won there was a massive sigh of relief amongst us and everyone in the team was over the moon with the result.

We were delighted as this is the second year in a row we have won **our section of the Dr Turner's tournament.** Mrs Miller said: "I was really pleased with all three teams from Wallace Hall and hope that the boys continue to play school and club hockey."



Wallace Hall S3 Boys win the Dr Turner's Hockey Championship



Photo above shows the S3 Boys' hockey team who won the Dr Turner's trophy for their age group.



U13s Girls Cashback Tournament

report by Ellie Hyslop and Tilly Wilson-Machin

On the 14th March 2017 Wallace Hall U13 girls' football team participated in the 'Cashback 7s' football tournament at Palmerston arena. Mrs Mack took us there as our coach.

There were two pitches and three teams for us to compete against: Langholm Academy, Dumfries High School and Dumfries Academy. First we played Langholm and we beat them 3-0. Lois Geddes scored two goals and Ellie Hyslop scored one. Our second game was against Dumfries High and unfortunately they beat us 4-0. Our final game was against Dumfries Academy and we were sadly beaten 5-0.

Even though we didn't win we still tried our best and did our school proud while having a good day!

Regional Schools' Football Tournament

report by Andrew Oram and Josh Watson



On the 14th of March, nine S1 pupils travelled down to Palmerston Park to play in the Regional Schools Football Tournament. The nine players were: Lewis Cunningham, Harris MacMillan, James Hastings, Andrew Oram, Josh Watson, Rory Gordon, Sam Irving, Ben True and Finlay Forsyth.

When we arrived, we had a quick warm up to prepare for our first game against Sanquhar Academy. Rory and James were on the bench for the first game. Finlay Forsyth scored the only goal, winning the game for Wallace Hall. We had a two game rest before we played St Joseph's College. They had already beaten Maxwelltown High School so we had to win this game. Wallace Hall scored first before St Joseph's equalised. We scored in the last minute thanks to Sam Irving. Again, we had a two game rest before our third game against Max High. In this game we scored three goals from Finlay, Rory and Josh.

Our penultimate match was against the High School who were drawing with us on points. We did score but they equalised soon after and the game finished as a draw. Our last match was against Dumfries Academy. We scored 4 goals, with two from Andrew and two from Finlay. In the final match we needed St Joseph's to beat the High School, which they did. Therefore, we went through to the final against the other High School team.

The High School took the early lead but we scored through a corner from Josh then a great header into the goal from Andrew Oram. After the game finished it went to five minutes of extra time, but because there were no goals in that period, it went to penalties. Everyone scored their penalties, including both goalkeepers, so they decided to call it a draw and to have the two teams share the trophy. After winning the trophy, both teams qualify for the national football tournament.

A great result

report by Gavin Wilson and Scott McLellan

Thirty six pupils and staff from Wallace Hall were in attendance to watch Scotland beat Wales at Murrayfield on Saturday 25th February.

This was the Scottish team's first victory over Wales in a decade, and it was a great game.

We left for Edinburgh just before lunch and arrived in time to get a program and something to eat. When the match started it was very exciting and, although we enjoyed the game, we were well beaten in the first half.

Scotland came out fighting in the second half though and we recorded a famous victory: 29

points to 13. It was a very enjoyable afternoon. Thanks to Dr

Fulton, Mrs Robertson, Mr Dillon and Mr Graham for organising the trip.

The photograph below shows us all in front of Murrayfield before we went inside to watch the game.



Serre Chevalier 2017

report by Finlay Bainbridge



In the early hours of January 28th, an eager group of skiers from Wallace Hall Academy piled onto the bus heading for Edinburgh Airport. Once we arrived we got off the bus, through security and then onto the plane that was taking us to Lyon Airport.

Once we arrived at Lyon we were all dreading the next three hour bus journey to the town of Serre Chevalier, but finally made it to the resort. We checked in and were allocated to our rooms before everybody went to get their skis, boots and helmets fitted and collect their ski poles.

The next morning everyone woke up nice and early ready for the first day of skiing. First we had to get all our gear on and have our passes ready for the ski lift. Once everyone was at the top we were greeted by our instructors, Denis, Fabris, Alessandro and Sabine. We then started off with some small drills learning how to stop and move and were then split into groups based on our ability. After lunch we then started to do some small slopes to build our confidence and to practise the skills on a harder descent. Before the end of the first day everyone had realised how tiring skiing actually was. In the evening we were given a task. We had to go around the town looking for items on a list. This helped us have a

look around the town and to see where the shops were.

