

Winter 2014
Issue no. 16



Flourish

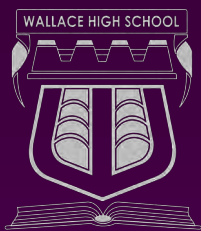
Keeping you in the Know

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Guinness World Record Attempt (Page 4)
Head Teacher's Message—Page 2
Success for Former Pupils—Page 6
School of Basketball Launch—Page 8
Operation Wallacea update—Page 12





Head Teacher's Message

Welcome to the Winter 2014 edition of Flourish!

It is hard to believe that it is almost the Christmas holidays, with a full half-year's worth of achievements already realised. It has, indeed, been an active, bustling start to 2014, with pupils across ages and stages involved in many opportunities within and beyond the school.

The articles within celebrate group and personal achievements in the full range of curricular areas across the school, including: acts of altruism that capture the strong community ethos within our school (such as our Kidney Kids fundraising); a diverse range of trips and curricular enrichment activities; and a full array of sporting and cultural achievements, from our talented basketball stars to our young Shakespeareans.

As ever, I remain impressed by the daily support and commitment of our pupils, parents, partners and all school staff to creating an atmosphere that encourages achievement for all and seeks to celebrate success. As I write, we have yet to enjoy our Christmas dances and annual Christmas Concert, yet another example of the hard work and dedication of our pupils. Unfortunately, this happens too late to report in this edition of Flourish, but whets the appetite for our next edition.

I was asked last session how we would top a visit to the school by two Olympians on the same day. We started this session with a Guinness World Record attempt, so our ambition to provide exciting opportunities for our youngsters remains as strong as ever.

Thanks to all parents and partners for their support this session. I hope that you and your families enjoy a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Enjoy this issue of Flourish - I look forward to celebrating even more achievements in our Spring edition!

Scott Pennock, Head Teacher



Staff News

Sadly, during this last term Wallace High said farewell to members of the team; Mrs Claire Hilson, who was successfully appointed to a permanent post in Lornhill Academy, and Mrs Kay Hamilton who, after supporting pupils in Ochil House for 18 years, commenced her retirement in October; and Angela Thomson, Inclusion Support Worker, who was successful in being appointed to a full time permanent post at Brucefields Home. Wallace High wish these staff every success and enjoyment for their future.

New Appointments

Mr Graeme McIntee has been appointed to the Music Department to cover Mrs Auldjo's maternity leave.

Miss Kirstin Armstrong has joined the PE department on a temporary basis until Easter.

Mr Peter Yates has joined the Art Department to assist on a temporary basis.

Eileen Claffey has been appointed as Wallace High's Attendance Officer until June 2015.

Maternity Leave

Mrs Melody Auldjo, Teacher of Music, and Mrs Jemma Watson, Teacher of Biology, commenced their maternity leave in October.

Dates for your diary for 2015:

S5/S6 Prelims: commence 26th January 2015

S3 Parents' Night—Thursday 15th January from 4:30 to 7pm

S3 Options Interviews—Friday 23rd January 2015

S2 Parents' Night—3rd February from 4:30 to 7pm

School Closure for pupils

Monday 9th February to Friday 13th February 2015

Shakespeare Schools Festival



Wallace High's talented cast of Romeo and Juliet performed their exciting interpretation of the greatest love story ever told at the Shakespeare Schools Festival, Falkirk Theatre, on Tuesday 11th November. The show adopted a pirate theme as the two families, the Montagues and the Capulets, plagued the seas with their relentless feud, whilst Neptune tried in vain to keep the peace. As always, the Wallace cast was commended for their story-telling abilities, conveying an impressive understanding of Shakespeare's language and characters. Building on the recent history of Wallace's participation in the SSF, there was applause throughout the performance. And well deserved it was too!

Auditions took place in August and since then the cast have worked extremely hard during rehearsals, producing an exciting, powerful and original show. They also attended a cast workshop, working with professional actors to further enhance their performance skills and confidence. Pupils were not only involved in the acting side of the production; they also helped with lighting, costumes and marketing, and made a fabulous job.

