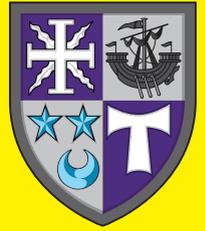


# Holy Rood

REVIEW  
Summer  
Edition



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## Welcome to the Summer edition of the Holy Rood Review

*Inside you'll find reports and updates from our Faculties and news of past and future events. 2015 has been a year of fantastic success for our school community in our study, creative ventures, business outreach, sport and wider community involvement.*



Food & Fashion Tech **p11**



Contemporary Dance **p10**



Physics Prize **p8**



# Head Teacher's Welcome

*Welcome to Holy Rood's Summer Newsletter. As ever, you will find this edition packed with articles about life in and around Holy Rood. At the time of writing we have just bid farewell to the class of 2015 whose pupils enjoyed the social event of the year, the Holy Rood Prom, on Friday 5th June at the Roxburgh Hotel; it was a fantastic night. Our seniors are very well respected by staff and a huge number attended the prom to make sure the pupils had a great send-off. On June 3rd, we had a beautiful Leaver's Mass which was a very dignified and poignant occasion and it was wonderful that so many parents were able to share it – I believe this was our best ever turn out. I wish all seniors every success for their futures.*

Before I embark upon my report proper, I do have some sad news to share with you. In January, **Frank Moshia**, the former Head Teacher of Lombeta High School (our Tanzanian partner school) passed away after a long illness. Frank had visited Holy Rood and was a great friend to the school. We keep Frank's family in our thoughts and prayers as well as the whole Lombeta community.

Highlights of the last few weeks include our annual Health Week (with Hibs and Hearts footballers supporting Holy Rood by wearing our Health Bands), Caritas Awards (24 S6 pupils achieved the award), MVP Awards, Careers Academy Graduation (11 pupils graduated in the Assembly Rooms) and our Junior Awards Ceremony. It is events like this that show our school at its best as pupils and staff pull together and achieve amazing learning experiences and celebrations of achievement. Holy Rood pupils are well-used to attracting praise and picking up awards, but we have had some recent outstanding achievements to celebrate. For example, four pupils were nominated for the Paolozzi Prize for Art (an achievement in itself) and three of them met with success (with one pupil winning the overall award – second year running for Holy Rood), five S6 pupils achieved the Mark Scott Leadership for Life Award (with a wonderful ceremony in the Radisson Hotel in Glasgow), four S2 pupils met with great success in the Technovation Challenge in London (they invented an app to support food banks), one pupil achieved success in the Castlebrae Hairdressing showcase and we achieved four silver and ten bronze awards in the UKMT Maths Challenge. These achievements are only a flavour of the many, many more our pupils can boast about and which make me extremely proud to be their

Head Teacher. The fact that our pupils raised £9,238.86 for their chosen Lenten Charities (Looking Forward and ABC) and made a huge contribution to Edinburgh North East Food Bank, makes me even more proud of them! It is not just our pupils who have been busy achieving! **Fiona Gulliver-Sloan** (Biology Teacher) has been made a Fellow of the Society of Biology – we are delighted that Fiona has been awarded this prestigious accolade.

The summer recess is only two weeks away, although, we have already started our new timetable so that next year's courses get off to a flying start. We have still got a lot to fit into these last two weeks including the primary 7 Three Day Visit and our annual Disaster Relief Challenge (ask our S2 pupils all about this fun way of learning that brings all of our subjects together).

Last year I told you about the exciting news that we had been invited by Cricket Scotland to become the country's first School of Cricket. One year on and I am delighted to report that our S1 pupils have had a terrific experience as part of the Cricket School and have even led a primary 5 cluster event during which they were able to demonstrate some of the cricket skills they had developed as well as show how they had developed as young leaders.

As ever, everything we achieve is the result of the partnership involving parents/carers, school and of course our pupils. For this reason, I record my most sincere appreciation for the support received from all of the Holy Rood community, without which our achievements would not be as significant as they are. I would also like to thank the increasing number of parents/carers who have recently taken the time

to write to me to thank our staff for the quality of education and care their children experience – this is excellent feedback, very much appreciated and I always share it with our staff!

