

# Grantown Grammar School

Cromdale Road, Grantown-on-Spey PH26 3HU  
Tel: (01479) 872649  
E-Mail: [grantown.grammar@highland.gov.uk](mailto:grantown.grammar@highland.gov.uk)  
Web Site: [www.ggschool.com](http://www.ggschool.com)



THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL  
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Mrs Claire McGonigal, Headteacher

## Headteacher's Newsletter - March 2017

### STAFFING UPDATE

Two new members of staff have been appointed this term. We are delighted to welcome Calum Graham who joined us as Assistant Janitor on 23 January and Nuno da Costa, our new Biology teacher who started on 22 February. Marcus Patton will start in English on 20 March and Jim Sutherland will join us in Maths also on 20 March. Both pupils and staff have risen to the challenge that vacancies create and I would like to thank both Lee Carrott and Fiona Sutherland who have both been outstanding in their support of pupils and the school. Fiona continues to go above and beyond in her teaching of certificate classes and we are all very grateful to her.

However, I am very much aware that both pupils and parents have been very patient with our Maths staffing issues in particular. Mrs Sutherland will, therefore, be offering Maths tuition to Higher pupils on Friday afternoons from 1.15pm-3.00pm. She is also available to support pupils every lunchtime.

### PRELIMS 2017

The prelims went very smoothly again this year. All of our pupils have to be congratulated in helping this to be the case. The Senior pupils were punctual, respectful to the Invigilators, left their prelims quietly and carefully while others were still working and generally represented themselves in a focussed and proper manner. Our Junior pupils kept quiet and followed guidance and instructions in order to avoid disrupting those sitting prelims which allowed them to do their best. Well done and make sure that it's the same in the summer.

### SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY (SQA)

With the prelims now over, many subjects are starting to come towards the end of courses. There will be a lot of deadlines coming up for important pieces of coursework so it is worth reminding you where information on these can be found.

We have a feed from the SQA twitter account on the school website which has handy hints and tips. On the school website, there is also a bank of resources and information about SQA courses and deadlines. This can be found in: Information - SQA/Exam/Revision Information

The most pressing links at this time of year, are "2016-17-sqa-key-dates-for-pupils" and "sqa-your-coursework-2016-17". This area will be updated as we move closer to the final exams.

### SENIOR OPTIONS

Senior Phase Options are now live on the Google classroom for S3-S5 to go in and make their options. All information on Options can be found on the school website under Information/Senior Phase-Options. Once pupils have gone through the process a letter will be sent home to parents to confirm options. Any questions please do not hesitate to contact Mr Magowan at the school.

### YPI FINAL

S2 have been busy for several weeks researching, contacting and preparing presentations about local community based charities for the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative project. After a great semi-final this week, the teams have been whittled down and seven will be presenting in the grand final on Tuesday 14 March from 2.00pm. Any parents would be welcome to attend and see the work pupils have been doing to find out how people are being helped in the local community. The winning team is given a £3000 grant from the YPI sponsors (The Wood Family Trust) to give to their chosen charity to help their work in the local area.

### **CELEBRATING SUCCESS AT CHRISTMAS**

A huge well done to all pupils and staff who took part in The Addams Family, the Christmas Music Concert and Carols by Candlelight. Each year I think that the school show can't possibly top last year's and every year it does. My favourite scene was the electric chair, which had me laughing out loud, but all of the singing and acting was of a very high standard and everyone involved made it the best show yet. I'm not sure how it will be topped next year. The Christmas Music concert again showed how many talented pupils we have at Grantown and it was wonderful, yet poignant, that we were joined by so many former pupils to sing a farewell to Kendal Delaney.

Talent of a different kind was on display at the end of term Lipsync battle, where the staff were extremely narrowly defeated by the pupils. Thank you to all who took part.

