THE ROYAL HIGH SCHOOL

Commemoration and Prizegiving Day

Friday 26th June 2015 at 10.30am
COMMEMORATION AND PRIZE-GIVING DAY

Friday 26th June at 10.30am

Chairperson: Sheriff Frank Crowe

Order of Ceremony

Welcome from Chairperson: Sheriff Frank Crowe

Chair’s Address: Sheriff Frank Crowe

Presentation of Prizes: Mrs Carol Stewart

Former Pupil’s Address: Rosie Kay

Valedictory Address: Dux of School – Katie Darling

Reply by Rector: Mrs Pauline Walker

Poem read by School Captain – William Shepherdson

The School Song

Ceremony of Leave-taking
PRIZES & SCHOLARSHIPS
Session 2013/14

FIRST YEAR

John Murray Prize for Music
Cameron Duff 1B1
General Sports Prizes for Girls
Stella Johnston 1A2
Janine Whitecross Trophy for most enthusiastic Girl in PE
Julia Siewiera 1A2
Alex Aitken Prize for Scottish History
Jura Lewis 1S1
Merit in CDT
Lauren Gunn 1P1
Merit in Geography
Dugald Williams 1A1
Merit in German
Calvin Catala 1P1
Merit in Mathematics
Carrick Black 1P1
Merit in Modern Studies
Euan Coull 1S1
Merit in PE
Fraser McAdam 1P2
Merit in Art & Design
Anna Young 1P2
Merit in Home Economics
Anna Young 1P2
For dedication and hard work in STEM
Sophie Allan 1S1
Lady Glenorchy Prize for Religious Education
Lucy Krauth 1B2
Alex Aitken Prize for Scottish History
Lucy Krauth 1B2
Robertson Bursary
Lucy Krauth 1B2
Tait Prize - Proxime to Dux of Form 1
Lucy Krauth 1B2
Elizabeth Wemyss Prize for Music
Zac McCullouch 1S1
English
Zac McCullouch 1S1
French
Zac McCullouch 1S1
Robertson Bursary
Zac McCullouch 1S1
Boyd Prize (1857) - Dux of Form 1
Zac McCullouch 1S1

SECOND YEAR

Jessie Young Prize for Meritorious Effort
Kathryn Brown 2B1
Alex Aitken Prize for Scottish History
Iona Reddie 2P2
Art & Design
Ruaridh Barron 2S2
CDT
Astrid McIntyre 2A1
Drama
Josh Codona 2S1
Geography
Rachel Sunter 2P1
Home Economics
Rebecca Langton 2A2
PE
Joe Tait 2S1
Noreen Richardson Memorial Prize for Courage and Determination
Marcus Cimorelli 2S2
RMPS
Marcus Cimorelli 2S2
General Sports Prizes for Girls
Catriona Cullen 2B2
Sir James Purves Stewart Prize – (II) Dux in German
Catriona Cullen 2B2
John Murray Prize for Music
Holly Davis 2P1
Merit in Modern Studies
Holly Davis 2P1
Grigor prize for Debating (Junior)
Emma Walker 2P1
Merit in Mathematics
Emma Walker 2P1
For dedication and hard work in STEM
Connor Coull 2S2
Sir James Purves Stewart Prize – (I) Dux in French
Katie Hepburn 2P1
Alex Aitken Prize for Scottish History
Katie Hepburn 2P1
Merit in English
Katie Hepburn 2P1
Ritchie Prize (1824) - Dux of Form 2
Katie Hepburn 2P1
### THIRD YEAR

- **PSA Prize for Meritorious Effort**: Callum Clouston 3p2
- **John Murray Prize for Music**: Katherine Hunt 3P1
- **The Royal High School Prize for Art and Design**: Erica Grauso 3S2
- **Alex Skinner Prize for Computing**: William O'Donnell 3B2
- **Alex Skinner Prize for Computing**: Bulelani Ndlela 3b2
- **For dedication and hard work in STEM**: Serena Ozkan 3s1
- **General Sports Prizes for Girls**: Freya Bryce 3B1
- **Morrison Bursary**: 3b1
- **Morrison Bursary**: Alex Fitzgerald-Peltier 3b2
- **Donaldson Bursary**: Tom Campbell 3p1
- **Hartman Prize – (I) Dux in French**: Audra Nisbet 3B2
- **Donaldson Bursary**: 3b2
- **Sibbald Bursary**: James Riches 3b2
- **Hartman Prize – (II) Dux in German**: Catherine McNie 3A2
- **Sibbald Bursary**: 3A2
- **Carmichael Club Prize (1878) - Dux of Form 3**: 3A2

### FOURTH YEAR

- **Mary Hunter Memorial prize for best fourth form leaver**: Lauryn Arthur 4P2 (in absentia)
- **General Sports Prizes for Girls**: Rhona Fraser 4P1
- **Prize for Technical Education**: Caitlin Ramage 4A2
- **Alex F Hall Prize for Computing**: Callum Darling 4S2
- **Noreen Richardson Memorial Prize for Home Economics**: Lorna Watson 4P1
- **John Marshall Prize (1910) for Classics and Mathematics**: 4p1
- **J W Loudon Prize for Public Speaking**: Laura Wood 4B1
- **Carson Bursary, Dux of English**: Ross Witney Hunter 4A2
- **John Paterson Small Prize for Music**: 4A2
- **John Marshall Prize (1910) for Classics and Mathematics**: 4A2
- **Carson Bursary, Dux of English**: 4A2
- **For dedication and hard work in STEM**: Megan Boner 4p1
- **Richard Green memorial prize for Art & Design**: Privyjot Jheeta 4P1
- **Mackay Prize (1877) - Dux of Form 4**: 4P1