Wallace performed alongside three other schools, working as one company to create a professional and enthralling evening of entertainment. A large number of Wallace's pupils, proud parents and wider family came to support the cast, creating a real buzz in the theatre. A fabulous evening was had by all. This is the school's seventh year performing in the Shakespeare Schools Festival. Watch out for next year's show...

Wallace High School K'nex Challenge 2014/15



The first two heats for this fantastic competition have taken place and two Primary 6 teams have already booked their place in the final. Ella, Honor, James and Rebecca from Bridge of Allan Primary, along with Shihan, Sophie and Josh of Raploch Primary, won their respective heats.

The challenge focusses on car safety and both teams designed and built excellent models - displaying superb teamwork in the process.

The Science staff at Wallace would like to congratulate both teams and we look forward to seeing them back in the summer term for the grand final.

Engineering Education Scheme

A select team of senior pupils have entered into the Engineering Education Scheme 2014/15.

The Engineering Education Scheme is an Engineering Development Trust Programme which links teams of S5 students and their teacher with local companies to work on real, scientific, engineering and technological problems.



The scheme provides students with an in-depth experience in Science, Engineering and Technology, with the opportunity to gain a British Association Gold CREST Award.

During the six-month project phase, students are encouraged to show industrial enterprise, creativity and innovation, whilst gaining extensive experience of problem-solving, team-working and project management.

The Scheme improves industrial and higher education links and can provide early access for potential graduate recruits who display their full capacity on the programme.

Wallace High School has been partnered with Energy Assets of Livingston. We wish Alasdair, Jed, Louise, Rory, Samira and Sean the very best of success with this exciting and challenging project.



GUINNESS WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT for the LARGEST WELLY BOOT RACE

Raising money for Kidney Kids Scotland and Wallace High School!!

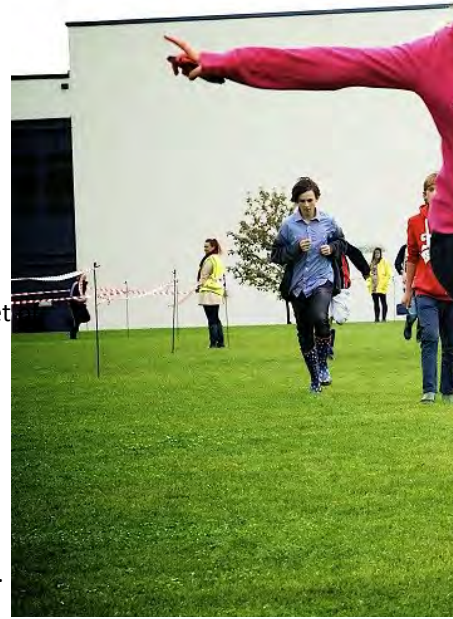
Wallace High School was privileged at the start of term to be part of a VERY exciting event. The entire Wallace Cluster, with massive parental and community support, made an attempt on the Guinness World Record "Welly Boot Race". On Friday 5th September almost 2,500 participants gathered at Wallace High School to try to claim back the record for Kidney Kids Scotland, which they held in 2007. This had been broken and was held by the City of Ketchikan (USA), Alaska, with 1976 people all running in their Welly Boots.

The "Welly Boot Race" was a fantastic day, with entertainment from a Central FM Road Show throughout the morning. The course was only just over 1km (around the school), with everyone participating completing the course running or walking wearing standard "Welly Boots".

All money raised by school pupils was split equally between Kidney Kids Scotland and participating schools, with an **outstanding total of £15,989.38** going to Kidney Kids Scotland.

This means that they beat their target and raised enough for a new home haemodialysis machine for Yorkhill Hospital.

Despite smashing the initial target 1976 participants, we are now the second highest group ever as a concurrent attempt resulted in the record being raised even higher. Most significantly, however, this was a wonderful community event in support of an excellent charity.



The Kidney Kid would like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting Kidney Kids Scotland and all schools in the Wallace Cluster during this memorable event.



The Kidney Kid





Kidney Kids Scotland was founded as a Charitable Trust in July 2000 with the specific aim of helping children with renal disease and their families. For more information on the charity please visit the charity's official website: www.kidneykids.org.uk

[Thanks to Paul Borg-Grech for use of photographs]



Charis reaches for the stars!



