

Wallace Hall

NEWSLETTER

June 2016

Working Together to Achieve More



Schools' Conference Champions



Wallace Hall U16s and U18s concluded their rugby season this year by winning their respective sections in the Dumfries and Galloway Conference Cup finals. Missing from the Under 18 team photograph above are Jack Bain and Cameron Robertson. For full report and more photographs from the event, please turn to pages 42 and 43.



Activities for All

Pupils and staff recently enjoyed a very successful Activities Week, with something on the menu for all tastes. The three days of activities are always an excellent opportunity for pupils to try something new.

New on the menu this year was a Falconry experience hosted by Mel and Dave from Camplebridge Riding Stables. This was a most interesting morning with pupils getting the chance to see and work with the birds, a Turkmanian Eagle Owl and a Harris Hawk, at close quarters. Photograph on the left shows Laura Carruthers carrying back Scaur the Harris Hawk, after a really exciting session watching him fly free.

For a full report and pictures from Activities Week, please turn to pages 22 - 27.

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Duke of Edinburgh Award Success



Congratulations to Oishin O'Hara and Niall Holden who were recently presented with their Duke of Edinburgh Awards. The awards were presented at a prestigious civic reception in the Theatre Royal, which was organised to mark the Diamond Anniversary of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

The boys were very honoured to be invited to the reception as representatives of Wallace Hall Academy and were delighted to be presented with their certificates by Colin Grant, Director of Children, Young People and Lifelong Learning. As well as receiving his Silver Award, Niall spoke to the assembled audience about what he has gained from being involved with the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. Well done to both boys.

Contacting the school

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

Our office staff are your first point of contact. They will be pleased to deal with any enquiry you wish to make regarding your child and to put you in touch with the relevant member of staff. Outside office hours you may leave a message on our answering machine. Please contact us if you have any problems. We are here to help. Visit the school website: www.wallacehall.co.uk for the latest news and information about the whole school.

Wallace Hall pupils get to grips with Big Maths



Mrs Renwick and some of the Primary 6 pupils at Wallace Hall were invited to a recent Wallace Hall Parent Council meeting to explain a bit more about Big Maths, a new mathematics programme

currently being used in Wallace Hall Primary.

The programme is an innovative approach to teaching numeracy which embraces the logical nature of maths, translating it into simple steps



and progress drives. Big Maths helps increase pupils' recall of mathematical concepts and makes progress easy and fun for both pupils and teachers.

Barry Graham, Head Teacher of Wallace Hall, said: "I was very impressed with how our Primary 6 pupils explained Big Maths to our Parent Council members. The Parent Council members obviously enjoyed the opportunity to observe some 21st Century learning and were confident about the clear lines of progression from year to year which can only lead to further improvements in our maths attainment and achievement."



Celebrating Pupils' Achievements

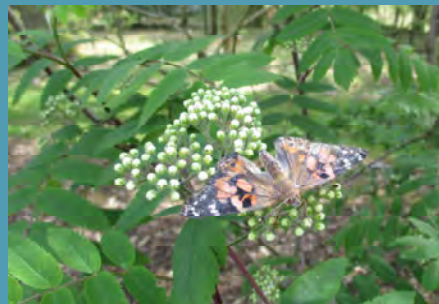
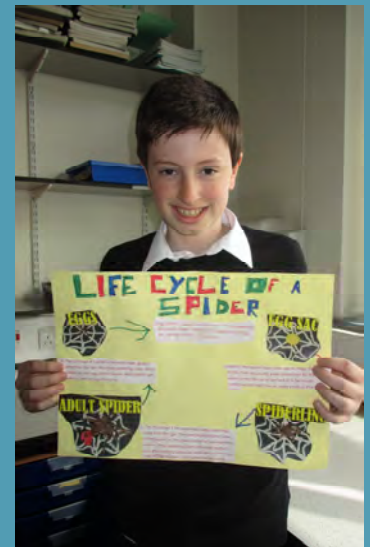
We are very keen to celebrate our pupils' achievements in the school newsletter, whether these achievements happen either in school or in the pupils' own time.

However, we cannot do this unless we know about them.

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

S2 Life Cycles

The S2 classes in Biology have been researching life cycles as part of the 'Growth and Genetics' topic. Photographs show some of the S2 Biology pupils with their posters and their butterflies!



Senior Celebration of Success Ceremony

report by Adam Dalgleish



On the evening of Thursday 21st of April, Wallace Hall hosted its annual Celebration of Success Ceremony; a night to celebrate both the academic and extra-curricular achievements of senior pupils as well as to enjoy quality entertainment from some of our talented musicians.

The evening sprang into action as the award winners made their way into the Bailey Hall as part of the traditional bagpipe procession which was led by Mhari Prentice. The audience was greeted by Mrs Fraser, PT of Pupil Support, and her opening remarks were followed by a welcome speech by Head Teacher, Mr Graham. In his speech, Mr Graham highlighted many of the positive things the pupils have achieved over the past year, such as the S6 paired reading activities with S1 pupils and our pupils' excellent SQA exam results in comparison with the regional averages.

Mr Graham's speech was followed by an impressive rendition of '7 Years' by Lucas Graham, performed by Heather

O'Connor who was ably accompanied by Sam Solley on piano. To present the awards, Wallace Hall was very happy to welcome Annan's very own Alex Dunbar, who plays rugby for Glasgow Warriors and who has been capped for Scotland many times, to the ceremony. In his address, Alex gave pupils an insight into the hard work and commitment required to play rugby at the highest level and encouraged pupils from Wallace Hall to always aim high.

The second performance of the night was led by Josie Fairley Keast on the saxophone who was again accompanied by Sam Solley and Cameron Jones on drums. Josie delighted the audience with a first-rate rendition of Dave Brubreck's 'Take Five'.

The night came to a close following a presentation led by Head Boy and Head Girl, Ben Wicks and Emily Morton, which focused on what their six years at Wallace Hall has really meant for them. Ben and Emily also thanked

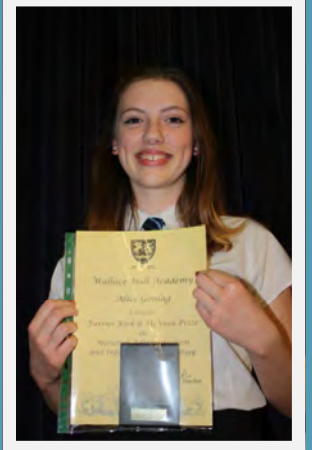
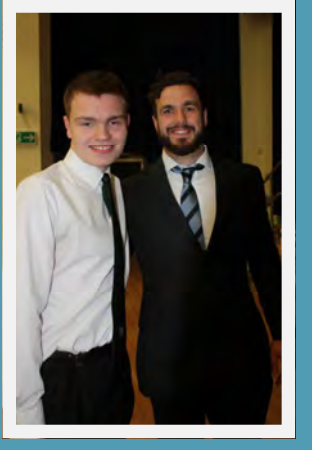
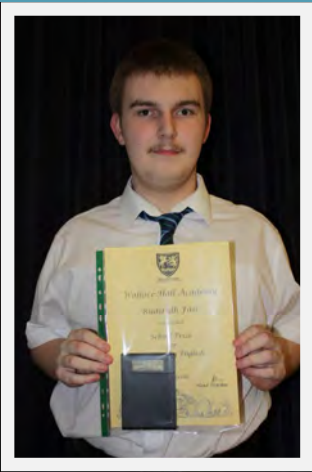