### FIFTH YEAR

- **Mabon Prize for biggest improvement of a pupil in S5**: Victoria Coutts 5B1
- **Prize for Accounting**: Callum Hattersley 5s1
- **Prize for Technical Drawing**: Keir Mathieson 5A1
- **Classical Studies Prize (Dux)**: Michael Twiddy 5S1
- **John Turner Prize – Dux in Mathematics**: Laura Woodhead 5S2
- **John Turner Prize – Dux in Mathematics**: Sophie Malcolm 5A2
- **William Young Memorial Prize – Dux in Classics**: Natasia Aitken 5A2
- **James M Moore Memorial Prize – Dux in French**: Francesca Rea 5A2
- **N H Small Prize in French & Dux in Spanish**: 5a2
- **The Royal High School Parent Staff Association Junior Prize (S1-S3) for being an effective contributor to the school community throughout the school year**: Juliette Goddard 5P1
- **Dux in Chemistry**: 5P1
- **Dux in Physics**: 5P1
For dedication and hard work in STEM  
Graham Readman  
5P1  
(in absentia)

RHS FP President’s Prize (II) Dux in Geography  
Eleanor Young  
5P1

Carson Prize Dux of English  
5P1

Muir Memorial prize - Dux of Form 5  
5P1

### OPEN AWARDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crichton Cup</td>
<td>Jake Somerville</td>
<td>1B2</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Colours</td>
<td>Erin Gallagher</td>
<td>1P2</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Colours</td>
<td>Claudia Henry</td>
<td>5A2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Colours</td>
<td>Jade Brydon</td>
<td>5P2</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Colours</td>
<td>Pietro Gagliardini</td>
<td>6S2</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Colours</td>
<td>Julie MacPherson</td>
<td>6B2</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Colours</td>
<td>Ross McCann</td>
<td>6P2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Colours</td>
<td>Charlie Shiel</td>
<td>6S1</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Colours</td>
<td>Ellie McGinty</td>
<td>6B1</td>
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<tr>
<td>The George Grubb Award for Outstanding Achievement in Athletics</td>
<td>Ellie McGinty</td>
<td>6B1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Burrows Prize for Leadership in Athletics</td>
<td>Cal McLennan</td>
<td>4P2</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Malkin Prize for Service in the community</td>
<td>Rowan Whitton</td>
<td>6A2</td>
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<tr>
<td>The RHS Distinguished Award</td>
<td>Lewis Gilchrist</td>
<td>6B1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grigor prize for Debating (Junior)</td>
<td>Charlie Ashcroft</td>
<td>2S1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grigor prize for Debating (Senior)</td>
<td>Ciara Crumney</td>
<td>5A2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grigor prize for Debating (Senior)</td>
<td>Sarah Gardner</td>
<td>4P1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prize for Dramatic Work</td>
<td>James Sharp</td>
<td>4A1</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Hall Prize for Drama</td>
<td>Megan Grant</td>
<td>4B2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prize for Home Economics</td>
<td>Cora Harland</td>
<td>3B1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prize in Administration</td>
<td>Laura Smith</td>
<td>5B2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicolson Prize for Music</td>
<td>Alex Enahalo</td>
<td>2P2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant Memorial Cup – Dux in Music</td>
<td>Martin Oglesby</td>
<td>5P1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ness Trophy for Craftsmanship</td>
<td>Fern Johnson</td>
<td>4B2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prize for Engineering Technology</td>
<td>Robyn Young</td>
<td>5B2</td>
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<tr>
<td>The RHS (London) Club prize - Dux in Art</td>
<td>Megan Stretton</td>
<td>5P1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dux in Home Economics</td>
<td>Sophie Templeton</td>
<td>6A1</td>
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<tr>
<td>W J Melrose Prize for Art</td>
<td>Sophie Templeton</td>
<td>6A1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ian Steadman and John P Mackintosh Prize for Politics</td>
<td>Alasdair Sadler</td>
<td>6A1</td>
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<tr>
<td>RHS Parents’ Association Prize for Modern Studies</td>
<td>Lucy Miller</td>
<td>5B2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burgoyne Prize – Dux in German</td>
<td>Leo MacNeill</td>
<td>5P1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHS FT President’s Prizes- (I) Dux in History</td>
<td>Erin McGrail</td>
<td>5P1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dux in Computing</td>
<td>Erin McGrail</td>
<td>5P1</td>
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<tr>
<td>RHS FP 2000 Prize for IT</td>
<td>Hayden Morrell</td>
<td>5P1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neil McCurrah Award for Participation and Enthusiasm to the Full</td>
<td>Hayden Morrell</td>
<td>5P1</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Montgomery Bell Memorial prize for the study of Scots Law</td>
<td>Laura Burt</td>
<td>6A1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steven Armstrong Roy Memorial prize for Courage and Inspiration</td>
<td>Megan Aitken</td>
<td>2P1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J G Cattanach Prize for Scottish Literature</td>
<td>Coreen Grant</td>
<td>6A2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr W King Gillies Prize for Scottish Literature</td>
<td>Coreen Grant</td>
<td>6A2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malcolm Knox Prize for best creative writing</td>
<td>Coreen Grant</td>
<td>6A2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hector McIver Memorial prize for Literary Appreciation</td>
<td>Coreen Grant</td>
<td>6A2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Royal High School (London) Club Prize for an English Poem</td>
<td>Coreen Grant</td>
<td>6A2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sir Walter Scott Centenary Prize</td>
<td>Coreen Grant</td>
<td>6A2</td>
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<tr>
<td>MacMillan club Prize (1865) – Dux in English</td>
<td>Coreen Grant</td>
<td>6A2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carson Prize (1851) for an English Essay</td>
<td>To be announced</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>William Rutherford Bequest Awards for PE</td>
<td>Clare Kelly</td>
<td>6S2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Royal High School Parent Council Junior Prize (S1-S3) for demonstrating responsible citizenship within the school community consistently throughout the school year: Sophie Wright 3S1

