

# **The Royal High School**



## **Commemoration and Prizegiving Day**

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020**



**VIRTUAL COMMEMORATION AND PRIZE-GIVING DAY**

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June**

Chairperson: Ian R.C. Cowie

**Contributors**

Chair's Address: Ian R.C. Cowie

Captains Address: Lucy Krauth, School Captain 2019-20

Reading: Cameron Thores, School Captain 2020-21, Hope for Hope by Frederick Douglas Harper

Presentation of Prizes: Mrs Carol Haley

Former Pupil's Address: Mr Frank Crowe

Valedictory Address: Dux of School – Emily Goddard

Reply by Rector: Mrs Pauline Walker

## PRIZES & SCHOLARSHIPS

Session 2019/20

### S1

Merit in PE  
Merit in Art & Design  
Merit in Mathematics  
Merit in Music  
Merit in Drama  
Merit in Geography  
Merit in German  
Janine Whitecross Trophy -All Round Endeavour in Physical Education  
Grigor Prize for Debating (Junior) Joint  
Jessie Young Prize for Meritorious Effort  
Lady Glenorchy Prize for Religious Education  
The Royal High School PFG Junior Prize (S1-S3) for being an effective contributor to the school community throughout the school year  
Maclean Prize for Dedication & Hard Work in STEM Subjects  
Merit Prize in RMPS  
Merit in Science  
John Murray Prize for Music  
Robertson Bursary (Proxime to Dux)  
Tait Prize - Proxime to Dux  
Merit in Home Economics  
Merit in CDT  
Merit in French  
Merit in Modern Studies  
Merit in English  
Alex Aitken Prize for Scottish History  
Robertson Bursary (Dux form 1)  
Boyd Prize (1857) Dux of Form 1

Emma Ford  
Ava Steel  
Kirsty Williams  
Ruby Robertson  
Ein McGlashan  
Jessica Tait/Sam Barrass  
Sam Harkness  
Zuza Porznska  
Hannah McLaughlin  
Evie Dunlevy  
Poppy Greenwood

Kenzie Brown  
Ewan Kistruck  
Ewan Kistruck  
Evan Russell  
Evan Russell  
Evan Russell  
Evan Russell  
Beth Simpson  
Beth Simpson  
Beth Simpson  
Beth Simpson  
Beth Simpson  
Beth Simpson  
Beth Simpson  
Beth Simpson

### S2

Merit in Modern Studies  
Merit in Drama  
Merit in Music  
Merit in Home Economics  
Maclean Prize for Dedication & Hard Work in STEM Subjects  
Merit in PE  
Merit in Art & Design  
Merit in German  
Sir James Purves Stewart Prize – (I) Dux in French  
Merit in CDT  
Merit Prize for Mathematics  
Merit in RMPS  
Merit in French  
Alex Aitken Prize for Scottish History  
Merit in Geography  
John Murray Prize for Music  
Sir James Purves Stewart Prize – (II) Dux in German  
Merit Prize for Science  
Merit in English  
Ritchie Prize (1824) - Dux of S2

Cameron Allan  
Erin Tocher  
Callum Durie  
Lisa Maher-Rodgers  
Alex Coy  
Calum Barlow  
Ellie Illingworth  
Klara Lemvig-Allan  
Rose Crook  
Blair Shepherd  
Robin White  
Leith O'Rourke  
Noa Kiss-Jakub  
Isla Groves  
Alex Severn  
Melissa Thomson  
Melissa Thomson  
Cerys Davies  
Cerys Davies  
Cerys Davies

**S3**

Maclean Prize for Dedication & Hard Work in STEM Subjects  
 Parent Funding Group Prize for Meritorious Effort  
 Morrison Bursary Girl -Science  
 Prize for CDT  
 Evelyn Small Prize for Drama  
 Prize for Home Economics  
 Hartman Prize – (I) Dux in French  
 The William Corlett Memorial Prizes for Art  
 Spanish Consulate Prize for S3  
 Sibbald Bursary Boy -Maths  
 John Murray Prize for Music  
 Sibbald Bursary Girl -Maths  
 The Royal High School PFG Junior Prize (S1-S3) for demonstrating responsible citizenship within the school community consistently throughout the school year  
 Donaldson Bursary Girl- English  
 Hartman Prize – (II) Dux in German  
 Alex Skinner Prize for Computing  
 Donaldson Bursary Boy - English  
 Carmichael Club Prize (1878) Dux of Form 3

Ruby Smart  
 Chelsea Milligan  
 Ashley Brown  
 Jack McBride  
 Ben Jones  
 Lewis McLeod  
 Mia Morrison  
 Rowan Wood  
 Rachel Blair  
 Ruairidh Williams  
 Matthew McNarry  
 Phoenix Nelson

Rachael Macleod  
 Hannah Gotch Curry  
 Hannah Gotch-Curry  
 Ansel Leivesley  
 Ansel Leivesley  
 Ansel Leivesley

**S4**

Richard Green memorial prize for Art & Design  
 Chisholm Prize -Dux in Geography  
 Prize for CDT  
 Mary Hunter Memorial prize for best fourth form leaver  
 Alex F Hall Prize for Computing  
 N H Small Prize Dux in Spanish  
 NH Small Prize in Dux in German  
 Ness Trophy for Craftmanship  
 Steven Armstrong Roy Memorial prize for Courage and Inspiration  
 RHS PFG Prize for Modern Studies  
 J G Cattanach Prize for Scottish History  
 Noreen Richardson Memorial Prize for Courage and Determination  
 Classical Studies Prize (Dux)  
 Carson Bursary, Dux of English  
 William Young Memorial Prize – Dux in Classics  
 Nicholson Prize for Music  
 John Marshall Prize (1910) Dux in Mathematics  
 Maclean Prize for Dedication & Hard Work in STEM Subjects  
 NH Small Prize in Dux French  
 MacKay Prize (1877) Dux of Form 4

Cerys Dear  
 Rachel Hutcheon  
 Matteo MacKenzie  
 Leo Collins  
 Angus Young  
 Elise Kerr  
 Sophie Good  
 Daniel Craik  
 Erin Lyons  
 Isla Newell  
 Tatiana Honeywell  
 Sophie Powrie  
 Tea Trevarthen  
 Natasha Leerberg  
 Natasha Leerberg  
 Mahathi Challagali  
 Mahathi Challagali  
 Charis Stockton  
 Charis Stockton  
 Charis Stockton

**S5**

RHS FP President's Prizes – (I) Dux in History  
 RHS FP President's Prize (II) Dux in Geography  
 W J Melrose Prize for Art  
 The Royal High School Parent Fundraising Group Senior Prize (S4 – S6) for demonstrating responsible citizenship within the school community consistently throughout the school year  
 Mabon Prize for biggest improvement of a pupil  
 S5 Spanish  
 Evelyn Small Prize for Drama  
 Martin Pearce Family Prize Dux in Business Management  
 Noreen Richardson Memorial Prize for Home Economics  
 Maclean Prize for Dedication & Hard Work in STEM Subjects

Katherine Murray  
 Cameron Fordyce  
 Paulina Bysiak

Finlay Boath  
 Megan Boxall  
 Nicolo di Profio  
 Julia Gray  
 Calum McCrindle  
 Lilly Menzies  
 Miles Davis

Dux in Physics  
 Prize for Engineering Technology  
 Burgoyne Prize – Dux in German  
 Carson Prize Dux of English  
 James M Moore Memorial Prize – Dux in French  
 Dr W King Gillies Prize for Scottish Literature  
 RHS FP President's Prize (II) Dux in Modern Studies  
 Grigor prize for Debating (Senior)  
 John Turner Prize – Dux in Mathematics  
 J W Loudon Prize for Public Speaking (Joint)  
 Tullis Prize – Dux in Mathematics  
 Dux in Chemistry  
 Muir Memorial Prize - Dux of Form 5

### Open Awards

The RHS Distinguished Award  
 Crichton Cup (Announced on the day)  
 Rectors Award for Resilience  
 Dux in Computing  
 William Rutherford Bequest Award for Art  
 Neil McCurrach Award for Participation and Enthusiasm to the Full  
 William Young Memorial Prize – Dux in RMPS  
 The Richard Joy Trophy - Outdoor Pursuits/Mountaineering  
 MacKelvie Trophy (1928) Award for Best Piper  
 J G Cattanach Prize for Scottish Literature  
 Steadman Prize for Philosophy  
 Sir Walter Scott Centenary Prize  
 John Paterson Small Prize for Music  
 Elizabeth Wemyss Prize for Music  
 Dux in Home Economics  
 grant Memorial Cup – Dux in Music (Dux)  
 Nicol Prize for Service  
 Sir John Greig Dunbar Prize for Citizenship (Joint)  
 Sir John Greig Dunbar Prize for Citizenship  
 Nicol Prize for Service  
 Nicol Prize for Service  
 Nicol Prize for Service  
 Bruce Prize – Dux in History  
 Percy Malcolm Stewart Median  
 W J Watson Prize for Original Research (AH Science)  
 Philip Harris Prize Dux in Biology  
 James H Scott Prize for Mathematics  
 Grant Memorial Cup – Dux in Music (Dux)  
 MacMillan club Prize (1865) – Dux in English  
 Malcolm Knox Prize for best creative writing  
 The Royal High School PFG Senior Prize (S4-S6) for being an effective contributor to the school community throughout the school year  
 Royal High School (London) Club Prize Dux in CDT  
 The Royal High School (London) Club Prize for an English Poem  
 Dr Barclay's Memorial Prize for Service  
 Percy Malcolm Stewart Minor  
 The RHS (London) Club Prize Dux in Art  
 Andrew Wilson Prize for Service and Leadership  
 Sir David Yule Scholarship  
 Inches Prize - Dux in Chemistry  
 Rector's Award for service to the School  
 Hector Mclver Memorial prize for Literary Appreciation  
 Macgregor Prize (1794) – Dux in Latin

Miles Davis  
 Eilidh Newlands  
 Eilidh Newlands  
 Luke Blair  
 Luke Blair  
 Naomi Egan  
 Naomi Egan  
 Laura Young  
 Laura Young  
 Douglas Macartney  
 Douglas McCartney  
 Douglas Macartney  
 Douglas Macartney

Eve Murphy  
 Jointly awarded to all nations  
 Gillon Stevenson  
 Alex Shanks  
 Amy Robson  
 Anna Pentony  
 Emily Peckham  
 Ben Johnson  
 Finlay Paterson  
 Tom Nightingale  
 Grace Taylor  
 Molly Davidson  
 Murray Brown  
 Nathan McInnes  
 Rebecca Wanstall  
 Zac McCullough  
 Jura Lewis  
 Lara McMahon  
 Emma Shopland  
 Ramsay Newell  
 Emma Shopland  
 Eva Tallaron  
 Rory Grant  
 Rory Grant  
 Julia Siewiera  
 Julia Siewiera  
 Andrew Robertson  
 Andrew Robertson  
 Hannah Schafer  
 Hannah Schafer

Abbi Wilson  
 Abbi Wilson  
 Euan Coull  
 Euan Coull  
 Anna Young  
 Anna Young  
 Anna Young  
 Lucy Krauth  
 Lucy Krauth  
 Lucy Krauth  
 Harriet Sweatman  
 Harriet Sweatman