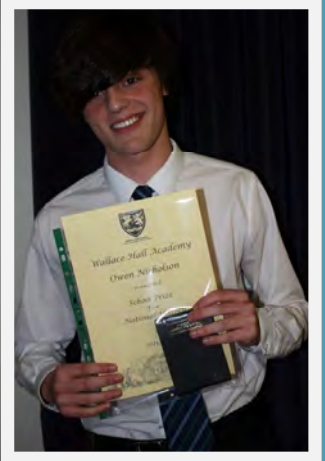
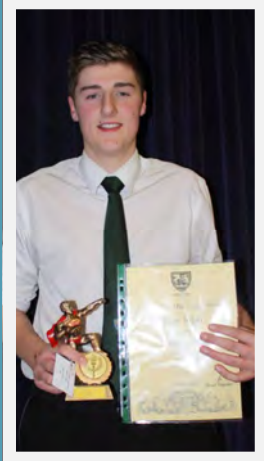
all of the individuals who have made their time at Wallace Hall so memorable.

All agreed that the night was a huge success and a thanks must go to all of the individuals who made the night happen, including Mrs Fraser and Miss McLurg, as well as all the guests who turned out on the night. A special thanks to Alex Dunbar for taking time out from his busy schedule to present the awards.

More pictures from the ceremony on the next two pages.







Higher Art and Design - pupil work



Mollie Hoddinott



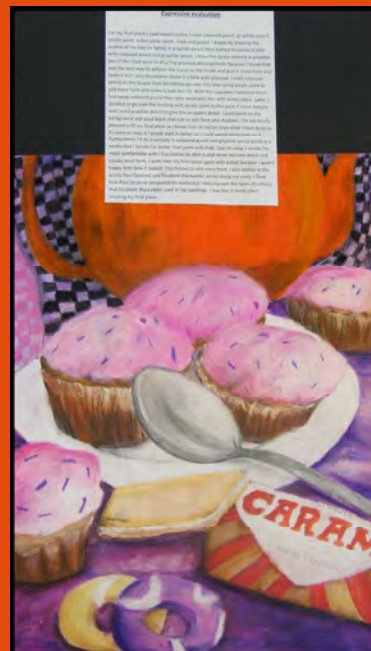
Georgia Clark



Sean Wells



Lauren Johnstone



Georgia Harris



Elle Findlater



Grace O'Sullivan

S6 pupils get ready to fly



Fancy dress was the order of the day at Wallace Hall recently as Sixth Year pupils dressed up as their favourite Disney characters to celebrate their last day in secondary education.

Younger Wallace Hall pupils seemed to approve of the Sixth Year's choice of theme as the school day got off to a good start with a selection of popular Disney tunes belting out over the tannoy and characters such as Snow White

and the Seven Dwarfs congregating in "The Street", all with big smiles and ready to enjoy the day ahead.

A delicious breakfast of croissants, fruit, muesli bars and hot drinks, generously provided by the school, was followed by an informal leaving ceremony led by Mr Graham, Head Teacher, and Mr Blair, Depute Head Teacher with responsibility for S6. Ben Wicks and Emily Morton, outgoing Head Boy and Girl, paid tribute to their peers and to their six years at

Wallace Hall through a photographic presentation showing some of their highlights. The ceremony concluded with the audience enjoying a 'then and now' slide show, compiled by Chloe Flannigan, showing everyone's S1 school photograph side by side with their current S6 school photograph.

After having pictures taken to remind them of their day, Sixth Year pupils moved up to the library to socialise with staff and enjoy tea, coffee and a delicious selection of cakes. The next stage of the proceedings took place in the PE department where competition was fierce through games and the much anticipated water fights. Thankfully the weather was kind which ensured that the inevitable deluge was kept outside on the playing fields. The proceedings were rounded off by a barbeque prepared by Alison and her team from the school kitchen.

John Blair, DHT, said: "Our sixth year students are a fantastic group of young people who have worked tirelessly to support the school. All throughout the year they have been terrific role models for our younger students. I am very impressed with the manner in which they approached and planned the activities for their last day and they really did themselves proud. I have no doubt that they will all go on to be successful and I would like to take this opportunity to wish them all the best for the future."

Please turn the page for more photos of our Sixth Year pupils' last day at Wallace Hall.







Nathan is in fine voice



Wallace Hall was well represented at the recent national finals of the Scottish Schools Burns competition held in St George's School for Girls in Edinburgh.

Ailsa Black competed in the S1/S2 singing class, Josie Blount in the S1/S2 verse speaking class, and Emily Kennedy and Nathan King in the S3/S4 verse speaking class. Lucy Doig also qualified for the S5/S6 verse speaking class but, due to her imminent SQA Higher Examinations, decided to withdraw from the competition this year.

All of the pupils representing Wallace Hall did themselves, their Burns' tutors and the school proud with Nathan beating very stiff competition to take second place in his section for the second year in a row.

John Blair, DHT pictured left presenting Nathan with his certificate, said: "Nathan is a joy to listen to when he is reciting Burns. Living in the heart of Burns country myself, I can really appreciate the dedication and commitment it takes to reach this high standard. Well done Nathan."

Primary 4 competition winners



As featured in our April newsletter, all schools are required to have emergency lockdown procedures in place in the event of an intruder or a similar dangerous incident.

Primary 4 pupils and pupils studying Art and Design in the

secondary were asked to illustrate the chosen scenario of an escaped bull in the playground by drawing pictures.

Prizes were awarded to Zen Ethalion-Ubergs, Ruby Harkness, Euan Wilson and Sophia Wilson. Two secondary pupils, Poppy

McMillan (S6) and Grace O'Sullivan (S5), also were awarded prizes.

Photograph above shows Primary 4 pupils with Mr Graham and Mrs Sloan proudly displaying their drawings after being presented with their prizes.

Raising funds for Theo

report by Josie Fairley Keast



Holly-Elise Parkinson, S1, has recently been carrying out fundraising for her cousin Theo, who was diagnosed with high-risk stage four neuroblastoma cancer last July. This is an extremely rare condition, and in order for Theo to have the best chance of survival, he will need specialist treatment in America, costing around £250,000.

Over the course of a week, Holly ran several fundraising activities, including bake sales, a guess-the-number-of-skittles-in-the-jar competition, and 'A Touch Of Purple', asking everyone in the school to add a purple item of clothing to their uniform for the day. Holly also had her hair cut, making a donation to the Little Princess Trust, a charity which specialises in providing real-hair wigs to children who have lost their hair through life-saving treatments.