On day two, everyone was even more excited. To begin with, the groups stayed on the smaller slopes to keep practising and build more confidence, but after lunch both groups went up the ski lift. The ski lift in itself was a challenge. Unfortunately some people did fall but everyone saw the funny side of it. We all went **down the green slope, 'Les Trois Croux'.** This was everyone's favourite as we were allowed to go really fast. That night we had team games and things got messy when people had to feed someone bananas and milk whilst wearing a blindfold.

The next day we started off further up the mountain at the top of a blue slope. The groups then skied around, catching more ski lifts and going down lots of different slopes. One group of pupils who already had a lot of skiing experience went off and did much more challenging slopes. After lunch everyone went to the **very top point, 'Serre Chevalier'.** There was a brilliant view and luckily the sun was out so we could see for miles. At the top of the mountain our instructors told us that the mountains in front of us were actually Italy. After day three, the majority of people were much more confident and able skiers.

That evening we went out down to the shopping centre and had a game of bowling. That was a brilliant night and everyone had a good laugh. Day four then came. Everyone got their ski gear on and headed back up the mountain. That day we got to go to different parts of the resort and took different ski lifts to new slopes. Everyone in the group was now capable to do a red slope, which made it even better as we were going quicker and testing our ability. Denis, who was the instructor for my group, took us to do some off-piste skiing through trees which was brilliant. We went **through 'The Mushroom Valley'** and he took us to do a rock jump. This was probably one of the best bits of the trip for me. We were then told that the next day we would be examined and given a score. Everybody was quite nervous because obviously they **didn't want to fail.** Fortunately everyone did well. For the rest of the day we tried snow-cross and went to the snow park. The snow park was great as we were allowed to do jumps and go over boxes. Then at the end of the day the group I was in was taken down the black slope. This was the hardest slope that we had tried and the very last one of the entire trip. It was a brilliant way to round off the trip.

We got back to the hotel, got changed and waited for our instructors to come and award us with our grade and badge. Everyone did really well and all got respectable grades.

It was then time to pack and pile onto the bus once again for another never ending bus journey to Lyon Airport. The bus was very quiet as almost everyone fell asleep. We got through security, boarded onto the plane back to Edinburgh and then climbed onto the bus for the final leg of our journey home. It was an amazing experience and everybody thoroughly enjoyed it. A big thank you to Mr Rae, Mr Steele, Mrs Mack and Mrs Robertson for organising such a great trip.

Cross Country Champions

report written by Aidan Dobie and Finlay Bainbridge



On Friday 17th February, Wallace Hall Academy's cross country athletes stepped up to the starting line, ready to face the challenging course that lay ahead. Conditions were reasonably good but the ground was heavy underfoot due to a spell of wet weather. A healthy number of pupils from across all year groups took part in the event.

Mr Mack said: "It was great to see such high levels of participation from both girls and boys, all demonstrating a very high standard of cross country running."

The first competitors on the starting line were the S1 boys and girls. After a tightly contested race, Toby Murray Anderson and Sara Collier were victorious. Next up were the S2 boys and girls. Emerging from a strong field were the two winners, Ted Bowie and Zara Weir.

This was followed by the S3, the S4, the senior boys' and, finally, the senior girls' races. The results were as follows: S3 boys' champion was Leigh Hyslop; S3 girls' champion was Penny Gonlag; S4 boys' champion was Finlay Smith; S4 girls' champion was Chloe Williams; senior girls' champion was Caitlin Greenwood;

senior boys' champion was James Robertson. A jubilant Mr Rae said: "All of the competitors really pushed themselves to finish strongly. Each section was keenly contested and there were some terrific individual performances. I was particularly pleased for Leigh Hyslop who is a top athlete. I have always believed in his ability and I hope he continues to reap the rewards for all his effort."

All winners were then presented with their trophies and medals by Mr Graham. Those who finished in second and third place were also presented with medals in recognition of their achievements.





Cross Country



Cross Country

Dumfries and Galloway Rugby Sevens 2017

report by Finlay Bainbridge



winning three and losing two, while the U16s boys had some very tough competition against Castle Douglas, Stranraer and Dumfries Academy. Although they got the win against Annan with tries from Argyle Smith, Charlie Brown and Aaron Grierson, this **unfortunately wasn't enough** for them to progress further in the competition.