The Royal High School Parent Council Senior Prize (S4-S6) for demonstrating responsible citizenship within the school community consistently throughout the school year: Struan Robertson 6A2

The Royal High School Parent Staff Association Junior Prize (S1-S3) for being an effective contributor to the school community throughout the school year: Angus Walker Stewart 2S2

### Martin Pearce Family Prize for Business Management
- Khaled Abdel-Motalab 6P1

### Nicol Prize for Service
- Khaled Abdel-Motalab 6P1

### Nicol Prize for Service
- Jeehan Ashercrook 6S1

### Nicol Prize for Service
- Cameron Brown 6P2

### Nicol Prize for Service
- Lydia Dunmore 6A1

### School Colours
- James Lowder 6S2

### Nicol Prize for Service
- James Lowder 6S2

### Rector's Award for service to the School
- Caitlin Donnelly 6B2

### Steadman Prize for Philosophy
- Lewis Read 6B1

### Bruce Prize – Dux in History
- Lewis Read 5B1

### Chisholm Prize – Dux in Geography
- Lewis Read 6B1

### Dr Barclay's Memorial Prize for Service
- Lewis Read 6B1

### Sir John Greig Dunbar Prize for Citizenship
- Calum Cowan 6P1

### Sir John Greig Dunbar Prize for Citizenship
- Ewen Cullen 6B2

### Andrew Wilson Prize for Service and Leadership
- William Shepherdson 6B1

### Mouat Scholarship
- Charles Lyon 6B2

### W J Watson Prize for Original Research (AH Physics/Chemistry/Biology)
- Barnett-Johnston 6B2

### Inches Prize – Dux in Physics
- Barnett-Johnston 6B2

### James H Scott Prize for Mathematics
- Barnett-Johnston 6B2

### Percy Malcolm Stewart Minor
- Barnett-Johnston 6B2

### Tullis Prize – Dux in Mathematics
- Alex Larionov 6S2

### Percy Malcolm Stewart Median
- Alex Larionov 6S2

### Percy Malcolm Stewart Median
- Alessandra Jae Ladrado 6S1

### Sir David Yule Scholarship
- Andrew Dunlop 6A2

### J G Cattanach Prize for Scottish History
- Tom McArthur 6P2

### Sir David Yule Scholarship
- Tom McArthur 6P2

### Percy Malcolm Stewart Major
- Vincent Plummer 6S1

### Sir Alexander Stevenson Prize - Proxime to Dux
- Vincent Plummer 6S1

### Philip Harris Prize for Biology
- Katie Darling 6S1

### Inches Prize - Dux in Chemistry
- Katie Darling 6S1

### RHS Exhibition - Dux
- Katie Darling 6S1

### The Royal High School Club prize - Dux of School
- Katie Darling 6S1
SCHOOL SONG

Vivas, Schola Edinensis
Schola Regia venerabilis:
Sicut arx in colle sita -
Sicut sol e nubibus densis -
Splendes, splendeas in aeternum,
Alma Mater atque amabilis.

Refrain: Vivas, Schola Regia!
Vivas, Schola Regia!
Vivas, Vivas, Schola Regia!

Liberi tui te laudamus
Laeto omnium cum clamore
Et cum multis posthac annis
Tui, quam iuvenes amabamus,
Senes rursus meminerimus,
Vi clamabimus haud minore:

Refrain: Vivas, Schola Regia!
Vivas, Schola Regia!
Vivas, Vivas, Schola Regia!
MEMBERS OF STAFF – SESSION 2014 – 15

Rector – PAULINE WALKER BSc Hons (Heriot Watt), PGCE (Edinburgh)

Depute Rectors
DAVID SIMPSON, BA (Mus) Hons Exon, DipEd
JEN MENZIES, BEd (MH), MEd (Stirling)
PAUL CHAMBERS, MA Hons (Aberdeen), PGCE (Edin)

Business Manager – Helen Brooks, BA (Napier), PGC Business Management, Assoc CIPD

Art & Design: Carol Haley, MA (Edin), PGCE, Lois Combe, DA (Edin), PGCE, Julie Howie BA Hons (Robert Gordon), PGCE, Caroline Smith

Biology: Katy Robertson, Gillian Kelly, BSc (Stirling), PGCE, Claire Russell, MA (Camb), PhD (Edin), PGCE (Durham), Gordon Rutter, MSc (Edin), BSc (London), PGCE,