*Before you read of the exciting things we have been up to, I would like to draw your attention to a few important pieces of information.*

## Standards

In keeping with the established custom of highlighting the need to maintain our high standards, I include this regular reminder:

The school is dependent upon the support of parents in working with us to promote and maintain high standards of application to study/homework, behaviour, attendance, punctuality and dress code from our pupils. Holy Rood is a school to be proud of and we want our public image to reflect the values staff and parents promote. We have very few occasions when the work ethic/behaviour/dress of pupils falls short of our high standards, as the majority of our pupils have a very positive response to the standards set and expected by all of the Holy Rood community. Please continue to work with us to ensure all pupils wear the correct version of school uniform (e.g. "school" skirts/trousers – as opposed to fashion versions – and please, no leggings or denim!) and conduct themselves in a proper manner as they travel to and from school. Your ongoing support is very much needed and appreciated. Please note, when buying uniform for next year to aim for black footwear and outer jackets – there is currently a fashion for brightly coloured footwear and jackets/hoodies that is letting down the appearance of our very smart uniform. We do need the help of parents with this!

## Safety

In the interests of safety, the Police request that pupils are not dropped off by car within or just outside of the school grounds – this is also important to ensure a clear run for the school buses and to prevent drivers parked in the school car park from getting blocked in.

## Pupil Out-of School Achievements

Many of our pupils achieve in lots of ways that are not connected to school. If your child achieves something to celebrate, please let the school know and it will feature in our weekly school newsletter.

## Retirals

At the end of term, five of our valued colleagues will retire: **Bob Scott** (CDG Technician), **Mo Costello** (SfL teacher), **Hilary Stokes** (SfLL), **Andrew Ross** (CL CDG) and **Lorna McGarty** (CL Science). These colleagues have given many, many years' service teaching and supporting and leading our pupils. Bob has been our very reliable and loyal CDG Technician and was responsible for ensuring all the equipment

and materials needed by our pupils was ready and at hand; his support has been greatly appreciated by teachers. Mo is one of the most caring and committed Support for Learning teachers to be had. She has understood and nurtured the needs of pupils for many years, and I know pupils just love her! Hilary has been an outstanding Leader in Support for Learning and her efficiency is second to none; she has the ability to ensure pupils needs are paramount, whilst making sure all the leadership and management challenges are met – a great skill. Andrew Ross has served the pupils of Holy Rood for around 30 years. Andrew has seen many changes in his time as head of a department that has grown into a very sizeable faculty. Andrew was devoted to all pupils and always managed to get the best from them. Andrew was equally respected by colleagues and pupils alike. Finally, Lorna, our CL of Science and a teacher in Holy Rood since 1972! Lorna has given her whole career to serve Holy Rood and many, many pupils have gone through her hands and been enthused in the field of physics through Lorna's own passion for the subject; Lorna achieved great acclaim last year when she was awarded the title of Physics Teacher of the Year by the Institute of Physics – a very well-deserved accolade. We will miss these colleagues, but wish them well for this next chapter of their lives.

## Curriculum for Excellence

Implementation of the new National Qualifications has continued this year with honing the new awards at levels 3, 4 and 5, and with the implementation of the new Highers in some subjects. The challenge of making the necessary changes to courses continues, but our staff have worked incredibly hard to deliver the new qualifications and I believe our pupils have been well prepared for the very important internal assessments of National 4 and the external exams of the National 5s and Highers. Holy Rood is confident that we are rising to the challenges of this transition time in education and we will complete the move to CfE by implementing the rest of the new Highers next session. I acknowledge the outstanding work of our teachers who continue to show true professional commitment to ensure our pupils receive all of their entitlements of CfE. Our pupils are well served.

