The Royal High School

Commemoration and Prizegiving Day

Friday 28th June 2019
COMMEMORATION AND PRIZE-GIVING DAY

Friday 28th June at 10.30am

Chairperson: Ian R.C. Cowie

Order of Ceremony

Chair’s Address: Ian R.C. Cowie

Reading: Megan Aitken, School Captain - The Road not Taken, by Robert Frost

Presentation of Prizes: Mrs Irene Brown

Music: Rachel Sunter - ‘Nocturne in G minor by Chopin’ played on the piano

Former Pupil’s Address: Susan Geary

Valedictory Address: Dux of School – Emma Walker

Reply by Rector: Mrs Pauline Walker

The School Song

Ceremony of Leave-taking through the Memorial Doors

Passing on of the School Captains

Leave-taking through the Memorial Gates to the clubhouse
PRIZES & SCHOLARSHIPS
Session 2018/9

FIRST YEAR

Merit in PE
Cameron Allan
Merit in Art & Design
Erin Do Rego
Merit in CDT
Georgia Dear
Merit in French
Isla Groves
Merit in Mathematics
James Sweatman
Merit in Music
Krisjanis Piuss
Merit in Home Economics
Lily Walsh
Rectors Award for Resilience
Lois McKenzie
Merit in Drama
Lucy Hutcheon
Merit in Geography
Melissa Thomson
Merit in German
Noa Kiss-Jakab
Janine Whitecross Trophy - All Round Endeavour in Physical Education
Noa Kiss-Jakab
Maclean Prize for Dedication & Hard Work in STEM Subjects
Robin Crook
Merit in Modern Studies
Sam Ketley
Grigor Prize for Debating (Junior) Joint
Sienna Barron
Robertson Bursary (Proxime to Dux)
Rose Crook
Tait Prize - Proxime to Dux
Rose Crook
Merit in English
Rose Crook
Merit in Science
Rose Crook
Grigor Prize for Debating (Junior) Joint
Rose Crook
Lady Glenorchy Prize for Religious Education
Logan Pardoe
Alex Aitken Prize for Scottish History
Logan Pardoe
John Murray Prize for Music
Logan Pardoe
Robertson Bursary (Dux form 1)
Logan Pardoe
Boyd Prize (1857) Dux of Form 1
Logan Pardoe

SECOND YEAR

The Royal High School PFG Junior Prize (S1-S3) for being an effective contributor to the school community throughout the school year
Cormac Wilson
Merit in Modern Studies
Alice O'Neill
Merit in Drama
Callum Davison
Merit in Music
Callum French
Merit in Home Economics
Calum Jack
Maclean Prize for Dedication & Hard Work in STEM Subjects
Christopher Stewart
Merit Prize for Science
Eilidh MacRury
Sir James Purves Stewart Prize – (II) Dux in German
Emma-Louise Newlands
Merit in PE
Holly McGill
Jessie Young Prize for Meritorious Effort
Isla Williams
Merit in Art & Design
Joshua Liston
Merit in German
Maisie Duncan
John Murray Prize for Music
Matthew McNarry
Sir James Purves Stewart Prize – (I) Dux in French
Mia Morrison
Merit in CDT
Oran Whyte
Merit Prize for Mathematics
Ruairidh Williams
Merit in RMPS
Runze Tu
Merit in French
Ryan Snitjer
Alex Aitken Prize for Scottish History
Sarah Martin
Merit in Geography
Hannah Gotch Curry
Merit in English
Hannah Gotch Curry
Ritchie Prize (1824) - Dux of S2
Hannah Gotch Curry
THIRD YEAR

Maclean Prize for Dedication & Hard Work in STEM Subjects  Varad Kulkarni
Parent Funding Group Prize for Meritorious Effort  Tea Cameron
Noreen Richardson Memorial Prize for Courage and Determination  Tea Cameron
J W Loudon Prize for Public Speaking (Joint)  Sophie Schafer
Morrison Bursary Girl - Science  Rachel Hutcheon
Prize for CDT  Matteo MacKenzie
J W Loudon Prize for Public Speaking (Joint)  Kirsty Wood
Evelyn Small Prize for Drama  Jessica Urquhart
Classical Studies Prize (Dux)  James McPhillips
Prize for Home Economics  Isla Duncan
The Royal High School Parent Fundraising Group Junior Prize (S1-S3) for demonstrating responsible citizenship within the school community consistently throughout the school year  Grace Read
J G Cattanach Prize for Scottish History  Grace Read
Hartman Prize – (I) Dux in French  Emma Walsh
Donaldson Bursary Girl- English  Emma Walsh
Alex Skinner Prize for Computing  Eloise Lawrence
The William Corlett Memorial Prizes for Art  Ellen Buchanan
Hartman Prize – (II) Dux in German  Ellen Buchanan
Donaldson Bursary Boy - English  Calum Smith
Spanish Consulate Prize for S3  Alison Paterson
Morrison Bursary Boy - Science  Aditya Kumar
Sibbald Bursary Boy - Maths  Aditya Kumar
John Murray Prize for Music  Mahathi Challagali
Sibbald Bursary Girl - Maths  Mahathi Challagali
Carmichael Club Prize (1878) Dux of Form 3  Mahathi Challagali
The Malkin Prize for Service in the community (usually volunteers with OAP's etc)  Mahathi Challagali

FOURTH YEAR

Richard Green memorial prize for Art & Design  Anna Millar
Chisholm Prize - Dux in Geography  Calum McCrindle
The George Grubb Award for Outstanding Achievement in Athletics  Cameron Fordyce
The Royal High School PFG Senior Prize (S4-S6) for demonstrating responsible citizenship within the school community consistently throughout the school year  David Smith
Maclean Prize for Dedication & Hard Work in STEM Subjects  Eilidh Newlands
The RHS Distinguished Award  Finlay Boath
Prize for CDT  Iona Pritchard
Mary Hunter Memorial prize for best fourth form leaver  Kyle Willows
Carson Bursary, Dux of English  Laura Young
James H Scott Prize for Mathematics  Laura Young
Ian Steadman and John P Mackintosh Prize for Politics  Lucy Bastin
Malcolm Knox Prize for best creative writing  Luke Blair
NH Small Prize in Dux French  Matthew Jack
Alex F Hall Prize for Computing  Miles Davis
NH Small Prize in Dux in German  Naomi Egan
Nicholson Prize for Music  Nathan MacInnes
Spanish Consulate Prize for S4  Nicolo Di Profio
Noreen Richardson Memorial Prize for Home Economics  Ruby Harris
Ness Trophy for Craftsmanship  Sean Calder
John Marshall Prize (1910) Dux in Mathematics  Douglas Macartney
Prize for Engineering Technology  Douglas Macartney
MacKay Prize (1877) Dux of Form 4  Douglas Macartney
FIFTH YEAR

RHS FP President’s Prizes – (I) Dux in History
Lara McMahon

RHS FP President’s Prize (II) Dux in Geography
Adam McKee

W J Melrose Prize for Art
Anna Young

The Richard Joy Trophy - Outdoor Pursuits/Mountaineering
Anna Young

Maclean Prize for Dedication & Hard Work in STEM Subjects
Cameron Duff

Heriot Watt University Award for Leadership
Cameron Duff

Steven Armstrong Roy Memorial prize for Courage and Inspiration
Corin Shepherd

Grigor prize for Debating (Senior)
Emma Shopland

Burgoyne Prize – Dux in German
Eva Tallaron

N H Small Prize Dux in Spanish
Eva Tallaron

Leith School of Art’s School Outreach Project Prize for Most Improved Student
Faith Gwasira

Mabon Prize for biggest improvement of a pupil in S5
Fraser McAslan

Carson Prize Dux of English
Harriet Sweatman

Evelyn Small Prize for Drama
Lara McMahon

RHS FP President’s Prize (II) Dux in Modern Studies
Rory Young

John Turner Prize – Dux in Mathematics
Sravani Challagali

Dux in Physics
Zak McCullough

James M Moore Memorial Prize – Dux in French
Lucy Krauth

Dux in Chemistry
Lucy Krauth

Muir Memorial Prize – Dux of Form 5
Lucy Krauth

Grigor prize for Debating (Senior)
Lucy Krauth

OPEN AWARDS

Crichton Cup (Announced on the day)

W J Watson Prize for Original Research (AH Science)
Adrianna Poziemska

Hector Mclver Memorial prize for Literary Appreciation
Alex Enaholo

MacMillan club Prize (1865) – Dux in English
Alex Enaholo

James Montgomery Bell Memorial prize for the study of Scots Law
Alex Enaholo

William Rutherford Bequest Award for Art
Alia Davies

Mout Scholarship
Aman Akhter

Martin Pearce Family Prize Dux in Business Management
Andrew Bryce

MacKelvie Trophy (1928) Award for Best Piper
Andrew Robertson

The Royal High School PFG Senior Prize (S4-S6) for being an effective contributor to the school community throughout the school year
Angus Walker Stewart

Macgregor Prize (1794) – Dux in Latin
Angus Walker Stewart

Elizabeth Wemyss Prize for Music
Claire Tootill

Sir John Greig Dunbar Prize for Citizenship
Connor Coull

Nicol Prize for Service
Donald Livingston

William Young Memorial Prize – Dux in Classics
Eve Harkness

Dux in Home Economics
Hannah Powrie

The Royal High School (London) Club Prize for an English Poem
Jack Crummey

Sir John Greig Dunbar Prize for Citizenship (Joint)
Lewis Trundle

Bruce Prize – Dux in History
Lindsay McLellan

John Paterson Small Prize for Music (joint)
Marie Dipnarine

William Young Memorial Prize – Dux in RMPS
Melissa Wilson

William Young Memorial Prize – Dux in RMPS
Melissa Wilson

The RHS(London) Club Prize Dux in Art
Roshi Pradhan

Carson Prize (1851) for an English Essay
To Be Announced

Royal High School (London) Club Prize Dux in CDT
Astrid McIntyre

Sir Walter Scott Centenary Prize
Charlie Ashcroft

Nicol Prize for Service
Cian Robertson

Dux in Computing
Ryan Gregson
Steadman Prize for Philosophy
Kuzi Samu

Nicol Prize for Service
Iain Jackson

Neil McCurrach Award for Participation and Enthusiasm to the Full (joint)
Rachel Sunter

Grant Memorial Cup – Dux in Music
Rachel Sunter

Neil McCurrach Award for Participation and Enthusiasm to the Full (joint)
Sam MacLean

