

The GGS Grapevine

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

Welcome to this month's news page, keeping the whole of our community up to date with all of the exciting news and opportunities for youngsters at Grantown Grammar School.

Our news...

Well done to the S4 and S5 who have finished their preliminary exams - for those of you who have not done as well as you expected. You know what to do.

Congratulations to Laura McNally (S6) who has been selected as part of the Moray Dolphins (Highland Synchronized Skating Team) to compete in the prestigious Trophy D'Ecossee in Dumfries in March.

Thanks to Miss Eileen Cockburn (our physics teacher) we have a new 3D printer in the science department - now we just need to get it working.

Well done to Angus Trinder (S5) who is recently back from a GB junior snowboard team training in the Alps (we are not jealous at all Angus!)

Diary dates

February 27 - S4 parents' evening (re-scheduled)

March 7 - Valentine's disco (yes, we know it is late but we have had exams on!)

March 13 - New S5/S6 information evening

March 20 - S3 Parents' information evening

March 26 - Easter music concert

March 28: School closes for Easter

It's snow joke it was just amazing

LES Menuires was amazing. I made lots of new friends and have progressed in my skiing. It snowed a lot and it looked really beautiful. - Rachel McGovern, S2)

The ski trip to France was fantastic. Although the weather wasn't great at the start of the week it quickly improved and so did my skiing. - Alex McAnly-Brand, S2).

After a 3am start for some members of the group everyone eventually got to Inverness airport at about 5am. As well as GGS the group was made up of pupils and staff from three other Highland schools (Millburn Academy, Charlestown Academy and Kingussie High School).

Trips like this provide not only a chance for pupils to experience some Alpine snow but also an opportunity for them to meet and interact with other pupils from Highland schools.

After arriving in resort (via Geneva and a coach journey) there was a chance to un-pack, get familiar with the hotel and then carry out what was the hardest part of the trip for some group members... ski fit!

The next day the fun started as pupils were placed in ability groups and sent off with ESF instructors (and their bright red ski suits) to improve their ski technique.

This included stopping, parallel turning, improving balance, reading the slope, pole planting, sking in powder and a whole host of other skills.

Each afternoon (following a hot lunch) there was a chance to consolidate what had been learnt. By the end of the week everyone was sking the green and blue runs well and many members of the group were skiing reds and looking pretty good on the blacks as well.

Each evening was also packed full of activities from bingo to bum boarding and the 'bin bag' challenge.

Well done to all our pupils who were involved and a special thanks to Mrs Lorna Crane and Mr Bob Telford from our PE and outdoor learning department who organised the trip.



HITTING THE HEIGHTS: A holiday snap of the Grantown pupils in 'Les Menuires' in the French Alps.

OUR geography department are always looking for memorable ways to help introduce new ideas and concepts to our learners. A few weeks ago Mrs Rachel Knight, our head of geography and modern studies, set her class a challenge to make a model of the structure of the earth.

She was so impressed with the work that came back in she shared all of the pictures with the whole of the staff team at GGS. In particular she was most impressed that some of the models that could be eaten. Some of our favourite ones are shown t the right.



YUMMY: Jennifer Lewis' tasty cross-section of the earth. Ashley Ballam with his model of the earth's crust in geography. (inset).



Don't forget!

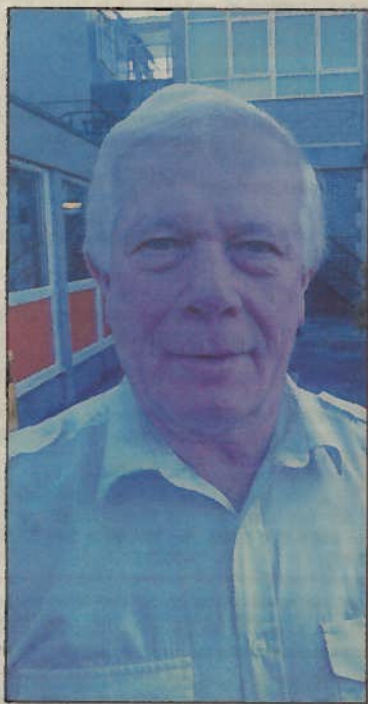
PSQA Exams are coming up fast - the full SQA Exam timetable is available on the SQA Website www.sqa.org.uk You can also download the timetable builder app for

your smartphone from here as well. Also, don't forget that if we have had weather, please check www.highland.gov.uk (and follow the school closures link) for the latest information on school closures in the valley.

In the event of a school closure, subject departments have up-loaded work for students to the Grantown Grammar School Glow Pages - so there should be no shortage of work for anyone to do if the weather turns bad.

Staff profile: Jimmy Rose

- **Name:** Jimmy Rose
- **Role:** Head janitor
- **Subject(s):** Jack of all trades! (but a wider by trade)
- **Time at GGS:** October 1994
- **Hobbies and interests:** Fishing, watching the shinty, playing the mandolin, crosswords and potholing (well fill them in on the school carpark!)
- **Favourite book:** Don't read books but I do like the crossword in the Daily Mail!
- **Favourite film:** Braveheart (I was an extra)
- **Website checked every day:** my emails (they are normally from deputy head Claire McGonigal)
- **Special powers:** Selective hearing (normally when listening to Mrs McGonigal)
- **Secret past:** I once managed to finish a crossword in the Daily Mail



Disney get better than this!



IS MICKEY MOUSE ABOUT?: Pupils from S3 gather for a momento photo at Euro-Disney

FOR the last few years GGS has also run a S3 trip to Euro-Disney. The trip is organised jointly between the maths and technology department.

As you might expect one of the purposes of the trip is to have a lot of fun, but participants also spend some time looking at the theme park and

how it can be used as a context to teach mathematics and engineering skills. This ranges from the construction and development of the park to speeds that some of the roller coasters reach. We are still to work out how the 'cowboy' themed hotel fits into the curriculum? But both pupils and staff report it was

certainly an interesting place to stay. Well done to all of the pupils who took part in this trip and a special thank you to the staff team of Mr Kenny McGougan, Mrs Amy Henderson, Miss Any Clark and Mr Nick Shearon for organising the trip and surviving the bumpy ferry cross to France!