## Schools Improving Partnership Programme (SIPP)

I am pleased to be able to report that we have some

good evidence of the success of our SIPP work. From the evaluations of the areas we have been working on (improving parental engagement, attendance and feedback in learning), we are able to say that there has been an average of 7% improvement in attendance in our targeted group of pupils, we are seeing more consistent quality feedback in the classroom and pupils being more aware of how to act upon it to make progress in their learning, and we have some excellent feedback from the pilot of a new format of parents' meetings. We continue to share practice with our partner schools (Ayr and Arbroath Academies), and the three schools have been involved in national Education Scotland events to promote our SIPP work. The enclosed SIPP newsletter will provide you with lots more detail.

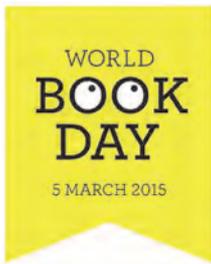
Finally, good luck to all of our senior pupils who are waiting for SQA results which will arrive by post on Tuesday 4th August (also by e-mail and text by 9.00 am on the same day for those who have signed up for MySQA). Pupils who wish to use the text and/or e-mail service must register by 5pm on Monday 13th July, and activate their account by 5pm on Wednesday 15th July. On behalf of the Holy Rood Community, I wish you and your families a safe, happy and relaxing holiday and look forward to welcoming all of our pupils, especially the new S1, back for the new school year in August.

# Mathematics and Numeracy Faculty

The Mathematics department has been taking part in a vast amount of competitions this year. There were 120 pupils participating in the UKMT Maths Challenge, which has been running for a number of years to develop students' problem solving skills. The students at Holy Rood were very successful this year achieving 4 silver medals and 10 bronze medals across S1 and S2. Our two top students were Olivia Campanile, S1, and Niamh O'Neill-Berest, S2.

On Thursday 11th of May, four pupils from S3 and S4, Christy Biju, Marc Robertson, Niamh O'Neill-Berest and Katie Newall, participated in Enterprising Maths in the Lothians, held in Meadowbank Stadium. The students' problem solving skills were tested to the max and, funnily enough, their boat making skills! There were a number of different challenges for the students to compete in throughout the entire day. However, the event the students enjoyed the most was the relay race. This involved answering lots of tedious questions with the benefit of running around to show their supervisor the answer to ensure they got it correct and to get their points. The students represented the school fantastically and they came fifth overall. This was a thoroughly enjoyable day for all involved.





# World Book Day

WORLD BOOK DAY

The 5th of March was World Book Day. As part of the celebration, the doors, lockers and walls of the English Faculty were covered with posters of iconic or classic book covers and we set aside dedicated time just to enjoy reading. Pupils and staff were invited to bring in books from home or the school library and lose themselves in fiction for 50 minutes. It was great to see so many staff and pupils enjoying a favourite book.



## Book Making

Ms Withers and Mr Simmonds S1 -3 creative book-making group has been hard at work this year. Meeting every Tuesday lunchtime, pupils have developed their skills in stitching, binding and folding their own books and visual stories, as well as writing haiku, stories and object-inspired poems. To create a renga (a Japanese collaborative poem) the group worked with ink to make bamboo panels on which they then added their peaceful haiku. This was stitched together and can be read as one whole poem or separate pieces of verse.

There has also been a lot of discussion of art-inspiring literature and literature-inspiring art. As a result the group made black-out pictures by drawing objects from a piece of their favourite literature onto scanned pages from those books. Hopefully there will be an exhibition coming soon!



## Tweet your Street

Miss Stuart's S1 English class entered the competition 'Tweet Your Street'. They had to write short poems, under a hundred characters, describing the street they live in. The poems were judged by Christine De Luca, the Edinburgh Makar, and three pupils' poems were chosen to be displayed on the windows of the Central Library for the month of June.

All the other poems will be pinned to an online map which can be viewed through the following link (<http://tweetstreet.cechosting.org/index.html>).



The three pupils chosen will be visiting the Central Library for the launch of the event and to see their poems on display.

## Create a Magazine

Create A Mag is an option for S1 Personal Choice. The pupils worked individually or in small groups to make their own magazines. From football to fashion, gaming to gymnastics, Holy Rood's budding journalists and illustrators created plenty of great reading!