Former pupil Charis Murray is on the brink of her dream career.

For the past two-and-a-half years Charis has been studying Musical Theatre at the world-renowned Italia Conti Academy of Performing Arts in London. Now in her final year, she has her sights set on graduating and being signed by a top London agent. "That's what it's really all about," said Charis. "Being signed by one of the big agents and then selected for good auditions is what the three years training is leading to. It's an incredibly competitive industry full of highs and lows. You have to be tough both physically and mentally."

Charis has already earned considerable success at Conti winning the overall Dance Award in both her first and second year and finishing Top Student at the end of second year. She was also named as Depute Head Girl for her final year at the annual award ceremony back in June.

Charis studied dance and drama at Stirling's Monument Dance Centre from the age of two and spent five years at Wallace, taking part in many of the school shows and concerts as well as being a Dance Captain and choreographing a winning Wallace team in the Forth Valley Dance Competition. In 2010 she successfully auditioned for the two-year Musical Theatre course at The Dance School of Scotland before moving to London and Italia Conti in 2012.

During the last two years, whilst training, she has danced on BBC's 'The One Show', ITV's 'Stepping Out' and the Channel 4 series 'The Midnight Beast'. Recently she choreographed a routine for a promotional film with Pixie Lott and a group of junior students. In October she played the part of Puck in Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream at the Avondale Theatre in London.

Currently she is cast as 'Sukie' in the musical The Witches of Eastwick, which will be performed in the Avondale in February 2015. Shortly after that she will perform in the third year student showcase for top London agents and finish the year in July featuring in the spectacular End of Year Show. "After that – who knows!" said Charis, "That's when it could get really interesting..."

Scotland Cap for Finn Russell

Wallace High is again well represented within the international sporting arena with the success of former pupil, **Finn Russell**, who received his Scotland 'call-up.'



Based upon an outstanding performance for his club team, Glasgow Warriors RFC, during the PRO12 final against Leinster, Finn received the call to tour with Scotland during their international series in USA and Canada in June 2014.

Finn, who is now first choice for the position of Stand-off for Scotland, competed against Argentina, New Zealand and Tonga during the Autumn international series. Finn's ambition of playing against the **All Blacks** and against his opposite number, and world renowned player, Dan Carter, was realised during this series.

Well done Finn. We look forward to reading about your success during 2015.

Wallace Against Prejudice

Recently, S6 pupils rose to the challenge of participating in a Senior Conference hosted by the RMPS department. The pupils were given the afternoon to meet with three groups who engaged them in challenging prejudice, racism and sectarianism.

Peer Assisted Learners from around Stirling led groups in an interactive quiz game designed to help them experience the effects of sectarianism. Pupils benefitted from some additional gifts as a thank you for participating when they received, amongst other things, 25 points towards their 'Young Scot' card.

The Charity group 'From Yesterday for Tomorrow', challenged the pupils with some historical stereotypes based on the Holocaust and encouraged them to learn from the past so that we can build a better future.

Atta Yaqub from the Scottish Football Association set them the task of looking at racism in sport and in the community and encouraged pupils to reflect on what they could do to change it. Pupils were engaged with the interactive workshop and enjoyed Mr Yaqub's humour.

Mr. Niven commented: "Once again our pupils welcomed the guests and engaged wholeheartedly in their workshops. Visitors commented on the positive attitude and behaviour of the sixth years – they have done themselves proud!"



Higher RMPS Students Look for Enlightenment!

Forty-one students from the Higher RMPS classes enjoyed a Tibetan experience on a recent trip to Samye Ling Buddhist Monastery in Dumfries. The visit allowed them to experience Buddhism in action, as they continue their study of the beliefs, practices and traditions of this world religion.

The full day experience included a tour of the monastery and the grounds, allowing the pupils to eat with the nuns and monks and experience some meditation. They were allowed access to the shrines and a detailed guide of the prayer wheels, stupas and prayer hall.

Seeing such a different culture up close and having such a detailed guide of the monastery, really brought to life the

concepts they had studied. The chants, the routines, the artwork and the atmosphere really captured their imagination. Pupils were fascinated to hear the prayers of a nun coming from inside her cell where she has dedicated years of her life to prayer and meditation.