Business Education: Irene KS Brown, Dip Com (Glas Coll of Tech), Yvonne Dagnall BA Hons, PGCE (Napier), Dorothy Ferguson

Chemistry: Dr Avril Henney, BSc (Edin), PhD (Lon), Michelle McLernon, BSc Hons (Edin), PGDE (Edin), Philip Wootton, BSc Hons, (Glasgow), PGDE (Edin), Fiona Scott

Computing Studies: G Wendy Reith, BSc (Stirling), Frank Lagan, BSc (Stirling), Holly Davidson,

Craft, Design and Technology: Mark Stevenson, BSc Ind Design (Napier), PGCE, David Allan, DipTechEd, (Moray House), Krysia Smyth, BEd Hons, Ashley Marshall, Kirsty Dick, John Williamson

Drama: Rob Edmonds

English: Thomas P Bacciarelli, BA Hons (Man), PGCE, Ailsa Clarke, MA (Glas), PGCE, Daniel Craig, MA (Edin), PGCE, PGCE, Bernice Ford, MA Hons (Glasgow), PGCE (J’Hill), Helen McHarrie, MA (Edin), Martin Moonie, MA (Abd), PhD (Oxford), PGCE, Gillian E Pia, MA (Edin), DipEd, Mollie Skehal, BA Hons (Stirling), PGCE, Helen McLean, PGDE, Alistair Robertson, MA Hons, Morgan Orr

Geography: Shiona Park, BA Hons (Aberdeen), PGCE, Maria Anderson, BEd (Edin/MH), Ashley Fulton, BSc Hons, (Stirling)

History: Kate E Fraser MA (Edin), PGCE, Alison Somerville, MA (Edin), PGCE, Mairi MacDermot, Jesanna Gooch

Home Economics: Jill P Templeton, DipHE with F&N (Rbt Gordon’s), CertSecEduc (Abd), Kathryn Kelly, BSc Hons (Queen Margaret), PGDE (Strathclyde)

Mathematics: Darren S McKinnon, BSc Hons (Edin), Kathryn Gray, MA (Abd), Carol Stewart, BSc (Stirling), MSc, Neil Tilston, BSc Hons (Edin), PGDE, Abdallah Serhani, BEng (Edin), PGDE, Joanne Campbell, BSc, MSc (Aberdeen), PGDE, Mark Brower, BSc Hons, (Strathclyde), PGDE (J’hill), Alison Underwood, MA Hons, Aberdeen), PGCE (Open University), Isabelle Dupraz, Ryan Docherty, Neil Millington, Rachel Shankland

Modern Languages: C Welsh, Tom Cook, BA, MA (Edin), CertEd, Morag McCallum, MA Hons (Edin), PGCE, Claire Inglis, LLB Hons, (Glas), PGCE, Charlotte Dixon, Beata Figueria
Modern Studies: Gary Snedden, MA(Edin), PGCE, PGDE, Jennifer Reynolds, BA Hons, (Stirling), Bed, (Stirling), Domonic Forbes

Music: Andrew J Morley, BMus(Edin), PGCE, Louise Holland,

Physical Education: Steven Raeburn, Fiona J MacMillan, BEd(Edin), MSc(Edin), Robert Watson Bsc Hons (Glas), PGDE, Heather Brown, Bed Hons (Edin), Mark Naysmith, BEd Hons, Daniel Lane, Bed Hons (Edin), Adam Reed, Ryan Ritchie

Physics: Stephen A Bakke, BSc(Lon), PGCE, David Hill, MEng, (Edin), PGCE, Richard Thorbjornsen

Religious and Moral Education: Sebastian C Sewell, MTh(St Andrews), PGCE, Alexandra Lockhart, Meghan Brady-McDonald

Support for Learning: Joan Scott, BSc(Edin), DipEd, Deborah Hislop, BEd Technology (Edin)

Support for Pupils: Dee Johnston, BA Hons (Stirling), Jane L Saddler, BSc (Edin), PGCE, Fiona M White, BSc(Edin), Nicola Casey, BA, DipEd(Stirling), Iain Welsh, BA Hons, PGCE, Laura Martin

Careers Adviser: Gillian Ross

Librarian: Evelyn Smith, ALA

Administrative Staff: Diane Aitken, Shirley Duncan, Karen Fergusson, Lorraine Lorraine, Karen Reilly

School Support Assistants: Lindsay Quinn, Jen Cairns, Jill Hunter, Ruby Hussain, Audrey Pannozzo, Margaret Scott, Elizabeth Sneddon

Pupil Support Assistants (SFL): Lesley Baird, Elaine Berry, Aine Cahill, Reuben Hodkin, Elizabeth Ivinson, Julie McKeever, Murray Swan, Marian Wootton

Sports Coordinator: Neil Russell

Community Police Officer: Darren Campbell

Senior Service Support Officer: Robert Sloan
Service Support Officers: Brian W Whelan, Fred McBride

Senior Technician: John Stables
ICT Technician: James Muir
Laboratory Technicians: Ian Young, Kathryn Clark
Workshop Technician: Kevin McQueen

Catering Supervisor: Karen Sloan
THE ROYAL HIGH SCHOOL

Annual Report
Introduction

As the 2014/15 session draws to a close it is a great pleasure to look back over our year and reflect on all that has taken place in The Royal High School.

We began the year with a very positive set of SQA results. Standards of attainment continue to be very good and compare very well with results in Edinburgh and across Scotland.