They honed their literacy and IT skills to produce some great colour publications! We'll be running the choice again after the summer.

# Debating Society

If you're passing through the English department at lunchtime, you'll hear the sound of lively conversation, impassioned refutation, and a few dodgy statistics being thrown around! This is the home of Holy Rood's Debating Club.

The club was founded this year by Miss Moore and Miss O'Donaghue and has had a very successful first year with a steady membership of S1-S3 pupils. The students have the chance to polish their argument and rebuttal skills while having a lot of fun getting to know each other in a (sometimes!) relaxed environment.

So far, the Club has hosted three formal in-school debates. All debates were well attended and the students had an opportunity to share their opinions and develop their speaking skills. The club hopes to continue next year and take part in inter school competitions.

## PROCURATOR FISCAL AND CROWN PROSECUTION SERVICE PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

This year, three S3 students had the opportunity to compete in the prestigious Procurator Fiscal Public Speaking Competition. Eleanor Campanile, Niyoshi Dave and Callum Turino all prepared speeches on the topic 'Society thinks everyone should be young and beautiful'.

The students travelled to the Royal High School on the 11th March to compete against students from the Royal High and South Queensferry High School. They were well prepared and spoke eloquently, however victory eluded us. We were very proud of the commendation for behaviour, manners and knowledge of their topic. We hope to enter the competition (which we won last year) in the new session.

Well done Callum, Eleanor and Niyoshi!





# eclipse 2015

On the 20th of March 2015, Britain had the privilege of viewing an almost total eclipse of the sun. As a lot of you will know, our school gave pupils the chance to be a part of the amazing eclipse experience by allowing pupils to purchase eclipse glasses. On the day of the eclipse most of the school headed outside. We were outside for about half an hour, this was the time when the moon was closest to covering the sun. It was so spectacular to watch and see. Even though some of the time it was very difficult to see, you could still understand what was happening. When I first saw it I genuinely thought it was only a half moon, but to see something like that during the day was amazing! The amount of daylight you were seeing was not a lot, because it went quite dark and cloudy! It looked like something out of some sort of horror film!! Over all I thoroughly enjoyed that day and it is something I will never forget! *By Robyn Strachan, S3*



## S2 Trail-blazers!

Ms Withers' S2 class became budding film-makers as they entered the Book Trailers Competition, run as part of the Scottish Children's Book Awards 2015. Their task was to read the 3 short-listed books, then create, film and edit a trailer to promote one of the books. The class worked in groups to create powerful and effective trailers to engage readers. Through their hard work, ingenious use of props and setting, as well as some top-notch editing, six trailers were produced and premiered at "A Night in the Library" in front of one of the authors, Cathy MacPhail. In the national competition, one group received "Highly Commended" for editing and cinematography, which will now be featured permanently on the Scottish Book Trust's website. Congratulations to Sadie Leggate, Matthew Ross, Rhiannon Falconer, Jack Cheyne and Taylor Morcom! Their trailer can be seen at <http://scottishbooktrust.com/learning/teachers-librarians/scottish-childrens-book-awards/2015-winners/scottish-childrens-book> and all the trailers can be seen on the Holy Rood High School English Department YouTube channel: <http://bit.ly/110dFiG>



# Summerlee

As part of their History course S3 Pupils went on a trip to Summerlee Industrial Museum on Tuesday 2nd June. The day allowed them to discover the conditions faced by coal miners in the 19th century by experiencing it themselves on a guided tour of a reconstructed mine. Pupils also saw some typical miner's cottages from different decades of the 20th century and examined the impact of industry on the Scottish people through the exhibitions in the Museum.



# Great War battlefields



On 20th June, 2015 Mr. Gray ( aka Colonel Gray) will be leading the 9th Holy Rood Pals battalion to the Great War battlefields of France and Belgium. There are 36 pupils and three other staff members – Mrs. Connor, Ms. Stokes and Ms. Dughan taking part in this trip to commemorate the sacrifice of so many who gave their lives in the cause of freedom.