Mrs. McManus, who participated in the trip, said: "Not only was it a terrific experience because of the insight into a different culture, but also because of the maturity and respect shown by our senior pupils as they engaged in the visit. I am very proud of all the pupils who participated – they are a credit to their families and the school".

Skills Development Scotland: Careers Information for all Parents

Pupils are supported with their career planning and choices in school by Skills Development Scotland. They are introduced to www.myworldofwork.co.uk in S3 for information and support and in S4-S6 they can meet with Fiona Lafferty, the Careers Adviser for 1:1 support.

There is a Careers notice board in school advertising local Modern Apprenticeships and opportunities for school leavers. Pupils and parents can also follow Skills Development Scotland on Facebook and Twitter for careers advice and tips, and our local SDS Forth Valley Facebook page for local opportunities.

Skills Development Scotland has now launched a parents' website to help parents support their child through school. The website can help you with key dates in your child's future and the site brings together all of the course and career information you need to support your child as they go through school. Visit parents.myworldofwork.co.uk to find out more.

S5 pupils visited the Skills Scotland event in Glasgow in October to find out about careers, education and training opportunities. The event included skilled demonstrations and interactive activities by a range of employers, colleges, universities and training providers. It was a great chance for pupils to get inspired and sample a taste of the skills and challenges faced in various careers. Pupils had the opportunity to take part in various activities including mono blocking, cake decorating, beauty treatments, and health checks to help them consider their future.

S3 pupils were introduced to Modern Apprenticeships in November as part of Skills Development Scotland's national 'Learn While you Work' week. This included an introduction by the Careers Adviser and a presentation from Prudential, with a chance to hear about apprenticeship opportunities from some of their own apprentices. Modern Apprenticeships are a great way to kick-start a career. They are jobs where you gain practical experience and work towards industry recognised vocational qualifications, whilst getting paid. These are one of the many options young people have when leaving school. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you wish further information on any of these services.



Wallace High School **basketballscotland**, Stirling Council and Wallace High School were delighted to recently celebrate the renewal of the “School of Basketball” partnership, one of only five in the country.

Wallace opened its doors on 24th November to present the new “School of Basketball” to media and representatives from basketballscotland, Stirling Knights and Active Stirling during a showcase led by coach Jack Burgess.

Pupils showcased their skills and took part in a ‘meet and greet Q & A’. Jack commented: “The School of Basketball is great for players to improve their skills but also to improve life skills, such as communication, confidence and leadership. These qualities reach far beyond sport.”

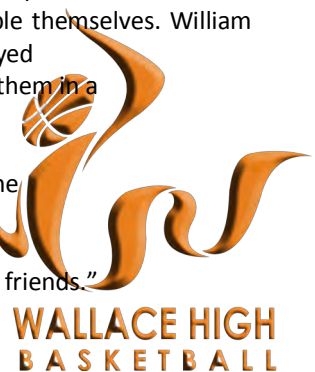
Gemma Higgins, PE Manager for Stirling Council observed that: “The School of Basketball is not only an excellent opportunity for pupils to develop their movement skills and competencies but also their personal qualities. The model at Wallace High allows the School of Basketball to take place in curricular time over and above their PE time, which is excellent.” This was supported by Miss Whillans, Wallace’s lead teacher for the School, who noted: “Being part of the official School of Basketball Launch has given me a huge sense of pride. To see how far Basketball has come in Wallace High is amazing. This is massively down to the positive links between Wallace, Stirling Knights and basketballscotland. The pupils are gaining skills both on and off the court and there really is an exciting Basketball buzz here at Wallace.”

The aim of the “School of Basketball” is to contribute to the development of young people through an enhanced educational experience. The “School of Basketball” aims to support the delivery of the Curriculum of Excellence while providing a context for learning inside and outside the classroom.

