



S1 Confident Individuals



At the beginning of September our new S1 pupils enjoyed a weekend visit to the Dukeshouse Wood Centre near Hexham. This trip is organised to establish a positive ethos early in the term, set challenges, give the pupils the opportunity to get to know each other, develop skills through team work, encourage participation and build confidence.

The weekend was a great success and greatly enjoyed by all who attended. See inside for a report on the trip and a selection of photographs.

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S6 Responsible Citizens



Our new S6 office bearers took up their posts at the start of the new timetable in June. They are as follows: (L-R) Duncan Muir (Depute Head Boy), Judi Park (Head Girl), Suzy McGinley (Depute Head Girl) and John Carlisle (Head Boy). All four of them are looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead over the coming school year and they are already working closely with the school's Senior Management Team to ensure that there is a strong pupil voice within the school.

whapples launch

The **whapples** board is delighted to have launched its tree sponsorship drive this term. One hundred and four apple and plum trees, each one sponsored by a pupil, a parent, a member of the community, a corporate sponsor, the Wallace Hall Comenius group and others, will be planted in November.

October sees a flurry of activity with the new shovels purchased by **whapples'** supporters, the Queensberry Initiative, being used to dig one hundred and four holes! It is planned that the preparation of the ground for digging and the digging itself will be shared between the community module, Mr Pape's second year English class, Rural Skills classes and community partners. Luckily the South West Orchard Project has advised **whapples** that the holes don't need to reach all the way to China!



In November the trees will be planted. It is hoped that all our cluster primaries as well as a large representation of all year groups in Wallace Hall along with members of the community will congregate in blazing sunshine for this planting ceremony. The precise date for this event will be announced shortly.

The **whapples** board have been very busy making plans for this autumn's planting. However, they are also thinking forward to processing the fruits from the orchard into juices, jams and chutneys

which will be sold and the profits ploughed back in to allow the orchard to continue to expand.

Tree sponsors will receive a certificate thanking them for their donation of a tree to the **whapples** community orchard. Their donation will also be acknowledged on an on-site plaque in the orchard adjacent to our school.

Getting each tree sponsored is essential for the orchard to go ahead. Sponsorship forms should have arrived home in each pupil's schoolbag for parents and friends of the school to complete. If you have not received your copy of the sponsorship form (as shown on the illustration below) or would like several more copies, please contact the Queensberry Initiative (Pat Kirby – pkirby384@ea.dumgal.sch.uk), which is providing support to get the orchard off the ground.

whapples Sponsor a tree!	
Please help us to establish our community orchard by donating £25 to sponsor a tree. Please fill in the details and send a cheque or cash to Wallace Hall Academy to sponsor a tree which we will plant in our Community Orchard.	You will receive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A presentation certificate letting you know where your tree/s are planted. The certificate could then be given as a present. Occasional communication regarding the progress of the Orchard and any upcoming events. The satisfaction of knowing that you are helping to create a sustainable community project in Thornhill.
I wish to sponsor a tree in the whapples community orchard:	
Name
Address
Town
Postcode
Tel ☎
Email ✉
Cheques should be made out to ' whapples ' and sent with this form to – whapples, Wallace Hall Academy, Station Road, Thornhill, DG3 5DS.	
If you have any further questions please contact the Queensberry Initiative team on 01848 332120 or email pkirby384@ea.dumgal.sch.uk	
THANK YOU!!!!	

Stationery Shop in the Library

The following items of stationery are for sale in the School Library: pencils (40p), pens (40p), erasers (40p), sharpeners (40p), protractors (50p), highlighters (40p), 15cm rulers (40p), 30cm rulers (40p) and 4GB data pens (£9.00). As a result of pupil demand, scientific calculators (£10.00), headphones (£2.50), headphone jacks (50p) and jotters (60p) are also now on sale. Any profit that is made from this venture goes towards purchasing new resources for the Library. We also accept donations of good quality books for our Library, in particular junior fiction, senior fiction and study skills books. Please hand any book donations in to Mrs Menzies in the Library.

Any books that are not suitable for our shelves will be taken to a charity shop. Thank you.

Adventures and Activities for All

report by Mia Osborne

One of the most exciting things about entering secondary school is meeting new people. The recent S1 trip to Kingswood Adventure Centre was a great opportunity for us to get to know one another in an informal setting and also to learn new skills. The trip began on Friday 7th September when we jumped aboard the two buses to begin the two hour trip to Hexham. We were all so excited about what lay ahead. The journey flew past while everyone was chatting away.

When we arrived the sun was beating down on us and our first task was to take our bags up to the dorms, where we were given instructions about safety and how we were expected to conduct ourselves during our stay. After we were given the ground rules we were given our room numbers and told what building they were in. The room I was in was one of the furthest away but it was nice to walk in the sunshine (especially as we haven't seen much sun this summer). There were five sets of bunk beds in each room and

each bed had a set of linen which we had to organise, so our second task of the day was to make our beds. After our duvets were all fluffed up we headed outside to take part in the first of the activities. After everyone had completed their activity we had dinner – we were all starving by this time.

As the night fell we tiptoed into our rooms. It was lights out at 10:30, but no one said anything about being asleep. Eventually we all drifted off to sleep, tired but happy after a long night.

We were woken at 7am. A lot of people lay in, though (I'm not telling which one I was.) Breakfast was delicious. There were loads of choices. You could have continental (croissants, cheese etc.) or the works, i.e., a big fry up. Once there was enough fuel on board we set off to use it up by doing masses of activities. The weather was glorious and this made what was already a great time even better. After our hot buffet lunch we were able to visit the gift shop. As soon as it opened dozens of us poured in, eager to spend our pocket money. There were Kingswood souvenirs as well as

loads of sweets and snacks.

The afternoon was spent in our groups continuing with the activity programme. Everyone had the chance to try out everything but by far the most popular pursuit was the 3G swing. This was where you were attached to a bar with a harness – a wee bit scary - and you went up in the air for at least ten metres. Then a black rope was pulled and you just dropped and swung. It was really cool.

After dinner on Saturday night we had the chance to get dressed up in our good clothes to go to the campfire to sing songs, eat marshmallows and have the time of our lives. When the fire went out that signalled the time for bed and nobody protested.

We awoke on Sunday morning to a sun kissed sky and had breakfast. We completed a few more activities before it was time for home. I think everyone will agree that the staff at Kingswood were very helpful. They kept us safe and made sure we had lots of fun. All in all it was a fantastic experience. Even the bus breaking down on the way home was part of the adventure.





S1 Kingswood Trip

SI Kingswood Trip



JAMES IS TOP STUDENT

report by Samantha Rhodes

James Brown, a previous student of Wallace Hall Academy, has been hitting the headlines recently by being awarded the Top Student Award in his Modern Apprenticeship in Plant Maintenance. James stood out above 28 other students to win this award. James's success was featured as a glossy three page colour spread in "Earthmovers", a national magazine for those interested in construction.

On leaving Wallace Hall Academy, James attended the Barony College where his ability was noticed when he was awarded a technical certificate in land-based engineering and named as the top student in his year. Not long after this James was taken on by Lloyds in Dumfries as an apprentice fitter where he is now half way through his four year programme. James's ambition is to stay at Lloyds and be selected for further training opportunities. He hopes to have a long and bright future in the industry.



Pupil Volunteers at the Galloway Country Fair

On Saturday and Sunday 18 and 19 August, Drumlanrig Castle and the Queensberry Estate policies were the venue for the Galloway Country Fair, a major milestone in the summer outdoor events calendar. The Galloway Country Fair aims to promote the countryside and Scottish suppliers through a wide variety of entertainment, activities and exhibitors. This year over 18,000 visitors attended during the two days.