Holly said: "I'm so proud to be able to call Theo my cousin; he's been through so much, and he's been braver than I could ever be. He only turned six in January, but he's already had many treatments including chemotherapy and surgery to remove an eight-centimetre tumour. He has done all this with a smile on his face and continues to do so, no matter what gets thrown at him. He never asks why, he just accepts everything and gets on with whatever he needs to do. At the moment, he's having radiotherapy every morning. One morning he

said, "I'll go to the hospital if you let me go to school again." Theo doesn't actually know the full extent of his condition; his parents have told him that it's just a bit of 'bad skin' and he needs to go to the hospital to make it better. This treatment is really important, as without it there is very little doctors can do to help him. I came up with the idea to hold the event just a week before World Neuroblastoma Day. I spoke to Mrs Fraser, and she helped me organise a variety of activities to be carried out. I'd been thinking about cutting my hair for charity since long before Theo's diagnosis, but as soon as he'd been diagnosed, I knew I wanted to help in some way, and I finally got it cut the day before Neuroblastoma Day. The whole way through it, I was smiling, because I knew it was for Theo, and I wanted to make a difference in any way I could. In total I raised over two and a half thousand pounds, as well as donating eleven inches of hair to the Trust. I want to thank the school, especially Mrs Fraser for helping organise things, and Mr Gilius and everyone else who helped to bake for and run the sales."

Holly and her family have now raised nearly £90,000 for the fund, but they still need as much help as possible to reach their goal. To



find out more about Theo and his story, you can visit a Go Fund Me account ([Fight_Like_A_Kid](#)) or a Facebook page (Theo's Journey Against Neuroblastoma).

Mrs Fraser, PT Pupil Support at Wallace Hall, said: "I was aware of Theo's condition through links with Holly's family, and for some time now, Holly has been keen to undertake some fundraising of her own. I was more than happy to help her organise the events that took place in school but to be honest, Holly and her friends did all the hard work. They worked tirelessly throughout the week to ensure everything was a success and I am really pleased that so much money has been raised for Theo. I would like to thank all the pupils, parents and staff for their generous donations."



Strictly for Charity



Hall. Dave sported a rather fetching pink shirt to showcase his dancing skills. He performed a technically demanding Latin routine to Kirsty McCall's 'In these shoes' with his partner Alison, Chairperson of the Dumfries and Galloway branch of Sands.

Dave said: "I was delighted to take part in this event which was organised by Kirsty Bowie in memory of her son, Josie, who sadly died at birth. A significant amount of effort was put in by the committee and all of those who performed to make the event such an unqualified success. On behalf of all those involved, I would like to thank everyone who donated to this very worthwhile charity."

Frivolity, feathers and fake tans were on full display at the recent 'Strictly for Sands' event held in the Bailey Hall at Wallace Hall. Held in aid of Sands, a charity which supports those affected by stillbirth and neonatal death, the two-night event showcased eleven couples who took to the floor in an extravaganza of music and dance.

Wallace Hall staff were well represented. First up was Hazel Harvey, one of Wallace Hall's ASFL Assistants, strutting her stuff with former Head Boy Stephen Morrison. Past winners of the event, they performed a hilarious Scottish themed sketch to 'Hoots Mon, there's a moose loose about this hoose'. Sarah Hannah, Nursery teacher at Wallace Hall, enthusiastically donned a luxurious blonde wig to take on the role of Tess alongside fellow judge Ian Wilson, former stalwart of the PE department at Wallace Hall. Ian called on his years of experience

coaching social dance to deliver his comments in his own inimitable and humorous style.

Completing the line-up of Wallace Hall stars was Dave Dillon, Depute Head Teacher at Wallace



A Scientific Business



S1 pupils recently took part in a Business and Science activity which required them to make their own product and then advertise it to the rest of the class.

There were three materials that pupils could work with: smart putty, shape memory alloy and polymorph. In small groups, pupils tested the properties of the materials before coming up with their product. They then had to make an informative poster before giving a persuasive sales pitch to the class.

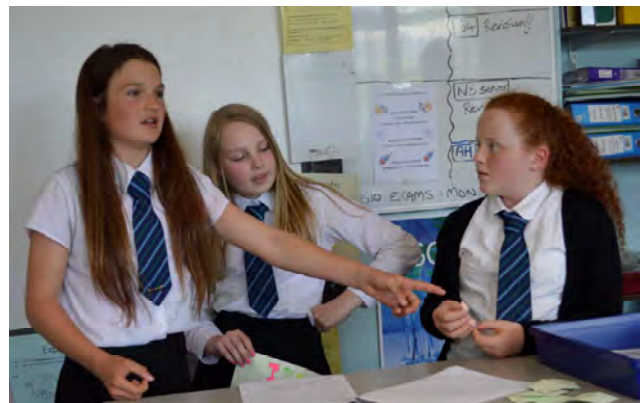
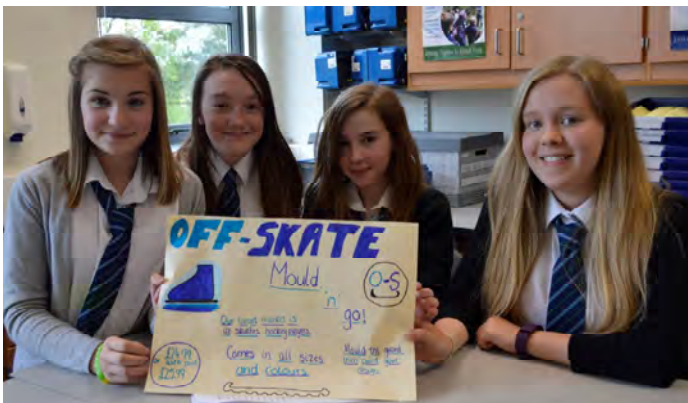
The pupils came up with some fantastic ideas and, after all the presentations were delivered, a winning group from each of the five classes was chosen.

Pupils in the S4 Employability Group were also on-hand during the activity. They helped



demonstrate the different materials to the S1s, went around the groups to see how they were getting on and acted as judges during the presentations. All did a great job and their contributions were greatly appreciated.

Photographs show some of the pupils working on and presenting their ideas.



Brilliant Biology Trip

report by Shona Buckley and Annabelle Guthrie

On the 10th May, S3 Biology students embarked on a field trip to Drumlanrig Castle to investigate the different species present.

The pupils engaged in various activities located at different areas of the castle. These involved pond dipping, tree beating, pitfall traps, quadrats and a transect line. Led

by the Biology teachers and assisted by staff from Queensberry Initiative, each activity lasted 35 minutes. Debbie Parks from Nith Fisheries gave advice on pond dipping and how to effectively catch aquatic invertebrates.

Lauren McKinna reflected on the trip saying: "I really enjoyed the trip overall. My favourite activity



was pitfall traps as I liked identifying the different species."

An activity enjoyed by all was Quadrats. At this activity pupils looked at the biodiversity of plants like daisies by randomly throwing a 0.25m² grid and counting how many squares these plants were present in, and then calculating approximately how many were present in the whole test area.