This initiative is backed by the Scottish Government’s CashBack for Communities programme, which uses the ill-gotten gains of crime, recovered through the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, and invests them back into communities across Scotland. Projects range from diversionary sporting activity to long-term potentially life-changing intervention projects, which aim to turn an individual’s life around and provide them the opportunity of a positive destination. Money is provided to support a wide range of sporting, cultural, educational and mentoring activities for younger children and young people aged 10 -19 years. Since its launch in 2007, over £50 million has been invested in this way, allowing young Scots to participate in a wide range of positive activities in their communities. The government has extended this funding to support School of Basketball for another three years, which is excellent news.

As ever, the best testimony regarding the impact of such programmes comes from the young people themselves. William Carson, from S1 commented: “I have enjoyed learning new moves and being able to try them in a game situation.”

Gabriel MacArthur, also S1, reflected on the wider impact of the programme: “I never played basketball before Wallace, it has helped me gain confidence and make new friends.”





YAO (Youth Advantage Outreach) Course: 27th - 31st October 2014

Eleven Wallace High third-year pupils enjoyed the privilege of experiencing an Army-led residential course at Barry Buddon Training Camp, Arbroath, from 27th - 31st October. They were accompanied by twelve pupils from other Stirling and Clackmannanshire schools.

The group took part in various activities in teams, made up of pupils from each school. Activities included: first aid; map reading; a mile-and-a-half run; team building tasks; assault course; stretcher run; night exercise (where they had to retrieve glow sticks without being captured, had to crawl through sand dunes, long grass etc.); and adventure training (incorporating archery, team building exercises, mountain biking, and raft building).

Pupils had two very moral, life changing presentations over the two nights from two open and honest presenters who had taken the wrong path early on in life, but who have now turned their lives around. Pupils were, therefore, engaged not only on a physical level, but on an emotional level too.

Pupils had to adhere to strict army rules throughout, with cause and effect 'punishments' if they didn't, including push-ups, sit-ups or additional runs.

The whole week was based on the six core military values of: Loyalty, Discipline, Courage (moral & physical), Integrity (honesty), Respect for Others and Selfless Commitment.

At the end of the week the pupils were presented with certificates and some were awarded special awards, which are all listed below.

Feedback has been very positive from all participants: the Army, school staff and pupils. This is a partnership Wallace High looks forward to continuing into future sessions.

YAO Awards for October 2014

Overall Best Student

1st place - Emma-Jo Kirkwood

Best PT

2nd place - Jake Govan

Best Endeavour

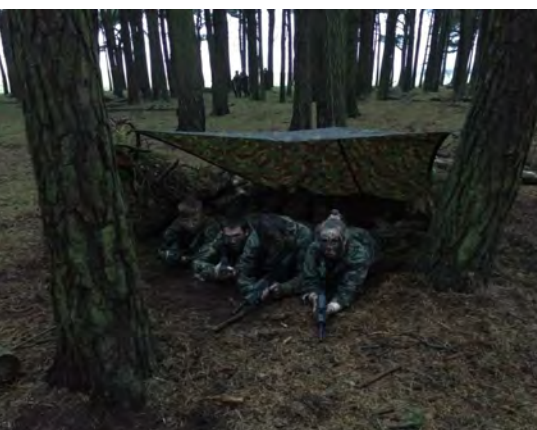
1st place - Maddie Frame

2nd place - Jim Ryan

Winning Section

One Section, including the following pupils:

Leona Brow
Emma-Jo Kirkwood
David McKinnon



Lagganlia Experience



From the 1st to the 5th of September, seven senior female pupils from Wallace High packed our bags and set off to Lagganlia in Kingussie, where we met other individuals of our age from different areas of Scotland. Although it was a struggle to find our way there, we finally made it and it was so worth the journey.

The aim of this trip was to achieve the John Muir Award, make new friends and improve our communication skills. When we all made our way to the sitting room we felt so nervous about meeting all of the other pupils. The instructors gathered us all round and allocated us into different groups so that nobody from the same school was in the same group. We all split up and didn't see each other again for the rest of the day as we were doing team-building activities. Half of us went camping that night and the other half went gorge walking. Both activities were new experiences in some way to everyone, as it wasn't just normal camping in tents - it was camping in tarps.