The party will visit the Somme, Passchendaele and Ypres in the course of the visit. At Ypres every evening at 8pm there is a service of remembrance where the local Fire Department play the Last Post to honour the 80,000 British and Commonwealth soldiers who have no marked resting place, but whose names are written on the Menin Gate. Wreaths are laid and the bagpipes play - if Scottish schools bring a piper - the 'Flo'ers o' the Forest' in honour of Scotland's numerous war dead.

This experience is one which will allow each participant the opportunity to remember and to honour those, (sometimes even members of their family), who gave their all for us.

'At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them!'



Lent fundraising presentation of £4500 to Sarah Van Putten from Down's Syndrome Scotland. The donation will be used to run Achieving Better Communication groups for children with Down's Syndrome. £4500 has also been donated to 'Looking Forward' supporting people with a visual impairment.

# Science Club



A small group of S6 pupils ran a very successful lunchtime science club for S1 and S2. This was a great opportunity for our S6 pupils to share their knowledge and enhance their leadership skills. Our junior pupils learned that science really is fun and they are now able to wow their family and friends with fun experiments they can do at home!

Mrs Gulliver-Sloan would like to extend a huge thank you to all involved.



# Health and Well Being.

Health and well being has had a focus on Respect and Responsible, which are two of the health and well being indicators that all schools focus on. Each student was given a wristband with respect and responsible on it to remind them of our focus. Both Hearts and Hibernian football teams supported us by wearing them for a photo opportunity. We ran a poster competition which was won by tutor group 2.2 with a brilliant Respect poster.

# Modern Languages Faculty

## Si mangia bene a Holy Rood! (We eat well in Holy Rood!)

In February, all S1 Italian pupils were invited to participate in a food-tasting event. They were able to try different meats and cheeses, as well as a selection of vegetables and bread, dipped in olive oil to be enjoyed all'italiano. Although this event has been running for a number of years, for the first time we were delighted to welcome the involvement of Tony Crolla from the Vittoria group, who very generously provided food for our 200 pupils. Much to their enjoyment, hot fresh pizza magically appeared at lunchtime as well! Tony received a framed photo of the event from pupils as a token of their appreciation.



## Languages Work!

On Wednesday 11th February, we were delighted to host representatives from the world of business and industry who ran workshops for our S2 pupils and did a presentation for our S4 pupils. The aim? To convince pupils that learning one or more foreign language is an important asset as they prepare to enter the world of work and further education. The speakers from Iberdrola, Chivas Brothers, SCILT, Eaton ESSC Ltd and Shell were most impressed by the enthusiasm and level of participation from our pupils. The pupils' feedback speaks for itself. . .

"Opened my mind to travelling and appreciating languages, "I learned how languages help and can change your life and job", "made me want to try harder in class", "gave good career advice", "encouraging", "positive", "impressive", "convincing" and "interesting".

## Italian Pupils Visit Holy Rood

On the 28th April, a group of 30 pupils and two teachers (one of whom is a former pupil of Holy Rood) from the Liceo Linguistico Canossa, a secondary school

specialising in language learning in Reggio Emilia, visited Holy Rood. They came into S3 Italian classes and were interviewed (in italiano, naturalmente!) by our pupils on aspects of Italian life and culture, including the education system, family and leisure activities. Our visitors commented on how they felt welcomed by the Holy Rood community and also on how lucky we were to have such a beautiful school. It was a very successful learning experience for all. Bravissimi, tutti!

## Bon appétit!

In February 200 pupils in S2 were treated to a Petit Déjeuner Français in the Assembly Hall. Pupils were given an opportunity to sample a variety of authentic French breakfast foods including croissants, pains au chocolat and pains aux raisins, French bread, butter and jams. Nutella was a firm favourite!

The aim of the event was to enhance our pupils' cultural knowledge of France and to develop their language skills. A great deal of 'parlaying français' took place and a good time was had by all. Miam, miam!