Carson Prize (1851) for an English Essay	Harriet Sweatman
James Scott Bursary (1970)	Harriet Sweatman
Inches Prize Dux in Physics	Cameron Duff
Percy Malcolm Stewart (Major) Dux Proxime	Cameron Duff
Sir Alexander Stevenson Prize Proxime to Dux	Cameron Duff
James Montgomery Bell Memorial prize for the study of Scots Law	Emily Goddard
Ian Steadman and John P Mackintosh Prize for Politics	Emily Goddard
RHS Exhibition - Dux of School	Emily Goddard
RHS Club Prize - Dux of School	Emily Goddard

## WIDER ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

### WIDER CLUBS & SOCIETIES

Amnesty Group Outstanding Contribution	Jack Clay
Book Group Outstanding Contribution	Andrew Brown & Isla Skinner
Bibliotherapy Project Outstanding Contribution	Grace Read & Tatiana Honeywell
Colour me Calm Club Outstanding Contribution	Jakub Jan Potrzuski
Comic Book Film Club Outstanding Contribution	Aaqil Hussan
Creative Writing Club Outstanding Contribution	Cerys Davies
Duke of Edinburgh Bronze- Outstanding Contribution	Max Barrison
Duke of Edinburgh Silver- Outstanding Contribution	Sophie Good
The Richard Joy Trophy	Lewis Wetton
Equalities Group Outstanding Contribution	Natasha Leerberg
Junior Debating (S1-S3) Outstanding Contribution	Megan Good & Freya Barclay
Knitting & Crochet Club Outstanding Contribution	Rachel Blair & Isla Skinner
Lego Club Outstanding Contribution	Alfie Cunningham
LGBT + Club Outstanding Contribution	Ryan Hughes
MANGA Club Outstanding Contribution	Lauren Fraser & Paulina Bysiak
Modern Languages Club Outstanding Contribution	Natasha Leerberg
Mythology Club Outstanding Contribution	Aaqil Hussan
Opportunities Group Outstanding Contribution	David Smith
Science Club Outstanding Contribution	Kara Ramsay
Scripture Union Club Outstanding Contribution	Anna Pentony
Senior Debating (S4-S6) Outstanding Contribution	Douglas Macartney
The Emily Goddard Award for Creative Writing	Cerys Davies
Warhammer 40k Club Outstanding Contribution	David Smith

### Music and Drama Awards

John Turner Prize for Drama	Grace Taylor
Crawford taylor Memorial Prize Music & Drama	Fraser McAdam
Nick Randel Award for contribution to Scottish Traditional Music - Violin	Harriet Sweatman
Outstanding Contribution to Extra Curricular Music & Drama	Mahathi Challagali
Contribution to Concert Band	Zak McCullough
Contribution to Choir	Grace Read
Contribution to Guitar Ensemble	Varad Kulkarni
Contribution to Fiddle Group	Cameron Millar
Contribution to Keyboard Group	Eilidh Newlands & Douglas Macartney
Contribution to Youth Theatre	Madeleine Douglas
Contribution to School Show	Eilidh Wear

## Art Awards

James Grey Prize for Art Appreciation £15  
Paterson Cup and Cochraine Prize for Photography  
RHS Prize for 3D Design S1-S4 £15  
RHS Prize for 3D Design S5-S6 £15

Art - Art and Design Work of the Year - Junior  
Art - Art and Design Work of the Year - Senior  
Art – Fashion & Textiles

Lauren Gunn  
Amy Robson  
Rachel Hutcheon  
Faith Gwasira  
Grace Balderstone, Klara Lemvig-Allan, Katie Farquhar, Charlotte Nelson, Ellie Foster, Ellie Illingworth  
Lauren Gunn  
Thea Hunter 4A1

## Sports Awards

Athletics - Balfour Cup for Field Events - Field Events  
Athletics - George Grubb Award for Outstanding Achievement in Athletics  
Athletics - Rae Cup - Open Girls Champion for Athletics  
Coaching - Brian Winning Memorial Cup for the Top Student Coach(es)  
Football - RHS Football Player of the Year  
Rugby - Traditional Award - The Gilmour Trophy for Rugby  
Sporting Achievement - Major Simpson Bell Memorial Trophy for Sporting Achievement  
Sporting Achievement Category - Sports Personality of the Year Junior  
Sporting Achievement Category - Sports Personality of the Year Senior

Swimming - Christopher Gray Trophy for Lifesaving  
Swimming - RHS London Club Cup Senior Girls Swimming  
Swimming - Strang Trophy - Senior Swimming  
Swimming - Traditional Swimming Junior Girl - RHS Trophy for Junior Girls

Kasper Lemvig-Allan  
  
Cameron Fordyce  
Rowan McGill  
  
Cameron Thores & Eva Tallaron  
Miko Komocki  
Fraser McAslan  
  
Ciara Duff  
  
Holly McGill  
  
Ciara Duff - Football  
Eilidh Wear, Louise MacArthur, Jennifer Riches, Julia Siewara  
Ellie Reilly  
Rowan McGill  
  
Holly McGill

## Non-Trophy Prizes

Athletics- Junior Athlete of the Year  
Athletics- Senior Athlete of the Year  
Badminton- Junior Player of the Year  
Badminton- Senior Player of the Year  
Football- S1 Player of the Year  
Football- S2 Player of the Year  
Football- S3 Player of the Year  
Football - S4 Player of the Year  
Football- Junior Girls  
Football- Senior Girls  
Hockey- Senior Player of the Year  
Hockey- Junior player of the year  
Netball- S1 Player of the Year  
Netball- S2 Player of the Year  
Netball- S3 Player of the Year  
Netball- Senior Player of the Year  
Rugby - Girls U14 Player of the Year  
Rugby- Girls U16 Player of the Year  
Rugby- S1 Player of the Year  
Rugby- S2 Player of the Year  
Rugby- S3 Player of the Year  
Rugby- U16 Player of the Year  
Rugby- U18 (1st XV) Player of the Year  
Swimming- Swimmer of the Year  
Dance Ambassador Award

Emma-Louise Newlands  
Ramsay Newell  
Ross MacArtney  
Ramsay Newell  
Sam Kothari  
Daniel Marshall  
Athan Barry  
Rui Black  
Laila Garrick  
Eloise Stirling  
Ansel Leivesley  
Emma Ford  
Megan McGovern  
Aleeza Shaukat  
Sophie Glancy  
Katie Kistruck  
Alisia Duncan  
Niamh Crosbie-White  
Josh Payne  
Zayne Constantino  
Luke Whittaker  
Callan Wilson  
Finlay Schieb  
Katie McDonald  
Marsali Hunter



Dance Leadership Awards

Student coach(es) of the year

Basketball- Junior Player of the Year

Basketball- Senior Player of the Year

Cricket Player of the year

Fencing

Triathlon

Active Schools Award for Volunteering in Sport

Team of the Year

Sports Personality of the Year (Junior)

Sports Personality of the Year (Senior)

Elise Kerr and Gemma Saunderson

Nathan Gallagher, Jamie Crawford & Euan Russell

Cameron Kirby

Rory Imrie

Finlay King

Sam Barrass

Fraser Claxton

Ramsay Newall

U16 Rugby Team

Holly McGill, Swimming

Ciara Duff, Football

## MEMBERS OF STAFF – SESSION 2019/20

**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)

Steven F. Raeburn, BEd (Hons) Physical Education (Edinburgh), MSc Leadership (Aberdeen), SQH (Aberdeen)

**Business Manager:** Kalina Haralampieva, BA Hons Business Management with marketing (Napier), 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), Julie Abrahams BA (Hons) Illustration and Painting (Edinburgh College of Art) , PGDE (Edinburgh)

**Biology:** Gordon Rutter, MSc (Edin), BSc Hons (London), PGCE, Alison Coleman, BSc Hons (St Andrews), PGDE(Aberdeen), Nicki Docherty BSc Hons Biochemistry and Immunology (Strathclyde), PGDE (Strathclyde), Kerrae Kerr, BSc Biological Sciences (Heriot-Watt University), BSc Sports and Exercise Science (Edinburgh Napier University), PGDE Biology with Science (Strathclyde University), Claire Ewart, BSc Hons Pharmacology (University of Dundee), PGDE(Strathclyde)

**Business Education:** Lindsay Duncan MA Hons Business Management (Edinburgh), PGDE (Strathclyde), Amanda Collins BA Ed History & Religious Education (Stirling)

**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), PGDE (Strathclyde, Glasgow)

**Craft, Design and Technology:** Stuart McNeill, Technological Education (BTechEd) Hons Glasgow, David Allan, DipTechEd, (Moray House), Emilia Givan, Interior Design, BA Hons, (Edinburgh), PGDE (Edin), Stephen Hannay, MEng Hons Civil Engineering (IEP) (Manchester), PGDE (Edinburgh)

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

**English:** Douglas Arbuckle, BA Hons English (Anglia) PGCSE, Daniel Craig, MA Hons (Edin), PGCE, Bernice Ford, MA Hons (Glasgow), PGCE (J'Hill), Martin Moonie, MA(Ed), PhD (Oxford), PGCE, Helen McLean, PGDE, Alistair Robertson, MA Hons, Kate Hendry, MA English (Glasgow), PhD English (St Andrews), PGDE (Edinburgh), Amy Hogg, MA Hons English Lit (Edinburgh), PGDE (Glasgow), Catherine Waterland MA Hons (Aberdeen) PGCE (Moray House), Ilda Sabotic, MA (Hons) English and Politics (Aberdeen), PGDE (Aberdeen)

**Geography:** Simon Ferriman, MA Hons (Edinburgh), PGDE (Edinburgh), PGCE (Edinburgh), Ashley Fulton, BSc Hons, (Stirling), Liane Hooper, B.Tech (Edin), PGCE (Nottingham),

**History:** Maxine Hughes, MA Scottish Historical Studies (Edinburgh), PGCE (Edinburgh), Karly Zagorac, BA Hons History and Spanish (Stirling), PGDE (Moray House), Alexander Hagart, MA Hons, History & Politics (Aberdeen), MLitt, Modern History (Aberdeen), PGDE (Edinburgh)

**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), Joanne Campbell, BSc, MSc (Aberdeen), PGDE, Isabelle Dupraz B.Sc. Mathematics (UWO), PGDE (Edinburgh), Ryan Docherty, BSc Hons Mathematics and its Applications (Stirling), PGDE (Strathclyde), Neil Millington, BSc (Hons), PGDE, Andrew Curry B.sc Mathematics (hons) (Heriot- Watt), PGDE, Helen Crow, PhD, BEng Hons Civil & Environmental Engineering (Heriot Watt) , PGDE (Edin), Laoise Ward Bcs mathematics (Glasgow), PGDE (Edin), Gary Laidlaw, BSc Hons Mathematics (Edinburgh), PGDE (Moray House), Steve MacColl BSc Hons Mathematics (St Andrews), PGDE (Glasgow), Lorna Watson BSc Hons Mathematics (Aberdeen), PGCE(Moray House), 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 McKinlay, 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, MA Contemporary History and Sociology (University Paul Valery - Montpellier - France), PGCE - French with Spanish (Goldsmiths University - London), Chantal Gluting, B.A. Hons Languages, Linguistics and Literatures (University of Saarland, Germany), PGDE (Edinburgh), Victoria Blair, BA Hons French & Spanish (Stirling), PGCE (Edinburgh)

**Modern Studies:** Gary Snedden, MA(Edin), PGCE, PGDE, Domonic Forbes, M.A Hons (Glasgow), PGDE, Kirstin Drummond MA Sociology (Aberdeen), PGDE (Aberdeen).