The Queensberry Initiative was invited to have a stand at the fair to let the wider countryside community find out about our community partnership and the work we do with the children and young people of Mid-Nithsdale. The two QI Project Officers, Anne Marie Wood and Leanne Peoples, encouraged over 30 young people from Penpont Primary School and Wallace Hall Academy to donate their weekend to helping out at the event, selling programmes throughout the day and providing information to visitors.



Lucy Doig, one of the pupil volunteers, said: "It was a really interesting experience. Our people skills were definitely in use as we talked to visitors from all over the world. Looking after money and giving change also ensured that our numeracy skills were getting polished up prior to going back to

school on Monday!"

QI were very pleased to have the chance to participate in this high-profile event and hope to be involved in the future. Many thanks to all the pupils (and their parents) who made this such a successful venture.

Closeburn remembers former Wallace Hall Academy pupils who lost their lives in WW2

On the 11th of November 2012 a special 65th anniversary memorial service will be held at Closeburn to commemorate the 22 trees that were planted in 1947 to remember the fallen of the school community. The plaques that were in front of the trees have fallen into disrepair over the years but, after a great deal of research and hard work by Jayne Thomas, new plaques have been organised to be placed alongside the original trees.

On Sunday the 11th of November there will be a special Remembrance Memorial Service at Closeburn to commemorate these 22 former pupils. These pupils, detailed below, all died during WW2.

A new tree will be planted on the day of the service for Alexander Malcolm Rogerson as the original tree no longer exists. The memorial service will begin at 10 am at the Closeburn War Memorial and this will be followed by a church service and the tree planting service in the school field at Closeburn. All members of the Wallace Hall Community are invited to attend this service and commemorate the fallen of various conflicts that ex pupils have been involved in.

As a school we are very keen to support the memorial service and if you know of any relatives of those being commemorated by this service can you contact us by email at closeburnmemorialtrees@gmail.com or by phoning 01848 332352. We



are very keen that as many relatives of the fallen are represented at the service so please get in touch.

Members of staff and pupils at Wallace Hall Academy will be represented at the Service and this will build on the Battlefields trip run by the History department and the various ways that the school supports Remembrance Day events.

We Will Remember Them

Robert Millar R.A.F.
Alexander Malcolm Rogerson R.A.F.
James Trodden Kerr R.N.
William Elliot Stenhouse R.A.F.
Christina Black Rankin A.T.S.
John James Lorimer Douglas A.T.S.
Robert Armstrong R.A.F.
David Guthrie Jack M.N.

John Kirkpatrick M.N.
John Wood R.A.M.C.
William Donald Kerr R.A.F.
William Fisher R.A.F.
David Carson R.A.S.C.
Harry Gibson Izett G.O.R.D.H.
George F McIntosh R.N.
Robert James Keaning K.O.S.B.

James Gilmour Bryson R.A.F.
Loui McKie W.A.A.F.
William Thomson R.N.R.
William Young R.A.F.
Robert Andrew Hutchison M.N.
William Jardine BLACK WATCH

Keep on running

Scott Campbell, S4, has been showing a clean pair of heels on the running track recently. Scott won gold in the 200m Under 17 Men's race at the Dumfries and Galloway Championships on Tuesday 18th September at the David Keswick Centre, Dumfries. Scott said: "The weather was very wet and windy but I ran a good race, achieving a new personal best of 25.9 seconds. I am very proud to have won the gold medal and my family are proud too." Scott trains twice a week at the David Keswick Centre with Nithsdale Athletics.



New staff...

Six new staff joined Wallace Hall Academy at the start of this term. Sophie Johnson and Iona Anderson from our publicity group thought it would be a good idea to pose them some questions to help us get to know them a bit better.



Mr Dillon – Learning Leader and P.E.

- Q. Thoughts on Wallace Hall Academy?
 A. Really good, new, pupils are friendly, good start, bad weather.
 Q. Favourite Sport?
 A. Football.
 Q. Favourite sport to coach?
 A. Gymnastics.
 Q. What super power would you want?
 A. Speed.
 Q. What University/College did you go to?
 A. PE College, Moray House (now Edinburgh University).



Ms Beynon – Learning Leader and Drama

- Q. Thoughts on Wallace Hall Academy?
 A. Clean, bright, lovely.
 Q. What University/College did you go to?
 A. University of London.
 Q. Do you have any hobbies?
 A. Horse riding, dog walking, theatre, reading, food.
 Q. What super power would you want?
 A. Shape shifter.



Mr MacKellar – Technical

- Q. Thoughts on Wallace Hall Academy?
 A. Excellent, great facilities, likes the school aim (Working Together to Achieve More), great ethos.
 Q. What University/College did you go to?
 A. University of Glasgow.
 Q. What sports do you like?
 A. Football and Sailing.



Miss Landers – Biology

- Q. Thoughts on Wallace Hall Academy?
 A. High achieving, pupils and staff are friendly.
 Q. What University/College did you go to?
 A. Biology Degree at Edinburgh University, teaching qualification at UWS in Ayr.
 Q. Do you have any hobbies?
 A. Was in the Young Farmers, table tennis.
 Q. Favourite animal?
 A. Dog.



Mrs Beattie – School Office

- Q. Thoughts on Wallace Hall Academy?
 A. Nice and new, pleasant, nice to be back at a school.
 Q. Do you have any hobbies?
 A. Running my children around, Partylite.
 Q. What super power would you want?
 A. Teleport (to Australia or somewhere hot).
 Q. What did you do after school?
 e.g. College, University, other job?
 A. Straight in to an office as a clerical assistant.



Miss Carnochan – Chemistry

- Q. Thoughts on Wallace Hall Academy?
 A. Friendly staff and pupils, well behaved.
 Q. What University/College did you go to?
 A. Chemistry Degree at Glasgow University, teaching qualification at Newcastle University.
 Q. Do you have any hobbies?
 A. Football, food/cooking.
 Q. What super power would you want?
 A. Invisibility.
 Q. Favourite Chemistry Experiment?
 A. Exploding syrup tin.

...and some new pupils' views



Marianne Nicholson and Faye Harkness are enjoying Wallace Hall Academy. They like making new friends, really like English and were ready to move up from primary school.

Rachel Kennedy and Niamh Johnston think Wallace Hall is great. They love going to the different subjects with History, Drama and Design and Technology their favourites so far.

Lucy Currie and Emma Bennett think that Wallace Hall is "big, cool and better than being at primary school."

PUPIL ARTWORK



by Jazmin Malley



by Brandon Mundell



by Grace O'Sullivan



by Sarah Wilson

On Merit

by Emma Holden and Rebecca Smith

On the 20th June, 8 pupils from each year group got the opportunity to go on a trip to Xscape in Braehead and also do a bit of shopping in the shopping centre. This trip was arranged for the pupils who had achieved the highest number of merits in their year.

We left the school at 9:30 and headed towards Glasgow on a bus. When we arrived we had 30 minutes to either do some shopping or explore Xscape for a short while. Then, we headed into Xscape.

Pupils were able to do two of the three options available: Climbing Wall, The Fan Drop and the Skypark.

The Climbing Wall involved getting kitted up with harnesses and special climbing shoes. There were different levels of difficulty and everybody did the level they felt comfortable with. The walls were steep but everybody managed to do very well!