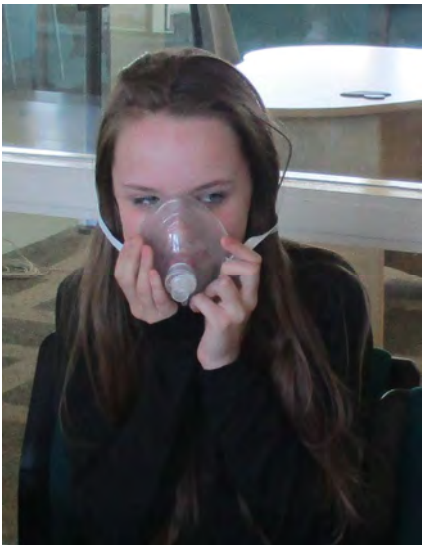
Thanks go to the Queensberry Initiative team, staff at Drumlanrig Castle, Debbie Parks of Nith Fisheries and the Biology teachers at Wallace Hall for organising a really good trip.



S2 pupils visit the University of Cumbria

S2 pupils spent the day at the University of Cumbria recently where they learned about what life as a student will be like for them when they go to university.

Pupils were given a campus tour, asked to come up with a new course, and learned more about courses in the fields of health and media. Lydia McMillan said: "I really enjoyed visiting the university. It was interesting to see the campus and find out more about the courses on offer."



Encouraging health and wellbeing



One of the most popular modules in school is Yoga. Led by Mrs Davies, Yoga is an ancient form of exercise that focuses on strength, flexibility and breathing to boost physical and mental wellbeing. The photo above shows Mrs Davies and her Yoga class outside on a lovely spring day.

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Marly Baker

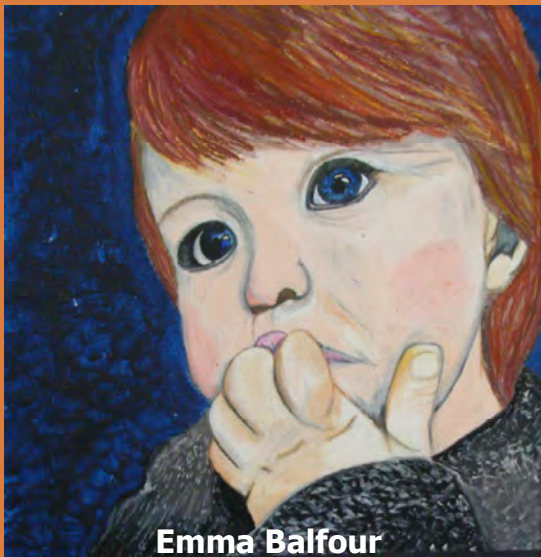


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Emma Balfour



Chloe Lancaster



Leah Byar



Lottie Bramley



Ellie Thorburn

You are never alone when you have a book

report by Josie Fairley Keast

At the beginning of the new term, S2 students from Wallace Hall were invited to meet Jeff Brown, a former headmaster of Moffat Academy and employer of our own Mr Graham.

Jeff is a highly respected figure in education. He was honoured to be given an OBE in recognition of his teaching abilities and in 2008 he was chosen as Head Teacher of the Year at the Scottish Education Awards. Although he is now retired, Jeff continues to take an interest in various school activities. In light of his constant support and encouragement of reading in schools, Jeff has recently made a generous donation to the Wallace Hall school library.

A new S2 class came to the library to hear Jeff speak about his opinions on reading and literature, as well as discussing his own favourite books. Alex Fletcher, Daniel Blundell, Bethany Nicholson and William Dempster all commented on the visit:

"The visit from Jeff Brown was really interesting and we talked about our favourite genre of books."

"I am very thankful for Mr Brown donating money so we can get new books to lose ourselves in."

"The visit from Mr Brown made a lot of us look at how reading impacts our lives."

"Thanks to Mr Brown for his donation - it was really interesting to hear what type of books he likes to read."

Regarding his own experiences, Jeff said: "You are never alone when you have a book to read! I was delighted to be asked to come to the school library and talk to some of the young people about my interest in books. I have always enjoyed reading. As a child I loved the *Biggles* series by W.E. John, Enid Blyton and comics such as the *Hotspur* and *Victor*. My interest in literature was developed by my teachers and I became an avid reader of fiction and non-fiction, in particular

mysteries and books about history. At present I am reading *The Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner* by James Hogg which is on the sinister border between the supernatural and the psychological. At the same time I am reading *Catherine the Great* by Robert K. Massie as I have a deep interest in the history of Russia. However my favourite time is when I am reading to my grandchildren, especially Matthew, who is two, and loves hearing about 'The Lion Who Wanted To Love' and any other books about animals and nature. I would urge every young person to find the joy of reading. It does not matter what type of book you read - you will always learn something."

The donation will be used to enhance the collection of books available for students to borrow from the library; if anyone has any suggestions of books they would like to see on the shelves, they should speak to Mrs Menzies or their English teacher.



Science Transition

As part of the transition programme at Wallace Hall Academy, P7 pupils from various schools outside the catchment area had an "Introduction to Science".

They had to work with pupils from other schools to label pieces of science equipment and carry out

some simple experiments. Photos show the pupils learning how to safely light a Bunsen burner and testing their observational skills!

All pupils had a good time getting to know each other and their new school. Most of them are really looking forward to Science in S1.

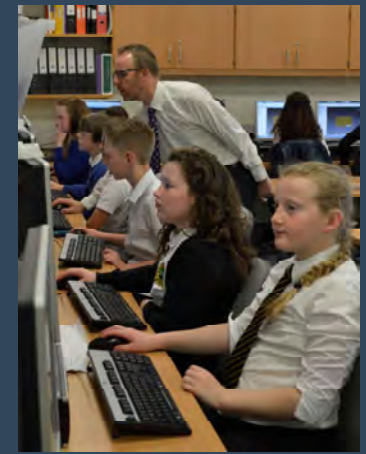


Transition Topics

As well as spending a period in Science, the Primary 7 pupils from outwith our cluster also spent time in Physics, PE, English, HE, Mathematics, Design and Technology, ICT and Art.

Mrs Miller, PT Pupil Support in charge of Transitions, said: "All of the pupils integrated very well and seemed to be really enjoying their day. We look forward to seeing them again on our Induction Days in June.

Photographs show some of the pupils enjoying their time at Wallace Hall while they were taking part in a variety of activities.





S2 Liverpool Trip

Working Together to Achieve More

Activities for All

Once again, Wallace Hall Academy's Activities Week took over the timetable for three days at the end of May. Staff and pupils took on new challenges in a multitude of situations outside their normal learning environment.

The whole school community gets involved, with activities being led by both teachers and support staff.

Mr Corrigan, Principal Teacher of Design & Technology, organises the three days of events, and explained how he tries to achieve a balance that is accessible to everyone: "Activities Week is a fantastic opportunity for staff and pupils to see each-other in a different light, and goes a long way towards nurturing the mutually respectful relationships shared between staff and pupils at Wallace Hall Academy. We try to provide a variety of activities that cater for as many interests as possible, which is why on each day we have at least twelve

different events to choose from. Although we have regular favourites for pupils to select from, such as M&D's and Blair Drummond Adventure and Safari Park, we also try to introduce something new each year. This year we introduced Falconry which was facilitated by Mel and Dave at Camplebridge Riding School, a Spa Day at Neuro's in Dumfries and an air rifle target range at Lochmaben Shooting Supplies.

