

The GGS Grapevine

News, achievements and learning from Grantown Grammar School (www.grantowngrammar.highland.sch.uk)

Our regular news page in the Strathy where we keep readers up-to-date with all of the exciting news and opportunities for pupils at Grantown Grammar School. Even with the two-week break there has been so much going on!

Our news...

Well done to all those pupils who took part in the inter-primary netball tournament which saw P5-P7 pupils from Grantown ASG compete against Aviemore Primary School. A special thanks to teachers Jo Blair, Ali Simon and Debbie Docherty for making it all happen.

We had a brilliant Easter assembly led by deputy head Mrs Claire McGonigal which culminated in a verse of 'Always look on the bright side of life'!

Our S5/S6 hospitality class provided staff with a fabulous Easter lunch as part of their Skills for Work assessment. Both the food and the presentation of food were very impressive and of 'Masterchef' quality.

A big thank you to all the parents who came along to support the S1 MAD (Music and Drama) project. The quality of work was outstanding.

Good luck to Laura McInally (S6) who is heading off to Cardiff to compete with the Aurora Highland Synchronised Skating Team this Monday (April 22).

Amazon Kindles in full swing



LEARNING TOOL: Students get to grips with the new Kindles.

GGS is a school that likes to embrace new technology and we were delighted recently to take delivery of a number of Amazon Kindles which were supported by the Raddery Trust.

So far we have been making extensive use of them in both the English and the Support for Learning departments and they have been very popular with both pupils and staff.

One of the most exciting features is the ability of the devices to provide text to speech reading of books and the built-in thesaurus. We have already found this great in helping pupils to enjoy stories which previously may have been inaccessible as well as helping improve vocabulary amongst learners.

Staff profile: Seonaid McLaren

Role: Actually there aren't many jobs Seonaid hasn't done in the school. She has been a teacher, a head of department, a supply teacher and is now our Chief Invigilator for the SQA Examinations.

Subject(s): Chemistry and General Science

Time at GGS: Joined in September 1984 and has almost successfully retired three or four times since!

Hobbies and interests: reading, lifesaving, charity work, helping out at the last minute at GGS, tightrope walking and American wrestling.

Favourite book: Foucault's Pendulum (been trying to finish it for years)

Favourite film: Notting Hill

Special powers: The ability



to hear exam whispering the day before it actually happens.

Secret fact: I used to work as a research chemist in the same place as Margaret Thatcher.

IMPORTANT: SQA exams are coming up fast - the full SQA Exam timetable is available on the SQA website www.sqa.org.uk. You can also download the timetable builder app for your smartphone from here as well. Study leave starts for S4 pupils next Thursday (April 25) and on Tuesday May 7 for S5/S6.



Dates for your diary

- Tuesday 23rd April: senior assembly and launch of digital version of school magazines from 1913
- Wednesday 24th April: S4 awards ceremony
- Thursday 25th April: SQA exams start (get revising!)
- Thursday 2nd May: S3 reports issued
- Tuesday 14th May: S2 Reports issued
- Monday 3rd June: S1, S2 and S3 awards ceremony

Outdoor learning at GGS

OUR flexible approach to Tuesday afternoon timetabling allows for a wide variety of learning activities to happen in school, in the local area and further afield.

As part of our broad geography course in S3, pupils get an opportunity to take part in a wide variety of fieldwork activities, which includes exploring the Northern Corries and the River Spey.

Most recently a group travelled to Findhorn Bay to get a taste for some coastal fieldwork where everyone took part in a 'round-robin' of activities including slope profiles, vegetation surveys and pebble analysis. The data collected was then used in class over



FIELDWORK: Gathering data at Findhorn.

the following week to produce professional fieldwork posters - some of which looked stunning!

GRANTOWN Grammar U17 boys' rugby team (right) had a keenly fought victory over a well-drilled Plockton side.

The home team had only had three training sessions before the game and the lads pulled together well and presented a united and organised front on the pitch.

The Plockton side put Grantown under the cosh in the first half, when most of the match was played at the end of the home side but Lewis McWilliam was the stand-out tackler of the half putting in four try-saving stops.

Victorious!

The pressure was eased slightly as Hamish Hepburn slotted home three points from a penalty in the Plockton half.

The second half saw yet more committed tackling and running from both sides. Plockton finally got over the Grantown line but the ball was held-up by the home defence.

With time running out, both teams throwing everything into attack. Grantown finally breached

the Plockton defence with a superb driving try from Connor MacLeod to extend their lead.

The visitors responded with great heart putting a great deal of pressure on the Grantown line. However in the final minute of the game their last effort was bundled out at the touchline flag.

It was a great display of committed and entertaining rugby from both sides. Thanks to all pupils and staff who came out to support.

■ Final score: Grantown 8 Plockton 0

S1 go MAD with an end-of-year performance

MAD stands for music and drama and the S1 MAD project is a cross curricular project between the music and English departments at GGS which involves all pupils in the year group.

Pupils use class time from both English and music as well as time from the flexible Tuesday afternoon timetable to write short plays, with accompanying music and sound effects.

Everyone is involved in a variety of rolls from directing to stage management to performing. The project culminates with a performance to the rest of the year



TALENTED: Some members of 1RN on stage. group and an assembled audience made up of parents and members of the local community. This year all of the performances were stunning!