In The Fan Drop we had to harness ourselves to a rope joined to a fan and jump off a 15m tall platform to the ground. The fall seemed terrifying to begin with, but after a while everyone got used to the feeling and some even did it with no hands!

Everybody tried the Skypark. We were harnessed to a rope along the roof and had to overcome several obstacles 15 metres above the ground – these included zip slide, hanging logs, swinging platforms and rope ladders. After some hesitation everybody made it round.

Afterwards we were set free to have lunch in the Braehead Shopping Centre and do some shopping. This



was a huge hit with many of the girls and a lot of us bought some very nice things. Then once everyone had finished we headed back to the school - all very tired but happy with the day's events.

Overall it was a very successful and fun day and made all our hard work worth while!





Working Together to Achieve More

Recognising Achievement



Emily Morton

Wallace Hall Academy was very pleased to honour the pupils from years one, two and three at its annual Awards Ceremonies held in the Bailey Hall. For the past two years all First Year pupils have participated in an afternoon event to which parents and guests are invited.

Achievements celebrated at this event included Awards for Endeavour, Merit Awards, Wider Achievement Awards and Certificates for

Excellence. Musical entertainment was provided by Niamh McQuarrie Parkes who sang "Go to Town" by Emily Smith and Imogen Gordon who performed "Spring" from the "Four Seasons" by Vivaldi on her violin. Lucy Doig and Robbie Logan gave an insight into the key events of First Year for pupils and parents. Both Barry Graham, Head Teacher, and Brian Johnstone, Chairman of the Parent Council, spoke to First Year pupils about the important opportunities that their education at Wallace Hall Academy presents them.

That evening Second and Third Year prize-winning pupils and their parents assembled in the Bailey Hall for their ceremony. The large number of pupils who were successful in achieving an award were piped in by Becky Walker. Prizes were awarded for Excellence in individual subjects, Merits, Wider Achievement and Successful Participation in the Queensberry Initiative. Among the many trophies awarded to pupils in Third Year was the Joan Inglis Memorial Rose Bowl awarded to Briony Irving for her achievement in the Art Department. This trophy was presented by Valerie Inglis (photograph below shows Mrs Inglis with Briony and Mr Wilson) in memory of her daughter Joan, a past pupil at Wal-



Imogen Gordon

lace Hall Academy. Rebecca Smith and Ben Wicks provided the audience with a review of the Second and Third Year experiences. Jordan Tweedie performed "The Candy Man" by Lesley Bricusse on the euphonium and Beth Johnstone sang "Imagine" by John Lennon. Ian Wilson, a well-respected teacher of Physical Education at Wallace Hall Academy, who retired in 2011, was the night's guest speaker, focusing on encouraging the pupils to aim high. Barry Graham, Head Teacher, delivered his annual report to parents and pupils, highlighting the positive feedback received from Education Scotland after its inspection visit in February.





Office Staff in Uniform

Our office staff have recently been provided with smart new uniforms so they will be instantly recognisable throughout the school. They have also been issued with name badges in order that visitors to the school and members of the public can get to know our staff and feel welcome when arriving at the main door.

Photograph on the left shows:

Back Row (L-R) Lesley Beattie, Lorna Menzies and Jillian Maxwell.

Front Row (L-R) Francesca Whitaker, Ann-Marie Smith (Office Manager) and Lauren Hyslop.

Wallace Hall Academy pupils lead learning at the Scottish Learning Festival

Six pupils from years S2 to S6 and the Queensberry Initiative team travelled to the Scottish Learning Festival held at the SECC, Glasgow, on Wednesday 19th September. They had been invited by Education Scotland to present a seminar about the good work of the QI in promoting Outdoor Learning and the development of employability skills along with partnership working.

The pupils delivering the presentation to the 84 assembled educationalists and teachers were: Lucy Doig and Niall Holden (S2); Ryan Gibson (S5); Matthew Higgins, Imogen Leask and Caitlin Murray (S6). They each spoke about a part of the Initiative which they knew well and were extremely positively received by their audience. Their presentations were accompanied by a photo-stream of selected events throughout 2011/2012 which had been supported by the Queensberry Initiative. They also introduced videos from Mr Graham, Wallace Hall Academy's Head Teacher, Trevor Jones, one of the Initiative's community

partners and a whapples board member, Mrs Moyes, Head Teacher at Moniaive Primary School and Sinclair Barbour, a QI Strategic Group member and a member of the volunteer farmers' team supporting Rural Skills in the community.

The QI team and pupils were delighted to hear that, just before their seminar began, Michael Russell, Cabinet Secretary for Education

and Lifelong Learning, highlighted the good work of the Queensberry Initiative at Wallace Hall Academy and with its cluster primaries in his keynote speech launching this year's Scottish Learning Festival, the major educational conference of the year in Scotland.

The pupils were excellent representatives for their school and the Initiative. They realised from the feedback they received from adults as they took in the exhibits in the main hall of the SECC that Wallace Hall Academy and the Queensberry Initiative are creating a buzz that extends far beyond the boundaries of Dumfries and Galloway.



Our S6 Role Models

Prefects for session 2012-2013 have taken up their positions following a recent selection process. Pupils were asked to apply by completing an application form which was then followed by a short interview. Twenty-six Prefects were selected and will work together with our Head Boy and Head Girl, John Carlisle and Judi Park, along with our Depute Head Boy and Depute Head Girl, Duncan Muir and Suzy McGinley.

Slight changes have been made to the workings of the Prefect system this year which will ensure that each group have responsibility for all tasks on a specific day

of the week. In addition to the S6 Prefect tie which has been designed by a previous year group, the cohort of Prefects this year are more highly visible as they are required to wear lanyards in order that they are easily recognised while they are on duty carrying out their tasks.

Phil Cubbon, DHT for S4/5/6, stated: "I am absolutely delighted with the way in which this year's S6 Prefects have embraced the challenges that the role of Prefect brings. Each one of the S6 Prefects has shown commitment, willingness and enthusiasm as they perform their duties. They have made a very positive start to the year and are contributing significantly to the daily running of Wallace Hall Academy."

S6 Prefects will continue to perform their duties until the end of the academic year.



S6 Prefects 2012

Back Row (L-R): Daniel Smith, Craig Stoddart, Alex Musk, Matthew Holden, Robert Lenza, Donald Bremner, Scott Lisett, Aaran McLachlan and Andrew Waugh.

Middle Row (L-R): Emma Kennedy, Lisa Fergusson, Gillian Watret, Heather Kelly, Nicole Halliday, Mhairi Dalglish, Imogen Leask, Emma E Sloan, Abbie Houston, Rachel Sommerville and Caitlin Murray.

Front Row (L-R): Charli Kennedy, Jennifer Locke, Duncan Muir, Judi Park, John Carlisle, Suzy McGinley, Rebecca Moodycliffe and Emma Harkness.

Since the photograph above was taken, two additional prefects have been appointed. They are Michael Ackland and Dylan Ross.



Queensberry Initiative in Action

Our new S1 pupils at WHA



1.C1



1.C2



1.N1



1.N2



1.S1



1.S2

Contacting the school

The telephone number for Wallace Hall Academy is **01848 332120**. The fax number is 01848 332564 with the email address: woffice358@ea.dumgal.sch.uk. Our Office Staff are your first point of contact. They will be pleased to deal with any enquiry you wish to make regarding your child and to put you in touch with the relevant member of staff. Outside office hours you may leave a message on our answering machine. Please contact us if you have any problems. We are here to help. Visit the school website: www.wallacehallacademy.com for the latest news and information.