"The support of the community, shown so often by the likes of Thornhill Golf Club, who offer pupils a round of golf without charge, was mirrored this year by the village's own Athena, who came in to provide a beauty school to a number of our pupils. We were also once again visited by John Pearson of Loreburn Camera Club to provide an introduction to top level photography. This year, John was joined by professional photographer Ewan Cannon, and the photographs produced by pupils were stunning.



"Our QI team, who are very valuable partners for activities week, were instrumental in setting up two of our activities, Gundog Handling and Fishing at Drumlanrig Castle. This year, Mr Gillus made the most of his culinary expertise to prepare a delicious barbecue on the final day, and we're hopeful that this can be repeated in future years."

Overall, Activities Week was an invigorating time for all involved. We're already looking forward to what next year has in store!

Turn the page for a selection of photographs from Activities Week.





Activities Week

Working Together to Achieve More



Activities Week

Working Together to Achieve More



Activities Week

Working Together to Achieve More



Activities Week

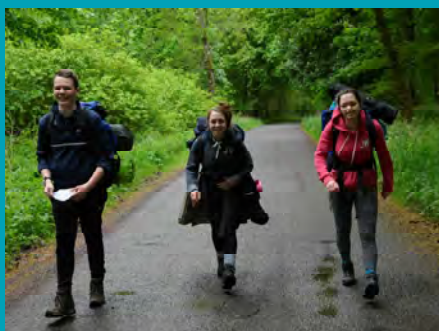
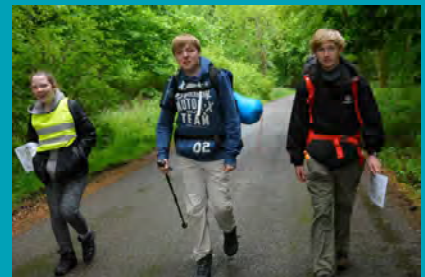
Working Together to Achieve More

Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

Twenty five Wallace Hall Academy pupils completed their DofE practice expeditions recently.

The pupils walked thirty two kilometres over the course of two days, camping overnight in the grounds of Morton Castle.

Photographs show the pupils during the various stages of their expedition, from the initial preparation through to their safe arrival back at Wallace Hall.



Wallace Hall pupils brush up their Shakespeare



It's not just the cast of A Midsummer Night's Dream who have been brushing up their Shakespeare at Wallace Hall recently.

Groups of English department students have also been developing their acting skills as part of our cross-curricular focus on the school production of the well-loved

Shakespearean comedy. Pupils in S1, S2 and S3 English classes have been reading the play in the run-up to the open-air performances. To bring the text to life, Anna Beynon, drama specialist and director of the show, has found time in her hectic rehearsal schedule to give some of the classes the chance to, as she calls it, "put the text on its feet".

Pupils have taken part in some entertaining activities involving movement, voice techniques, and acting out short sections of Shakespeare's dialogue in front of their peers.

Ms Beynon, Principal Teacher of Expressive Arts, said: "Shakespeare was the greatest entertainer of his age and was totally inclusive – he wrote for everyone. For me it's important that pupils understand that a Shakespeare play is an event, an



experience, not just a written script – seeing and hearing the words in performance is key to enjoying it."

Jane McMillan, Principal Teacher of English, said: "All our students have risen enthusiastically to the challenges of the 16th century text and have surprised themselves with what they have achieved. It's been great to see our pupils enjoying the humour and fun of this play and the confidence this has given them. They know that if they can read Shakespeare, they can read anything, which is an empowering feeling."

Dr Fulton teaches Primary 1 about rainbows



Dr Fulton spent some time with Primary 1 pupils recently, teaching them about rainbows.

Nieve Head: "We learned about rainbows and saw an experiment." Seth McKie: "He brought a light and book with him." Logan Renton: "To make a rainbow you need the sun and the rain." Giulietta Rinaldi: "Dr Fulton came to Primary 1 to teach us all about rainbows and he brought a water gun! He mixed colours with a cool light. It was fantastic." Photograph above shows Dr Fulton with the Primary 1 pupils.

Leslie's remarkable story

Report by Erinn Walker



On the 26th of April, Auschwitz survivor Leslie Kleinman and his wife Miriam travelled to visit Wallace Hall from their home in Essex to tell us his remarkable story.

That morning myself and Mr Harley, a current History teacher at Wallace Hall, met Leslie and Miriam for breakfast beforehand. I thought it was important to have a one on one conversation with Leslie first to ensure that he was comfortable with the arrangements that were put in place for the day, and to give us some time to get to know each other. Leslie was a very caring and warm person to be in the company of. He told us many stories of his life and how he came to arrive in Britain, where he now calls his home. One thing that will always stick in my head after that initial meeting was that Leslie mentioned that he would have loved to have become an uncle

one day, but sadly that chance had been stolen from him.

A capacity audience of over 300 students and teachers greeted Leslie in the Bailey Hall, all of

whom were eager to hear his life story. His presentation was extremely powerful and moving, to say the least. As he told his story, I began to think back to when I visited Auschwitz last year and his words made my experience of visiting feel more real. I can remember seeing some of the places which he mentioned in his story.

Leslie told us how he managed to survive Auschwitz, and described the horrific sights that he came across while being inside the camp. He spoke about being separated from his mother and sister upon their arrival to Auschwitz Birkeneu, and I could immediately picture the spot where prisoners stepped off the trains into the camp. A guard would point for them to go left or right; this choice determined whether someone would live or die. When Leslie mentioned this was the place where he was separated from his family, it brought all of the thoughts back to me which I had when I was there.

Leslie told us how the belief that his elder sister would survive the camp, and the thought of meeting her again, was what gave him the strength to survive the experience. Sadly, he discovered that she had died just two days after the camp was liberated.



Leslie's family had been entirely destroyed by the Nazis and their plan to wipe out the entire Jewish race. This atrocity had an everlasting effect on many people whose families were taken away from them.

You could have heard a pin drop in the Bailey Hall as Leslie was speaking – exactly the atmosphere and respect that this incredible gentleman deserved. Once he had finished speaking, students and teachers were extremely keen to meet Leslie and Miriam and waited patiently to speak to them. Many said that they felt his talk was 'simply inspiring' and how lucky they felt to have had the chance to hear his story, a 'once in a lifetime opportunity'.

I feel very privileged and proud that I managed to arrange this visit as it was an incredible opportunity for other students in the school to have. I am sure all in the audience will remember Leslie's story for a long time. Leslie and Miriam were very kind people and I still keep in contact with them today. I feel exceptionally privileged that I am able to continue speaking to a couple who are very special and unique. I would thoroughly recommend that people take the time to learn more about Leslie and his remarkable story.

Photographs show Leslie and Miriam meeting Erinn, Mr Harley and some of the Wallace Hall pupils who attended Leslie's presentation.



Focusing on Food and Farming



As part of Primary 4 pupils' Food and Farming topic, Queensberry Initiative staff organised a visit to Marr Farm, one of the project's partner farms.

The pupils spent time observing the cows and the sheep with their offspring, and this helped them understand how genetics are passed down through families and how certain characteristics can be inherited. They also talked about genetics being passed through humans and plants.