Our camping experience wasn't like any other. There were many rules and regulations that we had to follow which made it a healthier and better way to camp. We had to follow the 'leave no trace code' which consists of: no litter, don't disrupt the habitats of wildlife, don't pollute the water etc. We had Young Ambassadors who came camping with us and when it got later into the night they gave us activities to do to make our experience more enjoyable. We cooked our food in an unusual way, as there was a big pot of water with candles underneath heating the water up. We ate ration packs, which we heated up in the water to cook. Even though most of us were dreading the night, as we were afraid it would be cold, it wasn't as bad as we all thought and the main thing was... it wasn't raining (but the midges were terrible!).

The next morning we headed back up to the Centre, all of us were so glad that we could go and get a shower. But it didn't stop there, as soon as we got back we had to get ready to go gorge walking.

Gorge walking is a water activity where we climbed up rocks, jumped off them and floated down the river. In my opinion this was the most interesting activity, even though it was freezing. The adrenaline rush this activity gave me was the best part. Everyone had an amazing time helping each other out, it brought each of our groups a lot closer as the people that were more confident helped the ones that didn't have as much confidence.

We then all came back together the next day when the other two groups came back from their camping experience and split off to organise a presentation for the last day. This let everyone put their ideas in, and share each other's experiences.

We then had some free time for all the groups to come together and become closer. We did this by playing a game of British Bulldogs. This was a good way of spending our free time as it brought everyone together and got us involved. It then came to the last day and everyone was dreading leaving as we had all made formed such a strong bond. The presentations were very interesting and everyone put time and effort into bringing it all together, which was brilliant. We had an emotional time, with ups, downs, happiness, sadness, excitement. In the end we made amazing friendships. It was then the time to say our last goodbyes and reflect on the time that we had. I still stay in contact with a few people that I met, but obviously because we stay so far away it's hard to keep a strong friendship going. Overall it was just the best experience and I'm sure we would all go back and do it over again.

By Sian Anderson (S5)

Higher Modern Studies Schools Conference

Wallace's Higher Modern Studies pupils attended a cross-schools conference at Stirling University this term that was incredibly insightful. The day consisted of a series of lectures by Professor Paul Cairney on tackling inequalities and Professor Neil Blain on the role of the media in modern society.

The afternoon involved seminars and Question Time, which was chaired by Professor Walter Humes. The panel members were:

Ellen Forson - SNP Councillor for Clackmannanshire and Convenor of the Education Committee;
Kainde Manji - Chairperson of Stirling Labour Party;
James Reekie - Conservative Parliamentary candidate for Dunfermline;
Zara Kitson - Co-convenor of Scottish Young Greens;
Tommy Sheridan - Co-convenor of Solidarity.

The organisers praised our Higher pupils for the contributions they made throughout the day and pupils enjoyed the high level of vigorous debate in excellent academic surroundings.

Go4Set Team Off To A Winning Start

The Go4Set competition links teams of S2 pupils with companies and universities to offer a ten-week Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) experience. This year Wallace High will be represented by the following S2 pupils: Lewis Rands, Sara Roberts, Morag Campbell, Torrin Gibbons, Garth Erklund and Olivia Bryjak.



The Go4Set Edinburgh and Central Region Launch Day took place on Thursday 20th of November at Herriot-Watt University, where the teams were put through a series of problem solving tasks. Wallace High were crowned champions of the day, an outstandingly positive start to their campaign!

The theme for this year's event is: "The business of Recycling in Your School". This year Wallace High have been paired with local engineering company IGas. The team now have the challenge of investigating ways to improve recycling in Wallace High and report their findings at the regional finals in ten weeks' time.

Wallace High School: Celebrating Languages 2014



All of our year groups had a Special Assembly in September on valuing and celebrating the many languages within the school community.

The International Club at Wallace meets every Thursday lunchtime with Ms McCaffrey in P2. So far, pupils have taught each other about the Language and Culture from Finland, Romania, Denmark, Italy, Portugal, China and Poland. Pupils have especially enjoyed sampling food from the many countries.

All S3 pupils experienced the first Wallace High School Languages Open Doors Event on the afternoon of Friday 26th September. They had workshops from Hilton Hotel Hospitality, Project Trust, the Spanish Embassy and the Scottish Centre on language teaching and on many languages such as French, Spanish, Gaelic, Mandarin, Russian, Italian and German. Some pupils from S2 to S6 helped to lead these workshops too.