Pipers and Dancers visit Germany

report by Emma E Sloan

On Wednesday the 5th of September at 4pm in the afternoon the Buccleuch and Queensberry Caledonia Pipe Band accompanied by four young Highland dancers from Thornhill and Sanquhar and a number of council members embarked on the very long bus journey to Gifhorn, Germany.

the festival to a great reception.

A number of members of the pipe band and Highland dancers are pupils of Wallace Hall Academy, including myself. We all tremendously enjoyed the trip, especially the amazing, friendly atmosphere of the festival.

The Band would like to thank the Dumfries and Galloway Council



and the Friends of Gifhorn who played a large part in the organising of the trip.

The Buccleuch and Queensberry Caledonia Pipe Band practise on Monday nights from 7.30pm to 9.30pm at Thornhill Community



Centre. People are invited to attend if they have any interest in joining the band. Learning both pipes and drums through the band is completely free with tuition also available in school.

Gifhorn, twinned with Dumfries, holds an annual festival called the Altstadtfest, where a number of various acts from countries all over Europe perform. The Buccleuch and Queensberry Caledonia pipe band, accompanied by the four young Highland dancers, were invited to perform at the town's spectacular windmill museum and various stages throughout the festival including the main stage where cameras projected the band members' smiling faces up to those down the long street. We even performed at a local primary school where we surprised pupils during their morning break.

Our performance on the main stage began with a quick drum fanfare before breaking into a run of Queen's "We Will Rock You", (pipe and drum version) before the whole band accompanied the extremely talented Highland dancers. A few tunes later and we were off to the roar of the crowd. We then marched down the long street of



Bill Clement M.B.E.

tribute by Emma E Sloan

It is with great sadness I write this article to inform readers of the recent death of Mr Bill Clement. Mr Clement was previously lauded by this newsletter in the article which was rightly titled "Bill Clement – A Teaching Legend." Although I was not personally taught by Mr Clement, throughout his 50 year association with the school Mr Clement taught my grandfather Technical and my father and twin brothers the bagpipes. This has made Mr Clement a very well respected teacher in my family and also in the hearts of the countless other pupils he taught.

When Mr Clement was teaching my twin brothers it became apparent that my brother David had much more natural skill than Scott. However, instead of focussing on David's enhancement, Mr Clement saw my brother's determination not to fall behind and took a special interest in Scott's progress in piping. Mr Clement then gave Scott a pair of small pipes he had bought and assembled years previously. By handing over these small pipes to my brother it became clear to me that Mr Clement truly cared about his pupils and wanted them to succeed.

It was previously quoted from a pupil of Mr Clement that "Mr Clement gives me confidence." This truly sums up Mr Clement's achievements in that as well as teaching and producing extremely talented pipers and dancers Mr Clement was also able make even those most unconfident pupils realise their true



potential. Mr Clement will be sorely missed by all his friends and family and Wallace Hall will miss a true "teaching legend."

WHA Biology Trip to Edinburgh Zoo



Wet and Wonderful Opportunities at Wallace Hall Academy

Rural Opportunities Day images courtesy of Allan Devlin, Alex McEwen and Bethany Ransom

Friday the 29th of June will be remembered as one of the wettest days Dumfries and Galloway has experienced in mid-summer in recorded history. It will also be remembered by the pupils of the seven schools in Mid-Nithsdale as the day one hundred and ninety five local business people and other providers came to Wallace Hall Academy to share their expertise about career pathways.

Exhibitors set up their interactive stalls in the Academy's

service; tree surgeons demonstrated their skills in trees nearby; while the school playing field was filled with four marquees and several gazebos as well as a tepee.

A wide variety of experiences and stalls were available for the children and young people to use for their experiential learning: pupils got to try their hand at creating choux pastry swans, were able to test their fitness against professional trainers' standards, learnt about Higher Education Opportunities at all the local colleges and universities and were



new chocolate for a local chocolatier.

Despite the atrocious weather both exhibitors and pupils participated throughout the day with smiles on their faces. This year's event was twice the size of the first Rural Opportunities Day held in the blazing sunshine of June 2010. Feedback from exhibitors and pupils has been overwhelmingly positive with many participants already requesting a place at future events. The Queensberry Initiative (QI) hopes to run a similar day in 2014 – but the QI staff are already praying for better weather.

QI is funded by the Dumfries and Galloway LEADER programme, the Holywood Trust, DGHP, Awards for All and several local community councils.



Bailey Hall, Stage, Drama Studio and Street. Meanwhile in the playground diggers and lorries were joined by emergency vehicles from the police and fire and rescue

also able to demonstrate their golfing skills. Several types of honey and a variety of cheeses were taste-tested in the marquees and pupils were able to design a



More from Rural Opportunities Day 2012



A Sixth Year View of Rural Opportunities Day 2012

by Sophie Johnson and Sarah Cairnie

On Friday 29th June 2012 Wallace Hall Academy hosted its biennial Rural Opportunities Day which saw over 195 local businesses attend to share their expertise on possible career pathways. Wallace Hall was joined by its six cluster primary schools to help enjoy this memorable day.

Tractors, lorries, diggers, tree surgeons, fire and rescue teams, police, falconry and a range of other exhibition stands were on display outside in the gazebos and marquees whilst indoors pupils were able to try their hands at creating choux pastry swans, tasting hand-made chocolates, locally produced cheeses and honey. There was also a chance to have a go at performing CPR on dummies.



exhibitors were delighted to meet enthusiastic young people who wanted to know about their professions. The young people were very positive about the experiences on offer."



You would expect that at the end of June the days would be warm and sunny but no! We got heavy rain and dull skies which didn't dampen our spirits too much.

Pat Kirby, Development Officer for the Queensberry Initiative said, "Even though we had the worst weather everyone seemed to gain a great deal from the day. The



Each sixth year was assigned to the specific business or training provider of their choice which could help with their future prospects.

Overall the day was a great success and the school hopes to hold this event again in 2014.



Dwindling Resources, Growing Challenges

Wallace Hall Academy has again been successful in obtaining maximum funding for the next two years for our new Comenius project 'Dwindling Resources, Growing Challenges'. This project will have us working in partnership with five of our previous partner schools, plus additional schools in Estonia, Poland and England.

The project will focus on the challenges faced by all our countries as valuable resources such as water and soil diminish. Our Comenius class currently has 32 pupils who will make exchange visits to all of these countries over the next two years, and we look forward to welcoming pupils from our partner schools to Wallace Hall next year. We also hope to raise awareness of the issues faced by those in Africa affected by dwindling resources, and aim to make charity a part of this new project.



To celebrate Roald Dahl Day on 13 September 2012, Mrs Whyte from the English Department, supported by Mrs Menzies and some trusty S6 pupils, organised a period of fun activities for her S1 classes in the Library.

The activities, all designed to link with Roald Dahl stories. Pupils from 1.C2 and 1.S2 had the chance to make (and eat!) pancakes and design masks of favourite Roald Dahl characters. It was a good chance for our S1 pupils to have some fun in the spirit of Roald Dahl.



P6 celebrate Roald Dahl Day in the Library

report by Ailsa Black P6

Roald Dahl's books are so funny, they make me laugh out loud. The style of writing is captivating, they make me feel I am there, but I can never guess what is going to happen.

One of my favourite books is "The Fantastic Mister Fox". I listened to the book CD before I went to sleep when I was little. Now I can read it myself and enjoy the lovely illustrations of Quentin Blake.

It is the descriptions of the nasty farmers that make me giggle. The farmers talk in an awful way to each other about killing the foxes while the fox and his family are kind and caring and digging for their lives.