The pupils were made aware of the different types of farming in Scotland and the importance of this production to ensure we have food on the table each night.

Jenna Laird wrote the following: "On our school trip we went to Marr Farm. The owner is Chloe Hamilton's dad, Andrew Hamilton. It was a very long journey there.



When we got there we were split into two groups. Some went with Jim and others with Andrew. The group I was in was with Jim. We went to see the lambs and sheep. We all got to go in the field. We went and patted the sheep. I accidentally stepped in sheep poo. Next we went to see the sheep in the shed. Jim picked up a lamb and we got to pat it. Then he let it back into its pen.

Then we went to see the cattle with Andrew. All the cows were in the shed. Two of them had a calf. The two mums had a calf and they were both Aberdeen Angus cross cows. There was a Limousin bull. There were two orphan calves called Buster and Scooter. Buster's mum died when she gave birth and Scooter's mum couldn't produce milk so she got taken away.

I had so much fun learning about the farm animals. They are really interesting. I liked Buster and Scooter the most. I feel sorry for Buster because his mum died. I think there was a lot of effort put into the trip and I am very grateful for it."

Kirsten Fergusson's report said: "On Wednesday 11th May at 9.30am, P4 went on a school trip to Marr Farm. First we split into

two groups. My leaders were Miss Peoples and Mr Harrison. It was a lovely, sunny and beautiful day.

First my group saw the sheep. In the field there was a flock of Blue Faced Leicesters. Jim, the man who was showing us the sheep, took us up to the shed. There were more sheep in there! This time they were Texel cross sheep. In the shed it was very noisy! Next we came out of the shed and swapped over with the other group.

Our next thing we looked at was the cows, calves and bulls. The first one we saw was an Aberdeen Angus cross cow. She had just had a calf at 1.15am that morning so Mr Hamilton was up helping her during the night. Then the next cow we saw had her calf four days ago. After that, we saw cows that weren't having calves. There was a Charolais bull and a Limousin bull. They were big ones! Soon we went back to the shed and they were hungry because they hadn't had their breakfast! I had lots of fun and it was a beautiful day!"



Huge thanks go to Andrew and Jim for hosting this visit and for sharing their expertise with the pupils. The pupils left the farm with lots of information for their Food and Farming topic and with a better understanding of how their food reaches their plate.

Evacuated Learners!

Report by Megan Ayres and Bethany Platt

This year, Primary 6-7 have been learning about World War Two, and on April 29th had the time of their young lives when they presented what they had learned to the whole school.

The pupils held an assembly covering everything they had learned about the war, from important figures such as Winston Churchill and Adolf Hitler, to the experiences of ordinary people during the war. They spoke about rationing, and how clothes were rationed as well as food.

The assembly went off with a bang and the sound of a monstrous air raid siren, meaning everyone had to wear their homemade gas masks. Shortly after, some children introduced themselves as WWII characters, Patricia and Dennis. After sharing

some facts with the audience, the children held a 'Make-Do and Mend' fashion show, which showed how rationing meant clothes had to be repaired as much as possible, rather than buying new ones. One of the models told us: "I helped my friend Megan, or should I say Peggy, to create a dress known as a mermaid dress, with a single strap going around the neck, and a bodice with a yellow strip of ribbon and a black and white stripy bow".

Whilst Neville Chamberlain announced declaring war on Germany, some pupils did a freeze frame whilst listening to Neville Chamberlain on the radio. It was astonishing.

Following on from some more facts, there was hilarious marching with gas masks around the hall to



'What Do You Do In The Infantry'. The house band were particularly amazing, consisting of piano, guitars, clarinet and full drum kit.

The assembly finished with an emotional rendition of 'You Are My Sunshine'. The song was intended to cheer everyone up in the war, but the emotion from the audience could be felt all around the hall. P6-7 hope to perform their next assembly very soon.



Winmarleigh Hall

report by Heather Lamb and Eilidh Wilson



On Wednesday 4th May, 23 pupils from Primary 7 embarked on a journey to Winmarleigh Hall in Lancashire. We spent three hours on the bus but the excitement kept us going and took away the thought of the very long journey.

When we arrived, we discovered that the bus was too big to get through the tiny gate, so we got out of the bus, grabbed our bags, and walked all the way up the winding road until we saw the beautiful mansion of Winmarleigh. As soon as we got there we were allocated a room. After we had unpacked and got changed we were ready for our first activity. We were split into two groups. Group 1's first activity was the giant swing. The giant swing is literally a giant swing. The other members of your group had to pull a rope which made the swing go super high. Once you were at the required height the people on the swing needed to pull a little string and you dropped and swung back and forth for a while. Charlotte Guest and Caitlin Grant said: "We had great fun on the giant swing and it went super-duper fast". While Group 1 were having an excellent time on the giant swing, Group 2 were conquering their fear of heights (well, some of us were) on

All Aboard. This was a giant wooden pole (8 to 9ft high) with a tiny platform at the top. As soon as you got to the top your partner would come up and then it was last man standing. Brogan Wood stated: "It was really fun because Charlotte G pushed me off but then I pulled her ankle and she fell off!" Once we had finished our exhilarating activities we had a lovely, filling dinner. After that we played capture the flag in the big field. It was exhausting, and we almost got eaten alive by midges! Then it was time for our bed.

We woke up to see beautiful sunshine seeping through our

curtains. Quickly, everyone got changed and rushed to the games room. Shortly after, Jonny our group leader took us to breakfast. We had a fun filled day ahead of us and it was a lovely day for it. After a while we went to our first activity. Group 1 went to the zip wire first.

The zip wire was 25ft tall and it was absolutely amazing. Matthew Johnstone said: "It was really fun to go up that high and look over everything". Whilst Group 1 was zipping around, Group 2 were doing Wobbly Wobbly Logs, which were great fun! After that we went for a lovely lunch. After lunch we all got ready for raft building. We all put on the weird jackets (to stop water from getting in), helmets and lifejackets. Group 2 built a raft but on the water it fell apart and we all got soaked. Brodie Fergusson stated: "I would give it a 10/10! It was great". After dinner we got ready for the evening entertainment. It was robot wars, although we had no idea what that was. After we had finished building our robots we headed out to the arena. We all looked great. You had to get blind folded and pick up cups of flour and water then try throwing them at the other robots. Some of us got soaking or sticky from the flour and water. After an exciting night we all headed off to bed. And believe it or not we all slept!

When we woke up in the morning everyone was looking tired





and droopy, but that soon went away when we got told about what activities we had coming up. We all ate breakfast then went to our first activity. Group 1 had trapeze where we had to jump and catch a hanging bar. Lewis Fergusson commented: "It was fun but hard to catch! Luckily I caught it!" Group 2 were busy making dens at survival skills. Anya commented: "It was really interesting. We learnt a lot of new things like how to light a fire and what to bring if you were under attack by aliens or zombies".

After we had taken part in all the activities, P7's Winmarleigh Hall trip was sadly over, so we put our bags on the bus and started the long journey back home.