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

**Physical Education:** Mark Gair, BEd hons (Edin), Fiona J MacMillan, BEd(Edin), MSc(Edin), PGDE, Heather Clark, Bed Hons (Edin), Daniel Lane, Bed Hons (Edin), Holly MacKay, BEd (Hons) Physical Education (Edinburgh), Heather Marshall, MA (Hons) Physical Education (Edinburgh), Jamie Terris, BSc Hons Applied Sport & Exercise Science (Aberdeen), PGDE PE (Edinburgh)

**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, MA Divinity (Edinburgh), PGDE (Strathclyde), 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), 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), Jane Saddler, BSc(Hons) Pharmacology (Edin), PGCE (Newcastle), Nicola Casey, BA & Dip Ed (Stirling)

**Careers Adviser:** Jen O'Neill

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

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

**School Support Assistants:** Jill Hunter, Audrey Pannozzo, Lindsay Quinn, Margaret Scott, Elizabeth Sneddon

**Pupil Support Assistants (SFL):** Elaine Berry, Elizabeth Ivinson, Marian Wootton, Jasmine Ryan, Calvin Muttitt, Miriam Shahzad, Karen Sloan, Vera Jung, Jude Mayson

**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 in timpani and percussion, Violin / Viola – June Nelson, Voice – Simone Sahyouni BA Hons (Royal Scottish Academy

of Music and Drama), Cello – Lynne Fleming, Double Bass – Carole Melrose - BA Musical Studies (Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama)

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

**Youth Officer:** Natali Fraser

**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, Roisin Laurie, Poonam Prajapati

**Workshop Technician:** Kevin McQueen

**Catering Supervisor:** Dawn Lamb



### 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 meminimus,  
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, 2019/20 Session**

As the 2019/20 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 of two halves packed with events, trips and many pupil successes as well as one of the most challenging school closures we have ever experienced. I hope you enjoying reading about our year 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. They have shown great resilience since January as they had to respond to very different learning conditions as we responded to very challenging global events. We are all proud of how our school community has worked together this year to ensure continued success.

This year could not be described as anything near normal. However up to Christmas our school year did continue at its usual pace.

We welcomed a host of visitors from both home and abroad who have left us enthused and inspired by our staff and pupils with many still in touch! Our S6 tour guides are incredible and are always the highlight for any visitor.

Many excursions and out of class experiences took place such as competitions and events and residential experiences. You will read all about these in our departmental reports. However, one such was our new Loch Eil leadership event which took place in August 2019. Our school and nation captains all very gamely took part in a week long residential which not only challenged their thinking, pushed their physical limits and introduced them to jellyfish! But also helped them make new friends from across Scotland and plan how they as a team were going to lead our school forward.

Our Pupil Voice conference in September saw over 100 pupils from across the school working with other schools to look at where we are as a school community and how to make it better. Many plans were made and again many alliances formed. Our School Captaincy team Lucy, Anna and Euan took up their leadership posts with great flair and set off with great ideas and gusto.

One of our great highlights was the visit in December by His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent KG. This was to mark the Barnton 50<sup>th</sup> celebrations and gave our pupils and staff the opportunity to showcase what is really special about our school. A truly special day!

We also had a significant input from Humanutopia, a company who worked with all pupils from S3 upwards looking at who we are and how we can improve our community. This gave us all pause for thought about the way we treat others. Our S5 Heroes continued with this work throughout the year and made a bit difference to our school ethos.

We began the year with very positive SQA results and 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 our young people have made very good progress in their Curriculum for Excellence courses. Almost all of the young people in S1, 2 are currently judged to be working well within their learning in Level 3 in all subjects. In S3 almost all young people are working within level 4 and this leads to them presenting within National 5 subjects in S4.

Our results at the end of S4 continue to be very good. All measures across the school have been sustained or improved with positive trends and are above our Virtual Comparators. Within National 5, 69% 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. We judge attainment in S5 and S6 to be very good. 85% of young people gained at least 1 Higher award by the end of S5. 68% of young people gained at least 3 Higher awards by the end of S5. 40% of young people gained 5 Higher awards by the end of S5. 65% of young people

leave at the end of S6 with 5 or more awards at Higher. 93% of young people leave at the end of S6 with at least one award at Higher. 44% of young people gained at least 1 Advanced Higher award by the end of S6.

A number of departments demonstrated excellent attainment and most of our departments outperformed virtual 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 an even 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 2018/9 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 98%. 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 is an integral part of our school improvement. Our Nation Councils and Pupil Parliament meet regularly and feedback to Senior Management Team. These are very well led by our School Captaincy Team. Plans for changes are created collegiately and this is fed back to the whole school. The team this year have made many changes including extra budding can clubs for pupils, study support groups and on-line support by seniors, equipment swaps, more mental health support and more!

We also continue to lead the way nationally in our ICT provision and all our pupils are 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. This has become an essential provision as our school has moved to on-line learning as a result of our school closure. 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. As we move into the new session we are planning how we make best use of our digital systems within blended learning.

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 many reviews and have instigated major change in road safety at our Queensferry Road entrance. They have also been fully involved in planning for our rising roles building works.

The Royal High School Parent Fundraising Group also went from strength to strength. They had a very successful fundraising year with money 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. In addition, they raised money for our 'RHS Water Fund'. This will allow us to replace all our fountains with chilled, filtered versions to give a much better system for our pupils.

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](http://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.

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. While some of these did run post lockdown the majority of these sadly had to be cancelled this year. We look forward to a time when we can once again provide these valuable experiences for our pupils.

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 Captains are invited to attend their annual dinners. We just managed to attend the London FP Club dinner but sadly the Edinburgh dinner was cancelled. Lucy Krauth gave an excellent speech in London and demonstrated to our FPs just how fantastic RHS pupils continue to be. 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. This year has been particularly challenging, and I would like to recognise our whole school community who have gone the extra mile to help us thrive while we are in full school closure. Our class of 2020 did not get to have their leavers events and once we are able to do so we look forward to a last day, prom and leavers ceremony! Clearly it is very challenging for our young people and staff to be working on-line and off site. You have all stayed home to save lives and we are all so proud of you.

Finally, 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

## Expressive Arts

### Curriculum and Qualifications

All S1-2 students have experienced Music and Drama and our IDL programme: Creative Industries. In S3, students choosing Music or Drama have consolidated their learning in the BGE and begun progression towards National Qualifications. In the senior phase, students have completed a range of qualifications from N3 to Advanced Higher as well as NPA's / SfW.

### Theatre Trips and Workshops

Music & Drama students have benefited from a range of professional workshops including:

#### Edinburgh International Festival 2019

EIF Opera give S3-S6 pupils a workshop on *Eugene Onegin*. 20 pupils attended the opera for free.

EIF Theatre: S5-6 students participated in a Dramaturgy workshop and saw the production of *Red Dust Road*



### Partnership with Edinburgh College PASS & Creative Industries Faculties



#### *Developing the Young Workforce & Career Education*

**S4-6** students benefited from a new joint qualification course in **Creative Industries** and **Technical Theatre**, delivered jointly by Drama department and Edinburgh College. This project-based course provided a double award (SfW & NPA) and leads to a full NC over two years.

**S2** students benefitted from participation in a wide range of workshops as part of **DYW week**, delivered by Technical Tutor, **Bruce Cassidy**.

### Extra-Curricular Activities & Wider Achievement

#### **Production of 'Legally Blonde JR' Musical:**

In October, over 50 students performed in our amazing musical production of '*Legally Blonde JR*'.

Performances ran for three nights in the Assembly Hall to appreciative audiences of family and friends. A matinee was performed to cluster primaries. Students increased their confidence and performance skills and enjoyed working together as a team to produce a fabulous show.



#### **Concert Band**

Concert Band meets every week, where brass and woodwind players come together to practice for concerts and develop their skills.

**Instrumental Music Ensembles** meet each week including Guitar Ensemble, Keyboard Group, Fiddle group, Percussion group, and Brass Ensemble.

Music staff also run a Rock band and a Choir.

#### **Drama Club**

A new youth theatre group started for S1, meeting every week. Activities include games, improvisation and exploring scripts.

### Christmas Concert

Staff and students produced a wonderful, heart-warming Christmas Concert including contributions from the Concert Band, conducted by Ms Holland, Brass Ensemble (Mr Ross), Keyboard Group (Ms Senior), Guitar Ensemble (Mr Ferries), Fiddle Group (Ms Nelson), Choir (Mrs Lane), Flute Ensemble (Mr Rennard), and the Pipe Band (Clare Miller). CEC Instrumental teachers worked together with faculty staff to prepare over 70 young people for this highly successful annual event.

### Cramond Kirk Recital

S3, S5 & S6 Musicians contributed in the community through a recital at the Cramond Kirk Dementia Club for their Xmas lunch. AH pupils returned later to pipe and perform at their Burn's lunch. The ladies and gentlemen thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon.

### RHS HRH Visit: The Duke of Kent

Music students and staff contributed to the HRH Visit and gave outstanding performances as part of the RHS tour for the Duke of Kent.



### Musical Performances and Recitals

*Our musicians have performed at a range of events throughout the year, including:*

- ❖ Christmas choir performing at Royal College of Physicians in aid of Edinburgh Children's Hospital Charity
- ❖ Christmas choir carol singing at the dome in aid of Edinburgh Children's Hospital Charity
- ❖ Performance at the Holocaust Memorial assembly
- ❖ Parent's evenings
- ❖ Former Pupils dinners and receptions
- ❖ The Lord Provost's reception
- ❖ IMS Resonate Concerts

### Visiting Productions- *Dr Korczak's Example*

In the "Year of Young People" and Holocaust Memorial Day, NHS Lothian and *StrangeTown* Theatre presented a performance in September, for all S4/S5 pupils, of by David Greig. The play told the story of Dr Janusz Korczak, who ran a Warsaw orphanage in WW2, beginning the UNCRC.



### Art Department

#### Staffing

The Art department are saying farewell to Mrs Hayley as she retires. The Art department want to wish Mrs Hayley all the best for her retirement and will be greatly missed by staff and students. We are welcoming Ruth Ansell to the department who will start in August as teacher of Photography and Art & Design.

### BGE Art & Design

Our BGE Art students have continued to create fantastic Art during remote learning. Everything from digital Art, photography, design and expressive work. Please look at their work on our Instagram page-theroyalhighschoolart.



### Fashion & Textiles National 5 Level

This year was our first year of presenting students in Fashion & Textiles at N5 level led by Miss Howie. The department would also like to pay special thanks to Devine upholstery for their donations of fabric and to others who have donated resources to help us develop this course.



### Senior Phase Art & Design

Art & Design is continuing to grow within RHS. Last year we had 4, S4 students who sat Higher Art and achieved 3 A's and a B. This year we await the results of 9, S4 students who have been presented for Higher level Art. This year we had 17 students presented at Advanced Higher Art.