In a Roald Dahl book all the nice characters end up fine, but not always like you expect them to. In "The Witches" the boy stays a mouse and is very happy ever after, although not a very long ever after.

Nasty people in his books learn a lesson in a way I couldn't dream it up for real. In "George's Marvellous Medicine" the awful grandma disappears getting smaller and smaller until she is not there.

So I was very excited when the school announced a Roald Dahl day to celebrate his birthday. We were to dress up like any of the characters in his books, wear clothes back to front or wear yellow, which was his favourite colour.

I immediately started planning to dress up as the Fantastic Mrs Fox. I made ears from cardboard and put my orange t-shirt inside



Thanks to Mrs Black, Art Teacher, for the collage of our Roald Dahl Day

out, covered up my cat tail from a Halloween costume in orange paper and borrowed a pair of orange tights! My dad painted my face as a fox.

On the Roald Dahl day our teacher, Mrs Kennedy, took our class to the "Big School." It was scary to go in our costumes because the teenagers kept looking at our funny outfits. We went up the stairs to the library and Mrs Menzies showed us how to look for

books, how to treat them and how to scan them in. It was all very friendly and exciting.

During my breaktime I got chased by some little boys pretending to shoot me as the fox, which made me think "Boggus, Bunce and Bean, one fat one short one lean, these horrible crooks so different in looks are nonetheless equally mean!"

Thank you Mr Roald Dahl for all your great books!

Let's Grow vouchers from Morrisons

Once again we are collecting Let's Grow vouchers from Morrisons. Please bring in any vouchers you have collected and post them into the box in the Library. These vouchers will help us purchase new tools for the garden and for module classes to use. Vouchers will be available in Morrisons until 28th October 2012. Thank you.



UWS Enterprise Challenge

report by Heather Kelly

On Thursday the 13th and Friday the 14th of September, a group of 8 Wallace Hall senior students took part in the University of West Scotland Enterprise Challenge at Browne House on the Crichton Campus, Dumfries.

Our group included Claire Manson (team leader), Tamlyn Tait, Imogen Leask, Ashley McGregor, Emma Greenlees, Macauley Burns, Rob Clark and I. We were competing against 9 other secondary

schools from the Dumfries and Galloway area. The challenge presented to us was to rename and redesign Moat Brae House, the birth place of Peter Pan, into a children's literacy centre. With the help of many professionals at the challenge, we were asked to create a radio advert, a double page magazine spread and create a range of professional photos to sell our ideas to the panel of judges.

On the 2nd day Claire and Macauley had to present our business



idea to the judges and a few head teachers of other academies and the professionals who had helped create our fabulous advertising. It is safe to say we were nervous about how the presentation was going to go. We waited patiently for the judges to decide the winner. The room was filled with anticipation as the awards were called out but to our dismay we never won any of them. The overall winners were the team from Sanquhar Academy. Although we didn't win we all had a great time over the two days. We shared many laughs and we must have drunk enough Capri Sun to sink a ship. However, it was a real learning curve and we will all remember this challenge.



Young Enterprise Record Request



The Young Enterprise group this year have chosen to venture into the eco-friendly world of up-cycling! This exciting venture requires a number of old vinyl records for their finished product. If you have any of these lurking in your loft that you are finished with then could you please send them into the school as soon as possible to allow them to design and create their product for Christmas. These can be either single or long playing records. Many thanks in anticipation.

Picture on the left shows:
 Back Row (L - R) Matthew Holden, Daniel Smith, Aaran McLachlan and Imogen Leask
 Front Row (L - R) Rory Kilgour, Ailie Bryson and Caitlin Murray

HUNTING FOR THE HEADLINES



The School Publicity Group is just one of the groups on offer to our S6 pupils as part of their Personal and Social Development Programme. Led by Mrs Menzies in the Library, this group focuses on searching for the stories for our very full newsletter which is published four times each year.

Participating in the School Publicity Group offers students the opportunity to display their creative talents whilst being mindful of the importance of meeting tight deadlines. This is valuable training for life beyond school, whether through further education or the world of work.

The S6 pupils trying their hand at journalism this year are: (L-R) Samantha Rhodes, Iona Anderson, Sarah Cairnie, Emma E Sloan, Matthew Higgins, Sophie Johnson and Cameron McNamara. This newsletter is the first this group of students have been involved in. We hope you enjoy their efforts.

Artistic Achievements

report by *Cameron McNamara*



Sebastian Summers

Eleven students from Wallace Hall Academy decided to enter Thomas Tosh's summer arts competition. All of the entries, including those from WHA pupils, could be seen at the Thomas Tosh café during the

summer holiday. Local artist Jane Blair judged the entries and there was some fantastic work on display.

The competition was open to everyone from professional to beginner artists. There were 3 categories for different age groups: category A was for people of 5-11 years old and had a first place prize of £30; category B was for 12-16 year olds and the prize for this was £100; and category C was for 17 year olds and above. Entries into the competition could be on any theme and could be a drawing, a painting or a collage in any media except

photography.

Two pupils from Wallace Hall Academy were successful. Sebastian Summers, S5, won the prize for category B and I was delighted to be chosen as the runner up in the same category. Our pictures are now on display in Wallace Hall Academy.



Cameron McNamara



by **Georgia Harris**



by **Liam Robertson**



by **Chelsea Rose Lawson**

To be or not to be?

report by Robert Guthrie

Would the touring Shakespeare's Globe production of 'Hamlet' be amazing for Wallace Hall Academy's English classes or not? That was the question and it proved to have a positive answer.

Recently Wallace Hall English pupils of all ages travelled to the grounds of the Crichton Campus, Dumfries, to see a production of Shakespeare's 'Hamlet'.

After travelling through places such as Essex, Bowness-on-Windermere and Penrith, the touring cast made their way to a pleasingly sunny Dumfries.

The Wallace Hall pupils were lucky enough to see a two-hour, open air performance featuring top actors – some of whom had performed in previous touring productions of Shakespearian plays, and had also appeared in well known TV dramas such as 'Doctors',

'Holby City' and 'Silent Witness'.

One of the greatest works in the English language, the play starts with a problem. After Hamlet's (the King of Denmark) father dies, he sees his ghost, who tells Hamlet that he was poisoned by his brother Claudius. Hamlet questions whether he should seek revenge against Claudius, who has also married Hamlet's mother to become king.

The play also includes dramatic scenes between Hamlet and his partner Ophelia, who tragically goes mad and drowns herself, as well as sword fights, poisonings and lots of well-known quotations.

Sitting outdoors on the grass for a couple of hours didn't seem to affect the pupils' enjoyment, and one of the highlights was hearing the medieval music that was played between act changes and stage movement. The way the

props and scenery were carried on and off stage was really well synchronised and very impressive.

All in all, it was a great afternoon, seeing a famous play, which some pupils had read in class, performed in front of us, with top actors.

Thanks go to all of the staff involved, especially Mrs McMillan for organising the trip.



Chess Club

We have a number of pupils at Wallace Hall Academy who are very interested in playing chess. The Chess Club, organised by Mr Docherty and S3 pupil Cameron Parkin, meets every Wednesday

lunchtime in the Library. Unfortunately the chess boards and pieces being used by the club have seen better days and need to be replaced.

The club would be very keen to hear from any parent or member of the community who would like to sponsor the purchase of new chess

sets or who have a chess set that is in good condition that you or your family are finished with. If you are able to help out please contact Mrs Menzies in the Library who will pass on your details to Mr Docherty and Cameron. Thank you.