D&G College Taster Days

report by Joely Little and Jay Livingstone

We did a variety of activities such as napkin folding and mocktail making, and on the second day we went to the kitchen and made fajitas. The next week we moved onto the sports section of the course. We started by having a session in the fully functioning gym in the college, learning about the equipment and all the safety aspects of sports endurance. The next day we had our last session: a sports mini taster circuit, where we tried lots of different activities.

We had a great time at the college seeing all the classrooms and the different opportunities that could come to us in the future if we were to choose one of these subjects to pursue in later life. The college staff were amazing and helped us with our every need, making sure we had a great time while at the college. We definitely think the taster days should be run next year, and would encourage everyone who gets the chance to attend.



In April, S3 pupils got to sign up to go to Dumfries and Galloway College on Monday and Tuesday for two weeks to either do a hospitality and sports taster session or a joinery and engineering

course. We chose hospitality and sports because we wanted to learn more about the subjects, get to see round the college and be in that sort of environment.



P5 Residential Adventure at Lockerbie Manor

It was Wednesday 16th March 2016. Finally, the day had come to go to Lockerbie Manor and there was a bubble of excitement surrounding P5 as they approached their coach. The journey started, talking began and the excitement became intense. The adventure was about to start... (Cara Patterson)

Soon after arrival at the magnificent Lockerbie Manor, they were shown to their rooms, met up with their roommates, unpacked and of course got ready for their first activity! (Jessica Dickson) The real excitement started when they got into their activity groups and headed off to their challenging activities. Mrs Little went with Group 1 and Mrs Kennedy was with Group 2. (Sebastian Young)

Over the three days P5 did nine activities including climbing, archery, zip wire, rifle shooting, abseiling, camp craft, initiative exercises and obstacle course. The obstacle course was the most popular. The instructors were all very helpful and funny too. They were called TJ, Trou, Lisa, Steve, Adam, Brad, Nathan and James. The activities were all very good but the abseiling, zip wire and obstacle course were the best. (Fearne Tait)

Everyone had a really fantastic time, learned new skills, overcame fears and challenged themselves to deal with new and different experiences. When the time came to head for home on Friday they were all happy and exhausted! P5 had lots of memorable moments at Lockerbie.

George said: "My favourite activity was climbing (even though I am scared of heights), and the food even though I ate too much of it!"

"Lockerbie Manor was a great experience for me! There were lots of fun activities to do like zip wire. We did the obstacle course in the dark and we got wet and muddy... it was so much fun! I would love to go again as we had such a good time and I'd definitely encourage other people to go," declared Cara Patterson.

"My favourite part was spending time with Daisy, George and Fergus as they smeared piles of mud on their faces and dramatically swung like Tarzan over mud, only to find themselves 'splat' in the squelchy, wet and miserable mud!" laughed Charlotte Potter.

"My favourite part was when I abseiled off the climbing wall. I was absolutely terrified but I decided that I really wanted to do it. When I was at the top waiting to get harnessed my knees were



knocking together with fright. When I eventually got harnessed in I made a dramatic lunge off the edge!" explained Jessica Dickson.

Asher Thomson said: "Lockerbie Manor was an unforgettable experience. I remember every single fantastic moment that I was there. It was mind blowing! The best activity of all was the obstacle course which was so much fun. I would love to go again!"

"My favourite activity was archery with Nathan because I nearly got a bullseye. It was as awesome as most of the activities put together," Sebastian Young stated.

"My favourite activity was survival skills. I enjoyed working with Fergus and George. We made a den out of wood and moss. We all pretended that we were stranded on an unknown island with all our family and friends," said Brady Cottle.

Finally, Angus MacCormick announced: "One of my best moments at Lockerbie was my room's get-together party. Lockerbie Manor is definitely a magical memory!"





P5 pupils visit Lockerbie Manor

Working Together to Achieve More



P5 pupils visit Lockerbie Manor

S4 Employability Course

A group of S4 pupils took part in a three-week program, during which they developed their employability skills and achieved the SQA Level 4 Employability Award.

They had the opportunity to work with Skills Development Scotland staff, the school's Career Adviser, Peigi Brough, and they visited the Job Centre in Dumfries. In addition, the group conducted a

number of business surveys in Dumfries looking at employers' views of employability skills. They then wrote up their findings in a report.

Numerous other subject areas also contributed to the program, helping the group to develop skills or to prepare for forthcoming National 5 courses.

Golden Time at Wallace Hall Primary



U15 Girls' Football Report



Having qualified at a regional level, the U15 girls' football team travelled to Hamilton last week to compete in the West of Scotland round of the Cash Back 7s tournament.

The girls battled hard against tough opposition and improved their performance each game. As always, Anna Wilson pulled off some amazing saves and Kelsey Yard ensured both defensive and attacking areas of the pitch were covered.

Despite failing to qualify, the girls' team spirit and resilience shone through to the very last whistle. Thanks again to Emily Morton for coaching the girls through the day.

Scotland's Six Nations Success

report by Alexander Bettaney

On Sunday the 13th of March I went to Murrayfield Rugby Stadium in Edinburgh with some other Wallace Hall pupils and staff to watch Scotland v France in the Six Nations.

We left at 12 o'clock. Two buses were organised to take us up to the game. I travelled up with some 6th year boys, Mrs Halliday and Mrs Robertson.

When we arrived in Edinburgh it was really busy and we had to walk about a mile to the stadium. When I saw the stadium it looked much bigger than I had imagined. A steward showed us to our seats. Looking down at the pitch was amazing and seeing the crowd was overwhelming.

The players walked on to a massive roar from the fans. First it was the French anthem and then it was our turn. Flags were flying high as 'Flower of Scotland' blasted from the stadium.

The game started and France got the first try. By half time Scotland were leading. During the half-time interval I enjoyed some chips and cheese.

The second half was more exciting because they were closer in points. The final whistle blew, Scotland were victorious beating France 29-18. It was time to head back to the bus, the place was heaving with supporters.

I really enjoyed my trip to Murrayfield and look forward to going again.



Wallace Hall U18 squad end season with convincing win

report by Ally Muir



Wallace Hall U16s and U18s concluded our season and, for some, their school careers as we won the Dumfries and Galloway Conference Boys U18 Cup, despite the fact that we only had 13 players.

We last played Langholm at Park Farm in December, thrashing them 40-7. This time, Wallace Hall started the game by quickly scoring the first try when, following a strong scrum, the ball was passed to the backs and Connor Barnes went over in the right corner. Langholm did attack and put pressure on our own 22 but they struggled to turn pressure into points.

Wallace Hall then scored their second try when Nick Willetts plunged over the line following forward dominance. Wallace Hall's third try was courtesy of Josh Notman and this resulted in Wallace Hall having a handsome lead of 17-0 at half-time.

A second half started when Cameron Robertson came on as the 14th man but Langholm started strongly and laid siege to the Wallace Hall 22. However, just as before, they lacked the killer



instinct and Wallace Hall began to pin Langholm in their 22.

Notman kicked a penalty and then Scotland's U16s star, Gavin Wilson, went over for his side's fourth try. Following that, a poor Langholm pass was telegraphed by Barnes who scored under the posts for his second try, Notman converting. However, it was Reid Paterson who concluded the game and season by scoring the sixth and final try for Wallace Hall in the dying seconds.