The U14 and U18 girls also met their matches on the pitch, coming close on a couple of occasions but never managing to get the win. They were up against strong sides from **St Joseph's College and Kirkcudbright Academy**, sides that

The Dumfries and Galloway Rugby Sevens Tournament took place at Park Farm on the 8th of March. This is the largest sevens tournament currently held in Scotland, and WHA was represented by U18 and U14 girls' teams, and U18, U16 and U14 boys' teams.

The U14s boys were the most successful team, winning all of their games. They did come close to losing against Kirkcudbright but managed to bring it back at the

end and win 4-3. This was the tightest game but they pulled through at the end and got the all-important win. As they won all of



had some very talented and tough individuals who played a very physical game. This made it harder for the teams to achieve that elusive win. Despite this, they still played very well, and Mr Steele remarked after their game against **Annan: "Very strong performance from Lauren McKinna."**

All pupils played to the best of their abilities throughout the event and should be very proud of themselves.



Skating Success



Four skating teams from Solway Sk8ing Club competed against the UK's best at the British Synchronised Skating Championships in Nottingham in January 2017.

Wallace Hall has many talented young skaters who compete with Solway Synchronised Skating teams including Chloe Williams, Ines Wood, Phoebe Murray, Josie Harkness, Abbi Little, Nadine Coltart, Aidan Kennedy, and Charlotte and Paige Guest. Our pupils were accompanied by sixty other skaters from the club who made the journey south to

Nottingham along with an army of supporters.

Anne Marie Wood, who is a member of the QI team at Wallace Hall and also Chairperson of Solway Sk8ing Club said: **"All of our teams skated beautifully against very tough competition over the whole weekend. For many of our skaters this was their very first major competition and first time skating away from their home rink."**

Solway Stars performed breathtaking routines, smashing their personal bests on both the Saturday short programme and Sunday long programme. After an electrifying performance and massive support from the crowd in the arena, the Stars took silver. Solway Eclipse also performed really well and took Bronze which was quite an achievement in a very tough category. Our two younger teams Solway Lightning and Solway Comets put in fabulous performances and wowed the audience with excellent performances. We could not have been prouder of our four teams and what they achieved over the weekend. On returning home in the early hours of Monday morning, the conversations on the bus had already

turned to our next big competition: **Trophy D'Ecosse 2017!**

In February, the UK's Biggest ISU International Synchronized Skating Competition, **Trophy D'Ecosse**, came back to Dumfries Ice Bowl. Once again Solway Sk8ing club had four teams competing and Wallace Hall pupils were in action again. They performed beautifully and were encouraged by the home crowd who came along to support. The atmosphere was amazing the applause lifted the roof off as the teams took to the ice. The weekend was a great success with Solway Stars taking gold and Scottish Champions, Eclipse taking gold and Scottish champions, Lightning achieving a perfectly skated Personal Best and Comets winning Bronze and Scottish Champions.

Our training is still going on and, although the competition season has now ended, our thoughts are already on preparations for the future.



Ines and Nadine are selected

Two Wallace Hall Academy pupils have been selected to attend the ISU Junior Synchronized Skating Development Training Seminar in Vierumaki, Finland in May 2017. Ines Wood in S3 and Nadine Coltart in S2 have been chosen, along with six other skaters from the rest of the UK.

The aims of the seminar are the development of synchronized skaters and their coaches to a higher technical level and the introduction of synchronized skating in areas where it is not yet traditionally pursued.

Top, world-class coaches will moderate the seminar. Daily off-ice classes will include theory, music lectures, physical education and

fitness, ballet, jazz, mime and expression, relaxation and yoga, movement to music, theatre and modern dance technique lectures. Hopefully Ines and Nadine will bring back new skills which they will share with their other team members.

Barry Graham, Head Teacher at Wallace Hall, said: **"I was delighted to learn of Ines and Nadine's selection for the ISU Skating Seminar. It is a tremendous achievement for them both and is testimony to their hard work and talent in their chosen sport. I am sure they will enjoy and gain a lot from the seminar and I look forward to hearing more about their experiences in Finland."**



William Shakespeare's

The Tempest

20th, 21st and 22nd June 2017

at 7.30pm

Bailey Hall, Wallace Hall Academy