Your House Captains for 2012/2013



Cairn

Back Row L - R: Ben Wicks, Emma Holden, Mhairi Dalgliesh (Head of House), Rachel Shnapp, Eugene Fung and Angus Bruce.
Front Row L - R: James Robertson, Alexandru Nan, Zara Kennedy, Georgia Gordon and Caitlin Harley.

Nith

Back Row L - R: Joanne Hutcheson, Nick Willetts, Gillian Watret (Head of House), Sophie Lawrie and Jack McQueen.
Front Row L - R: Nathan King, Cameron Wood, Katie Grierson, Mia Osborne and Lucy Doig.
Missing from photograph: Ally Nicol.

Scaur

Back Row L - R: Niall Holden, Sean Wicks, Chloe Davidson, Matthew Hollingsworth.
Front Row L - R: Jack Roberts, Mariam Bayaty, Amy Hollingsworth (Head of House), Olivia Mess and Imogen Gordon.
Missing from photograph: Declan Hill and Kathryn Park.

Kindles make reading kool!



chosen to study a variety of books that have been released on film.

The Kindles were funded jointly by the Parent Council and from money raised from school fundraising events. Library Assistant Caroline Menzies said: "I was delighted to be able to purchase the Kindles and would like to



Encouraging young people to read for pleasure is high priority at Wallace Hall Academy. The Library has a fantastic selection of books to meet this aim with stock being renewed and replaced on a regular basis as funds allow.

Over the past few years electronic readers have become increasingly popular and in light of this the school has recently purchased four Kindles, adding to the existing two already at Wallace Hall Academy.

The six Kindles are all based in the Library and are available for pupils to use during their English periods, at interval and lunchtime and will also be used by Mrs Weir's module group who have



thank the Parent Council and all who have donated money to recent fundraising events for this opportunity. Already they have been very popular with the pupils, offering them personalisation and choice from the way in which they access texts right through to the size of font preferred by each reader. A particularly useful feature is the text to speech facility where pupils can listen to the story being read aloud while looking at the screen. Pupils are now compiling lists of the books they would like downloaded to the Kindles and I hope that we will be able to build up quite a selection of titles that appeal to everyone."

Dumfries choir sounds Wunderbar!

report by Robert Guthrie

Twenty-three young members of the Dumfries and Galloway Regional Youth Choir (DGRYC), from schools throughout the area including Wallace Hall Academy, have been part of an amazing experience meeting other young musicians from Germany, thanks to Dumfries' links with twin-town Gifhorn.

Over three days during September, members of the Choir assembled with singers from the Humboldt-Gymnasium school in Gifhorn, in Lower Saxony. A hotel in Durham was chosen as a half-way house meeting point, since the Gifhorn singers had to travel over by boat via Hull and Rotterdam.

Staff from the Choir accompanying us on the trip included Conductor Jamie Brand and Co-ordinator Sue St. Joseph, with staff from the Humboldt-Gymnasium Choir, Dieter Pinkowski, Claudia Gerhardy and Doris Meisch joining us on the trip.

The course started on Thursday 13th. We set off from Dumfries and arrived in Durham where we met the German choir for the first time. After the first rehearsal, there was some time for socialising before dinner, comparing day to day lives and experiences, and learning about each other's cultures.

We carried on practising and on Saturday 15th, an end-of-course concert was held at St. John's Church, Dumfries where the two choirs from Dumfriesshire and Gifhorn performed a variety of music, ranging from a comical German song about cacti to an old English madrigal, along with songs from Abba and the musical "Grease".

The twinning of Dumfries and Gifhorn was the fundamental link between the DGRYC and Humboldt-Gymnasium. The initiative dates back to 2009, when Jamie Brand took the DGRYC to Gifhorn and met with a small group of students in the town. Then in 2010, students from Humboldt-Gymnasium came to Dumfries, and this year saw an even larger group of singers from both countries meet together in

Scotland.

Lina Ludwig, one of the students from Humboldt-Gymnasium, said: "It was lovely meeting so many nice people, and it was very cool to talk English all day. Meeting the others was strange at first because none of us knew how the others would react. But it was worth it. The whole trip and singing together was just amazing."

Organiser Sue St. Joseph also commented, saying that: "Members of the RYC and musicians from Humboldt-Gymnasium met for a residential course at Durham where they spent three days together enjoying both musical and social activities. Days were dominated by rehearsal time, preparing a programme of choral music for a joint concert in Dumfries on the Saturday (kindly hosted by St. John's Church) but there was also time to enjoy a day out visiting Beamish Open Air Museum. Pupils and staff had a wonderful time full of music, friendship and fun and the RYC is hoping to return to Gifhorn for another tour in Christmas 2013."

Since the event, students have kept in touch and established friendships via social networking sites such as Facebook, and the connection between cultures should stay for years to come. And many DGRYC members are now adding German lessons to their curriculums! A further exchange trip to Gifhorn for the DGRYC and Humboldt-Gymnasium is hoped to be organised in December 2013.

The course was Wunderbar! All participants really benefited socially, musically and culturally. All the students can't wait!

A massive chorus of thanks goes to Jamie Brand, Sue St. Joseph, Alison Guthrie, Billy Dewar-Riddick, Dieter Pinkowski, Doris Meisch, Claudia Gerhardy, Dumfries & Galloway Council, and all the singers for such an amazing musical and social experience.

And as conductor Jamie Brand, said: "It's all about the people, not just the places."



The magic of Peter Pan

report by Robert Guthrie

The mysterious and exciting world of Peter Pan came alive at Wallace Hall Academy recently, as the school's drama department put on a captivating production of J.M. Barrie's classic tale.

Peter Pan, as we all know, is the mystical story of the boy who just won't grow up. Peter visits the nursery of the Darling family, where he and his counterpart Tinkerbell take three children on an exciting adventure to Neverland, an enchanted world beyond imagination. It is the home of Peter, Tiger Lily, The Lost Boys, Tinkerbell and the devious Captain Hook who endeavours to defeat Peter's escape from the Tick-Tocking Crocodile.

J.M. Barrie was inspired by a visit to Moat Brae in the centre of Dumfries. He was reminded of the gardens where he played as a boy, and that prompted him to write the book.

Wallace Hall also gained national publicity on BBC News, as part of the School Report initiative, when a crew from the BBC Scotland head-



quarters made a news documentary highlighting the story. They also filmed Academy students performing Peter Pan and included footage of Moat Brae House, which is now being turned into a children's literature centre, due to be opened in forthcoming years.

The crew who staged the performance, made up of about 30 members in all, included organisers Mrs George and Ms Stuart. The production took a great amount of dedication and concentration. Many hours after school were spent in the drama studio of Wallace Hall, putting together the school's interpretation

of J.M. Barrie's enchanted story.

Georgia Gordon, an S3 student who landed the role of Peter Pan, commented: "Everybody in the cast became good friends during the production and it made everything enjoyable! It was a great experience and we had some unforgettable banter. It also really improved my drama skills."

So, it was evident that the production of Peter Pan was an immense success for Wallace Hall, and it's hoped that the Moat Brae House Children's Literature Centre will be too, when it opens in a few years' time.





Learning About Limestone

report by Bethany Ransom and Jessica Ireland-Hughes



key vocabulary for the Lithosphere topic. We were encouraged to take our own photos to include in our own case study. Another attraction to this particular limestone pavement was that a scene in the first part of the last Harry Potter film was filmed there.

The village of Malham was a pleasant, quaint place. All the buildings are constructed using local stone. There were tea rooms and cosy pubs and a pokey village shop. We enjoyed the local delicacy of tea, scones and ice cream.