## Immersion Day

In February, our S5/6 pupils who study French and Italian participated in our annual Immersion Day at Duddingston Golf Club. The aim of the day was to help pupils prepare for their final speaking exams. We are delighted to report that all pupils spent the day immersed in the foreign language and all were fully engaged in a variety of language activities. Pupils were assisted by faculty staff and our Foreign Language Assistants - Fabiola and Amélie. We were all very impressed by their efforts. Bravo, tout le monde! Bravo a tutti!

## From Syria to Scotland

In the last two weeks of term, Holy Rood High School hosted an exhibition of photographs by Young Syrian Lenses, a group of child photographers based in Syria. At the same time, S3 pupils have been studying the conflict in Syria, investigating the role of Islamic State and trying to decide on what Britain's role should be. The project was capped by an evening event in the school library, attended by pupils, families and members of the Syrian community. Also in attendance were the school's MSP, Kenny MacAskill and MSPs Marco Biagi and Kezia Dugdale. Below is one of the photos from the exhibition.



## Technovation Challenge

On the 25th April, 4 S2 girls, accompanied by Mr Radford, travelled to London to take part in a pitch event for the 2015 Technovation challenge. Isla Campbell, Niamh O'Neill -Berest, Laura Hunter and Ruth Quill have been competing in the Technovation Challenge since the start of the year. The competition is designed to get young women into Engineering, and the girls had to conceive, design and pitch a mobile phone app that helped their community. The girls, going under the team name 'Bacon bApps' entered their app 'Hasty Wastey' - an app designed to help food banks keep control of their stock, and to help prevent food waste. The competition was fierce, but the girls ended up coming second in the in their age group, missing out on a place in the semi-finals by just 1 point. They plan to build on their success and reapply next year.



# S5 Physics Success

Even before the SQA exams were over, one of our S5 pupils, **Abin Chundattu**, had reason to celebrate.

Abin took part in the "AS Challenge," one of the competitions run by British Physics Olympiad which is hosted by the University of Oxford. The aim of this organisation is to encourage the study of Physics and recognise excellence in young physicists.

Despite the minor distraction of studying for his five SQA Highers, Abin managed to achieve a 'Bronze 1' award in the written exam which places him in the top 25% of entrants for this prestigious competition.



## RE and Chaplaincy Faculty

### Curriculum For Excellence

Next year will see the continuation of the introduction of This Is Our Faith to the RE curriculum. The Senior Phase has now received approval from the Vatican and our new S4 curriculum will be introduced.

### Caritas Award

Caritas is a national award, which invites S6 students to understand and live the word Caritas (God's love in action).

It involves theological reflection that is the study of God through scripture, and then linking this to everyday life so that a faith is lived and not just believed.

To live out their faith, students are invited to complete

at least 20 hours of service to the school community and a Faith community. This normally means one of the local parish RC churches, however the Award is an inter faith and ecumenical one and so we have had students from the protestant Christian Churches, Hindu Tradition and the Islamic Tradition.

This year there were 24 successful students who achieved this award. All of whom showed a high degree of commitment to their understanding of a lived Faith and so took part in liturgical ministries, teaching ministries, youth work, helping out at soup kitchens, decorating and other such opportunities to live their faith for the service of others. Congratulations to them all.

### Outreach

The generosity and compassion amongst our school community have been evident again this year as we concluded our fundraising that began in Advent. 'Looking Forward' supporting those with a visual impairment and 'ABC Group' supporting children with

Downs' Syndrome, each received £4500 from our fundraising efforts.

A relationship with the Edinburgh North East Food Bank was also formed with 70kg of food being donated which equates to almost 167 meals. We hope to continue and build on this relationship in the coming year.

### Liturgy Training

Our programme of training for those involved in Liturgical Ministries will continue this year. In addition to S5/6 pupils participating in training as Eucharistic Ministers, training will be provided for those reading at Masses and proclaiming the Word of God.

### Eco Group

This year, the Eco group has been working on various projects to achieve our Green Flag Status.

We continue to focus on litter and encourage pupils to be responsible. Bin It to Win It, S1 Litter Picks and a Community Litter Pick are now regular occurrences on the school Calendar. We have now purchased our own Litter Pickers, to allow us to meet the high pupil demand to participate in Litter Picks.