#### Art Auction

Unfortunately, we were unable to hold our Art auction in term 3 but hope to be able to have one in the future. Our last Art auction raised £780 with half donated going to Maggie's. We may need to have a virtual Art Auction so keep a look out on RHS Twitter.



### Photography

We continue to teach NPA and Higher level Photography. Rotary Young Photographer of the Year - Ashley Brown and Paolo Sechi (both S3, doing NPA Photography Level 4) won the Edinburgh Club round for the Intermediate and Senior Category respectively. Cameron Shepherd (S5, doing Higher Photography) was nominated for the New Directions Category of the Paolozzi Award. Photograph below of Cameron's entry. We await the results at the end of June!



#### Leith School of Art Outreach Program

This year Lauren Fraser, Holly Fraser and Amaris Adekola all attended Leith School of Art every Friday afternoon. 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. Congratulations to Faith Gwasira who was awarded a paid scholarship to attend the LSA Foundation Course for 2020-21.





### Positive Destinations

Our Advanced Higher Art students continue to achieve positive destinations within Art & Design. Unfortunately we were unable to showcase the work of our Advanced Highers with an exhibition of their work, due to current circumstances. The Art Department would like to wish Stella Johnston, Holly Fraser, Caitlin Paterson, Anna Young, Emily Peckham, Charlie Duncan, Meara Littlejohn, Eve Cameron, Marsali Hunter, Amy Robson, Rosie Wilkinson, Hannah Schafer, Lauren Gunn, Faith Gwasira & Lara McMahon. (Portrait by Faith Gwasira)

### Business Education

This year we welcomed Miss Amanda Collins and Miss Lindsay Duncan to the department. They have been very active with teaching and developing courses.

Pupils have been out and about, in February a trip to Prudential (M&G), where our S5 Business pupils had the opportunity to learn about how the business operates, and learnt some great tips to help when applying for modern apprenticeships.



Pupils in S3 Business had the opportunity to take part in the Micro-Tyco Innovate Challenge. They had to think up a new, and innovative idea which would help the school or local community. We had some wonderful ideas: a website set up to help those with their mental health and well-being, a new recycling system where pupils would be able to gain different prizes, a litter and recycling programme in the local community and many more.



Three pupils were shortlisted for the Final of the Highly Esteemed 'Growing Future Assets' Investment Competition

S2 were involved in a marketing task involving Jam jars. They had to work in a team to create their own Scottish condiment or preserve (unfortunately, they could not make it!). They focused on the 4Ps – Product, Place, Price and Promotion. All teams then presented their product.



This session we introduced the Scottish Award in Business where the pupils had to research local Scottish businesses and were keen to share family and friends who are self-employed and discuss their businesses products and services.

## Computing

At the start of the session we welcomed back Miss Davidson. Pupils have been completing some exciting projects – building a 3D printer (unfortunately not complete before we shut) and building robots to code in Python.



In January CEO, Microsoft UK Cindy Rose came to RHS to speak with S1 and S2 girls about Technology and the opportunities available to them in the future, this really opened the girl's eyes to what is in front of them.



S3 took part in digital day and spent a day working in groups to problem solve, and design solutions for companies. The groups presented their findings in the Staff room at the end of the day. They were ALL very impressive and each group presented their findings well.

S1 ran the £25 challenge event and managed to sell all their products at the Christmas Fayre – Well done.



*S1 looking to see what is inside the box.*

*S4 developing problem solving skills and then writing algorithms.*



## CDT

This year we said goodbye to Mr Stuart as he moved on to pastures new and welcomed Mr McNeill to the department in his place.



The big success story of the year has to be Mr Hannay taking his 4x4 in schools' team, 'the Neon Knights' to the Land Rover Jaguar 4x4 in Schools Challenge where they came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Development Class at the regional final.

The Rotary Young Technologist Challenge continues to be a highlight of the year as Mrs Givan played host to a team of hosts and judges from the Rotary Club who delivered an exciting challenge to schools from all across Edinburgh who travelled to the Royal High School to participate.

The department has begun an exciting transformation with the installation of manual drawing boards in two rooms, the introduction of new metalwork projects into our BGE courses and an exciting new 'large project' workshop on the horizon! Watch this space!"



## English and Media Studies

Twitter: @rhs\_words

At the beginning of the school session, SQA Results brought very good outcomes at all levels. We continue to present more candidates for N5 and Higher English than any school in the Authority. Our National 5 results for English were a highlight, with our S4 gaining the best results in the City for the percentage of the cohort achieving A-C and A-D grades. Higher also saw an overall improvement and remains our primary area of development. Our Advanced Higher course benefited from a newly formed team, helped with the added experience and expertise



brought by Mrs Waterland to inform the Literature element. Whilst there are still improvements to be made, we believe we are seeing the positive impact of initiatives we have put in place, particularly around reading culture and giving feedback. We continue to develop our skills as practitioners and are at the forefront of ICT innovations that we hope will provide our young people with a first-class experience both in school and at home.

In terms of staffing, we welcomed Ms Sabotic to the team as our Probationer teacher. She has contributed hugely this year, especially with some new and engaging units in the BGE and also across the school, offering a number of new and exciting clubs for our young people. We wish her all the best in her next job, and I would like to thank her for handling everything this year has thrown at her with determination and good humour.

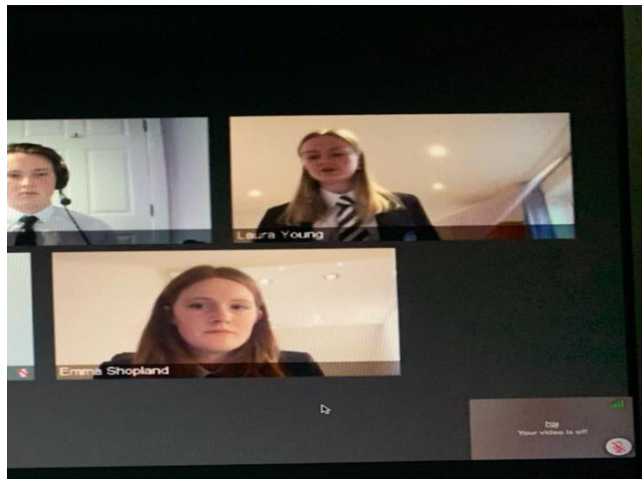
The Faculty continued its tradition of hosting student teachers, from Scottish Universities and also from teacher training programs in Belgium and Germany. Next session, we are delighted to welcome back Mr Rooney to the team after his secondment at Holyrood HS. We will also be joined by our new Probationer Teacher, Mr Lander.

We began the year with a number of trips to give our young people broader experiences, a trip to Pitlochry to see *The Crucible* just one example. This is the kind of cultural experience we will look to re-establish as soon as it is possible and safe to do so.



Debating Club continued to thrive this year, thanks to Mrs McLean and Mr Forbes. Highlights of the year include Megan Good and Freya Barclay (both S1) reaching the final of the Lothian and Borders Public Speaking Competition and Emma Shopland and Laura Young (both S6) reaching the national final of the Donald Dewar Debating

Tournament. The Donald Dewar competition was only on June 4<sup>th</sup> and although they had to compete 'virtually' and were denied their day in Parliament, they represented themselves and The Royal High School splendidly.



The Comic Book Film Club/Mythology Club is split between our Faculty (Mr Craig) and RMPS and continues to be very popular. I can tell by how many were disappointed on the one occasion it was not on before lockdown! Dr Hendry continues to run the Book Club, who were about to embark again on the Carnegie Prize shadowing scheme, whereby they are given access to new titles and are able to contribute reviews. The Creative Writing Group have also been active and

are producing some wonderful work. There are a number of excellent reading and writing initiatives that the Faculty are involved with. Of particular note is the Escape, Connect, Relate initiative, wonderfully led by our Librarian, Mr Shiels and three intrepid and dedicated students. You can read more about that in the annual report from the Library.

Media continues to grow in the Faculty as a subject choice and filmmaking was included in our S2 and Literacy courses, under the guidance of Mr Robertson. We are making huge strides with embedded video content in OneNote and Teams platforms, both in terms of media produced by our young people and as a way of enriching the teaching resources we are able to provide. Film continues to be a popular choice for analysis both in Media and English and we are lucky to have the expertise of three Media-qualified teachers in the Faculty to provide guidance to the rest of us.

Our flexible approach to pathways for senior students continued this year, with Dr Moonie and Mrs Ford at the helm. It is an approach that allows for increased teacher-pupil support and is based on open communication between young people, teachers, parents, SFL and IST teams to try and find a tailored fit for each individual student. It involves a lot of extra input from the teachers involved and I would like to thank them for their continued commitment. As another important aspect of the support we provide, our approach to Mental Health is also evolving and will continue to inform our curriculum and pastoral work. Ms Hogg is at the forefront of this, providing support with clubs and physical space for young people to support themselves and each other. She has also worked in collaboration with Mr Shiels and our young people to raise awareness and provide resources in this area. Thanks go to her too for her time and generosity.

The Faculty has continued to develop the way we support young people through feedback, with some fantastic innovative work by Mrs McLean. Our model for providing audio feedback on essays is being adopted by a number of English Faculties throughout the city and has proved popular within the RHS community. We have continued to provide additional learning opportunities at lunchtimes and after school and I would like to thank staff for giving up their non-contact time to do this. Since the Covid crisis began, this support has transferred online. We are learning lessons all the time about how to enhance this and even as we approach the end of term, we have teachers engaging in online training on a regular basis. Some of the adaptations we have had to make during these challenging times have actually shown us new and exciting ways of doing things that will stay with us long after the virus has gone.

As the summer holidays approach, we wish all of our young people, parents and carers and everybody in the wider RHS community all the best. Stay safe, have fun and we hope you find the opportunity to find some open space and quiet time to sit down with some fantastic holiday reading.

### **Geography, RMPS and Classical Studies**

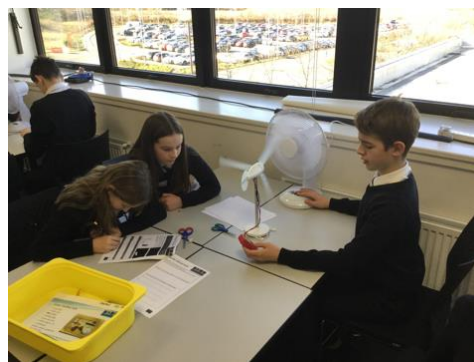
It has been a busy and very rewarding year in Geography, Classical Studies and RMPS. Staffing this session saw Mr Simon Ferriman join the faculty as Curriculum Leader, Mrs Ashley Fulton and Ms Liane Hooper as teachers of Geography, Ms Meghan Brady-McDonald and Ms Alexandra Lockhart as teachers of RMPS and Mr Sebastian Sewell as teacher of Classical Studies and RMPS. Ms Lockhart left on maternity leave in March following the birth of her son, we wish her all the best!

#### **Geography**

The Geography Department have continued a strong tradition of enhancing teaching with experiential and outdoor learning outside the classroom. A group of S1s visited Edinburgh College as part of a STEM event which included experimenting with wind turbines and constructing hot air balloons.



The whole of S2 visited Dynamic Earth as an introduction to the Explosive Earth unit, and also got hands on with a number of creatures adapted to live in the equatorial regions as part of the Rainforest unit.



