

The GGS Grapevine


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News, achievements and learning from Grantown Grammar School (www.ggschool.com)

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

Fond farewell to the Class of 2015

WE bid a fond farewell to our S6 pupils this month as they finish their exams and leave school on June 11.

They have been an outstanding year group and have great futures ahead of them. They started the year on a high with a whole-school afternoon of interhouse activities last June, including a Highland Games-themed obstacle race, football and board games.

They then hosted the best prom yet at Grantown Grammar, with a Las Vegas theme, delighted all year groups with their discos, and entertained us with a Comic Relief Fashion Show. As well as these high-profile events, however, they have been quietly supporting younger pupils as buddies and helpers in classes, supporting sports training and having a huge impact on the positive ethos in the school.

We will miss them very much, but deputy head teacher Claire McGonigal said, "I have no doubt that they will be successful in all they do in the future. They are full of surprises and incredibly determined."

Good luck to the class of 2015, and keep in touch!



LEAVING DAY LOOMS: The S6 leavers show off their Class of 2015 hooded tops.

Dates for the diary

- May 22: S2 reports issued
- June 1: Staff in-service - school closed for pupils
- June 11: Senior graduation
- June 12: S1 reports issued
- June 15: Primary 7s' three-day visit
- June 22-26: Grantown 250
- June 29: School sports day
- June 30: School concert
- July 1: Sports awards
- July 2: End of term

Workshops teach the meaning of 'No'

AS part of the S3 PSE programme, the school invited Rape And Sexual Abuse Service Highland (RASASH) to come and deliver workshops to all of S3 during their PSE lessons.

RASASH is a new sexual violence support service for the region, based in Inverness. They work towards the eventual elimination of sexual

violence through their prevention and campaigning work with young people, professionals and communities.

The S3 workshops covered the topic of 'Consent'. The sessions looked at consent in sexual relationships, using scenarios, and examined what the law says about rape. Pupils were able to explore better communication in relationships.

Thanks go to RASASH for delivering the workshops in an interesting and practical way, ensuring that pupils were fully engaged.

We hope to extend this area of our PSE programme in S4 by delivering further workshops with RASASH. The aim is to cover other topics such as social media and the law.



CAREERS GUIDANCE: S3 pupils on their visit to the construction careers event.

Students given chance to build a solid career

TECHNICAL classes have been building links with industry and encouraging pupils to consider training and job opportunities that might be of interest when they leave school.

A number of pupils recently attended a Construction Careers event at the Black Isle Showground, where various

Highland companies showcased their work and ran workshops for the students. This event was very informative and demonstrated the wide range of apprenticeships available in the area.

Some of the class have also recently visited the BSW sawmill at Boat of

Garten, where they were given a tour of the site by the manager. The group enjoyed the experience and were amazed by the scale of the machinery. The school hopes to continue these visits so that students can place the work they complete in school in the context of the world of employment.



Field trips probe the big freeze

FOR the last few weeks, all S3 pupils have had the opportunity to experience a glaciated environment at first hand. We have been hillwalking in the Northern Corries and at Creag Meagaidh to look at glacial features up close.

All of the trips have been successful, despite some tricky weather conditions, and all pupils were commended on their positive attitude.

LEFT: Pupils at the Creag Meagaidh reserve, by Laggan.



BULLISH BEHAVIOUR: Main Black and Dyla Germanni dressed as Wally from 'Whose's Wally' with one of the competition mascots.

Rugby Sevens success story

OBLIVIOUS to rain, wind and damp, Grantown Grammar School's rugby fans travelled to Glasgow to support Scotland's 7s team in the Emirates Airlines Glasgow Sevens at Scotstoun on Sunday.

The comic-book-hero-themed trip was a colourful affair, and the rugby electric!

Despite Colin Gregor's first try, Scotland were beaten by the mighty All Blacks in their first Cup tie 17-7, but they progressed to the semi-final of the plate against Canada, and won 14-12 in a very exciting game.

The games in between saw some inspired and highly skilful play by eventual winners Fiji (the Grantown party's adopted team) and other teams including Kenya, Portugal and USA also proved to be very exciting.

Mrs McGonigal came close to

suffering heart failure when Wales secured a last-minute victory over Argentina in the Bowl final ... and waved her dragon flag so enthusiastically that she appeared on the stadium screen.

But it was Scotland's final game against South Africa in the final of the Plate competition that had everyone's hearts in their mouths. Trailing 12-0 at half time, despite the rousing chants and songs, the visitors were the dominating force.

Yet, from nowhere, Scotland scored two tries, so that as the final whistle blew, they were given the chance to convert their second try, score two points and equalise.

The stadium stood in silence as the attempted conversion was struck and hit the crossbar, to leave the final score: Scotland 10, South Africa 12. Thanks go to all of the students in S1-S3 for their exemplary behaviour. We will be back!