### **GET #READYTOVOTE**

16 and 17 year olds can vote in the 2017 Scottish Council Elections. This means that if you're 16 or over on 4 May 2017, you'll be able to vote - but you need to register first. It only takes a few minutes to register online. On Wednesday 1 March and again on Wednesday 8 March we will be helping 16 and 17 year olds Get#ReadyToVote by running a registration event at Grantown Grammar for pupils who haven't already registered.

This is your opportunity to join the 80,000 16 and 17 year olds who registered to vote in the last election. If you're 16 or over you'll need your date of birth and National Insurance number to register to vote. If you can't find your national insurance number, visit: [gov.uk/lost-national-insurance-number](http://gov.uk/lost-national-insurance-number). (If you're not yet 16 you won't need your National Insurance number to register).

Please speak to Guidance Staff if you need any more information.

### **FACEBOOK**

The Facebook page has been a great success and we are delighted with all the positive comments from people following the school. We are currently sitting at 766 page likes. Our target this year is to get to 1000 likes so if you haven't liked it yet go on and have a look at all the wonderful things going on at GGS.

### **SPORTING SUCCESS AND UPDATE**

Our sports teams have been very busy this term already and we have had many close and exciting games of netball and rugby. The S3 Netball team (pictured below) reached the quarter finals of the Scottish Schools Netball cup where they were narrowly beaten by Strathallan. Their coaches are very proud and we hope they'll go even further next year. The S4 Netball team continue to grow and develop and their most recent match against Gordonstoun showed their outstanding teamwork. They won 25:17 in a nail biting match.

The Junior Girls' Rugby team (pictured below) are enthusiastic and hardworking. Despite being beaten by mainly S3/S4 girls in Huntly, they show great spirit and are training hard so we expect great things in the future.

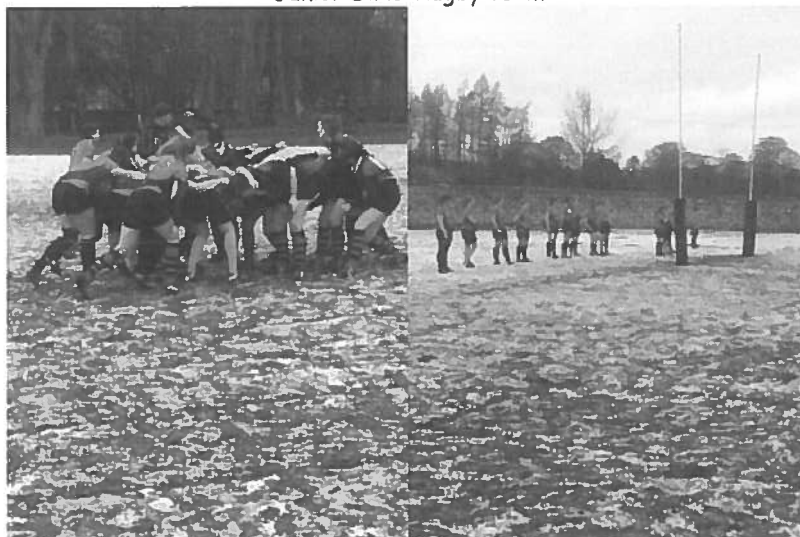
Even with hardly any snow, we are managing to get pupils up on the hill to enjoy ski lessons but we had to hold our Winter Sports Day on the dry slope at Glenmore Lodge. Revoan were the overall champions with Roy and Revack close behind. We have a talented pool of skiers and boarders and it's a shame that they haven't been able to compete as much as usual this year due to the poor snow conditions.

Cross country was more popular this year with several different course options to bring out the competitive spirit in our pupils. Most of our pupils improved on their times week-by-week during the cross country block which was great to see. On Wednesday 1 March our Junior Cross Country team will be competing in the Secondary Schools Cross Country Championships and we wish them the very best of luck.

S3 Netball team



### Junior Girls' Rugby team



#### ROCK CHALLENGE - Important Dates for the Diary

Please make a note of the following dates and events in connection with The Rock Challenge. The Sunday rehearsals cannot be missed.