Inches Prize Dux in Physics
Sam MacLean

James Scott Bursary (1970)
Sam Maclean

Percy Malcolm Stewart Minor
Kate Hepburn

RHS PFG Prize for Modern Studies
Phoebe Rowe

Percy Malcolm Stewart Median
Phoebe Rowe

Sir David Yule Scholarship
Logan Dow

Inches Prize –Dux in Chemistry
Logan Dow

John Paterson Small Prize for Music (joint)
Ellie Rae

Dr Barclay’s Memorial Prize for Service
Ellie Rae

Nicol Prize for Service
Ross Lowder

Andrew Wilson Prize for Service and Leadership
Ross Lowder

Rector’s Award for service to the School
Megan Aitken

Philip Harris Prize Dux in Biology
Holly Davis

Percy Malcolm Stewart (Major) Dux Proxime
Holly Davis

Sir Alexander Stevenson Prize Proxime to Dux
Holly Davis

Tullis Prize – Dux in Mathematics
Emma Walker

RHS Exhibition -Dux of School
Emma Walker

RHS Club Prize - Dux of School
Emma Walker
MEMBERS OF STAFF – SESSION 2017-8

Rector – Pauline Walker BSc Hons Computer Science (Heriot Watt), PGCE(Edinburgh)

Depute Rectors
Jen Menzies, BEd(MH), MEd(Stirling)
Paul Chambers, MA Hons (Aberdeen), PGCE (Edin)
Kate Fraser MA (Hons) History (Edinburgh), PGCE (Edinburgh), Masters in Education (OU)
Iain Hutchison Bed Hons Physical Education (Edinburgh University)

Business Manager – Kalina Haralampieva, BA Hons Business Management with marketing (Napier University), CMI
Leadership and Management

Art & Design: Sharon Black BA Hons (Edinburgh College of Art), PGCE (Edin), Carol Haley, MA Hons(Edin), PGCE, Julie Howie BA Hons (Robert Gordon), PGCE, Emma Elizabeth Boyd BA (Hons) Art & Design (Edinburgh College of Art), PGDE (Edinburgh University), Julie Abrahams BA (Hons) Illustration and Painting (Edinburgh College of Art), PGDE (Edinburgh)

Biology: Katy Robertson, BSc (Honours) St Andrews and PGDE (Edinburgh), Gillian Kelly BSc Hons (Stirling), PGCE, Gordon Rutter, MSc (Edin), BSc Hons (London), PGCE, Alison Coleman, BSc Hons (St Andrews), PGDE(Aberdeen), Nicki Docherty BSc Hons Biological & Immunology (Strathclyde), PGDE (Strathclyde)

Business Education: Irene KS Brown, Dip Com (Glas Coll of Tech)

Chemistry: Dr Avril Henney, BSc (Hons) (Edin), PhD (Lond), PGCE (Lond), Philip Wootton, BSc Hons, (Glasgow), PGDE (Edin), Dr. Fiona Scott BSc (Hons) St. Andrews, PhD Edinburgh, PGCE (Moray House), Katie Will BSc Hons (Edin), PGDE (Strathclyde)

Computing Science: G Wendy Reith, BSc Computer Science/Stirling, Holly Davidson, BSc Computer Science (Stirling), Gillian Murray BEng Hons Network Systems Engineering (Glasgow Caledonian University), PGDE (Strathclyde, Glasgow), Lesley Russell B.Ed computing Aberdeen University, Dearg Stobie B Eng Electronic Engineering (Southampton), PGCE (Southampton)

Craft, Design and Technology: Ian Stuart, BTechEd Hons (Glasgow), David Allan, DipTechEd, (Moray House), Krysia Smyth, BTechEd Hons (Glasgow), Ashley MacDonald, Emilia Givan, Interior Design, BA Hons, (Edinburgh), PGDE (Edin), Megan Crawford MA Hons Ancient History & Archaeology (St. Andrews), MSc Osteoarchaeology (Edinburgh), Advanced Craft Stonemasonry (Forth Valley, Stirling), PGDE (Strathclyde)

Drama: Suzie Lundy BA Dramatic Studies (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland), PGCE (Goldsmiths), Chartered Teacher (GTCS accreditation), Alan Wilkins, M.A. (Hons) (Glasgow), P.G.C.E (Aberdeen), Ana Costas BA Hons (University of London, Queen Mary & Westfield College), PGCE (Kingston University),

English: Douglas Arbuckle, BA Hons English (Anglia) PGCE, Ailsa Clarke, MA (Hons) Glasgow, PGCE (Edin), Daniel Craig, MA Hons(Edin), PGCE, PGCE, Bernice Ford, MA Hons (Glasgow), PGCE (J’Hill), Martin Moonie, MA(Abd), PhD(Oxford), PGCE, Mollie Skehal, BA Hons (Stirling), PGCE, Helen McLean, PGDE, Alistair Robertson, MA Hons, Andrew Rooney, Kate Hendry, MA English (Glasgow), PhD English (St Andrews), PGDE (Edinburgh), Amy Hogg, Catherine Waterland MA Hons (Aberdeen University) PGCE (Moray House), Jonathan Freinberg MA Hons English, BSc comparative Literature (St. Andrews), PGCE (Edinburgh University)

Geography: Stefania Mariani, MA Hons (Edinburgh), BSc Hons (Stirling), Ashley Fulton, BSc Hons, (Stirling), Liane Hooper, B.Tech (Edin), PGCE (Nottingham), Hannah McGowan MA(Hons) Geography – University of Glasgow

History: Maxine Hughes, Alison Gallagher, MA(Edin), PGCE, Mairi MacDermot, MA (hons) History Glasgow, PGCE(Edinburgh), Evie Morton MA Hons History and English (University of Dundee) PGDE (University of Aberdeen), Karly Zagorac

Home Economics: Kathryn Kelly, BSc Hons (Queen Margaret), PGDE (Strathclyde), Rachel Murphy BSc Hons Nutrition (Queen Margaret), PGDE (Strathclyde)
Mathematics: Alison Underwood, MA Hons, (Aberdeen), PGCE (Open University), Abdallah Serhani BEng(Heriot Watt), PGDE(Edin), Joanne Campbell, BSc, MSc (Aberdeen), PGDE, Isabelle Dupraz B.Sc. Mathematics (UWO), PGDE (Edinburgh), Ryan Dockerty, BSc Hons Mathematics and its Applications (Stirling), PGDE (Strathclyde), Neil Millington, BSc (Hons), PGDE, Andrew Curry B.sc Mathematics (hons) Heriot- Watt University, PGDE, Helen Crow, PhD, BEng Hons Civil & Environmental Engineering (Heriot Watt), PGDE (Edin), Laoise Ward B.Sc mathematics (Glasgow), PGDE (Edin), Heather Harpur BSc (Hons) Pure Mathematics (St Andrews) PGDE (Edinburgh), Gary Laydlaw, Steve MacColl BSc Hons Mathematics (St Andrews), PGDE (Glasgow), Diyana Swingler, Lorna Watson BSc Hons Mathematics (Aberdeen), PGCE(moray House Edinburgh), Dearg Stobie B Eng Electronic Engineering (Southampton), PGCE (Southampton)

Modern Languages: Caroline Welsh, MA Hons (Aberdeen), PgDip (Napier), PGCE(Edin), Clare Landsburgh, LL.B Hons, (Glas), PGCE, Bianca Mariani, BA Hons (Stirling), Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in French with Spanish, PGDE, Franziska Sieger BA (Universitaet Bremen), PGDE (Strathclyde), Beata Figueira BA (Napier), PGDE (Dundee) PGDip in Spanish (Dundee), Stephanie Mitchell BA Hons (Heriot Watt) PGCE PGCG, Youssouf Kassime Masters in contemporary History and Sociology ( university Paul Valery -Montpellier -France), PGCE - French with Spanish (Goldsmiths University - London).

Modern Studies: Gary Snedden, MA(Edin), PGCE, PGDE, Jennifer Reynolds, BA Hons, (Stirling), Bed, (Stirling), Domonic Forbes, M.A Hons(Glasgow), PGDE

Music: Louise Holland, Bed (Hons) Music (Aberdeen), PGDE, Jennifer Lane BEd Mus Hons (RCS), PGDE

Physical Education: Steven F. Raeburn BEd (Hons) Physical Education (Edinburgh), Fiona J MacMillan, Bed(Edin), MSc(Edin), PGDE, Heather Clark, Bed Hons (Edin), Daniel Lane, Bed Hons (Edin), Mark Gair, Bed hons (Edin), Gordon Fraser- MA (Hons) Physical Education (University of Edinburgh), Lucy Kirkwood, Mark Naysmith, Bed hons Physical Education (Edinburgh Uni), Holly MacKay

Physics: Stephen A Bakke, BSc(Lon), PGCE, Ricky Thorbjornsen BSc (Edinburgh), PGCE (Edinburgh), Callum Ferguson, BSc (Hons) Physics (St Andrews), PGDE (Edin), Kenneth Hodge BSc Science Studies (Strathclyde) PGDE (Strathclyde)

Religious and Moral Education: Sebastian C Sewell, MTh (St Andrews), PGCE, Alexandra Lockhart, Meghan Brady-McDonald BA Honours History (Laurentian), BA Religious Studies (Laurentian), PGDE(S) (Strath), PGCert Inclusive Education (Edin)

Support for Learning: Deborah Hislop, BEd Technology (Edin), Ben Davenport, Adam Reed: Bsc (Hons), Heriot-Watt University, PGDE (Edin)

Support for Pupils: Iain Welsh, BA Hons, PGCE, Scott Rodger BEd Hons (Edin), PGC (Aberd), Hannah Sim MA Hons (Glasgow), PGDE (Edin), Robert Watson BSc(Hons) Sports Science & Physiology (Glasgow), PGCE (Edinburgh), Nicola Casey, BSc(Hons) Pharmacology (Edin), PGCE (Newcastle), Jane Saddler

Careers Adviser: Jen O’Neill

Librarian: Stephen Shiels BSc(Hons) Geography (Glasgow), PGDip (Strathclyde), MCLIP

Administrative Staff: Shirley Duncan, Diane Aitken, Lorraine Lorraine, Clare Low, Karen Reilly

School Support Assistants: Jill Hunter, Audrey Pannozzo, Lindsay Quinn, Margaret Scott, Elizabeth Sneddon, Lindsay Howard, Rob Herriott

Pupil Support Assistants (SFL): Elaine Berry, Elizabeth Ivinson, Julie McKeever, Marian Wootton, Jasmine Ryan, Calvin Muttit, Shaunie Hamilton, Miriam Shahzad, Karen Sloan

CEC Instrumental Music Staff

Guitar - Gordon Ferries - BA Music Studies (Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama)
ALCM (Napier University) LLCM (Napier University), Brass – Gareth Ross. Woodwind – John Lamb, Piano and Keyboard – Suzanne Senior - ALCM (Piano performance diploma), LGSM (Piano teaching diploma), Percussion & Drumming – Hazel Morrison - BA Musical Studies (Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama) with endorsement

**Pupil Support Officer (PSO):** Joanna Withers

**Sports Coordinator:** Matthew McLachlan

**Community Police Officer:** PC Gillian Young

**Senior Service Support Officer:** Mark Gilchrist

**Service Support Officers:** Stevie Burns, Norrie Christie, Darren McKee

**Senior Technician:** John Stables

**ICT Technician:** Lindsay Miller

**Laboratory Technicians:** Helen Westfield, Tamara Rafferty

**Workshop Technician:** Kevin McQueen

**Catering Supervisor:** Vacancy
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!
The Royal High School

Annual Report
Introduction

Rectors Annual Report, 2018/9 Session

As the 2018/9 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 have had a session packed with events, trips and many pupil successes and I hope you enjoy reading about them in our annual report. Our young people demonstrate what is very best about the youth of today through their participation and generosity in fundraising and volunteering along with the outstanding way they represent themselves in all events.