Our results at the end of S4 continue to be very good, with elements of excellence. Within National 5 63% of learners achieved at least 5 passes, 36% of learners achieved 8 passes at National 5 level in S4 and 3 young people achieved excellent results with 8 passes at A Band 1. This demonstrates a very high level of attainment within our S4.

Our Higher passes within S5 were excellent with improvements across those achieving 1, 3 and 5 Highers by the end of S5. We are particularly pleased with the number of young people now achieving at least 3 Higher awards as this has increased to 53% (up 16% on 2013). The majority of our young people are able to gain an award in at least one Higher by the end of S5. A number of pupils gained 5 A band awards at Higher in S5 and 3 A band awards at Advanced Higher in S6. This clearly demonstrates the climate for exceptionally high achievement is very much evident in the school and we are very proud of these young people.

Positive destinations also continue to very strong with 93% of our school leavers confirmed in sustained destinations last month. 66% of our young people went on to Higher or Further Education (50% university admissions) and 27% in to employment. This is a very strong indication of how well we are preparing our young people to take the next step after they leave school and we are extremely proud of them all.

Curriculum development in the Senior Phase continued at a pace again this session as all our faculties consolidated their National 3-5 courses and some began new Higher courses. This session will see the final new Higher and Advanced Higher qualifications introduced across the school in the remaining subjects.

We have also held an extensive curriculum consultation across students, staff and parents. We now have a new curriculum model in S1-6 which we will move forward with from the 2016/17 session. This will see young people in S4 study a maximum of 7 National subjects leading to a traditional S5 sitting of 5 Highers. We firmly believe this will provide an excellent curriculum for all of our young people and give them every opportunity to attain their very best in National examinations.

We continue to lead the way nationally in our ICT provision with the ongoing implementation of our 1:1 iPad project. From August all S4-6 students will be equipped with a school iPad which will enable them to access the very best resources and materials to support their learning. Our S1-3 young people also have access to ICT through labs and sets of roaming iPads which we have available for use across the school. We held a very successful parent event in May demonstrating “What Learning Looks Like Today” and as part of this demonstrated how this changes the learning for our young people. The feedback from parents was very good and our young people continue to tell us this is having a positive effect on their learning.

One of our initiatives this year has been to launch the Growing Confidence program with staff and parents. This has enabled us to explore how our young people’s brains really work, how they grow and learn and how we can best support them with this. We also offered 3 parents courses to support the program which were oversubscribed and will continue well in to the new session.
Parents are key partners in the school and we continue to involve them fully. We have a very active Parent Council and Parent/Staff Association who gives us great support throughout the year in numerous ways. You can read about their year later in the annual report. We also believe in keeping parents well informed and our new email bulletin has been very popular with parents ensuring they receive regular updates on what’s happening in the school. This has also enabled us to conduct a number of parental surveys which has ensured parent voice is very strong in everything we do. We also have a brand new website and a Twitter feed @Royal_High_Sch both of which we use to share news and events.

Our wider curriculum continues to thrive with a huge variety of clubs, shows, performances and visits taking place. These enhance the school experience of all our young people and ensure they develop strong skills for life and work. We have had many sporting success this year including xxxxxx. Our first residential of the session was a very successful ski trip which we plan to repeat in 2015/16. We ran a very successful action-packed Activities Week with trips heading off to Rome, Naples, London and the Belgian battlefields and Paris. In addition almost all our S1 pupils travelled to Douneans Outdoor Centre for a very successful week. Students in school took part in a wide range of day trips and in-school activities such as sketching, canoeing, rock-climbing, sports, crafts, bakery, cake-making and much more! Our Romanian Habitat for Humanity trip also took place this term and was again very successful making a huge difference to the lives of those who will benefit. And finally our South African rugby tour wielded a very impressive 5/7 wins. All these opportunities created fantastic memories for students and staff and make a huge contribution to the life of the school. They would not be possible without the hard work and commitment of staff.

This has been a very full year on every front and a wonderful first year for me as the new Rector. I would like to thank staff for their work, energy and commitment in making The Royal High School such a special place for all our students to learn in. I am also very grateful to all our many partners who work to support us. My final thank you goes to our parents who provide us with wonderful young people to work with and support us in so many ways.

Viva Schola Regia
Pauline A. Walker
Rector
Expressive Arts

The session started with some change in staffing: Mr Edmonds arrived to cover Mrs. Almond’s career break, and Miss Smith to undertake her probationary year in Art and Design. Some excellent exam results gave a great start in August, with our National 5 pupils doing extremely well across the board.

Specific highlights for Music were the highly popular and well attended Xmas and June concerts, featuring a full S1 orchestra; involvement in the P7 Health and Wellbeing transition day, featuring vocals and drumming; a trip to Wicked in November; and Thomas Kettle, S5, being accepted into the RSAMD in Glasgow.

In Art and Design, three of our S4 won the Heriot Watt Architectural Challenge, against S5 groups from other schools; Katie Hepburn S2 was shortlisted in the Schools Festival Fringe Poster Competition; our S3 visited the John Byrne exhibition and met the artist himself; and the annual AH exhibition in June was our busiest yet!

Drama highlights were the exceptional practical performances by the National 5 students, and an increase in uptake into S3. Many of the large and successful S4 group have opted to take Higher Drama which bodes well for an exciting year ahead.