This was an excellent opportunity for S3 pupils to see the importance and value of Language Skills in the World of Work.

Winter Fayre 2014

On Saturday 29th November, Wallace High hosted their annual Winter Fayre, with fantastic contributions from the community of staff, parents and local businesses. The original aim was to provide a means of fundraising for the school, however, the Fayre has now grown into a fantastic community event. This year was probably the most successful with a stunning array of stalls, activities and prizes.



The famous Executive Prize Draw drew considerable attention with prizes which included:

- HP Laptop**—won by Libby Robertson,
Trek Mountain Bike
Kindle Fire HD
£100 M&S vouchers
Luxury Hamper
Wood Winters voucher—won by Dr David Walker, Bridge of Allan
DAB Radio
Moët & Chandon

Wallace High would like to thank the valuable contribution of our parents and partners for the support provided:

- Wallace High Parent Council
Rock and Road Cycles, Bridge of Allan
Cutmasters, Denny
Logoxpress, Stirling
DS2 Scotland, Dunblane
Co-op, Causewayhead
Bologna, Bridge of Allan
Birds n' Bees, Causewayhead
Wood Winters, Bridge of Allan
Corrieri's, Causewayhead
Anthony Lester, SimRacer

Football: S1 7-a-side Football team



Wallace High's S1 7-a-side football team reached the semi-finals of the Stirling regional tournament this term. The tournament was held at Dunblane High School on Tuesday 11th November, with the boys taking on teams from across the region. Wallace High finished top of their group after drawing two games and winning their final match.

The boys were pitched against Queen Victoria High school in the Semi-finals. After some great goal-keeping from Andrew Martin, the match finished 0 – 0. It took a penalty shoot out to separate the two teams where, sadly, Wallace were defeated 3-1.

The squad comprised of: Jack Hencher, Tyler Smith, Grant Hutchinson, Liam Kaney, Aaron Craig, Kyle Young, Matthew Corrigan, Sam Bouman, Been Cooke, Kyle Patterson, Necani Racava, Dylan Crossley, Kane Simpson, Andrew Martin, Ewan Ogilvie

Ochil House: Emirates Athletics Event

This session, young people from Ochil House and some of our small groups took part in an athletics event organised by Variety Scotland and held at the Emirates Stadium in Glasgow. The competition was organised as part of the Commonwealth Games Legacy and involved young people with Additional Support Needs from all over Scotland.

All of the young people representing Wallace High School - Michael Shearer, Lewis Ford, Amy Currie, James Robertson and Timmy Kelly - won gold medals. We are incredibly proud of their success at the event and delighted to see excellence, once again, in athletics, where our young people have performed so well in recent years.

Operation Wallacea Update

Wallace High pupils, in partnership with Dunblane High School, are continuing with the preparations, and fundraising, for their two-week working expedition to South Africa in June 2015, run by the company Operation Wallacea.

The fifty-strong group will be heading to Kruger National Park, where they will be collecting data on the local flora and fauna in order to assess the impact elephants are having on this area. The vital data collected will go on to help inform elephant management and protection issues in the area. For their second week, pupils will be travelling to Sodwana Bay to either:

Undertake their PADI Open Water SCUBA diving course in order to gain an internationally recognised qualification, which will allow them to dive anywhere in the world up to a depth of 18metres.



Pupils who arrive already qualified will be undertaking a PADI Indian Ocean Reef Ecology Course, which will involve them learning how to identify the various species of fish and coral that exist off the coast of South Africa.

Since November 2013 the group have taken part in numerous fundraising events, including: bag-packing at a number of super-markets; stalls at Wallace High School's Winter Fayre; numerous bake sales and much more. Pupils have also been preparing themselves by taking part in a 'Try Dive Experience' provided by the Stirling Scottish Sub Aqua Club, who operate at the PEAK.



In the few short months before the group go, pupils and staff will be striving to fundraise towards the total cost of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. So, if you see pupils from Wallace or Dunblane flying the South Africa Flag, and raising money for Operation Wallacea, please give support in any way that you can!

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