Our leavers today have been a wonderful group who have been a real pleasure to work with. They have represented us brilliantly in a whole variety of ways. Many matches, games, debates and more have been won and lost and they have been gracious winners and magnanimous losers across it all. They have been very ably led by our Captain Megan Aitken and the Vice Captains Ross Lowder and Ellie Rae as well as our Nation Teams. Their work around the school has been tremendous and has been a huge support to us all.

This has been a momentous anniversary year for the school – 50 years on our Barnton site and 890 years old! The whole school community have had a wonderful year making our own mark in history through our whole school anniversary photo, newly dedicated remembrance plaques, sponsored walk, Gala dinner and Gala concert. A whole year of memories now part of our school histories.

We began the year with very positive SQA results. Standards of attainment continue to be very good and compare very well with results in Edinburgh and across Scotland. We continue to evaluate attainment to seek ways in which pupils can be supported to achieve their best.

In S1-3 students have made very good progress in their Curriculum for Excellence courses. The majority of students in S1, 2 are currently judged to be working well within their learning within Level 3 in all subjects. In S3 most students are working within level 4 and this leads to the majority presenting within National 5 in S4.

Our results at the end of S4 continue to be very good. Within National 5 level, 71% of learners achieved at least 5 passes. This demonstrates a very high level of attainment within our S4.

We also continue to have very good results within our senior school. 83% of learners gained at least 1 Higher award by the end of S5 and 70% of learners gained at least 3 Higher awards by the end of S5. 39% of learners gained 5 Higher awards by the end of S5.

65% of learners leave at the end of S6 with 5 or more awards at Higher. 94% of learners leave at the end of S6 with at least one award at Higher. 51% of learners gained at least 1 Advanced Higher award by the end of S6.

A number of departments demonstrated excellent attainment and the majority of our departments outperformed comparators and national performance at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher level.

We work hard to promote an ethos of achievement across our senior school and almost all students responded very well to this challenge. These students have been well rewarded and the number of our leavers moving on to Further and Higher Education continues to increase. We have also opened up a wider number of academic and vocational options for all students. Our tracking scheme is embedded across S1-6 and ensures all students know exactly what they are currently working towards, currently working at and what strategies they need to employ to ensure success.

Positive destinations after school are very strong. Almost all young people who left in the 2017/8 session are currently in sustained positive destinations. Our school leaver numbers entering further or higher education, employment or training continue to be very strong, with sustained positive destination figures of 97%. More than 50% of our leavers move on to Higher Education.

Wider achievement also continues to be an area of strength, with pupils being presented for a wide range of vocational and volunteering awards, as well as engaging with programmes such as JET (Jobs, Education and Training), Foundation Apprenticeships, Career Academies and the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative.

We have a strong model to facilitate pupil voice and this in an integral part of our school improvement. Our Nation Councils and Pupil Parliament meet regularly and feedback to Senior Management Team. Plans for changes are created collegiately and this is fed back to the whole school. One of these has been to implement a new Mental Health strategy across the school which has been very well received. This includes 65 staff and 45 pupil ambassadors trained in Mental Health First Aid, new inputs in to our PSE program, a new mental health drop in hub, a pupil text line to seek support and the appointment of a CAHMS trained Pupil Support Officer.
We continue to lead the way nationally in our ICT provision and all our pupils are now equipped with iPad devices which they use both in school and at home. This initiative allows us to give our pupils access to the most innovative and relevant materials to support learning and we continue to develop their use across the school. We continue to expand the use of digital learning across our curriculum including making use of new and innovative devices in subjects such as Science and Geography. This equips our young people with skills for the future and the ability to make the best use of range of devices and data sources. The school was recognised for their work in ICT this session by being awarded the Education Scotland Digital Schools award and also the Cyber Security and Internet Safety award.

Parents are key partners in the school and we continue to involve them fully. We have a very active Parent Council who give us great support throughout the year in numerous ways including responding to local and national consultations. This year the Parent Council have contributed to the national Governance Review, the Review of Fair Funding and the governments review on Presumption to Mainstream. This gives us and our parents a strong voice in the local and national issues impacting Education.

The Royal High School Parent Fundraising Group also went from strength to strength. They had a very successful fundraising year with more than £2500 raised across a variety of events for school funds. This has enabled us to buy valuable additional resources for all our subjects and details of this are in their section in the Annual Report.

We also believe in keeping parents well informed and our email bulletin continues to be 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 continue to make use of our website www.royalhigh.edin.sch.uk and a Twitter feed @Royal_High_Sch both of which we use to share news and events. This is all consolidated in our parent app which keeps parents up to date with all our methods of communication – Secondary School App

Our wider curriculum is thriving 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 competitive successes this year in areas such as numerous sports, debating, film, dance, music, chess and arts. Our hugely talented pupils continue to demonstrate the skills they have developed and are a credit to the school.

We provide a wide variety of opportunities for our pupils including residential trips. These include a very successful German exchange, a trip to Vienna for our language students a very enjoyable ski trip to France in March. Our Romanian Habitat for Humanity trip will also take place this term and we hope to make a huge difference to the lives of those who will benefit.

We also planned an action-packed Activities Week in May. Our S1 pupils travelled to Belmont Outdoor Centre for a week of outdoor education and gained many fantastic memories. Over a 100 of our S3 pupils travelled to the Belgian WW1 battlefields for a real life-changing experience. Our S2 & S3 students remaining 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! All our trips create wonderful, long-lasting 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 and I am very grateful for the time and effort they put in to these opportunities.

One of the rich elements of our school is our strong links with our Former Pupils. Both the Edinburgh and London clubs work very closely with the school and support us in many ways including attending our events and services, providing work experience, giving inspirational talks and mentoring. Our School and Nation Captains again attended their annual dinners with the School Captain, Megan Aitken, giving an excellent after-dinner speech on her captaincy. We are very lucky to have such successful links and we are always looking for ways to develop these further.

We continue to embrace our traditions and histories as well as providing innovative learning for our young people. I would like to thank our staff for their work, energy and commitment and all our many partners, parents and carers who all make The Royal High School such a special place.

Viva Schola Regia
Pauline A. Walker
Art Department

Local Community Friends of D’main’s Park.
This year we did a project with friends of D’Mains Park to take account of the local community. Student Neamh Connachan designed an image which students from across the school have painted on the large scale storage container in D’ mains park. Student’s painted this on their Monday holidays!

Competitions
We entered Art students into the yearly Christmas Winter Windows competition run by Edinburgh Council. Sophie Glancy was one of the winners this year to have her design made into a winter window and displayed for the public.
In S2 Live design briefs within our Creative Industries course were delivered by, Urban Creatures who challenged S2 to design and build a space/building for teenagers to use. Students enjoyed listening to the career pathways of Urban Creatures and participating in the architecture project. Eilidh MacRury 2A1 won the competition with her wave design!

Film Stars!
Congratulations, to a group of S3 students who were filmed for Art uk at the National Gallery of Modern Art. Isla Mackie took the lead presenting role, discussing a piece of work by Salvador Dali. The film will be available as an educational resource for schools.

Fashion Show
As part of an Expressive Arts Showcase students fashion work was displayed on the catwalk. The Art Department would like to thank George Devine Upholstery, Easter Rd, for his generous donations of fabric which has been put to good use by our Fashion and Textile students.

Art Auction This year students from our Creative Industries classes created art work to auction off. Students and teachers were invited to submit work. The funds raised will be divided between the Maggies Centre and Art Department.

Photography
Some of our photography pupils, from S1 to S6, entered the Rotary Young Photographer of the Year 2019 competition as part of their coursework. The topic was ‘The Beauty of Nature’. The following winners were selected to go into the regional round of judging. Senior Category (14 - 17 years old) 1st Place Kate Allen S4, 2nd place Cara Cloete S4 Intermediate category (11 - 13 years old) 1st place Fearne Halcrow S3, 2nd place Jemma Lindsay S1. Kate Allen S4, was the winner of the South of Scotland and her work is now being judged in the National uk and Ireland Finals!! This is one of her winning images on the right.

Leith School of Art Outreach Program
This year S5-Faith Gwasira, S5-Stella Johnston, S4-Paulina Bysiak and S5-Molly Smart attended every Friday afternoon, Leith School of Art. The students were taught by an Artist each week building their confidence and art skills. All students completed the course, with each of them creating a portfolio of work to use for future progression pathways. Further success was achieved by Molly Smart, who was awarded a free scholarship to attend the LSA Foundation Course for 2019-20.