Saturday 18 March	12 Hour Music Marathon, High Street Merchants (fundraiser). This is a special event at which our pupils will be performing for the full 12 hours. It starts at 10.00am. They will each have a sponsor form to help raise funds. If your son/daughter is taking part please encourage them to ask family, friends or neighbours to sponsor them. On the day please pop in if you can.
Sunday 26 March	All day rehearsal. Dancers 10.00am-4.00pm, make up 12 noon-2.00pm and lighting 2.00-4.00 pm
Monday 27 March	Evening Dance Show featuring GGS, local primary schools and Cairngorm School of Dance. This is both a fundraiser plus a chance to promote all the dance that is happening in the area.
Sunday 2 April	All day rehearsal for dancers, lighting, stage crew and hair and make-up 9.00am-4.00pm
Tuesday 4 April	Rock Challenge - all day rehearsal at Eden Court. The evening performance starts at 6.30pm. More details will follow.

All pupils involved in the Rock Challenge received a letter before the mid-term break in February. All the dancers, makeup and stage crew need to complete the permission form attached to the letter and return it to either the school office or Mrs Shearon by Friday 10 March.

#### Tickets

Our school has been allocated 83 tickets, priced £12 each. Each dancer (or family) can buy two tickets. From Monday 6 March, Eden Court will release any extra tickets priced £13 if you wish to purchase further tickets. See letter issued earlier.

#### Costumes

Grantown Sewing Bee is making the costumes for the witches and devil. They are looking for volunteers to help. The costumes are relatively simple so experience is not vital. If you would like to help please email Mrs Shearon [Kirsten.shearon@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Kirsten.shearon@highland.gov.uk) and she will pass your interest on to the group.

All the witches will need to have a black long sleeved top (not baggy) and black leggings to just below the knee.

All stage crew need to wear long black trousers or leggings, plain, long sleeved black top (no logos or designs), black socks and flat black shoes.

**ACADEMY 9 GROUNDBREAKING APPRENTICESHIP ACADEMY - Wednesday 19-Friday 21 April**

We have an excellent opportunity for twelve S2/S3 pupils to take part in the Academy 9 Groundbreaking Apprenticeship at the end of the Easter holidays. Representatives from a range of STEM careers including geo engineers, Transport Scotland, IT designers, civil engineers and construction companies will put the pupils through a number of problem solving activities before they are awarded certificates on the final day. Six S5/S6 pupils will also be invited to apply to act as Junior Mentors supporting the Senior Mentors delivering the Academy. This activity will take place in Grantown Grammar and will be hosted by Academy 9 who are involved with the dualling of the A9. Kingussie High School pupils will also be attending the Academy which aims to give pupils a real insight into the huge array of job opportunities, skills and expertise associated with the dualling of the A9.

**BADENOCH & STRATHSPEY MUSIC FESTIVAL - Monday 13-Wednesday 22 March**

A number of pupils will be involved with the festival.

Monday 13 March	Traditional - Duke of Gordon Hotel, Kingussie
Thursday 16 March	Piano - Grantown Grammar School
Friday 17 March	Fiddle, Groups & Vocals - Inverallan Church , Grantown-on-Spey
Saturday 18 March	Piping - Kingussie Primary School
Wednesday 22 March	Concert - Inverallan Church , Grantown-on-Spey

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Monday 6 March	Raffle tickets to be returned to school office
Thursday 23 March	S2 Parents' Night
Friday 24 March	Red Nose Day
Tuesday 28 March	Spring Raffle Draw at School Assembly
Thursday 30 March	Spring Disco
Tuesday 4 April	Rock Challenge
Wednesday 5 April	End of Term
Wednesday 19 - Friday April 21	A9 Groundbreaking Apprenticeship Academy
Monday 24 April	Start of Summer Term



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