S3 spent a day at Loch Lomond with the National Park Rangers learning about land use and conflicts in rural areas, and how the park manages them. This will really help those continuing on with the subject at National

level as this topic is revisited.

Higher students enjoyed a (very wet!) few days at the Field Studies Council's Blencathra centre in the Lake District. Students got the opportunity to carry out a number of different physical Geography fieldwork skills and collect data for their SQA Assignment.



Former RHS student Matthew Phillips, now a member of the British Antarctic Survey came into school to discuss his work in the Antarctic with students. His talk obviously inspired the students as they have requested a trip there!

This year also saw the introduction of Travel and Tourism, an SQA Skills for Work course at National Level, designed to develop skills, knowledge and attitudes needed to work in the tourist or related industries.



Mrs Fulton and Ms Hooper took part in an exciting enquiry project led by Shirley Clarke, a leading educational expert on formative assessment, encouraging the use of pedagogical techniques to promote independent learning or leadership of learning in the classroom. The aim was to create resilient learners who are in control of their learning, their routine and their learning environment. This had positive impacts in the department even after just a few weeks.



## Classical Studies

We were very lucky to have Dr Ben Russell from Edinburgh University talk to students about his archaeological work in the Pompeii, and also the benefits of choosing Archaeology as a career. Plans are afoot to also have Dr David Lewis, a noted expert on Greek Archaeology, come and talk to students about his amazing work in excavating Athens. The Department has also been working very closely with St Andrews University Classics Department on producing a range of materials designed for the Broad General Education on Greek Tragedy, and the research of Professor Jon Heslop, who will hopefully be visiting the school in the future.



The Mythology Club has continued to be hugely popular, with numbers often well over 50 in attendance. Alongside providing a safe space, it allows

students to explore topics such as the lives of gladiators and the common themes running between mythology and comic books.



With the growth in popularity of Classical Studies Mr Sewell has been instrumental in building a support network with other schools in the council. Next session will see Classical Studies offered in all Edinburgh North West Schools for the first time in many years.



## RMPS

As part of their Environmental Ethics unit, S1s took part in a community survey examining the use and impact of reusable and single use plastics in our school and the local area. In addition, each group took an active role in contributing to the wider community through environmental clean ups of the school grounds and local parks.

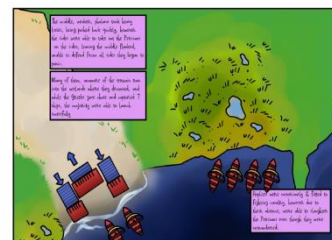
The new S2 Cohort is taking part in the Inspiring Purpose Sustainable Futures poster competition, encouraging students to reflect on how they can become global citizens.



Just before Christmas the RMPS department took Higher students to the Zoo to examine evolutionary theory and discuss the process of natural selection, and the challenges, if any, it provides to Christian belief in creation. This is part of their Religious and Philosophical Questions unit of Higher RMPS and helped to reinforce connections between theological and philosophical concerns and the everyday world. We were blessed with good weather, but sadly there was a no show from the pandas, who were sleeping.

## Remote learning

Although we have very much missed being able to see our students, we have been very impressed with the work being produced whilst learning from home. Examples include home-made weather stations and very creative depictions of Greco-Persian battles. We are looking forward to seeing everyone back in August!

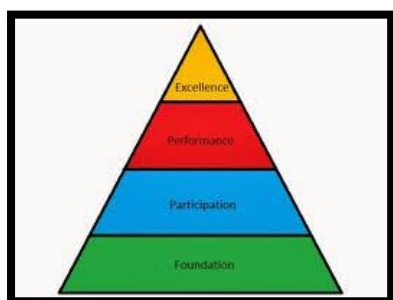


## Health and Wellbeing

The Health and Wellbeing Faculty had another busy and exciting year with new courses, record numbers and outstanding practical successes. We were joined by Miss Marshall and Mr Terris this year who complimented our dedicated team in the pursuit of continued success.

### Health and Wellbeing Pilot Project

This was the year of an exciting new pilot project for the s1 Health and Wellbeing course. Our 7 PE staff were trained as tutors and delivered a 9 week 'Feeling Good' course developed in partnership with NHS and The Foundation for Positive Mental Health. Our s1 students listened to a weekly wellbeing track during their English lessons, followed by a detailed session in their HWB lesson which unpicked the themes emerging from the track. Students practiced the use of mindfulness and deep breathing as well as focusing on understanding their stressors and coping mechanisms.



### National Progression Award - 'Sports Development Success'

Our first year of delivering the SCQF level 6 National Progression Award in Sports Development was a positive experience, equipping upwards of 30 learners with a qualification that opens doors to a number of pathways in Sport. Starting with a successful SQA approval process led by Miss MacMillan, we created partnerships with local clubs and colleges whilst developing content and assessment tools for our first year of delivery. Numbers have remained positive cementing Sports Development's place as a popular choice on the senior course choice list.

### Primary PE Partnership

This year saw our PE department strike up a transition partnership with Blackhall Primary which complemented our existing commitment to our cluster schools through our Active Schools Coordinator Matthew McLachlan. Miss MacMillan and Miss Marshall attended Blackhall Primary on a Wednesday to deliver their Primary PE sessions. This proved to be a valuable and rewarding partnership which we hope will continue to grow.



### Sporting Success

Our vibrant sporting programme continued to go from strength to strength with successes in almost every sport imaginable from Triathlon with Cameron Fordyce and Rosie Mitchell achieving national success to Fencing where Sam Barras excelled on the national scene. International caps in Football and Rugby from Fraser McAslan, Alfie Maitland and Ciara Duff continued our amazing record on the big stage. Our swimmers continued to excel with many competing successfully in regional and national competitions. Our Netball programme continues to flourish with all teams competing well in various levels of the Scottish cup. From Hockey to Tennis, Badminton to Athletics, Dance to Gymnastics and American Football to Basketball, it's all going on and more at RHS!



### Football Academy

The Football Academy continued its progression with more boys and girls representing RHS than ever before. Our Academy groups gained 1 extra session of football coaching each week and we strengthened our partnerships with the SFA with further trips to the Oriam Performance Centre. Unfortunately, all Football competitions were ended prematurely in March 2020 before any competitions could be completed.

**S1** - The u13s enjoyed a successful season, sitting top of the Edinburgh A league in March when the season ended. This year's s1 were looking to complete a hat-trick of u13 A league trophies after RHS won it the previous 2 years. We continued our trend of entrusting s6 pupils to run the team and this year's coaching team was Ewan Russell, Nathan Gallagher and Jamie Crawford. The s1 player of the year was **Sam Kothari**

**S2** - After winning the A league last year, the s2 team continued their success on the pitch by reaching the semi-finals of the Lothian Cup. There was also a successful run the Scottish Shield as well as some memorable comebacks in the league. Mr Muttit continued his coaching role with the team and we wish him every success in his new job. The s2 player of the year was **Daniel Marshall**.



**S3** – Following 2 league wins in 2 years, this years under 15 team suffered some tougher games in the league. However, they battled back after a tough start to cement third place in the league before the shutdown. The squad also made the semi-finals of the Lothian Cup. Two players; Gregor Fordyce and Athan Barry were selected for the Edinburgh Schools u15 Select Squad. The s3 player of the year was **Athan Barry**

**S4** – This year's u16 squad were the first squad to enter this age group for a number of years. Under the dedicated stewardship of Peter Halton, the squad maintained a good win record during a stop-start campaign. The squad reached the semi-finals of the u16 Lothian Cup and sat 2<sup>nd</sup> in the league before the lockdown. The s4 player of the year was **Rui Black**

**Girls** – Our senior girls had a strong run in the Scottish Cup including an away win in Perthshire before being knocked out by previous winners Braidhurst in a tough encounter at Royal High. Our s1-3 squad also competed well in the Edinburgh tournament series, finishing in the top three before the shutdown. Our girls continued to perform well in the club competitions. Ciara Duff, our senior goalkeeper, made her national debut for the Scotland u16 squad.

**Senior** – After two consecutive second place finishes in the Lothian u18 league, the boys again made the top half after the Christmas split, challenging near the top before the shutdown. Defending their Lothian Cup win from last year, the boys once again fought through to the Semi-Finals before the lockdown. The senior player of the year was **Miko Komocki**.



### Hospitality

Our Practical Cookery numbers almost doubled for the 2019-20 academic year with Mrs Kelly and Miss Murphy refreshing our dishes into various cuisines from across the world. Ingredients were prepared to perfection as usual by the legendary Mrs Hunter which allowed students the chance to try their hand at new and exciting courses.

Our entry into Twitter and Instagram, coupled with a new digital reflection policy allowed us to keep the department up to date with the latest and best teaching and learning.



## **Rugby Academy**

### **What we delivered – on the pitch!**

Our Rugby Academy has had another tremendously successful year with teams at S1, S2, S3, U16 and U18 being fielded every week. We finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in our School Conference, with our U16ss finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in their individual competition and our U15s finishing 2<sup>nd</sup>. In addition to this our girls side continued to grow with a regular rugby session on Friday morning being attended by around 10 S1-S3 girls every week.

In total these teams played 110 fixtures this season.

Our U18 and U16 sides both entered the National Cup but were unfortunately beaten in the earlier rounds. However, our U16 side managed to make it to Finals Day at Murrayfield. Unfortunately, they were beaten 44-0 by Queen Victoria School in the National Plate competition.

### **Elite Performance**

Once again, we have been delighted to see several of our young people be selected for Regional and National 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:**

8 U15 boys were invited to join the Edinburgh U15 Pathways programme.

#### **National:**

One U16 boy was selected for the Scotland U16 squad for the international tournament in Wales. Unfortunately, this tournament didn't take place due to the outbreak of COVID-19.

#### **Senior honours:**

One U18 boy was invited to play for Boroughmuir Bears Super-Six side.

### **What we did – off the pitch!**

Our Senior Academy programme continues to grow. This programme looks at developing the boys knowledge & understanding of rugby, strength & conditioning, nutrition, rugby officiating and rugby coaching. To help with the delivery of this programme we maintained our partnership with Borders College and put our 12 pupils through their Aspiring Performers Programme (APP) at Level 5 or Level 6, with all 12 meeting the standard to receive a pass at the appropriate level.

Further to this 24 S3 boys and girls met the standard to receive a unit pass at Level 4 in the same Aspiring Performers Programme.

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.

This year we also entered into a very exciting partnership with Edinburgh Rugby. This saw some of our senior pupils visit Edinburgh Rugby at Murrayfield to see how things work behind-the-scenes at a professional rugby club. In addition to this 8 S2 boys joined Edinburgh Rugby's Prosper Programme. This weekly initiative saw the boys focus on developing their resilience and other skills for life & work, using rugby and sport as the focus. This was a hugely successful initiative and although the end of the programme was curtailed by the closure of the school, this is something we will be looking at reintroducing in 2020/21.