Positive Destinations
Our Advanced Higher Art students continue to achieve positive destinations within the Creative Arts. Kathryn Brown- Fashion & Costume, Textile Construction @ Galashields, Alia Davies- Literature & Fine Art @ Edinburgh College of Art, Astryd McIntyre- Architecture @ Strathclyde, Holly NG- Architecture @ Strathclyde, Lewis Vettiriano- Architecture @ Strathclyde, Roshi Prada- Foundation course @ Edinburgh College, Cole Lambert- Fine Art @ Edinburgh College, Catherine Clark- Foundation course @ Dundee

Annual Careers event: We have a selection of speakers from the Creative industries that we get to share their careers and pathways with students. A special thank you to Rachel Scott Couture, (Wedding retailer) Emily Hogarth (Graphic Designer) and Urban Creatures (Architects) for giving up their time to work with the staff and students in the Art Department. The success of students is promoted on the royalthighschoolart Instagram page. Please follow us.
Business Education

In September we said goodbye to Mrs Yvonne Dagnall who has been a valuable member of the department particularly bringing her accounting knowledge. This session has had Mrs Brown taking the lead in all aspects of Business.

June saw a visit to the Royal Highland Show with the N5 Business class. A great day out to see first-hand, the business of farming and to find out about the advances made in the woodlands in Scotland, from the Forestry Commission in the RHET Education Centre. Craigie’s Farm also showed us some of the work experience offered to young people who were interested in working on a farm and the big advantage for us is that it is a local business. We were also fortunate to meet up with the Marketing Manager of Paterson Arran – famous for their shortbread, Jonathan Guild – a former pupil at the school who excelled in Business Management and Accounting and who is doing a great job (according to his boss!) This is also a local business, with their factory in Livingston, further highlighting the fact that Scotland is more than tartan and haggis.

August was the time for our Higher Business pupils to meet up with their peers at the Business Management Live Conference at Napier University. This was hopefully the start of an annual event in the city, involving all the Higher Business pupils from all 23 secondary schools. Pupils heard talks from a variety of speakers – Aldi, Forth 1, Basketball Scotland, Digital Marketing and Facebook Ads Guy. During the workshops we were teamed up with Holyrood High School, working on a marketing task and pupils were encouraged to contribute to the day’s discussion on twitter.

One of the S3 Business classes were so moved by the devastation in Indonesia in October that they decided to launch their own appeal. They organised and collected the whole thing and were able to send off a cheque for £1,050.

Computing

This year we welcomed in October Mr Dearg Stobie and Miss Lesley Russell to cover Miss Holly Davidson maternity leave, both of them were invaluable and brought in lots of new ideas. Further staffing news was Miss Gillian Murray becoming dual qualified in Mathematics and Mr Dearg Stobie becoming dual qualified in Computing, bringing life long learning into the department – remember in Computing you never stop learning.

There have been several opportunities for learners to take their skills out with the classroom and develop skills in team work, finding out about employment, developing attitudes and behaviours needed for success in life and work discovering that computing is not just coding.

Digital day – Grant Whiteside of DAC
S3 pupils were split into groups to produce solutions to problems and present their findings in the school Hall.

At the beginning of March the whole of S2 were involved in a digital explorers activity.

The annual S1 Christmas fare was again a great success and all of the S1 enjoyed showing off and selling their goods. They learnt a lot about team work and time management.
In September, 5 groups of 16 pupils were transported to Easter Road to take part in a STEM event looking at skills required for the work place. The pupils completed several challenges and took part in discussion on the soft skills needed for the workplace.

Six pupils attended an event at Moray House on ‘Big data’ and imagined ‘Data Town’ to learn about the impact of Data on the lives of individuals and the community.

Four S6 pupils completed their Interdisciplinary Project. Three of them created a website for friends of Cammo (https://www.friendsofcammo.org/) working with the local community.

CDT
It’s been a year of changes for the Craft Design and Technology Dept., with one constant, apart from a new hip this year, Mr Allan has been in the Royal High School for 30 years. This photo is from his early days and if I am honest, he is recognisable. He has encouraged, cajoled, directed, joked with, as well as been a positive influence on a lot of young people in that time. The main thing that has impressed me about Mr Allan is how he remembers everyone. I am sure past pupils have their own Mr Allan stories. ‘The time when’, or ‘do you remember when’ moments. A huge well done to one of the main stays of not only CDT but the whole school community.

Other changes have been Mrs Macdonald off on Maternity leave and she has decided to move back to her family roots in Inverness. Her classes were covered very well by probationer teacher Miss Crawford for the year. Miss Crawford as done very well and is taking up a post in Liberton High School. Mrs Smyth as moved on and is missed greatly. I am also new, though definitely not fresh faced, having started in the fantastic school community in August. Changes moving forward are, a new member of the department starting in August. A warm welcome to Mr Hanney coming from Edinburgh Academy. This means that the team are now Mr Allan, Mrs Givan, Mr Stuart, Mr Hanney and another teacher who is being recruited. Exciting times moving forward.

One major project that has happened this year was the Daydream Believers pilot https://daydreambelievers.co.uk/ This amazing project is from Edinburgh College and is aimed at encouraging Creativity and Critical thinking. Mrs Givan worked with the Amazerealise Digital Agency https://www.amazerealise.com/ to inspire the S2’s into becoming more creative.

The outcomes were truly amazing and the feedback from the pupils was excellent. The dept. has continued to work with Daydream Believers in rolling out wider from this Pilot. Leading the way in creativity and Critical Thinking.

The other exciting news is the development of the Design Engineer Construct course into the full senior phase course. This is a course which gives strong foundations for understanding the built environment. For more details see https://designengineerconstruct.com/

English and Media Studies
The Faculty continued to see very good results this year in formal SQA exams at all levels. We not only presented more candidates for N5 and Higher English than any school in the Authority but also a significantly higher proportion of these year group cohorts sat formal exams than at any other school too. This reflects our aspirational outlook and something we are rightly very proud of. I would like to thank the teachers in the Faculty and our Classroom Assistant for their exemplary commitment, skill and enthusiasm.

We saw Mollie Skehal retire earlier this year – we were all sad to see her go but also excited for her. Mollie has given so much of herself to so many students over the years and was an incredibly skilled, knowledgeable and generous teacher. We have welcomed back the effervescent Ms Hogg to the fold, helped the innovative Jonathan Freinberg
through his Probation year (thanks to Alistair for mentoring) and been lucky enough to gain all the expertise and enthusiasm of Kit Waterland, who has been a breath of fresh air.

Debating Club goes from strength to strength, with a number of notable successes this year. The club is thriving, and thanks go to Helen McLean and Domonic Forbes for giving up so much of their time to inspire them. Highlights of the year include a fantastic Euro-themed trip down to Liverpool, to take part in the EYP Autumn Nationals in Liverpool. It’s a huge achievement to reach this level – especially to debate as well as they did AND perform an ABBA showstopper and provide a pop-up Swedish food stall! Throughout the rest of the year, pupils got the chance to see the House of Lords Debate, compete in the mini-trials, Procurator Fiscal public speaking competitions, Donald Dewar debating tournament and the annual English Speaking Union events.

Members of the Book Club have been shadowing the judges of the Carnegie Awards. They have been reading the 8 short-listed books, writing reviews and compiling quizzes. Their vote goes to ‘Bone Talk’ by Candy Gourlay. The winner of this year’s prize will be announced at the end of June. Earlier in the year, pupils also read and discussed the short-listed titles on the Scottish Teenage Book Prize.

The Creative Writing Group, which meets on Tuesdays after school, have been working on poems which they will submit to the Foyle's Young Poet of the Year Competition. Early on in the year, Rachel Cronin won the Herald Young Critics Award for a review at the Edinburgh International Festival. The new Advanced Higher will be involved this year, reviewing Oedipus Rex. Harriet Sweatman won the Scottish Literary Review's Young Writer of the Year – the most prestigious writing prize in the country – and Rachel Cronin was shortlisted. Harriet has gone on to have several articles published in The Scotsman newspaper.

Star Wars and Comic Book Film Clubs continue to thrive, providing a place to enjoy a love of genre-specific cinema and media. Discussions about the various merits of particular superheroes can get quite heated, apparently.

Media is now available as a course choice in S3 and we are hoping this translates into a decent uptake of National 5 in S4. There are various trips arranged around Media, including the Higher trip to the EIFF again this year, a filmmaking course for Seniors and some of our S2 heading out to the Sky Academy on a trip that we hope becomes an established link up. In the past year, we have been looking for opportunities to link more with the world of work and part of this has been to see how we can adapt both current and previous curricula to help young people make more explicit links between literacy/communication skills and careers.

Learning and Teaching continues to be the main developmental focus, with a particular focus in revamping the BGE this past year. Looking forward, we would like to review our work on promoting reading for enjoyment and continue to improve our use of ICT. We have come a long way regarding ICT and all of our classes now use ClassNotebooks and various other tools. We have had training on other Microsoft tools we aim to take forward, including Teams. Immersive reader and other iPad tools look to have exciting possibilities for young people’s Literacy so we are determined to build on what we’ve learnt this year to deliver training for young people and parents/carers.

The Faculty has provided formal support with revision classes after school and during the February and Easter breaks. We continue to offer online support to Senior Classes and also benefit from a number of teachers marking examinations for the SQA at all levels. This provides invaluable insight that is passed on to our students.

We look forward to a good set of results in August and another successful year.

Geography, RMPS and Classical Studies

2018-2019 has been a busy and very enjoyable year for the Faculty of Geography, RMPS and Classical Studies. Staffing this session saw Ms Stefania Mariani continue as Curriculum Leader, Mrs Ashley Fulton and Ms Liane Hooper as teachers of Geography, Ms Meghan Brady-McDonald and Ms Alexandra Lockhart as teachers of RMPS and Mr Sebastian Sewell as teacher of Classical Studies and RMPS. Mrs Fulton returned from maternity leave mid-session after the birth of her daughter.
Geography

In Geography pupils experienced lots of outdoor learning opportunities which have enriched what they have learned in the classroom.

A giant land snail from the equatorial rainforest.

This was part of the S2 rainforest unit. Getting ‘hands on’ with the creatures that are adapted to live in the rainforest. This event brought depth to their learning and pupils thoroughly enjoyed meeting the creatures.

The S3 Scottish Studies’ Academy had a trip out to Holyrood Park. Led by Historic Scotland’s rangers, the pupils were shown the evidence that the Park had been through enormous changes. From being a huge active volcano, to a lake then covered in ice, to the lush urban oasis it is today.

Using our digital resources was important to us. The S3s experimented with presenting their concerns and understanding about the climate emergency using various applications. A very interesting way to improve communication and collaborative learning.

In May we took the S3 geographers to Loch Lomond. They spent the day with the National Park rangers and learned about land use in rural areas, along with land use conflicts. It was a glorious day and the pupils now have a greater understanding of these issues. This helped when they sat their Prelim and final national exams as land use conflicts are an integral part of the assessment.