Overall, the day was a great experience. Seeing and experiencing the limestone landscape first hand has improved our understanding of the processes and features that we have studied. Thanks to Mr Miller and Mrs VanDyke for organising it for us.

After a long and eventful journey, a busload of geographers from Wallace Hall Academy spilled out into the car park, clipboards in hand, ready to go. Kitted out in hiking boots, thermals and rucksacks, we trooped resolutely past other designer-brand clad school groups as they ponced round puddles and moaned about the mud.

The aim of our trip was to study the examples of limestone features provided by this particular landscape. Examples of these were Malham Cove, Janet's Foss and Watlowes Valley. We were provided with a worksheet to help us construct notes for a later report. This included maps, pictures and



Catch of the Day

Our keen WHA fisherman, Callum Williams, achieved his biggest catch to date during the summer holidays. While away on a fishing trip to the beautiful Whitmore Estate in the heart of Staffordshire, Callum landed a catfish weighing in at a massive 49lbs – almost as big as Callum himself! Callum said: "This is the catch of a lifetime – I don't think if I fish for the rest of my life I will land another whopper like this one. After having my photograph taken with the fish I carefully returned it to the water to fight another day!"



Team Building Triumph

report by Sophie Henderson and Jessica Ireland-Hughes

On Monday the 3rd of September pupils who are going on the China trip in 2013 went on a team building exercise to Loch Ken Outdoor Education Centre. Half of the group went sailing in the morning while the others went wall climbing. Then the two groups swapped activities in the afternoon.



Both activities demonstrated great cooperation between the group members. Everyone had to work together efficiently whilst sailing to successfully complete the various tasks that were set for pupils. Firstly we played a game where we

were in two teams and the aim of the game was for the attacking team to work together to score goals whilst the opposing team had to defend the goal. We also had to join all the boats together and a couple of volunteers were set the task of walking round the edges of the boats. A few succeeded although the majority fell in! Meanwhile the other group were wall climbing. This was a trust exercise set for us because it involved everyone working together. Many conquered their fear of heights even though this was not the aim.

Overall the day was a success and many made new friends and



spoke to those they have never spoken to before. Everyone worked together well to make sure the tasks were completed. The trip to Loch Ken was an indication of how much fun the China trip will be.



Tee Off Time at Wallace Hall

The Wallace Hall Academy golf competition is always an eagerly anticipated event in the school calendar. This year was no exception with fierce competition for the top prizes. Taking home the medals were John Carlisle, Siôn Davies, Emma Greenlees, Emma Kennedy, Ben Murphy and Ross Whyte. Well done to all the golfers who took part in the competition.



Swimming Sensation

article by the WHA publicity group

Euan Murgatroyd, a pupil in S4, has been selected for the Scottish Swimming Youth Squad (Gold Squad) as a result of his performance over the past year. He is one of the first swimmers from Dumfries Dolphins to reach this standard. One of the benefits of this is that he will get professional input from the Scottish Institute of Sport. It is hoped that Euan will be considered for selection for the forthcoming Commonwealth Games in 2014. Earlier this year Euan was selected by British Swimming to take part in an Open Water Camp in France.

Euan has written us the following report about his visit to France:

"I think it was round about April/May that my swimming coach told me that I had been selected by British Swimming to take part in an Open Water Camp in France.

"I was pleased to be selected and even more pleased when we were given some fantastic kit including GB hoodie, shorts and tshirts plus top quality Speedo swimming gear. I had never done Open Water swimming before and I was intrigued to find out about it and have a go. There were some people I knew going on the camp and I was looking forward to trying something new.

"The Scottish team (4 boys and 4 girls) flew from Edinburgh to London and met up with the rest of the GB squad – 23 of us in total plus coaches and other support staff. The next day we flew from London to France (Montpellier). The weather was fantastic and I was already having a good laugh with teammates.

"We transferred to Sete by bus where we quickly offloaded our luggage, got our swim kit together then marched down to beach to do a 6k open water training session following a boat round a sea canal. The water was surprisingly warm; but it was so different to pool swimming, with jellyfish, seaweed, waves and people swimming on top of you!

"After two more days of hard training we had our first race – part of the French Cup series. I was quite nervous as the longest event in pool swimming is 1500m and this was 2.4k, with 150 other people. They were mostly French and I felt quite intimidated by them as they kept looking at us trying to psyche us out. We had to get numbered on our hands, shoulders and cap so they can call your number if you commit a "foul". The race briefing was given – luckily there was a translator for us! – then, in our swim gear ready to go, we got taken by bus to our race location. We had to get off the bus quickly to get a good place on the starting line – there was quite a lot of jostling and shoulder-shoving as everyone tried to get into the best starting position! It was nothing



like pool swimming where everything is ordered; with one swimmer to one lane, with a starter, a referee, and an army of marshals, time keepers, start judges and lane judges.

"The gun fired and it was crazy, with people pulling, scratching and swimming over the top of you. The only survival tactic is to try and swim fast at the beginning, to avoid being caught in a group.

"Within a short time some people were very far ahead; I got my cap knocked off my head and someone tried to take my goggles off as well. The adrenaline was flowing but I had to focus on remembering to head to the correct buoys and then which way to go round them. I managed to stay out of a group and swam the whole race by myself having no idea what position I was in. I finished 12th overall (2nd in my age group) winning a nice trophy. I was really pleased - I had enjoyed the challenge, but was exhausted and can't say I was looking forward to the 5k race lined up for us the following week...

"Later that day a bus took us to Port Grimaud (near St Tropez), where a week of training began for the 5km race. We had three 2-hour sessions each day (two in the pool, one in the sea).

"I really enjoyed the social side of things as well as the training, and enjoyed swimming in the sea although the water temperature and conditions changed a lot and were quite extreme at times – one girl got into difficulties and had to be rescued back to shore. Also there were quite a few jellyfish that gave you nasty stings.

"On Sunday we flew to Brittany which was just like Britain - I was quite disappointed! We had a

practice session in the river that day: the water was very cold and visibility underwater was horrific - you couldn't even see your own hand.

"The next day was the 5k race and I was really worried, with real doubts of how I would do. The coach gave me information, strategies and tactics e.g. explained where I'd be on the start line and what to do; try and break away from main pack and get clear water; and how to pace myself etc. My number was called and I jumped into the river to get a place on the start – unfortunately the water was as cold as the day before! I was anticipating a similar start as the previous race but the past week's training had helped me learn how to survive in open water. The start gun went and I had an okay start but couldn't catch the lead group. I swam the whole 5km by myself trying to keep people behind me from dragging off my current (draft). The race seemed to last forever and the lead group got further and further away, much to my disappointment. Again I

had no idea what place I was in. My determination dropped as I hit 3km and so did my energy but I pushed on knowing I was representing GB. The water froze my muscles and I felt like I was pulling trucks down the last 400m straight but I touched the finish and held onto the jetty gasping for air, happy to have completed, but exhausted from my race. It was the hardest thing I had ever done. I came 20th overall but 3rd in my age group winning a cheap swim cap. We flew home the next day.

"Overall it was a good experience – one that I won't forget! I really enjoyed the camp, made a lot of friends and have some very good memories. It was an experience that opened my eyes to a whole different world of swimming and I would gladly do it again, except in Scotland the water is usually a bit too cold for my liking!"

The school is very proud of Euan's achievements and would like to wish him every success for the future.

