

The GGS Grapevine



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

Welcome to our first school news page of the year. As in 2015, we will be keeping the whole of the community up-to-date with all of the exciting news and opportunities for youngsters at Grantown Grammar School.

On the road to success with Academy 9

THE dualling of the A9 is bringing with it an educational legacy for schools along its route. The launch of Academy 9 for our area recently took place in Grantown Grammar School.

Primary 5 pupils from Grantown, Carrbridge, Abernethy, Deshar and Strathdearn primary schools enjoyed an active morning taking part in a range of problem solving challenges where they had to work with pupils from other schools as well as they could in the time available.

It was great to see so many P5 pupils fully engaged in these competitive challenges. The groups were mentored by S3 pupils from the grammar school who did an excellent job supporting the primary pupils.

This launch promises to be the start of an exciting partnership with Academy 9, which will continue well into the future, to support the education of pupils, particularly in relation to STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).

It will also support work related learning and career education, particularly with respect to highlighting the wide range of employment areas involved in a construction project of this scale.



A9 TIME: All the S3s who received their certificate for participation.

What is Academy 9?

PUPILS are being given the key to the highway by Transport Scotland - the information highway.

With work starting on dualling the local stretches of the A9, the ambitious new educational initiative aims to involve local students along the whole trunk road between Perth and Inverness.

They will learn more about the massive engineering project; mathematical, scientific and design aspects of the scheme will form part of their schoolwork, and there will be future training and job opportunities for some pupils.

As the work is stepped up on the £3 billion project, there will also be opportunities for training and apprenticeships culminating in the chance to work on the dualling programme or other major projects.



GROUP SHOT: All pupils and instructors involved in the trip to Alpe D'Huez

Hitting the slopes in Alpe D'Huez

A GROUP of 45 pupils from Grantown and Kingussie secondary school went to the French Alps resort of Alpe D'Huez in the second week of January for skiing and snowboarding.

The first day dawned with blue skies and deep powder which was enjoyed by all. All four ski groups and the boarding group had a fantastic six days of lessons with their instructors. All the pupils made amazing progress with their skiing and snowboarding, and everyone explored all parts of the mountain.

Evening activities included outdoor swimming, ice skating, "invertigo", Winter Olympics fun and sledging. All the pupils received excellent feedback from their instructors and the hotel commended them for their attitude and behaviour.

A fantastic time was had by all and we all look forward to next year's ski trip.



ALL SMILES: Wizzy Mills, Katrina McGougan, Lorna Crane and Jo Crane.

Diary dates

- Today (Thursday): Paris trip meeting at 7pm.
- Monday, February 1 - Thursday, February 11: Prelim exams.
- Wednesday, February 10: S3 parents night.
- Thursday, March 10: S2 parents night.

Something in the Water at concert

TURNING back the clock to the end of last year, the Christmas concert on Monday, December 21 was another feast for the

ears as pupils performed a huge range of music from classical piano to hard rock.

The evening ended on a high note as the school choir and musicians performed a surprise version of the song "Something in the Water" in honour of Irene Carson. It was Irene's last music concert as headteacher,

although I'm sure that she will attend many more in the future.

Irene has frequently said that there must be something in the water to make our pupils such excellent musicians and the song celebrated her huge support of the music department



SUCCESS: Raffle winner Ann Traill with her hamper.

A very tasty treat

A HUGE thank you to all of the businesses who supported the school by donating items for our prize hampers. Three hampers were raffled during the school show "Sunshine on Leith". The winners were Elspeth Rainy-Brown, Finlay Paton and Ann Traill. The raffle raised more than £500 for GGS Parent Council.

School news in brief

- Good luck to our S4 boys football team who play Fortrose Academy in their league final on January 22. The match takes place at Aviemore Community Centre at 5pm and supporters are very welcome.
- Rock Challenge is making its debut at GGS this year. If you would like to be involved as a dancer, set designer, costume maker, finance organiser or in any other way, please keep an eye out for notices or speak to Kirsten Shearon.
- Well done to the learning support department who raised more than £200 at their Christmas fayre of home baking, craft items made by pupils, and a tombola.