Higher pupils enjoyed a residential trip to Kindrogan Field Centre. This was an invaluable opportunity for the pupils to complete their field work for the SQA assignments and become physical Geographers for the weekend!

Classical Studies

This year has seen Classical Studies continue to grow, we had over 60 students choose the subject at higher for the first time, with nearly 50 being presented. We were delighted with the implementation of BGE Classical Studies for the first time, and the incredible uptake of nearly 30 students in S3. The subject continues to push the envelope of digital teaching and learning, implanting a comprehensive package of completely new digitally interactive resources, on top of a digital assessment and feedback structure, allow students more access than ever to understanding their progression.
Classics club continues to draw lots of students who are an enthusiastic group who love to explore aspects of the Ancient world. One of our students Sofia Barron this year won a national competition from St Andrews University based upon any aspect of the ancient world. Sofia will collect her prize shortly, and her essay is to be used as an example for next year’s competition.

Going forward Classical Studies now has the most students numerically it ever has, it continues to further embed itself in the school curriculum. Our exam results were extremely positive setting the standard for both Edinburgh as a whole and coming in well above the national average.

RMPS
This year in RMPS pupils had the opportunity to engage in a variety of guest speakers and workshops to enhance their experience within the subject. This included a Yoga workshop which linked in with S1 Hinduism Unit, here pupils were able to try yoga for the first time to learn mindfulness through exercise. Pupils of all year groups took part in an assembly about community and service in action provided by Mr D. Singh a member of the Edinburgh Gwarda. Mr Singh outlined the impact of community service within the Sikh faith and how it contributed to building a positive community for all and encouraged pupils to think of how they could contribute to their own communities. The National 5 and Higher RMPS classes took part in a workshop with Zoo Lab to enhance their understanding of adaptation in relation to their study of the arguments of Evolution and Universal within the Origins units of the course.

Overall this year has been a successful year in raising attainment and engaging pupils in our subjects. We look forward to the year ahead!

Health and Wellbeing
The Health and Wellbeing Faculty begun the year on positive note with another set of excellent SQA results. With uptake for HE and PE courses on a positive trend, we have focused our teaching and learning on positive and engaging starts to lessons, which can be challenging in a practical setting. All staff completed our Mental Health First Aid training alongside Racism and Equality training delivered by Show Racism The Red Card.

New S1 Health and Wellbeing Course
Numbers continue to rise in the Health and Wellbeing Faculty. One of the most exciting and rewarding additions to the faculty this year has been the inclusion of s1 Health and Wellbeing. This is a dedicated block for s1 pupils to learn about recognising, developing and supporting each other’s mental, emotional and physical health. This has provided an opportunity for PE and HE to collaborate and create a meaningful course which allowed pupils to pause, reflect and focus on their own personal health.

Practical Accreditation in Core PE
Building on the variety of pathways now available in HWB, our Dance, Football, Rugby and Sports Leader Qualifications continued to offer pupils an enriching experience which provides a key insight into the skills required to pursue careers in these fields. One further area of success saw the awarding on Performance Units in Core PE time. A large number of pupils who show practical competence in a range of sports across the year in Core PE have managed to secure a level 5 or level 6 Practical Performance Unit for the first time. This development has provided pupils with the chance to get accreditation for their sporting ability whilst retaining the practical nature of the Core PE subject.

New Sports Development Course
Our longstanding Sports Leadership course continues to provide aspiring coaches and leaders with key experiences in local Primary Schools, clubs and junior classes. Whilst retaining these opportunities, 2019/20 will see the inclusion of a level 6 National Progression Award in Sports Development. This new course will provide a foundation of knowledge for the growing number of pupils entering into further study in the fields of Sport Studies, Events and Business.

Hospitality
Hospitality has gone from strength to strength this year with record numbers selecting the subject to study in 2019/20. The continued success of the baking club alongside strengthened partnerships, exciting content and regular practical sessions has inspired pupils into positive destinations in the hospitality industry. Plans are in place for a new dedicated bakery course and a partnership with Edinburgh College.
**Events**
The Wider Achievement Ceremony took place on Thursday 6\(^{th}\) June and once again proved itself to be a real highlight of the year. The event took on a refreshed format this year with performances, videos, lighting and music adding more entertainment and celebration on the night. We were once again astounded by the wider achievements of our youngsters and were treated to a guest speech from Scottish Hockey player Becky Merchant. Becky offered advice on how to recover from setbacks and drew upon a wealth of experience with over 150 caps for Scotland. We were also delighted to accept our Gold School Sport Award from Sport Scotland this year, presented at the 50\(^{th}\) Anniversary concert. This is a testament to the work of all pupils, staff and parents at Royal High and a fitting reward for the work of Active Schools Coordinator Matthew McLachlan and his team.

**Staffing**
Tasked with maintaining the high standards of recent years were a number of new staff including probationer Gordon Fraser, PE and Dance teacher Lucy Kirkwood and PE teachers Mark Naysmith and Holly Mackay. There was also a change in the Curricular Leader position which saw Mark Gair step up to an acting role to cover for Steven Raeburn. We have had a number of student teachers with us over the course of the year, Mr Gray, Miss Hadjitofi and Miss Carnie and have enjoyed supporting them on their pathway to becoming teachers. We say farewell to Mr Fraser who has been an exceptional probationary teacher in the PE department and wish him well as he moves onto Albyn School in Aberdeen. We also wish a fond farewell to Mr Naysmith and Miss Kirkwood who joined the team this year to cover for Mr Raeburn and Miss MacMillan who we look forward to working with again in August.

**Extra-Curricular Sports**
The extra-curricular program continues to grow with increased numbers of participation in the majority of clubs. This year, particular progression has been noted within the basketball, water-polo and athletics clubs alongside newly formed clubs – fencing and gymnastics. The Community Sports Hub has continued to provide great links and partnership opportunities with local clubs. This has provided the opportunity for pupils to attend sport clubs out with the school extra-curricular program, creating a great development pathway in activities like cricket and tennis. Sports that were in the development stage last year including Netball, Volleyball and Triathlon become popular and well-established clubs this year.

**Rugby Academy**

**Background:**
Session 2018/2019 has been the first year of the newly modelled ‘RHS Rugby Academy’. This change was implemented to ‘professionalise’ how we deliver co-curricular rugby here at The Royal High School. Mr Stevie Leckie remains in place as ‘Head of Rugby’ and he deals with all rugby matters and Mr Iain Welsh is the lead in school and looks after the strategic and academic side of the Academy. Our Academy is open to all and fully inclusive. Our key goal is to use rugby as a way of helping young people develop skills that they will find useful in life and work post school.

**What we did – off the pitch!**
This year we rolled out and delivered our first Senior Academy programme. This was open to S4-S6 pupils and they opted into this initiative by selecting it as one their subjects for the academic year. This programme looked at developing the boys knowledge & understanding of rugby, strength & conditioning, nutrition, rugby officiating and rugby coaching. This programme was delivered in partnership with Dynamic Sports. In addition to this we also entered into partnership with Borders College and put our 10 pupils through their Aspiring Performers Programme (APP).
What we delivered – on the pitch!
We successfully fielded sides at S1, S2, S3, U16 and U18. In addition to this we sent our girls side to two development events during the season which was a massively positive step forward for the Academy.
In total these teams played 110 fixtures this season.
In addition to this our U18 side entered the National Cup but were unfortunately beaten in the first round. However, our U16 side, although beaten in the early stages of the National Cup, went on to win the National Bowl 49-10 against South Argyll Schools at Murrayfield.
Our co-curricular programme delivered 2 timetabled blocks of rugby for all boy’s teams. This was delivered through either Academy sessions (S1-S3) or Core rugby (S4-S6) blocks. S1 and S2 girls were able to opt into one timetabled block of rugby.
Alongside our school day Academy blocks, each side also had additional training sessions after school on Tuesday and Thursday.
This year also saw the first cohort of S4-S6 pupils sign up to our ‘Senior Rugby Academy’. This group had opted to be part of this initiative by selecting ‘Senior Rugby Academy’ as a course choice option. 10 boys selected this option and received 4-6 blocks of rugby per week.
In order provide our players as wide an experience of as possible the Academy launched a partnership with ‘Dynamic Sports’. This partnership offered all players the opportunity to access Strength & Conditioning sessions and help and advice on nutrition. 15 players have so far signed up to this initiative and pay £20 per month, receiving additional sessions per week.

Elite Performance:
This year was an exceptional year with regards to the number of our players being selected for representative honours. This is a key sign that our rugby provision is successfully developing athletes capable of meeting the standard required to perform well at national and international level.
Below is a breakdown of the players who were selected at regional and national level this year:
Regional:
U16 x 3 boys selected for the Edinburgh U16 Pathways squad.
U18 x 3 boys selected for the Edinburgh U18 Pathways squad.
National:
Two U18 boys were offered and accepted a Stage 2 place at the Scottish Rugby’s FOSROC Rugby Academy.
U18 x 1 boy selected for the Scotland U18 squad that took part in this year U18 Six Nations Championship.

What our Academy pupils achieved this year:
10 x pupils completed UKCC Level 1 Coaching: Rugby*
10 x pupils completed Level 1 Refereeing
10 x pupils completed (SQA Level 5) Sporting Activity: Participation & Performance*
10 x pupils completed (SQA Level 5) Exercise & Fitness: Circuit Training*
10 x pupils completed (SQA Level 5) Exercise & Fitness: Resistance Training*
(* Pupils who complete these courses are eligible for tariff points)
Our Senior Academy pupils honed their coaching skills at our local cluster primary schools. This has been invaluable experience for them and has also helped further enhance our positive relationship with our cluster primaries.