## **History & Modern Studies**

### **History**

The History department has had a very busy year. Mrs Alison Gallagher commenced her maternity leave at the start of the summer and we were so excited to hear of the safe arrival of the Gallagher twins, Niamh and Ruairi at the end of July. Many cuddles have been had! The team was joined by Mr Alexander Hagart in August as he embarked on his Probationer year in the RHS History department. He has worked very hard for our pupils, bringing learning to life and making history accessible for all. He has further made an excellent contribution to our whole school curriculum, ably coaching the school rugby team and cutting some shapes during our Strictly competition. Mrs Mairi MacDermot continued her secondment to the Edinburgh Learns team but we are delighted to welcome her back in August 2020 to the department. Mrs MacDermot will resume teaching but also take up the CL role on a Monday and Tuesday. Mrs Hughes will continue as CL Wednesday-Friday after reducing her hours for the coming year. Mrs Gallagher also returns in August, we are really excited to have the old team back together and to be joined by our new History NQT Ms Joanna Saville.

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 successfully delivered a series of reflective assemblies to pupils from S1-S6. Further, our two ambassadors this year, Ava Turnock and Anna Aikman from our outgoing S6, did the school and a great honour by emceeing the Scottish Parliament HMD event; expertly introducing all the guests including the First Minister. The Higher History class took part in the Stewart Melville's history conference in November. Unfortunately, as with other departments many of the exciting opportunities we had upcoming such as Battlefields, German exchange and other activities have been cut short or postponed for now. As disappointing as this is for everyone, we look forward to a time when we can get these valuable enrichment activities up and running again.



### Modern Studies

As always, the 2019/20 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. The department welcomed Ms Kirstin Drummond in August as Modern Studies NQT. We are delighted that Ms Drummond was successful in attaining the full-time post and so will stay on in the department on a permanent basis from August. She has made a tremendous impact so far, participating in the school's Strictly competition and throwing herself into extra-curricular activities such as the Rights Respecting School Award, working closely with the cluster primaries to drive this forward. We know that pupils will be delighted to have Ms Drummond continue her excellent work and teaching practice at the school.

The department has continued its tradition of getting outside speakers and the team organised a hustings ahead of the general election in December, inviting the representatives of all the parties fielding candidates in the constituency to engage political dialogue with our pupils, parents and members of the community. It was extremely well-attended and gave the pupils an exciting opportunity to really engage with politics and the issues of the day.

Sheriff Frank Crowe also visited the department to talk to S3-6 about the Criminal Justice System, his insight and expertise being invaluable for those studying senior MS certificate classes.



The department has been able to offer a number of trips to pupils in certificate classes. The Advanced Higher pupils went to the University of Edinburgh Library in order to support the completion of their AH research task. They also attended the George Watson Advanced Higher Conference. The department was also able to continue to offer the opportunity to attend the Maths and Social Science event run by the Q-Steps programme at the University of Edinburgh.



As well as supporting their own curricular area, the Modern Studies staff have continued to support the wider development of the school. Mr Forbes continues his sterling work with the debating club and pupil voice as well as giving support to the NQTs, and Ms Drummond ran a lunchtime support club for younger learners as well as finding time to be a leading light in the annual "Strictly" event that took place. The challenges of the last few months have obviously been acute; however, the team have maintained their professionalism and excellence in providing expert tuition and extras from afar 'behind their screens' at home. Nonetheless, we will look forward to seeing you soon!



## Integrated Support Team

### Support for Learning

#### Staffing

During this session, we welcomed three new Pupil Support Assistants – Miss Vera Jung, Ms Jude Mayson and Miss Jacqui Brown. Miss Brown took up her post in mid-March, so didn't set foot in the department until June! Sadly, we said goodbye to two of our longest serving PSAs, Mrs Julie McKeever left us to return to her career as a nurse and Mrs Marian Wootton is set to progress in her desired career path leaving us to begin her PGDE course in Secondary Education. We as a team wish them both well in their new ventures. As a department we have continued to build upon the work we do by welcoming Natali Fraser to the team as a Youth Worker. She has already proved to be a vital addition to our team with lots of exciting plans.

#### Nurture Initiative

Our Nurture Initiative continues to grow and become embedded in our practice. These groups provide pupils with the opportunity to express themselves and discuss any worries or anxieties they may have, in a safe and supportive environment. From feedback we've had from informal discussions with teachers, many of our Nurture pupils have shown significant improvement with listening, social interaction and self-control. The confidence of these pupils has increased, and this seems to be evident in some subjects. The fact that these pupils know that we are always there to touch base with, gives them the confidence that they have a trusted adult who is willing to listen and support through life and academic challenges.



With the support from Natali and Jo Withers we were able to add a girl's group for S1 pupils which involved lots of group chats & activities that focussed on themes that the girls had highlighted through our conversations each week. We spent a lot of time on friendships, and social media/bullying and a bit of time on body image and confidence.

#### LIAM

With the mental health of our young people such a concern nationally Mrs Withers has run a programme called LIAM – Lets Introduce Anxiety Management which is designed to equip pupils with much needed anxiety management strategies at the early stages and hopefully help them to control their anxiety and prevent it becoming a more serious issue. This year alone around 20 pupils have completed the programme.

#### Numeracy Support

Mrs Ivinson and Miss Ryan have been involved in the launch of a new Numeracy support initiative which is designed to address the difficulties some pupils have with numbers and sequencing. This has had a significant impact with some young people and has gone a long way to improve their confidence with numeracy.



#### Men Shed

In partnership with Corstorphine Community Centre, our youth worker Natali organised for two S2 boys to attend the centres Men Shed each week, a national project aimed at older, retired men. Each week the boys engaged in woodwork projects with the men, bringing together the different generations. It was a hugely successful project with lots of conversation during these sessions around the differences (& similarities) in their generations! Here is a taste of the kind of projects the boys worked on.

### Friday Café

Our Friday Café continues to go from strength to strength with staff telling us it is the highlight of their week! The pupils involved are gaining such confidence and just love trying new recipes to make and sell each week.

We were also thrilled to be asked to cater for the visit from HRH The Duke of Kent in December.



### Lockdown

As a team we really rose to the challenge of remote teaching and remote support! Before our doors were even closed, we had set up online chat groups and jotters for pupils to share their work and any difficulties with us. After the Easter holidays we then began making video calls home to pupils to support them with their learning. These calls have continued right throughout the school closure and have meant many of our most vulnerable learners have had regular contact with support staff. This meant a huge learning curve for us all, many of us also juggling home-school and childcare with our own families.

### Support for Pupils

The Support for Pupils team has enjoyed another hectic year with more change than we could ever have imagined, but many successes too. We were very sad to lose face to face contact with our caseloads as schools closed in unprecedented circumstances, but we have worked hard to maintain relationships and support for our young people remotely. We all very much look forward to returning to school in August.

This year there were 105 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.

Support for Pupils have offered many opportunities too. We have created a close working relationship with EY and regularly receive details of summer internships and employment opportunities for S5 and S6 leavers. The Senior Team of sixth year School and Nation Captains developed and managed a huge number of initiatives and leadership roles, everything from tree planting to a mentoring program for younger pupils. They have seen real progress through their hard work, supported staff throughout the school, even during remote learning, and enjoyed huge success throughout the year. We have been honoured to work with them and will miss their enthusiasm and creativity enormously.

The Youth Philanthropy Initiative continues to grow in popularity and this year we were delighted, and hugely impressed, by our third-year pupils who represented St Columbus Hospice securing a £3000 prize for them at the YPI final in December – congratulations to **Caitlin Lawrie 3P2, Eve Murphy 3A2, Libby Meredith 3A2 and Alisha Shabir 3A2**.



We look forward to session 2020/21 for many reasons, but none more so as we welcome the beginning of a new nation – the Gaels. Our original nation system was introduced in 1912 by rector, Dr. William J. Watson, named after the early peoples of Scotland, it has remained unchanged, until now. Originally a character-building exercise, the nation teams were intended to encourage team spirit. This is still very much our ethos over 100 years on, but with 5 nations, we feel that competition this year will be fiercer than usual for the coveted Crichton Cup!

Exciting times ahead indeed.

### Library

#### Teen Titles

This year we had 10 pupils read new titles and submit reviews for the Teen Titles magazine.

Pupils were also invited to the Teen Titles celebration and 2 pupils were taken along to the Central Library by Mr Shiels.

Thanks to those who encouraged their pupils to try something different and submit a review!

## Teen Titles party

Posted on [September 2, 2019](#) by [edinburghcitylibraries](#)



On Thursday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August, the Reference Library was the place to be, as it played host to Edinburgh Libraries' annual celebration of our [Teen Titles magazine](#).

Started way back in 1993 before some of our current reviewers were even born, Teen Titles is our magazine that is jam packed with honest, unedited, unbiased reviews written by Edinburgh school pupils of the newest young adult, fiction and nonfiction books. Its aim is to promote reading in a fun way that appeals to young people. Published three times a year, glossy editions of Teen Titles are issued free to all City of Edinburgh Council secondary schools and libraries.



Every year during the Edinburgh International Book Festival the pupil reviewers are invited, along with their school librarians to the event at the Central Library to meet with authors (some local, some in town for the festival).

### Green pencil Award

Working with Miss Hogg, all the S2 literacy classes were invited to submit an entry to the Green Pencil Award, an environmentally-themed creative writing competition. This year's theme was 'Going, Going, Gone - Scottish Wildlife in Danger?'

To support the pupils, the library bought in relevant non-fiction titles on Scottish wildlife.

A big congratulations to Ailish Young who was a short-listed finalist. Thanks to Dr Hendry and Miss Hogg, whose classes submitted entries.





## Pine Marten

It's terrifying how much twenty years can change a place. It only seemed like yesterday I was here last, racing through the coniferous forest, running away from Billy and his gang.

Billy and his gang had been the bullying type, picking on younger and weaker kids like me. However, I was never concerned by them. I was faster than they were and I always had the forest to run to. A towering maze of spindly trees and rocks which I know like the back of my hand.

It was on one of those evenings when I was leaning with one hand against the rough bark of one of the looming trees, catching my breath after another easy escape. I was out later than usual, the sun dipping low to the ground, extending the low shadows cast from the thin trees, and the first moths and bats were beginning to leave their daytime homes.

I remember slowly gaining my breath and soon I was slowly walking back

home, my footsteps muffled by the soft, needle-covered ground. And there it was, emerging from a hole in the tree in front of me, its long body and cream-coloured chest following after the head peering out of the hole.

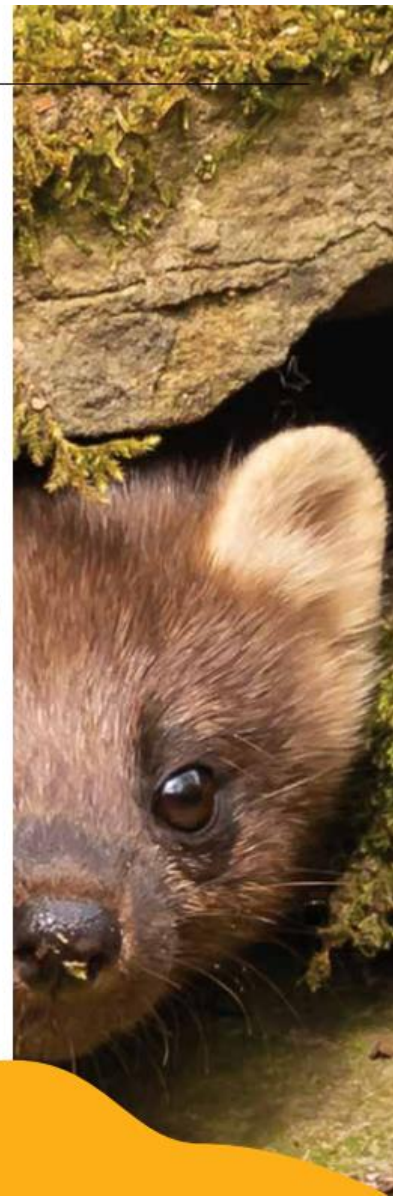
*Martes martes, pine marten.*

I stood stock still, staring in curious wonder at the elegant creature before me. I remember my dad telling me about them, carnivorous mammals that were largely nocturnal, and lived in forests much like this one.