Ally Muir then had the honour of kicking the final points of the season, but he fluffed it. However, Wallace Hall had by that time won the match 35-0. This was only the second time in recent years where Wallace Hall has won a 15-a-side rugby cup with the last coming in 2014 when the then-U16s side won the Glasgow South Bowl. For most of the lads, this was the final match they would play for Wallace Hall and it was cracking to finish with silverware.

All of the team contributed well to the win but some players stood out. The key to the win was due to the good captaining of Tom Martin who has skippered the side well all throughout the season. Reid Paterson and Nick Willetts also enjoyed another sound game.

Lineup: Muir, Paterson, S Wicks, Robertson, Willetts, Mahoney, Martin (c), Lethardy, Notman, Wilson, Bain, B Wicks, Barnes, Scobie.



Wallace Hall U16 squad win the day

report by Jack Roberts

Recently Wallace Hall's U16 rugby team took part in a regional final against Kirkcudbright High School.

Kirkcudbright were well equipped for the match, coming forward with a big team of large, very experienced boys.



We knew it was going to be tough, especially given the fact that some of our team had never taken part in a rugby game before. Injury meant that many of our experienced players were unable to play but, thanks to some enthusiastic volunteers, we managed to pull together a team and the game could go ahead.

That is not to say our team performed poorly in any way; we



had many experienced players, including a Scotland international, and many of our team had played for Dumfries Saints - which just so happened to be where the game was taking place.

Although we had a home advantage, in the early stages of the game it wasn't looking promising and Kirkcudbright proved their dominance, turning over many of our rucks. However, poor handling on their behalf led to a scrum, which allowed Gavin Wilson to break through and score.

Thereafter the game was close fought and a try by Wallace Hall in the last few minutes of the game allowed us to gain a 33-26 lead. This meant that a converted try would allow the opposition to draw the game and poor defending on our behalf allowed them to score in the corner. With the last kick of the game, a conversion would draw the game. Thankfully they missed the conversion, allowing us to end the

game 33-31 and win the regional champions title.



A huge thanks to the players that stepped up to play at last minute. Many thanks also to Dumfries Saints Rugby Club as without their support the game wouldn't have taken place.



Fraser is capped for his country



Earlier this year, Fraser Morton was selected as the goalkeeper for the Scotland School Boys' under eighteens football squad.

As is customary in football, Fraser was presented with a Scotland cap following his first match. Fraser said: "It was a real honour to be selected for the Scotland School Boys' Under 18s team and I was delighted to be presented with a cap in recognition of this achievement. I am so proud to have played for my country and hope that this will be the first of many Scotland caps for me."

Dave Dillon, DHT with responsibility for Health and Wellbeing, said: "Fraser is a really talented footballer who is a terrific role model for our younger players. I was delighted that he was able to bring his cap into school and share his achievement with us. I look forward to watching his footballing career flourish and wish him every success for the future."

Our fantastic footballers

Earlier this term, five Wallace Hall boys were selected to play for the regional football team.

To get this opportunity, Ted Bowie, Finlay Bainbridge, Aidan Dobie, Charlie Brown and Matt Gibson attended trials at Dumfries High School along with S1 and S2 boys from secondary schools throughout the region. They did very well with all five from Wallace Hall getting selected to represent the region.

Their first match with the team took place in Belfast. Finlay said: "On Wednesday 18th May we had to meet at Dumfries Academy at 7.30 am to catch a bus to Stranraer, picking up other squad members along the way. We caught the ferry from Cairnryan to Larne and then travelled the short distance by bus to the local leisure centre. We were drawn to play against Belfast schools. They were tough opposition but both S1 and S2 teams managed to win their matches with S1 finishing with a score line of 4-1 and S2 winning 3-2.

We travelled back to Dumfries arriving at 9 pm. It was a very long tiring day but it was a great experience for us all."



Zara jumps for joy

report by Josie Fairley Keast



Zara Edgar, S1, has recently been very successful in a show jumping competition at Lochhill Equestrian and Trekking Centre, achieving rosettes in various categories, as well as winning Overall Champion of the event.

Zara has been attending Lochhill since the age of six, although she has been riding for around ten years. Zara said: "When I was younger I used to ride my uncle's horses, but after he sold them I

found Lochhill, and I've been riding there ever since. I have ridden a lot of ponies and horses over the years, and I'm currently riding a palomino cob called Twix. I often get asked to ride misbehaving ponies to get them used to having a rider, and Twix used to like to throw younger riders off his back before I started working with him. At Lochhill we do lots of competitions, for example, show jumping, dressage and cross-



country. I've been a member of the Pony Club for seven years, and have taken part in many competitions. I'm looking forward to participating in more events in the future, both with Lochhill and with other riding schools, and would one day like to compete with a horse of my own."

Barry Graham, Headteacher, said: "This is a fantastic achievement for Zara. The fact that she's been asked to take care of more difficult ponies showcases her skill and courage, and her trophy is well-deserved. Zara is clearly a very talented horsewoman, and I look forward to hearing about her future achievements."

Experience wins the day



Staff at Wallace Hall demonstrated some fine footwork recently when they were challenged to a game of football by senior pupils.

Competition on the field was fierce as some of Wallace Hall's finest young football stars pitted their talents against a staff team, who demonstrated lots

of enthusiasm, if slightly less skill, in taking on their younger opponents.

Nevertheless, experience won out on the day, the staff collapsing in celebration at the final whistle having earned a hard-fought 1-0 victory. Turn the page for photographs of the match.



Staff v pupils football

Working Together to Achieve More



Staff v pupils football

Parent Council News

The combined 2-18 Parent Council has enjoyed a very worthwhile first year of activities. We came together as one body in November 2015 and since then have had a series of well-attended meetings, characterised by excellent discussion.

At each meeting we receive a detailed and informative update from Mr Graham covering current activities in all areas of Wallace Hall. We have also benefitted from some excellent presentations from members of the school teaching staff. These have covered topics as diverse as the new catering and hospitality facilities (work to be completed over the summer) as well as 'Big Maths' (with Primary pupils taking part too), and the organisation of activities 'week' in the Academy.

Members of the Parent Council have initiated and supported a varied series of social and extracurricular activities that have been enjoyed by a wide range of pupils and parents – including the Valentine's and Halloween Discos, the Craft Fair, a highly enjoyable Burns Supper, and the wide-ranging events in Health Week.

We always welcome new faces at our meetings, which take place in an informal and friendly atmosphere. They are great opportunities to learn more about what goes on at Wallace Hall as well as

to raise questions and ideas about new things that can be tried.

If you would like to come along, just get in touch with Mrs Bainbridge at the school and she will be delighted to give you dates and times.

Professor David Clark - Parent Council Chair



Happy Birthday WHASCALS



Whascals is an after-school childcare service operating in Wallace Hall. Earlier this term, Whascals celebrated its very first birthday. To mark the occasion, pupils and staff buried a Time Capsule in the school grounds, released some birthday balloons and enjoyed some delicious cake and juice in the beautiful spring sunshine. For more information, contact Lynne Murdoch on 07740359038.