Pitch-side First-Aid Initiative:
A key principle of our Academy is to ensure player safety is at the forefront of everything that we do. Therefore, to reinforce this and provide support to our coaches and parent helpers, we launched the ‘Pitch-side First Aid’ initiative. This saw 10 senior pupils, who are thinking of pursuing a career in Healthcare, receive training in ‘Pitch-side First Aid’ here in school. This was delivered by members of Scottish Rugby’s training team.
Pupils were on hand on a Saturday morning to deliver ‘first-responder’ first aid to players. With their ‘High-Vis’ jackets and medical bags they were a welcome addition to the Academy team and their presence was well received by players, coaches and parents.
Impact – pupil and parent feedback:

Aside from the success on the pitch and in the classroom, it was necessary to gain an understanding of pupil and parents/carers perception of the Academy. To do this feedback was sought through a FORMS questionnaire. Below is a breakdown of that feedback:

**Pupils:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>100% of responders said</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you enjoy being part of the Rugby Academy?</td>
<td></td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you feel you have improved as a player?</td>
<td></td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate your overall experience of the RHS Rugby Academy this season. (1 =Poor to 5 = Excellent)</td>
<td>Average response was</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Parents/Carers:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>100% of responders said</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is your overall perception of our Rugby Academy?</td>
<td></td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you feel that being part of the RHS Rugby Academy has had a positive impact on your young person?</td>
<td>92% of responders said</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8% of responders said</td>
<td>NOT SURE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Next steps/Challenges for 2019/20:**

- **Next step** - Strengthen further our partnership with Borders College. This will be done by delivering a SQA Level 4 qualification to our S3 Academy pupils and delivering a SQA Level 6 qualification to the S5 and S6 pupils who completed the Level 5 APP this year.
- **Next step** - Leadership of ‘Pitch-side’ First Aid initiative will be given over to two S6 pupils, with background support provided by Mr Welsh / Mr Leckie. Training of 6 new volunteers will take place in June, with a view to them being in place to assist at the first fixtures in August.
- **Next step** - planning for the S4-S6 Canada Tour in June 2020 will continue (Mr Arbuckle).
- **Next step** - strengthening the relationship between the school and Royal High Rugby. (Mr Welsh)
- **Challenge** – outstanding H&S certificates means that accessing and using the clubhouse for classroom & circuit sessions isn’t currently allowed.

**Football Academy:**

S1 - The u13s have had a very successful season, winning the Edinburgh A league in a closely fought league campaign. The team also made it to the semi-final of the Lothian cup - being knocked out by eventual winners, Currie HS. We welcomed PSA Calvin Muttit to the coaching team alongside senior pupils Joe Tait and Callum Yeats. The s1 player of the year was Lewis Harrison

S2 - After becoming the first Royal High s1 team the win the Edinburgh A league since 1988, the squad moved into s2 and didn't disappoint. They won the u14 A league championship winning every game along the way to complete the double. Thanks to Mr Gair and Kevin Ogg for taking the team. The s2 player of the year was Leo Murray.

S3 - The under 15s had a solid season, finishing 3rd in the A league and reaching the semi-finals of the Lothian Cup. Keir Foster, Shaun Azam and Rui Black made it into the Edinburgh u15 Select Squad. Thanks to Peter Halton and Barry Foster for taking the team. The s3 player of the year was Keir Foster.

Senior - The seniors had a tremendous season, narrowly missing out on the 20 team Lothian League by 2 points in the final week of the season, securing a second placed finish behind Lasswade. The boys however went on to win the Lothian Cup beating George Heriots 4-1 in the final becoming only the second ever Royal High team to win it in it's long history. We were also pleased to see Lewis McCann and Callum Yeats sign professional contracts with Hibs and Dunfermline respectively. The senior player of the year was Rory Campbell.
History
The History department has had a very busy year. The team was joined by Ms Evie Morton in August as she embarked on her Probationer year in the RHS History department. She has worked very hard for our pupils, bringing learning to life and making history accessible for all. Mrs Mairi MacDermot was seconded to the Edinburgh Learns team in December where she is part of developing exciting Professional Learning opportunities for teachers across the authority. We still collaborate with her regularly and enjoy developing key strategies to help improve teaching and learning together. Ms Karly Zagorac has replaced Mrs MacDermot for the duration of her secondment and has fitted into the department well. Mrs Gallagher will start her maternity leave when the summer term ends – we are so excited to hear her news!

Mrs Hughes has led a very successful Lessons From Auschwitz project in her role as educator for the Holocaust Education Trust and our two successful participants from RHS were privileged to be part of the reflections for Holocaust Memorial Day in January. They ably delivered a series of reflective assemblies to pupils from S1-S6. Mrs Hughes and Mrs Mitchell from Modern Languages continued an exploration of culture through the yearly German exchange with pupils from both RHS and the Ludwig Frank Gymnasium in Mannheim making long lasting friendships. We were lucky to explore Germany in the run up to Christmas and just had to participate in the Christmas Market culture! On the return leg, the Germans were impressed by the wonderful weather we had in Scotland that week – we did our best to convince them that it is always like this! An exceptional learning experience for the pupils and families which took part.

Modern Studies 18-19
The 2018/2019 session has been very busy in Modern Studies. The department continues to have a very high uptake with pupils enjoying the exploration of current affairs, especially in such interesting political times. Mrs Reynolds has accepted a teaching post at George Heriots and will be leaving us in the summer. She has been a valued member of the Royal High School for 8 years and her commitment and dedication to her pupils has been outstanding – there were tears when she told pupils and staff she would not be returning in August! The department and pupils would like to take the opportunity to thank Mrs Reynolds for her hours of tireless dedication to updating notes, countless revision sessions, warm memories on trips and finally for her commitment to teaching. She will be greatly missed. The Modern Studies department has continued to develop its partnerships beyond the school gate. This year Mrs Reynolds took the lead on organising and liaising with Street Law this allowed our S3 pupils to experience sessions delivered by University Law students. Mr Forbes was also able to offer pupils the opportunity to engage in a Maths and political science event hosted by the Qualitive Research Methods department at the University of Edinburgh. The department has also actively engaged with the lecture series offered by the University of Edinburgh sending a record number of pupils to lectures on a range of issues from American politics to the changing face of modern feminism.

The department has been able to offer several trips to pupils over the year to compliment the outside speakers brought in to address classes. The Advanced Higher class undertook a trip to George Watson to take part in their Advanced Higher conference based on the contemporary issues in Crime and the Law this was on top of the trip to the University of Edinburgh Library.

As well as supporting their own curricular area, the Modern Studies staff have continued to support the wider development of the school. Mr Snedden has continued to display his superb technical wizardry at a number of school shows and events this year - most notably at the Summer Show. This is always a highlight of the summer term and displays the huge technical expertise and experience Mr Snedden brings to the school. Mrs Reynolds has continued her support of teaching and learning across the school and continues to support the wider life of the school. Mr Forbes has continued to help run the very popular and always busy Royal High School debating society – this year has had successes such as in London and the Procurator Fiscal public speaking.

To keep up to date with Modern Studies Department please follow us on Twitter.
Integrated Support Team

Support for Learning

Staffing
During this session, we welcomed four new Pupil Support Assistants – Miss Miriam Shahzad, Mrs Diane Aitken, Mrs Karen Sloan and Mr Calvin Muttitt. Mrs Aitken has since moved onto a different role in RHS but still checks in regularly to see how the pupils she worked with are progressing. Another member of the staff team, Miss Shaunie Hamilton, is also set to move on - progressing in her desired career path leaving us to begin her PGDE course in Secondary Education. We as a team wish her well in this new venture. As a department we have continued to develop our close working relationship with the Pupil Support Team and have further embedded our position in the school Integrated Support Team meeting the needs of our most vulnerable and challenging learners.

Literacy
As part of our drive to improve literacy across the curriculum we created literacy boxes for every classroom in the school. These boxes contain resources such as coloured overlays, sound charts, pencil grips etc. all of which have helped our learners feel more able to access their learning in all area of school life.

Nurture
This year, we implemented a Nurture Group to support pupils in the development of their social, emotional and behavioural skills. To achieve this, the group was structured in a way to simulate a home like environment. Since it’s conception there has been a significant reduction in displays of aggressive behaviour, both physically and verbally. Support staff have reported that, when our Nurture pupils get it wrong, they can bring it back on a more consistent basis. PSA’s report that they have observed a marked improvement in most of the Nurture Pupil’s patience, and self-regulation, both in mainstream classes and in the Nurture environment. One pupil has significantly improved his timekeeping and attendance, as a result of the Nurture Group, as well as Nurture approaches adopted in the mainstream environment.

Café
Some of our pupils have taken on the role of providing the teas for staff at our Friday meeting. We have recently expanded this to baking and selling sweet treats! It has been a very popular enterprise and one that is helping our pupils build employability skills in many areas!

Support for Pupils
The Support for Pupils team has enjoyed another busy year with much change and many personal successes too. We were all delighted that Ms Sim and partner Jamie got married in July 2018. Mr Watson was appointed to the role of Support for Pupils Leader in a permanent capacity in August 2018. He brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to the team. We also await with great excitement news of the imminent arrival of his first child with partner Natasha.

We welcomed Mr Hutchison, new Depute Head teacher for Support for Pupils in August 2018. He has brought a fresh perspective and lots of exciting ideas to the department. We also made a significant change to the structure of Pupil Support at Royal High, with S6 pupils looked after as a year group by Mrs Casey and Mrs Saddler. This model has provided the opportunity for focused support for final year students and assistance with all aspects of transition as they prepare to leave school.
This year there were 125 successful applicants to university. Many senior pupils took advantage of courses run by Heriot Watt University and Edinburgh College while other pupils participated in the JET programme and Career Ready with the opportunity to undertake work placements and internships. Work experience has grown again this year with many S4 students going out into the world of work and senior students selecting this option as part of their curriculum throughout their final years at school.

Support for Pupils have offered many opportunities too. Mr Rodger and Mr Welsh led this year’s ski trip of 52 second and third year pupils and staff to Serre Chevalier, France. All involved enjoyed a hugely successful trip. The opportunity for students to take on ambassador roles has been developed further this year too, with senior students undertaking training in SHE project, Mental Health and body image, Mentors in Violence Prevention, Sleep support, Anti-Bullying and Inclusion roles. We look forward to seeing the impact of this training, the ideas the pupils themselves are bringing to these roles and the influence this will have on the wider school community.

Library

Teen Titles – pupils are regularly contributing to the Teen Titles magazine. A magazine which aims to promote reading and literacy in a fun way. It is full of book reviews and author interviews done by pupils across Edinburgh. It comes out quarterly with distribution UK wide, with free copies being available in the library. Two pupils also attended the Teen Titles party in the Central Library, where they got to meet other pupils form Edinburgh schools and some of the authors.

Library book group is going strong. The group meets up weekly in the library to read a set book or just to discuss what we have been reading and have to odd biscuit or hot chocolate. We have also been shadowing the Scottish Book Trust Teen Book awards and CILIP Carnegie awards, reading the short list, discussing the titles, submitting reviews and our preferred choice of who should win.