The creature's jet-black eyes snapped to me, and it climbed down the tree trunk with surprising agility before darting away to the left, bounding off into the forest.

And as I stood in that same spot twenty years later, staring motionlessly at the soulless tree stump in front of me, with dead twigs beneath my feet and the once magical trees reduced to rotting stumps, I couldn't help but wonder what happened to the pine marten.

**Ailish Young S2**  
The Royal High School



### Escape, Connect, Relate

Our S4 ambassadors, Grace Read and Tatiana Honeywell, have continued to promote the service to staff at a CAT session and through small groups of staff.

We were very proud of them when both talked about the project to the Deputy First Minister when he visited the school to see the Escape, Connect, Relate resources.

Going forward, as Grace and Tatiana are moving into S5, the library will be looking to recruit a couple of new ambassadors. If you have S3 pupils who have an interest in Mental Health and reading, do let me know.



## Book Bingo



For the S1 library blocks, I introduced a Book Bingo work sheet. The idea behind it was to encourage pupils to try to read a variety of different genres and pick something they wouldn't normally read. It was also run as a competition where the class who read the most books won a prize. 2 classes responded with their final tallies and next year, hopefully more classes will compete.

Miss Hogg's class was the winning class, by just one book! The class then got to visit Waterstones on Princes St for an author event, where they heard from new children's author Emily Ilett talk about her book **The Girl Who Lost Her Shadow**. It was a very informative and engaging event, and the class heard about marine biology and Emily's writing process. As it was also World Book Day, the class got to have a look around the store and use their WBD tokens too!

## Book Group



## Library Book Group

The book group, run by Mr Shiels and Dr Hendry, once again took part in the Scottish Teen Book Prize, run by the Scottish Book Trust. There were 3 titles for the pupils to read, review and decide which was the winning book. Mr Arbuckle kindly bought in the copies of the 3 shortlisted books, so the group could all read and discuss the titles:

**One Shot by Tanya Landman**

**Starfish by Akemi Dawn Bowman**

**Rok of the Reds By John Wagner, Alan Grant, and Dan Cornwell**

As a bonus, this year the Scottish Book Trust used the library to film their big winning book reveal video! The group got to meet the winning author, Tanya Landman for her book **One Shot**. The group had a really good discussion with Tanya, about how she researched her book, her writing processes and the role of reading in the English curriculum, as well as all getting a signed copy of her book.







Hopefully, we will get to take part next year and I have been invited by the SBT to help read the longlist and help select the final 3 titles for the short list, which will then be judged by the pupils.



The group also had the chance to interview the author Cat Clarke for the Teen Titles magazine and review her book **Letting Go**. You can read their interview online here:

<https://sway.office.com/KbVFjTuaD3FYvCp?ref=Twitter&loc=play>



For World Book Day, the group worked hard in organising a library book fair by planning and promoting it. Pupils in the school would get to use their World Book Day tokens to buy books at the fair. The more books that were sold, the more free books we could get for the library. Unfortunately, the Co-vid19 lockdown meant that the event was cancelled.

Since Lockdown, the group have been continuing to read and we have been discussing book via TEAMS.

### Youth Talk

Working with Mr Forbes, the Pupils Council and our colleagues in council Lifelong Learning department; we engaged with pupils to get their 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. Youth talk is about young people “having a say”. Previously pupil engagement was through whole school survey and a mapping exercise, detailed in last year report.



For the next stage of Youth Talk selected pupils were taken along the Youth Talk gathering in Corstorphine. Here young people got the chance to sit with adults who make decisions on the things and services that matter to them and mix with pupils from other schools in the locality. The event was hosted by John Laughton, a high profile and award-winning global youth leader, social entrepreneur, campaigner and leadership speaker.



One of the outcomes was the need for local information for young people. During lockdown, engagement continued and some pupils on the Pupil Council were also asked to be some of the first ones to look at the new Youth Talk website and to share their views on how it looks and its content.

### Library Twitter Feed

Keep an eye on the **Library Twitter feed** for read recommendations, writing competitions and author videos - [https://twitter.com/RoyalHS\\_Library](https://twitter.com/RoyalHS_Library)



## Mathematics Department

2019-20 has been another very busy year for the maths department, starting with particularly strong exam results across the range of SQA courses from National 3 through to Advanced Higher Mathematics and Applied Mathematics. The year has also seen a number of changes in staff with Mrs Harpur retiring and Ms Dupraz bringing a beautiful baby boy into the world. We were delighted that Dr Crow returned safely from her missionary work in Africa and that Mr Stobie joined us as a permanent member of the team.



The department has been working hard on digital literacy this year, providing resources and activities on Teams for all our classes. We have installed Apple TV in all our classrooms and have started producing short recorded lessons and resources for many classes. We were delighted to receive funding to allow us to continue using Manga High to engage our youngsters both in school and during the time the school has been closed. A lot of work has now been done over the period away from

school, delivering sessions on-line, ensuring we provide bespoke resources for all our youngsters and answering questions received from pupils and their families.



The first week in October 2019 was maths week, which is celebrated by schools across Scotland. This year the maths department asked our BGE classes to become detectives and use maths and numeracy to solve some interesting crimes, we also combined some history, computing and mathematics by looking at the life of Alan Turing – a mathematician who helped to win World War II by breaking the Nazi Enigma code.

In November we invited our P7 cluster schools for a visit to the Royal High. Maths activities were held in the main assembly hall and P7's were taken for a visit to the maths department and tour of the school. The visit was enjoyed by everyone involved.

The department ran a very successful maths camp in early March 2020 at Fordell Firs Outdoor Centre for S4 National 5 level pupils. During the weekend pupils worked hard to prepare for their maths exam (which also put them in a good position for the unexpected cancellation of the exams) and participated in outdoor activities for some rest and relaxation.

Other activities over the year included after school classes held Monday to Thursday which were well attended by many students, an S3/4 Enterprising Maths team who very nearly made the Scottish final and a group of S6 pupils attended a statistics conference in Dollar Academy. Many of our pupils were successful in the UK and Scottish mathematical challenges. Over the year we have supported four student maths teachers through successful placements and wish them well in their first year of teaching. We have also been privileged to be joined by three retired maths teachers on a part-time voluntary basis, who have supported many of our less confident youngsters in class.



Many of our teachers lead activities across the school including, basketball run by Mr Docherty, Mr Curry is supporting digital literacy across the school, the football league organised by Mr Millington, Mrs Campbell running netball club, Mrs Crow supports the Scripture Union class and Mrs Ward leads the Rights Respecting school group. We have all missed being in school and working directly with our classes, although we have been delighted with the on-line engagement of many pupils. We look forward to meeting everyone again in August.

## Modern Languages

It has been a busy year for the Modern Languages Department. Miss Chantal Gluting joined the department in August to undertake her probationary year. In December 2019, Miss Mariani went on secondment to undertake a Curricular Leader role at Liberton HS and Mrs Vicky Blair joined the department. Mrs McKinlay and Mrs Figueira returned from maternity leave in March and May respectively. German pupils were supported by our German Language Assistant, Julie Spira.

In early September, we welcomed a group of senior Italian pupils to the school for a 2-week visit. In late September, a group of Swiss pupils also visited the school and worked with our senior German pupils. Our pupils also had the



pleasure of attending a ceilidh organised by the Swiss visitors. The Primary 7 Languages Transition Day took place on the 26<sup>th</sup> September and was supported by senior students.



German Christmas Brunch.

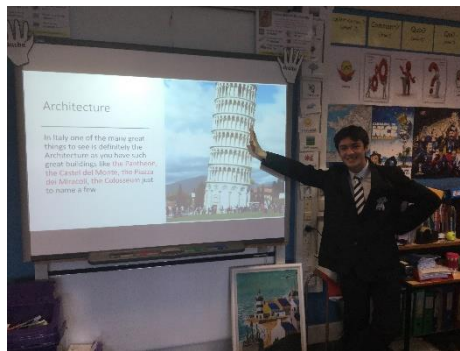
In October, S3-S6 Spanish pupils went to a screening of a Spanish film at the Film House. In late October, a group of German student teachers visited the department. Dr Lynch from Moray House also visited to deliver a talk to S4 pupils about the importance of languages and, in November, the Higher German pupils visited Edinburgh University. In December, S4 German pupils visited the German Christmas market and S3 German pupils had a



In January, we started our new teacher exchange programme together with Edinburgh University, and welcomed Marius from Göttingen to our school. In late January, our S2 and S3 pupils attended the German Language Adventure at Fettes College. In February, our senior languages pupils attended the languages immersion afternoon at Napier University. Finally, in March, we welcomed three Austrian Student Teachers from Linz to our department.

### The Modern Languages Club

The Modern Languages club was a huge success this year. The club is run by senior students and comprises pupils from S1 to S6. Pupils agree on the programme for each term and each week students deliver presentations on different countries and languages, complete with food tasting. One of the highlights of the year was Aaqil's mother's lentil dahl banquet (complete with cutlery and crockery)!



### Science

This time last year we were looking forward to expanding the curriculum we offer with new courses in National 5 Practical Electronics (in its new form), S3 Practical Electronics and level 5 National Progression Award in Practical Science. The clear majority of our offering is still the solidly academic Science courses, but this was an exploration of the more vocational science courses, and an outreach to the pupils we have not been able to help develop past the early years of their secondary education. It was an invitation that went out to the pupils who dropped science courses to come back to us, we do have something to offer you.

So in August our new courses and the loss of Mrs Robertson to Mary Erskine's (to become Head of Biology) and Mrs Kelly to her year on maternity leave, and the addition of Miss Ewart (Permanent) and Miss Kerr (Probationer) to the biology teaching staff were the big changes. Brexit was the main topic of conversation, and then everything changed. Slowly at first, but by the time the most tragic aspects of the pandemic were touching our school community it felt like an unstoppable force. The impacts for science education are vast, though. Science and medicine made a difference. 'Led by the science' is now a political mantra. We have briefings from scientific and medical experts on a nearly daily basis. They communicate with the public in scientifically literate terms, and not just about the virus. The changes in our atmospheric composition is a good news story no-one could have predicted. We have been forced to explore new ways of living and working and learning that have not all been good. But the good parts are a genie that should not be put back in the bottle.

Our teaching staff have supported each other and trained and taught each other how to use the tools at our disposal. We have managed to teach our pupils some things about the world without them ever leaving their bedroom. That has been a fantastic experience. It has been hard work. There have been tears and frustrations. Some remain, and the impact on next session and beyond is not yet clear. However, the investment in ICT, improvement in our teachers' digital skills and the consistency we have achieved in approach has put our pupils in a much better position to deal with the coronavirus with resilience.