Business Education and Computing Science

Across the faculty this session we have engaged in three out of classroom experiences. The S4 Business Education class headed to Coca-Cola, the S3 Computing class to Napier University and the Advanced Higher and Higher leaners to the Edinburgh International conference centre. In the classroom learners have been exposed to a range of learning activities – from building straw towers, wearable technology, use of I-TuneU, Edmodo, filming and photography with the iPads to help learners remember classroom learning. Raspberry Pi’s have also been introduced within computing to further develop problem solving skills. On leaving the classroom learners have been encouraged to use the iPads in research to expand their knowledge of their chosen subject areas, and make use of appropriate apps.

The curriculum has seen the introduction of the new CfE Highers in Accounting and Administration and IT. These new courses have been well received by both the learners and teachers. The faculty continues to offer a range of courses where we try and facilitate the individuals’ requirements, whether it is in SQA courses, or awards in ORACLE or CISCO.
CDT

The CDT department had extremely positive exam results during the 2013/14 diet and we were very pleased to see our pupil’s performing so well. However the overwhelming theme of life in the CDT department in Session 2014-2015 has been staffing. Mr Black, after inspiring hundreds of pupils to positive destinations, left in the March of session 2013-2014 to pursue a career in property. He was replaced by Mr Todd in August 2014 after Mr Williamson had ably filled in during the remainder of the previous year for Mr Black.

Unfortunately, for us and CDT pupils, Mr Todd was promoted to Curricular Leader at Trinity High School in Jan 2015. His position though was ably and promptly filled by Miss Kirsty Dick, an ex-pupil of the school. Her qualifications are second to none and she is already inspiring pupils though her approaches and capabilities.

This period of time has been very challenging for the department with huge changes to staffing and the curricular content. However Mr Allan, Mrs Smyth and Miss Marshall have been stalwart in their efforts throughout the session developing and delivering the best of content for their courses and giving up hours upon hours of their own time after school and during their holidays to support pupils. We look forward to seeing this cohort rewarded for their efforts in the final exams.

Dance

Dance activities continued to thrive throughout the session with weekly classes offered to all abilities and years. There are 15 separate classes run after school, covering Contemporary to Commercial styles and everything in between. The high quality of dance was reflected academically in excellent Higher results and through performances in the Summer Dance Show. This involved 4 primary groups as well as all the current dance groups and testified to the energy and talent of our pupils. In addition to experiencing a variety of performances through trips to Scottish Ballet’s Nutcascker, Wicked and Rambert Dance, groups took part in workshops run by Rambert Dance as well as performing in Dancequest at the Festival Theatre and in the Cluster Dance Show in March.

Dance remains one of the largest extra-curricular activities in the school and thanks goes to dance teachers Emma Smith and Peter Twynam and especially to Samm Baigrie, who has continued to develop dance in the school and in the wider community, and to Mr Bacciarelli, who has organised and co-ordinated the programme. The continued success of dance is down to their commitment and enthusiasm - as well as that of the many pupils who experience and benefit from the dance activities.
English Department

With outstanding SQA results in August reflecting high standards of teaching, the English department continued to provide high quality education throughout the session. Alongside curricular developments - including preparing new courses at all levels for the senior phase, producing resources for listening skills and developing vocational skills – the department provided a rich and varied programme of experiences in the classroom and beyond. These included the Core Skills English classes creating partnerships between and the Poppy Factory and also the ENW Foodbank, fund-raising for both charities as well as developing important skills. All S1 pupils commemorated the First World War by researching and connecting with all FPs who died in the conflict – creating a stunning display of crosses and messages beside the Memorial Door. S2 pupils achieved success in the Young Writers Competition; took part in a workshop with actress Julie Coombe and created their own versions of scenes from Shakespeare; made a film about their school experiences. The department continued to provide rich cultural opportunities by arranging theatre visits throughout the session and a group of senior pupils reviewed over 20 performances throughout the session for the Festival theatre, with their pieces posted on the theatre’s website. Others took part in the Herald Angels Project – reviewing dance at the International Festival (and reviewing opera later this year) - and others had their shape poems turned into wallpaper and displayed at the Hub. There was media success at the Edinburgh Film Festival, winning best film in the Schools’ event, and with further entries to be screened this June. Pupils attended a variety of author talks as well as Media workshops linked to the Film Festival. This sample of enriching activities illustrates the commitment of the English department to nurturing creativity, language skills and engagement in all learners at all levels.

Geography and RMPS

As we look back on the year past, I’d like to share some of our successes and achievements with you.

Uptake in both Geography and RMPS is increasing and this year we have focused on factors that our pupils tell us really make a positive difference to their learning. We have targeted active learning strategies and feedback in the classroom to help our learners improve the quality of their thinking. iPads are being used to engage pupils in their own learning at all levels, and fieldtrips (Royal Highland Show, N4/5 rivers and Davidsons Mains, AH Kindrogan and S3 Italy – Rome and Naples) have provided invaluable opportunities for learning in a real world context. Supported study is offered all year and Eco Club offers an opportunity for pupils to develop leadership skills within the school community.

Links with our community have been fostered through the engagement of Interfaith to deliver various aspects of our Religious Observance/ Time for Reflection programme.

As we move forward, our main focus areas include further development of active learning and teaching strategies, especially feedback, in the review
and development of new and existing courses and developing links with the wider community/business to help develop important skills for work.