In September/October the library helped arrange visits to the Edinburgh university libraries for the AH Geography and PE pupils, to help them prepare for their research and literacy review of their chosen subject. The AH Geography visited the Main University Library and AH PE visited the Moray House library. The AH PE also had myself take a class and go over tips on how to do a literature search, looking at strategies and the available resources in the University libraries and online.

For National poetry day, in October, the staff got involved. School staff were asked to submit their favourite poem, with all the submissions put up on the library notice board for the pupils to see.

In November there was Book Week Scotland, where in the library we had a week-long book sale, through Scholastic Books. Also, all the S3s received a copy of the free BWS novella, Rebel. The library book group also had a go at making spine poems, using book spine titles to make a poem as part of BWS.

We also had an Author visit – Some of the RHS Football Academy pupils who listened to John Hutchison “1824 - The world’s First football club.” talk about how the early game was played and the establishment of the world’s first football club here at the Royal High in 1824 by then student John Hope.
In January the library supported DYW careers fair. In the library we had Edinburgh College talking about careers in construction, a fun and engaging workshop. Also got the chance to display some of our construction books that we hold in the library, which the college were quite impressed at. Through council contacts the library invited Edinburgh University, North Edinburgh Child Care Trust and Edinburgh Guarantee along to the fair.

Working with our council colleagues in Lifelong Learning, the library helped support the staff survey pupils for the Youth Talk initiative, with a response from 304 pupils. Youth talk is about young people “having a say”. It aims to get young people’s views and use them to improve local activities for young people. These services include things like youth clubs, access to sports club /Gyms & activities in libraries. The in March I also facilitated a table at a feedback session. Here the results from the pupil survey was discussed with smaller groups from the pupils council, through a mapping exercise and contributing to a community profile.

In March for World Book day, again we held a book sale through Scholastic Books. With the English Department we also arranged a whole school reads, where pupils got to listen to staff read Neil Gaiman’s “Chivalry” over the school Tannoy and read along, at the beginning of each block.

STEM library group. A small group of S1/2s took part in the Leader Award competition – If you were an Engineer what would you do? In the library the pupils researched the different types of engineering and they were encouraged to look at the world around them to find problems an engineered solution could solve. The pupils then had to submit an annotated design and a letter to explain what it was they were trying to solve and how. In our discussion around engineering we talked about STEAM, rather than STEM; where A = Arts. As it came across from the interview videos that engineers also require creative skills when it comes to engineering design, as products not only need to be practical/functional, in some cases they need to look good too.

IF YOU WERE AN ENGINEER— WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Library support for Wellbeing and Mental Health.
Escape, Connect, Relate project – A bibliotherapy toolkit for teenagers. The toolkit has been developed by Edinburgh School Librarians, in cooperation with colleagues from Educational Psychology and the Wellbeing Team and bibliotherapy professionals.

The toolkit is a range of resources, from a folder of information on where to find help, advice and support, to a range of relevant fiction and non-fiction self-help titles. Three S3 pupils have been helping me with this project and have received training from Educational Psychology and the Wellbeing Team and also attended a Bibliotherapy training session from Jennifer Horan from the University of Glasgow.

You should see a presence of the resources and promotion of the toolkit from the end of May. The project has been funded by the School Libraries Improvement fund (SLIF). The SLIF supports creative and innovative projects within the school library sector and is administered by the Scottish Library and Information Council on behalf of the Scottish Government.

The library also gave a presentation at the Parents Wellbeing and Mental health evening, talking about bibliotherapy and the benefits of reading for wellbeing and mental health.

To support pupils in the run up to exams the library bought in the e-book “Exam Attack” by Nicola Morgan, which contains tips for beating exam stress. “Exam Attack is a beautifully simple, straightforward but expert guide to beating exam stress, so that students of all abilities are geared up mentally and physically and can hit their exams with the right amount of adrenalin, enabling super-performance instead of panic or negative stress.” A copy was then distributed to all S4s- s6s, as the title came with a whole school licence in perpetuity, which means every year the new S4s will receive a copy.
The library also supported the P7 Enhance transition visits - who all had various levels on anxiety, on their first visit to the school. They got a quick introduction to the library and heard about the benefits of reading, especially when it comes to helping you relax. We then had some “read-axation” while I read out a chapter from The Demon Headmaster.

Book stock: 81 new fiction titles added to stock; new titles, satisfying pupils requests and replacing the odd damaged/missing titles. 208 non-fiction titles added to stock to support BGE and literacy across the curriculum.

Mathematics Department

2018-19 has been another very busy year for the maths department, starting with another set of very positive exam results across the range of SQA courses from National 3 through to Advanced Higher Mechanics and Statistics. The year has also seen a number of changes in staff with Mr Serhani and Mrs Swingler leaving and Ms Watson joining the maths team in January. Sadly, Mrs Harpur will be retiring at the end of June and we wish her all our best, but we are delighted that Dr Crow will be returning from her missionary work in Africa and that Mr Stobie will be joining us from August 2019.

Digital literacy has been an important focus for the whole school this year, and the Maths Department were delighted to receive funding to enable us to introduce Manga High to our students. The program enables teachers to assign tasks to classes/students and builds up in difficulty as students gain confidence. Staff have also been working on Apple TV and have spent time developing Onenote and iTunes U courses for the classes.

The department has been working hard to continue our broad banded BGE course into S2 with a continued focus on promoting cooperative learning through investigations and problem solving techniques.

The department ran a very successful maths camp in March 2019 at Fordell Firs Outdoor Centre for S4 National 5 level pupils. During the weekend pupils worked hard to prepare for their maths exam, and participated in outdoor activities for some rest and relaxation.

In June we invited our cluster Primary 6 classes to visit and enjoy maths activities on the AstroTurf in a bid to show the pupils that maths is fun and to start preparing them for secondary school - fortunately we even had beautiful sunshine!

Over the year we have supported student maths teachers through successful placements and have hosted a number of university students in a bid to encourage some to become maths teachers – we have even had 2 student teachers from Germany! We have also been privileged to be joined by two retired maths teachers on a part-time voluntary basis.

Other successes within the department include one pupil achieving a conditional offer to study Maths at Cambridge University, another student achieving an A at Higher Maths in S4 and the awarding of gold and silver medals to a number of our senior and junior pupils by the Scottish Mathematical Council in a nationwide maths challenge. Our S3/4 Enterprising Maths team nearly made the Scottish final, missing out by only 2 points.

Many of our teachers lead activities about the school including, basketball run by Mr Docherty, Ms Dupraz supporting our English as a second language pupils, the football league organised by Mr Millington, Mrs Campbell running netball club and Mrs Ward is also leading a group of S5/6 volunteers on the Habitat for Humanity project to Romania in June.

All-in-all a very exciting year with plans well under-way to move the learning and teaching forward for the maths department, together with the wider school community as a whole.

Modern Languages

It has been a busy year for the Modern Languages Department. Mrs McKinlay went on maternity leave in January and Mr Kassime joined the department in February. German pupils were supported by our German Language Assistant, Chiara Frey. In addition to this, a number of Foreign Languages students undertook placements and work experience at the Royal High School throughout the year.
We have had a number of visits to the department this academic year. In September we welcomed a group of senior Italian pupils to the school. The pupils were paired with Royal High pupils and followed their timetable for 4 days. In early January a group of Danish pupils visited the school for a morning and followed a typical timetable for the day. At the end of January a group of French pupils from Versailles visited the school for a morning. The visits have been a huge success and pupils have benefitted greatly from the experience and enjoyed the opportunity to practise language skills and learn about each other’s cultures.

There have also been a number of trips and events this year. In September, we celebrated European Day of Languages. Senior pupils offered face-painting and nail-painting and Mrs Figueira ran a European food tasting challenge. In October History and German pupils took part in the outward leg of the German Exchange trip to Mannheim with Mrs Hughes and Mrs Mitchell. Higher German pupils took part in a trip to Vienna with Mrs Figueira and Mr Forbes. Both trips were a big success and pupils were a credit to the school. In December Higher languages pupils attended the Higher immersion course to help them prepare for the exams.

In January, a group of S3 languages pupils attended the SCILT Business Brunch at Dynamic Earth where they attended workshops and had the opportunity to speak to employers at a careers fair. A number of guest speakers also came to school and delivered careers workshops to S2 pupils. In May we welcomed the pupils and teachers from Mannheim for the return leg of the History and German exchange. It was an action-packed week which included a treasure hunt, boat trip and ceilidh.

Finally, there were a number of French and German breakfasts during the year for pupils studying the topic of food, drink and shopping. Pupils were given the opportunity to sample continental specialties and ask for food in the target language.

Science

The Science Faculty’s main focus for improvement this year has been in S1 and S2 Integrated Science. At the end of last session we looked together at how our assessment evidence addressed the challenges posed to us in the recently published Benchmarks that details what outcomes we should expect from the experiences determined by the Curriculum for Excellence. It turned out that the question we asked didn’t quite give pupils the opportunity to ‘hit’ the Benchmark, so we have rewritten a good deal of material. Last session we did a lot of work to ensure that the start of S1 wasn’t such a new beginning in terms of pupils’ exposure to practical Science. We provided the primary schools with teaching resources and access to kit for experimental work and hoped that they would jump at the chance of the support. That hasn’t been the case and we have some outreach work to do in the coming session. There clearly remains much to do, both in terms of the link with Primary schools, but also how we make the transformation from an Integrated Science course in S2 to a discrete Science course in S3, to the Senior Phase in S4 and beyond.

One of the biggest challenges that faces a teacher is to ensure that each pupil is challenged and supported according to their academic abilities and can make progress in their academic development no matter their starting point. We
have worked hard to design our courses to provide opportunities for the most able to extend their responses into the more detailed, deeper or more analytical than previously, while ensuring the less able are also capable of responding.

We are excited that for the first time in a long time we have extended our curriculum into new subject areas. We now have up-and-running Practical Electronics (making a comeback after some time away) and Practical Science. The Practical Science is an entirely new qualification, not just because it is a new title but because success is gained by passing unit tests without a final exam. It is called a National Progression Award and is equivalent to a National 5 pass. It can lead to a level 6 award the following year (equivalent to a Higher) which is also the first year of a two-year Foundation Apprenticeship in Scientific Technologies that pupils can complete at College.