At the start of our session the main development priorities were our S3 courses. Though there was some progress they have fallen by the wayside and will need some revisiting.

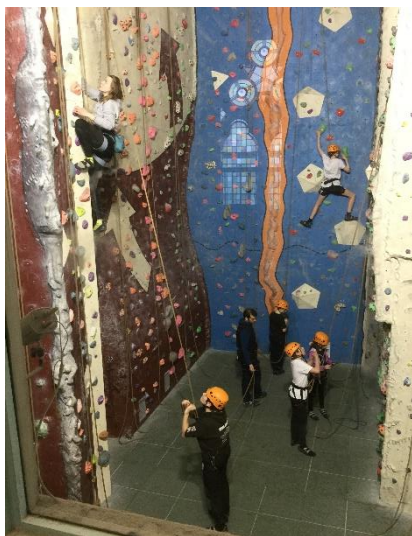
It is always a source of great pleasure to see the young people we work with go on to be successful and last session results were good in all parts of the Science Faculty. This year we didn't get to exam season, of course, but we wish for all the success our pupils deserve when it comes to the publication of awards and our leavers' routes into their lives in the wide world. A source of some distress was the lack of a formal 'goodbye' for our leavers, but we know we will hear from them again.

**RHS Amnesty Group:** This year the Amnesty group focussed on the *Write for Rights* campaign 2019-2020. Group members sent their own letters/postcards targeted at individuals and groups who campaign for rights such as LGBTI rights, environmental rights, women's rights and children's rights. A stall was set up in the library to encourage everyone in the school to participate by sending postcards in support of the campaign. Thanks to all who contributed.

### Rock Climbing Club

This year was the introduction of the Rock-Climbing Club! Doubling in size from the first block to the second, it saw pupils from S1 to S5 working together to promote teamwork, problem solving and mastering safety skills. While

physical, it is incredibly mentally challenging and all pupils progressed amazingly. It was even used as the physical aspect of The Duke of Edinburgh Award. Climbing is a sport for all, and we may have our next Olympians right here in Royal High School!



### Knitting and Crochet Club

Knitting and Crochet Club takes place on Thursday lunchtime. Pupils eat their lunch and meet other pupils whilst doing their knitting and crochet in a very relaxing social environment. Even the Business Manager joins us occasionally and shows the pupils how to do cross stitch (and she supplied lots of small kits). Good fun and all good for our health and well being



### Ski Trip 2020

Serre Chevalier, France was the destination of the Ski Trip this year. 55 young people signed up to the trip with a range of experience from beginners to advanced. Practice lessons at the Midlothian Snow Sports centre helped

many prepare before embarking on the trip. We were treated yet again to first class instruction from the ski instructors at Ecole Ski France (ESF) with students being awarded a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award at the end of the week. We received hugely positive feedback from the instructors, hotel staff and public on how well the students conducted themselves. An outstanding group of young people who will have no doubt gained many fond memories of the trip.





## Developing the Young Workforce (DYW)

At the Royal High School, we aim to give students a huge range of opportunities to learn about the vast range of careers and explore the pathways they are interested in. We bring the school curriculum to life by learning the skills that will be required in the workplace and reaching out to employers who can input to the course material by visiting the school, engaging digitally or students gaining insight through a trip. This year, all subject specialists discussed the pathways available within their subject throughout school, beyond school as well as the skills that students develop as they move through the curriculum. This helped many students map out their journey and helped with subject choice.

'My Future Friday' was one of the many initiatives that was a huge success this year. Students had the opportunity to sign up and take part in a question and answer session during extended Form time on a Friday with a guest speaker from a different sector each week. Students commented on the benefits of hearing first-hand from sector specialists. Special thanks to Mr Jamie Terris, PE for co-ordinating this programme.

Our Careers Event this year was another highlight, where S2 students got the opportunity to meet over 60 people from a diverse range of organisations and sectors. The event had a 'speed dating' format where students spent a few minutes at each station engaging in Question and Answer before moving onto the next station. Students also had the opportunity to listen to key-note talks from a range of Former Pupils of RHS who shared their wisdom and journey from leaving school to the present day. Students related really well to the FP's as they at one stage also wore the same uniform and were thinking about their careers beyond The Royal High School.



We are always interested to hear from Former Pupils and people from a range of sectors who would be willing to engage with the school. Please e-mail [steven.raeburn@oyalhigh.edin.sch.uk](mailto:steven.raeburn@oyalhigh.edin.sch.uk) if you can offer any of your time and expertise to our students.

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) is the national skills body which delivers Scotland's careers service and our careers adviser, Jen O'Neill has made a huge contribution to delivering career information, advice and guidance to pupils from S1-S6 this year.



This year, 10 of our senior students were trained as My World of Work Ambassadors (MWoW). This was not only a great networking opportunity for the students involved but they were also trained on how to use the MWoW digital platforms that are accessible to students and helped students sign up during PSE sessions. The MWoW platform is an online career information and advice service and it's packed full of activities and tools to help students with career choices.

It is an exciting time for DYW and we take great pride at The Royal High School in providing opportunities and advice to our students. Many of you will remember back to your time at school where a guest speaker may have

had a positive impact on your life and in many cases shaped your pathway. We aim to build on the existing opportunities and bring the curriculum to life by engaging with a vast range of sectors.

## 2019/20 LEAVERS

Nizam	Abdulkarim	Gabriel	Falconer
Anna	Aikman	Euan Martin	Finlayson
Omar	Alam	Andrew	Finn
Jenna	Alexander	Princess Dareen	Florendo
Cameron Toni	Archbold	Astrid	Flynn
Lewis MacKay	Bain	Daniel	Fraser
Storm	Barry	Holly Catherine	Fraser
Josef	Bate	Roisin Mercy	Fredrick
Carrick	Black	Nathan Stephen	Gallagher
Lewis	Blues	James	Garioch
Jack	Boner	Hedi	Ghenima
Georgia Rose	Brennan	Ahmed	Ghulam
Joseph Peter	Brodie	Callum James	Glasgow
Murray Alexander Ashley	Brown	Emily	Goddard
Sam Peter George	Brown	Benjamin	Grainger
Aliyah	Burnet	Kelly Elizabeth	Grant
Rebecca Margaret	Burney	Rory James	Grant
Kirstie Ruth Alexandra	Burns	Ethan	Gray
Sadie	Butterworth	Felicity	Gray
Francesca Faye	Cacatian	Megan	Grover
Kenna	Calder	Megan Anne	Grover
Eve Elizabeth	Cameron	Leo	Guibout
Daniel Patrick	Campbell	Lauren Hannah	Gunn
Calvin Luis	Catala	Faith Takunda	Gwasira
Sravani	Challagali	Miles	Hailstones
Harvey Wai Chung	Chan	Eilidh Melville	Hamilton
Thanim Mohammed	Chowdhury	Elisha Pamela	Hamilton
Marcel Tomasz	Chyzynski	Thomas Alexander	Hedges
James Andrew	Claxton	Matthew	Hepburn
Joshua Michael	Clunie	Aidan	Higgins
Leo	Collins	Emily Cicely	Hill
Euan Alexander	Coull	Jessica Jane	Hill
Daniel	Craik	Teresa	Ho
Jamie Charles	Crawford	Daniel John William	Hoyle
Cameron Adam	Cross	Marsali Jessica	Hunter
Ross Maxwell	Cubey	Aaqil	Hussain
Megan	Davidson	Elaf	Hussien
Scott	Davidson	Eoin	Irving
Liam Connell	Donaldson	Andrew	Jack
Nancy Grace	Donaldson	Anastasia	Jacobs
Chloe Louise	Douglas	Danielle Leah	Jamieson
Anna	Duff	Ryan	Jansen
Cameron Stuart	Duff	Ben Robbie	Johnston
Charlotte Emma India	Duncan	James	Johnston
Laura Rachel	Duncan	Stella Rose	Johnston
Karolina	Dundziak	Zavian Imaad	Khalil
Nathan Paul	Durham	Amina	Khan
Martha	Egner	Muhammad Hasn Sheeraz	Khan
Maram Ali	Ellafi	Holly Elizabeth	Kirby
Keiran	Faichney	Max	Kothari



Lucy Emma	Krauth	Hannah	Reid
Cara	Lamont	Katie	Robb
Jura	Lewis	Sophie	Roberts
Meara Elizabeth	Littlejohn	Andrew John	Robertson
Vienna Jayne	Love	Keiran Duncan	Robertson
Dominic James	Lucey	Owen	Robertson
Ellie Amy	MacDonald	Amy Mae	Robson
Sandy	MacDonald	Zoe	Ross
Mohammad Junaid Imran	Maqbool	Ewan Douglas	Russell
Anya Isabella	Matthews	Satyam	Saha
Fraser	McAdam	Hannah	Schafer
Hannah	McAlpine	Corran Alexander Johnston	Scott
Ross Milne	McArthur	Alice Elizabeth	Semple
Fraser John Blyth	McAslan	Abdulrazeg	Senussi
Rosie Isabella	McCartney	Muhammed Ali	Shabir
Isaac	McCullough	Alexander Daniel John	Shanks
Adele Lily	McDonald	Jack	Shaw
Max Andrew	McDougall	Corin	Shepherd
Eve Currie	McFadden	Emma May	Shopland
Rory Alexander	McIntyre	Julia	Siewiera
Adam John	McKee	Ben Michael	Smith
Sarah Katherine	McLellan	Samuel	Sneddon
Lara Christina	McMahon	Mohammed Adil	Sohail
Fergus	McNiven	Jake Jamieson	Somerville
David Jack	McPhillips	Gillon John Collins	Stevenson
Cameron Archibald	Millar	James	Stevenson
Ailsa Margaret	Miller	Courtney	Stewart
Nupur	Modak	Craig Harper	Stewart
Benjamin Ramsay	Morrison	Liam	Strachan
John Stephen	Morton	Isla Louise	Sutton
Lauren Hannah	Muir	Harriet Olivia	Sweatman
Ramsay Brendan	Newell	Eva Louise	Tallaron
Holly Alexandra	Nightingale	Cole	Taylor
Thomas William	Nightingale	Grace Margaret	Taylor
Claire Patricia Jean	Nisbet	Emma Louise	Templeton
Elisha Laura	Nisbet	Lewis Greig	Thomas
Amy Tressa	O'Neil	Fraser Scott	Tomlinson
Janna	O'Neill	Togan	Turgut
Layla	Orr	Nina	Turnbull
Thomas Michael	Palmer	Justin Colin Alexander	Turner
Daniel Adam	Parker	Ava	Turnock
Caitlin Holly	Paterson	Haaris B	Umar
Charlie Nichol	Paterson	Megan May	Venn
Nathan Joseph	Pearse	Fraser	Wanstall
Emily Whitelaw	Peckham	Rebecca	Wanstall
Anna Frances	Pentony	Eilidh Alexandra	Wear
Ewan James	Power	Lewis Francis	Wetton
Lauren Elizabeth	Preston	Rosie	Wilkinson
Jack	Quinn	Dugald George	Williams
Jackson Mackinlay	Ramsay	Abbi Margaret	Wilson

**VIVA SCHOLA REGIA!**