**Integrated Support Team**

This has been a busy year for the Integrated Support team, incorporating Support for Learning and Support for Pupils. The introduction of the HUB has been a new initiative introduced this year. It is a classroom, staffed by teachers, where pupils are offered additional support and mentoring. This year 135 pupils applied to University including 8 to Cambridge University. Many senior pupils took advantage of courses run by Queen Margaret University and Edinburgh college while other pupils participated in the JET programme and Career Ready where they had the opportunity to do work placements and internships. Meanwhile the Mentors in Violence Protection programme was piloted to 2 S4 classes. Pupils really engaged with the materials that challenged perceptions about gender based violence. Peer Mentors have been identified to deliver sessions to our S1 cohort in the new session. Our first year pupils have continued to work on their JASS folders and have recently added a section on the May Activity week.

**History**

The History department has seen some changes in staffing this year. Alison Sommerville has been on a part-time secondment with Moray House and Jesanna Gooch has joined the department to cover this. Iain Welsh was successful in his application to become a Pupil Support Leader and has been replaced by Mairi MacDermot.

The session began with reflection upon some excellent exam results. The department has continued to focus on the quality of feedback given to pupils and maintains its commitment to reinforce learning with experiences out with the classroom. The most significant of these remains the battlefields trip to the Somme and Ypres. In addition, this year the department organised a hugely symbolic exchange with the Ludwig Frank Gymnasium, Mannheim, to bring German and Scottish students together to reflect upon the centenary of WW1.

**Mathematics Department**

The session started with us celebrating a record number of passes at Higher Mathematics from the previous session. We were also delighted to see our S4 students performing well in the new National 5 Mathematics examination.

This session we have been busy rolling out the new National 5 courses in Maths and Lifeskills Maths to S5/S6; we have also been hard at work preparing for the new Higher and Advanced Higher courses which we will offer next session. A main priority has been to ensure that we are using technology effectively, with staff and students alike gaining experience in using iPads to enhance learning. We are also making better links with industry: a group of our S3 students...
benefitted from a day-long training session at Kames Capital, learning about the finance industry.

There have been many changes in staffing this year. During the year we said farewell to Alistair Oliver and Mark Brower as they left to take up posts elsewhere, and farewell (albeit temporarily) to Jo Campbell as she started maternity leave. We thank Gordon Hamilton and Graeme Findlay for their support in covering classes over this time.

Finally, we say a very special thank you and farewell to Carol Stewart, who leaves RHS after some 35 years of service to the school. She has been an inspirational teacher and colleague. Her experience and wisdom will be greatly missed, but we trust she will enjoy her retirement!

**Modern Studies**

2014-15 has been a most exciting year for politics and for the Modern Studies department. During the session Domonic Forbes was welcomed to the department. In addition, Jenny Reynolds has been on secondment one day a week as a Teacher Fellow at Stirling University.

The session began celebrating some excellent exam results. The department has continued to encourage political discourse and debate throughout the school when they organised, with the help of the AH class, a junior referendum on Scottish Independence in September.

Academic achievement has been enhanced by staff inviting outside speakers to come and share their experience with pupils, which this year has included representatives from Mercy Corps and a Trident Weapons Officer. In addition, the department has organised trips to the Scottish Parliament and relevant screenings at the Filmhouse. Pupils also attended the Kingmakers debate for the BBC.

**Health and Wellbeing**

The Health & Well Being faculty continues to thrive at RHS. The curriculum offered in PE & HFTT allows for students to experience breadth, personalisation and choice. The uptake in certificated classes for both subjects continues to rise which reflects the positive experience that the students receive throughout their time at RHS. Students have had the opportunity to try an array of new activities, listen to key note speakers and have been exposed to the most recent ICT within the subject specialisms.

With Health & Well-Being in mind, the ‘RHS-RESPECT’ project was launched in which students signed a resolution of respect form highlighting their support for anti-bullying, equalities and a positive school ethos.

Extra-curricular success has been outstanding this year whether it has been participating on a recreational basis, representing the school or competing at district or National level. The Sports HUB continues to flourish with many opportunities available for our students. The Wider Achievement Ceremony allowed us to celebrate the vast talent within the school and the launch of Sports Day has created an excellent sporting ethos within the school.
The refurbishment in the faculty is an exciting prospect and we are looking forward to seeing the finished product. Follow us @rhs_hwb for all the latest success and achievements in Health & Well-Being!

**Modern Languages**

The Modern Languages Department has seen a number of changes this session. Miss Marini joined the department in August and Mrs Figueira went on maternity leave in April, prior to the birth of her son. Senior students were supported by the Foreign Language assistants, Marianne Dupeux, Pascal Roth and Meichun Jiao.

The Primary 7 Languages Immersion Day took place in September, organised by Mrs Cullen and Miss Inglis and supported by senior students. September also saw the European Taste Off where staff and pupils enjoyed delicacies from all over Europe. The annual S1 Euroquiz in October saw the Scots secure the winning title. In November, S2 French classes attended The French Film Festival. In March, Language Ambassadors from Edinburgh University visited German classes to give an insight into their year in abroad in Germany.

Finally, during activities week, Miss Welsh led an S3 trip to Paris with the help of Miss Mariani, Ms McCallum, Mr Craig and Mr Serhani. The pupils spent an action packed week visiting the sights of the city. Highlights included an evening cruise down the Seine, a trip to the top of the Eiffel Tower and a day at Eurodisney.