Another great challenge posed us by the Scottish Government, one of our time and not limited to Science, is that of closing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children. We hope to find new ways in which we can offer leadership of representational opportunities to those pupils who find they have the fewest chances of getting these opportunities. The overall aim is clearly longitudinal in nature, with an outcome measured over a generation or more. It is also a measure of the change in the nature of the Royal High as an institution. To have changed in little more than two generations from a single-sex selective school to a truly comprehensive intake with a focus on creating life chances for those in society least likely to be able to do so for themselves. Not following, but leading the change in developing the skills of the future workforce (we are now an accredited Digital School) is nothing more than transformational. It is, in terms, why many teachers became teachers.

As always at this time of year, our thoughts are with those leavers making the transition into the wide world, and those awaiting exam results.

Science Club

S1/S2 Science club has continued this year with 15 regular members. One of the highlights was our annual trip this year to Robots, the exhibition at The National Museum of Scotland. Club members have tried their hand at a variety of experiments both inside and outside, including a series of Forensic Science experiments. One of the student teachers ably “played dead” and science club members had to solve the crime! It is run by Ms. Docherty and Dr. Scott, and ably assisted by Mr. Herriott and Cameron Duff S5.

Parental Engagement

We have really appreciated all the support and engagement from families this year. There have been several family engagement events this session that have been well attended. These have included a ‘how to pass’ evening, with subject specific workshops led by subject specialists. Pupil voice has been telling us their desire to embed effective study skills from an earlier stage in their school career. Staff have been doing this across all subjects, including PSE, and this was reinforced with a family engagement event that was incredibly well attended. We plan to embed this further next session with more targeted sessions following key reporting times. Staff particularly enjoyed our inaugural, ‘Bring a parent to school day’ in May, when a small group of parents formed a class and experienced a pupil timetable for the day. Hopefully, parents left with a greater insight into the teaching and learning experiences of their child. We plan to make this a permanent fixture of our school calendar and would love to double the number of parents involved next year.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Annual report 2019

Another year of the scheme and another amazing set of achievements. 40 Bronze, 26 Silver and an incredible 20 Gold awards have been completed! Driving all over the country, we have been on expeditions from the Highlands to East Lothian to the Borders. Volunteering—our pupils have been taking part in everything from dog walking to charity fundraising! Exciting times have been had by all, from residential in Nepal to Guide camps in Europe to Sports coaching and learning to wakeboard. New staff have been recruited to help our huge Royal High award scheme and we have been grateful for all the time they give up for the award. Thank you!
The weather has been a real mixture over this expedition season. Sun, snow and much rain! Our pupils have definitely felt the Scottish summer! And bonded with the midges!

Under canvas-camping is the real highlight of the award for most of our participants and we have seen many nights under the stars. 33 to be exact!

Real sense of achievement—this is how our pupils feel about being part of the award scheme. Committing to and completing each of the four sections at Bronze and Silver and five at Gold, and then achieving their award, is to be commended.

Experiences for a lifetime—the pupils in our scheme often mention DofE as one of the highlights of their school career and this year has been no exception. Well done to all of the pupils involved!

**Young Film Makers Club**

The Young Film Makers Club has been running now for 11 years and in that time have gone from strength to strength. We have 10 members at the moment from S1 to S6 and have had great success in the Edinburgh International Film Festival schools competition over the years, winning Best actor 2008, Best Animation and Best Drama in 2010, Best film with “Your Lips Are Moving” in 2016, Best film with “Chanel Surfing” in 2017, This year we have been short listed to win a prize with one of our latest films “Hush Little Sister”

You can view our films via the web site, just click on pupils then Young Film makers Club.

**Parent Council**

As ever, it has been a varied and busy year for the Royal High School Parent Council, working in partnership with parents, staff, learners and the wider community, across a range of challenging issues.

For a number of years, the most recurring matter raised with the Parent Council has been the safety of young people when crossing Queensferry Road. Many times, the Parent Council has made a range of suggestions to the City Council as to how safety might be improved, including alternative crossing points and methods, speed limit adjustments, new signage and traffic light re-phasing. This remains a top issue for us, and we continue to press all external stakeholders for progress. I would thank Parent Council member Tony Newell for leading some of our recent work in this area. This year, we engaged with a new project to improve access to Davidson’s Mains Park, which for a time looked as if it might also promise a solution to the issues at the junction. In the end, that proved fairly fruitless, and we have now been advised that the best chance of improvements being made are tied to forthcoming resurfacing work on Queensferry Road— but already it appears that the timetable for this work has slipped from Autumn 2019 to Summer 2020.

Some “in school” matters this year have included discussions on health and wellbeing for students, and how to best work with parents on recognising signs of substance abuse or dangers posed online. We heard some concerns from parents about the reorganising of Maths classes in S2 and sought reassurances, and have, several times, discussed the pathways available to S6 students in terms of Advanced Higher choices. It concerns the Parent Council that for funding reasons, schools in Edinburgh are unable to offer in S6 at Advanced Higher the continuation of all subjects offered for study at Higher level previously. Students should not be forced to drop subjects studied at Higher which they wish to continue, and we will continue to press the City Council on this issue. The school has also discussed with us potential reform to the programme for S6 leavers next session. We have made representations to the City Council on technology and connectivity issues which the school continues to face. Given the large amount of learning and teaching in school which is now delivered via iPads, a reliable broadband service is essential and we continue to urge the City Council to press its supplier to resolve some very long-running issues. Meanwhile, we have discussed with the school the performance of students in examinations, and very much welcome the trends that are emerging at the Royal High, both in comparison to other schools in the city and to the virtual comparator schools with which the Royal High is linked.
Parents may wish to consult Edinburgh City Council’s published school term dates for session 2020-21 and 2021-22. These dates have been set and published without any formal consultation with Parent Councils around the city and the Royal High Parent Council identified a number of issues with them. These include that in both the sessions the first day of the Christmas holidays is Christmas Eve itself, which feels far too late; and in one of the two sessions, a return after Easter is set perilously close to the start of the SQA examinations, not allowing students a proper chance to engage with staff in the approach to their exams. After we worked with parent councils across the city, the City Council has agreed to ask all headteachers to provide further feedback on the dates – though still with no formal consultation with Parent Councils – and hopefully an opportunity for change still exists. Our other main engagement this year with the City Council was around the setting of school budgets. The main themes raised by Royal High parents included the threat to funding of pupil support assistants, and possible cuts to free instrumental tuition. We made a strong case for the protection of both of these areas of the budget, and at the time of writing, it appears that this has been successful at least in the short term – though parents will have seen recent press coverage of the ongoing threat to the pupil support budget in Edinburgh.

Beyond Edinburgh, it has been a far quieter year for national consultations with parents. We note the work of the Scottish Parliament’s Education Committee on subject choice in school, and look forward to hearing what, if anything, they say about Advanced Highers. However, we are deeply disappointed the Scottish Government has shelved its proposed Education Bill for the time being. The Royal High School Parent Council believed there was a clear case for reform in increasing the powers of headteachers, examining the role of local authorities and the role of parent councils, looking at how student voice is best heard, and the future regulation of the education workforce. We hope this Bill re-emerges soon.

In school, we’ve enjoyed working together with Mrs Walker and her senior leadership team and have collaborated on a range of ways to further develop parental engagement at the school. The Parent Council provided funding for the school to roll out the parent app, and our partnership with the school has included parental representation in the appointments of senior staff throughout the year. Any parent – whether on the Parent Council or not – can undergo a short training course with the City Council to become accredited in order to be a parent representative on school interview panels, and I would encourage you to consider taking part in future.

We have continued to maintain relations with all of our local councillors, our MSPs and MPs, the city’s North West Locality Group, the cluster Primary Parent Councils, and the media. We also maintain strong links with the RHS FPs, and I thank Ian Cowie (FP Chair) for his continuing strong interest in issues which impact on RHS life.

Going into the new session, I would expect the Parent Council to focus on continuing to represent parental views, of course maintaining our campaigns regarding road safety. We will begin to work with the school and the City Council on the projected increase in the school’s roll, and what this will mean for the school community. Current projections would see the roll increase to over 1500 students in the fairly near future, and Martin Williams will lead work to represent parent views in the process. We anticipate another challenging year of budget discussions with the City Council and are also in dialogue with one of our local MPs about the charging of VAT on school uniform for older children, which feels unacceptable given that children’s clothing is supposed to be VAT-free.

In closing, I would thank all our parent, staff and co-opted members this year for their time and commitment to the Parent Council – every parent and carer on the Parent Council gives their time as a volunteer and it is hugely appreciated. Thanks to Liz Leslie for her excellent work as Clerk, and to Chris Davison for serving as Deputy Chair and Chakrapani Challagali for serving as Treasurer. Special thanks to Anne Walker, Sibongile Pradhan and Eric Jackson, who have volunteered their time to the parental groups for many years, including one as a former primary school Parent Council Chair, who all leave our school community this summer. I’ll miss their wise counsel and I know they leave with our very good wishes.

Luke McCullough  
Chair, The Royal High School Parent Council
The Royal High School Events and Fundraising Committee is part of the RHS Parent Council and we actively support parental involvement in raising much needed income for our school and helping out at events to support the school community.

This last school year we hope to raise more than £1000 with a number of events which allow fundraising opportunities still to run in June. In collaboration with the staff at the RHS we have been able to respond to their requests for purchasing items which have significantly helped the pupils, staff and the overall school environment. It has also given us the opportunity to work with pupils and be involved in events that we may not have had the opportunity to be part of.

Fundraising efforts have resulted in buying much needed equipment for many departments in the school. This has included funds to buy camera equipment for photography, 5 apple pens for graphics use in classics, specialised Lego sets for Lego club, scientific calculators for specialist use in the Maths department, samba drum sticks for the samba band, funding to run events for Culture Club in Art, new speakers in Geography, bow and arrow sets for adaptive PE group (e.g. those with mobility issues) and a Twinkle subscription to support literacy in ASL.

The committee meets approximately once a term at the RHS in the evening. This meeting is supported by Pauline Walker, Headteacher, who helps by advising us of upcoming events and coordinating between us and the school, including with staff about the types of resources that would benefit their departments.

During the last year parents have helped by supporting events at the school with home baking, selling tea and coffee, sweets and ice cream and raffle tickets. We have supported music shows and concerts running a particularly successful event at Christmas where we supplied soup, samosas and pakora, ran craft shows and a bottle stall. We have also raised money through EasyFundraising, a fundraising shopping site.

You can contact us for further information via the RHS website www.royalhigh.edin.sch.uk (look under the Information tab for Parents Events and Fundraising Committee) or directly to sarahannejack@outlook.com
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