WHA Half Marathon Approaching Fast

It's only a matter of weeks till our event takes place. We hope that the fantastic summer of sport we have witnessed nationally will have inspired many of you to reach for your running shoes and take to the hills. If so you wouldn't want to miss our races which take place at Drumlanrig Castle and Country Estate on Sunday 4th of November with something for everyone.

Those of you who really like to test yourselves could enter the Queensberry Half Marathon. Those who like a challenge but not quite that length of race could take part in the Drumlanrig Demon 10k (not as bad as the name suggests!) whilst those of you who may just have taken up running again or who have young children could take part in the Castle View Fun Run – a 3 km race which is the loop in front of the castle. You may even want to walk this one, with or without pushchair or dog.

The races have been well supported the last two years featuring local runners as well as many from further afield. However, we would like to build on our entry again this year and in future years, hoping that it will develop into a very popular fixture on the athletics



calendar.

As this is a weekend event and because it is not primarily for pupils it may not be obvious that the purpose of it is to raise funds for the school. Although it is only in its third year this event is already making money. This money, along with that raised through other fundraising events, is used to support school clubs and to buy or replace equipment which is too

costly to buy from the school budget. Last year pupils asked for disco lights for the Bailey Hall to enhance school dances and we used £500 of the money to purchase those.

The event simply couldn't take place without a band of willing volunteers. Can we please ask you to support us by volunteering yourselves and by encouraging your children to volunteer? We really do appreciate all the support you and the pupils give to our events. Please contact Diane Jarvie, Race Administrator, (telephone 01848 332120) at the school if you wish to join us on the day.

Please visit our website (whahalfmarathon.com) for more information.



Sailing Club at Wallace Hall Academy

report by Errin Clark Wyse

On Wednesday the 12th of September I went on my first sailing trip with Mrs Black, Mr Miller, Mr Bell and some of the senior pupils.



I was in an Oppie with Kellie Carmichael. She was a big help to me because she is very good at sailing and she is a Dinghy Instructor.

An Oppie is a small boat which is not designed for two people, so the boat kept on nose diving and filling up like a bath tub. Some of the boys

were having fun in the Oppie and trying to make it turtle after I switched over to the safety boat with Mrs Black.

The water that night was surprisingly warm so when my feet got cold I stuck them in the water so they warmed up.



There were lots of swans in the water that night too.

The senior boys got training in racing from Kellie. At the far end of the lake there was some racing going on. I did realise how fast those little boats can go! (The Oppie lost!)

I enjoyed another lovely sailing night with beautiful weather and I am looking forward to going sailing again!



Bowled over by success

report by Matthew Higgins

Two Wallace Hall Academy pupils have tasted success on the bowling green. Gary Stewart (S4) and Robert Lenza (S6) recently won the Thornhill mixed American triples at the Thornhill Bowling Club. The picture on the right shows the boys with their shield.

Robert has enjoyed further success when he was part of a 24 strong under

17 team which won the national youth set-up against Northern England.

Robert, who has been bowling since he was 10 years old, said: "I was both excited and nervous before I went on but once I was on the green it was fine and I felt quite confident. I don't mind pressure. It helps me to concentrate. I think I played quite well and I am pleased with the result. I really enjoyed playing at such a high level and this makes me just want to improve."

Good luck to both Robert and Gary with their future games.



Sporting Extra Curricular Clubs 2012/2013

The following extra curricular sporting activities are being offered by the school this session. We aim to encourage all pupils at Wallace Hall Academy to adopt a healthy, active lifestyle and we hope that your child finds at least one of these activities interesting and is encouraged to participate regularly.

Member of Staff	Activity	Day	Time	Facility	Age Group
D Dillon	15/16/18 Football	Tuesday evening	4pm - 5pm	Fields/ MUGA	15 - 18
D Frew	13/14 Football	Tuesday evening	4pm - 5pm	Fields/ MUGA	12 - 14
M Miller	Junior Hockey	Wednesday evening	4pm -5pm	MUGA	S1 - S2
M Miller	Senior Hockey	Thursday evening	4pm - 5pm	MUGA	S3 - S6
E Mack	Senior Rugby	Wednesday evening	4pm - 5pm	Fields	S5 - S6
E Mack/B Graham	Junior Rugby	Thursday evening	4pm - 5pm	Fields	S1 - S4
L Carnochan	Girls Football	Tuesday	Lunchtime	Games Hall	All Girls
E Mack	Basketball (After October Holidays)	Thursday	Lunchtime	Games Hall	S1 - S3
E Mack	Basketball (After October Holidays)	Thursday evening	4pm - 5pm	Games Hall	S4 - S6
K Landers	Badminton/Table Tennis (After October Holidays)	Monday	Lunchtime	Games Hall	All Pupils
S Rae	Netball	Wednesday	Lunchtime	Games Hall	All Girls
Fiona Bell	Fitness 91	Tuesday	1.10pm - 1.45pm	Fitness Suite	S1 - S6 Mixed
All P.E Staff	Fitness	Mon/Wed/Fri	Lunchtime	Fitness Suite	S4 - S6
All P.E Staff	Fitness	Thursday	Lunchtime	Fitness Suite	S3



WALLACE HALL ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL NEWS



Our 2011/12 year on the Parent Council ends with our AGM on Tuesday 9 October. Please come along to hear what we have been up to and then have a glass of wine. Just before the (short) formal meeting we are holding a discussion on the Misuse of Drugs. We have arranged presentations from Scott Jardine, the region's Substance Misuse Officer and from Scott McDowell, our local Community Police Officer.

There has been a large and enthusiastic level of involvement in the Parent Council over the past year. At our last meeting we had 20 people attending, when we had an interesting presentation on Careers Advice. The range of interests and activities mirrors an active and successful school which we are all privileged to be involved with.

Please come along to our next meeting and consider joining us. If there are any matters which you would like to discuss feel free to contact me.

Brian Johnston - Chairperson

Careers Advice at Wallace Hall Academy



Emma Wallace is the new Careers Adviser for Wallace Hall Academy and will be in school on a Friday. Emma has been with Skills Development Scotland for 9 years and has worked within a number of secondary schools in Dumfries and Galloway.

Emma offers a drop in service every Friday in her office (Medical Room) at lunchtime where pupils can come along with any

questions or queries related to careers.

For appointments S4, S5 and S6 pupils should register on the My World of Work Website www.myworldofwork.co.uk (more information below). Once pupils have completed the "my strengths" section and undertaken some research if they wish a careers appointment they should discuss this with their Pupil Support Principal Teacher or a member of the SMT who will arrange an interview with Emma where appropriate.

Emma offers 1:1 career guidance appointments through Pupil Support and will also carry out group sessions throughout the school year with a range of year groups to support pupils with career management skills.

Emma's contact details are as follows: email address: emma.wallace@sds.co.uk or telephone: 01387 272500.

If you would like to find out more about Skills Development Scotland services please visit our website address as follows: www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk

My World of Work

My World of Work is a web service for people to plan, build and direct their career throughout their lives.

Customers can see jobs in action; build their CVs; search for vacancies and explore training opportunities in a way that's personal to them. There are video clips of people explaining their job roles and an informative magazine with some great up-to-the-minute tips on how to get a job or train for one.

Delivered by Skills Development Scotland, it provides information on the jobs market as well as offering help with things like tackling tough interview questions.

My World of Work complements SDS's current face-to-face and telephone services, as well as those provided by partners, so customers have access to a range of channels depending on the level of support they need.

To explore My World of Work and the range of tools on offer, visit www.myworldofwork.co.uk

For up-to-date information on what is happening at Wallace Hall Academy please visit our school website on www.wallacehallacademy.com