**Science**

This is the time of year when we remember members of staff who have moved on. We wish the best of luck to Dr Easton, Mr Davenport and Mrs Storey who have moved to new posts. We welcome Dr Scott and Mrs Robertson, and congratulate Dr Russell on her appointment to her now full-time post.

As always, we have much to celebrate. We have a new system for analysing exam performance and it is no surprise to see that we have several areas of success across the Science Faculty in the senior phase. What is perhaps surprising is that now that we have a measure of exam performance versus pupil deprivation we have some very positive news about the results of our moderately and most deprived pupils.

We have also improved our curriculum, again! We offered new courses in Practical Electronics and Environmental Science this session, aimed at the less academic, or those looking to follow a skills/vocational route or looking to move into work after school. We have also a new approach to S1 Science that we hope to roll out to other years. This uses more formative assessments and provides an opportunity for learner conversations that give pupils the language to discuss their learning and progress.

All our best wishes go to those pupils who are moving to new destinations, and our thoughts are with those anxiously awaiting exam results in August. Good luck.
Parent Council
It has been another busy year for the Royal High Parent Council, working in partnership with parents, staff, learners and the wider community.

We’ve enjoyed working together with Mrs Walker in her first year here at RHS, and starting to collaborate on a range of ways to increase parental engagement at the school. In addition to increased communications via the school’s e-mail newsletters, our partnership with the school has included parental representation in the appointments of senior staff at Curriculum Leader level.

We continue to represent parental views on future development of the curriculum. We welcome the dialogue undertaken by the school this year, and as a Parent Council are broadly supportive of the new model proposed. We have some concerns about the proposed removal of form class time, and the school has undertaken to review this aspect of the proposal. From discussing parent survey responses with the school, we know that most parents who responded are also broadly supportive, and we will ensure that all parents’ voices can still be heard as the proposals are finalised.

Beyond the school gates, we have been active in keeping road safety issues (particularly at the back gate on Queensferry Road) very much on the agenda of local politicians and the police. After much campaigning, we are due another site visit in the autumn, this time with the City’s transport leader to see the problem first-hand. We also made strong representation regarding the City Council’s proposed education budget settlement, and while we were pleased that most education spending was protected, we were very sad to see the cutting of the Arts Award Scheme which supported young people at the Royal High to take part in national organisations. Although the Council did promise to look at other support for such pupils, parents of at least two RHS pupils impacted by the cut have since been met by a wall of silence from the Council. However, we fear that these small cuts were just the tip of the iceberg in terms of what may be on the horizon. We will continue to look for support from all parents and carers on budget matters in the new academic year.

We also made representation regarding proposed school session dates which again could have seen 7-week summer holidays become the norm, and Christmas holidays reduced to well under a fortnight. Although proposals for the next two sessions now look fairly conventional, the local authority is proposing a far more “radical” approach to term structure thereafter. We will make sure that Royal High parents are heard in any consultation on this.

We have continued to maintain relations with all of our local councillors, our MSPs, our MP, the city’s West Neighbourhood Group, the cluster Primary Parent Councils, and the media. We have linked recently with the new MPs for Edinburgh West and Edinburgh North & Leith. We also maintain strong links with the RHS FPs, and I thank Frank Crowe (FP Chair) for his continuing interest in issues which impact on RHS life.

Going into the new year, I would expect the Parent Council to focus on representing parental views on curriculum development, on continuing to increase our parental communications, and of course maintaining our campaigns regarding road safety and, I suspect, on the education budget. We will also continue to work with the school on improving social space available to learners. I would encourage all parents and carers to keep in touch with us throughout the year, and to join us as a parent rep if you can. We are looking for additional representation from parents of the year which begins S5 in August, and of course for the new S1. You can find our details on the school’s website.

In closing, I would thank all our parent, staff and co-opted members this year for their time and commitment to the Parent Council – Chakrapani Challagali, Susannah Enahalo, Fiona Gilbert, Eric Jackson, Alan Kirkpatrick, Pauline Lindsay, Tanya MacLeod, Moira MacKenzie, Marie Sheerin, Stewart Smith, Elise Talleron, Lynne Williams, Tina Woolnough, Pauline Walker, Dave Hill, Frank Crowe & Robin Boog. Thanks to Liz Leslie for her excellent work as Clerk this year. Special thanks
to Fiona Gilbert, who has volunteered her time to the parental group for many years, including as Parent Council Treasurer, and leaves our school community this summer with our very good wishes.

Luke McCullough  
Chair  
The Royal High School Parent Council

PSA

The Royal High School Parent/Staff Association held three table sales during the year as well as our usual tuck shops at events. The Christmas Market, featuring craft and home-baking stalls, was particularly successful and will be repeated. We are keen to encourage the entrepreneurs of the future and we were delighted that pupils booked tables to fundraise for their own charitable projects. Former pupils, parents and members of the wider community also showcased their creativity and shoppers were delighted at the opportunity to 'buy local' and support craftspeople. We also run a 200 Club, whereby parents can buy a monthly ticket for £1 to enter into a prizewinning draw. Please see our page on the school website for further information. The proceeds from our fundraising are allocated to departments and clubs each spring. The PSA focusses on maximising opportunities for all of our young people. The PSA committee remains very active - I would like to thank all of our parent and pupil volunteers and those who support our events.

Tina Woolnough  
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