Biodiversity and School Grounds are the other areas we are focusing on. Bird and bat Boxes have been introduced, and the boxes will be monitored to see if we have attracted more birds and bats to the area. Over the next few months, the Biology Department will be working with pupils to establish a mini wild flower meadow in the school grounds. This will involve pupils in a hands on way (gaining practical skills) with their local environment and increase their awareness of biodiversity issues in the area.

Pupils from the Eco Group were invited to the Duddingston and Craightenny Neighbourhood Partnership Environment Event, this gave us the opportunity to share with the local community the work that we do and through this event we were able to make new links to support us in our work.



# To Kill a Mockingbird Trip

In February, Ms Harrison, Ms Moore from the English Faculty, Ms McCabe our librarian and Ms Preston our classroom assistant, took forty four S3 pupils, who had been studying the novel 'To Kill a Mockingbird', to see the play at the Kings Theatre.

1930s Alabama was brought to life for the pupils in this well-known story of Scout and Jem Finch growing up with their father, lawyer Atticus Finch, against the backdrop of the trial of Tom Robinson. The play was both poignant and riveting as the talented actors – some of whom played several characters - demonstrated the themes of morality, justice, racial equality and honesty and hypocrisy with skill and compassion. The courtroom scenes, in particular, had the pupils glued to their seats and rendered speechless by the tension and drama!

This was a great experience for the pupils involved as it has deepened their understanding of this classic novel.

# A Night in the Library

As part of Ms Philp and Ms Moore's Core Skills Senior Course, pupils organise an event as part of their award. Michael King, Connor Toscani, Daryl Huth and Konrad Szledak in S5, organised an author visit and an evening to celebrate the results of the Scottish Book Trust Trailer Competition. Cathy MacPhail, whose novel won the Scottish Book Trust Children's Book of The Year award, came in to school to talk about her books and to judge the class's trailers. Refreshments were served and Luke McAdie provided the musical entertainment.

The evening was a great success - a wonderful testament to Holy Rood's love of reading! A special thanks to Ms McCabe for providing the library and supporting the event. Ms Wither's was MC for the evening and it was great to see parents from our winners along to celebrate.



Michael King, Cathy Macphail and Mrs Philp at 'The Night in the Library'

# Library News

Watch out for all the fabulous trips to the Edinburgh International Book Festival that Ms. McCabe is organising in August of this year. Last year we took over 90 pupils...this year we are planning to take over 100!...and just to remind you of some of the great stuff that happened because of EIBF, the publishers of the Oksa Pollock novels were so impressed with our interview of the books' authors that they sent me the following:

## **Oksa Pollock: The Heart of Two Worlds Book Giveaway!**

On 26th February 2015 the thrilling third instalment in the phenomenally popular series, Oksa Pollock: The Heart of Two Worlds, was published in paperback. Often referred to as the 'French Harry Potter', the series has been translated into 27 languages and has sold over 700,000 copies worldwide.

To celebrate the release of this highly anticipated novel, Pushkin Children's Books has offered Holy Rood School a copy to giveaway.

[www.oksapollock.co.uk](http://www.oksapollock.co.uk)

To be in for a chance of winning Oksa Pollock: The Heart of Two Worlds please answer the following question: *In which country did the Oksa Pollock series originate?*

Please email your answer to:

[rachel.mccabe@holyrood.edin.sch.uk](mailto:rachel.mccabe@holyrood.edin.sch.uk)

# Cendrine Wolf

Cendrine Wolf and her translator answer questions from Holy Rood's own Book Group...an interview that will be published in this term's Teen Titles: pick up a copy from the Library to see the in depth Q and A session! Cendrine was also kind enough to speak to a group of S2 French students, some of whom wrote questions for her in that language...both Cendrine and her translator were very impressed with how well the questions were delivered in French and how the students made a real effort to understand the complicated answers!

**Cathy MacPhail with Shannon Donoghue** from S3, a fan since Ms. McCabe first lent her a Cathy MacPhail novel in First Year!



In the picture (from left to right) Matthew Weston, Christy Logan, Beata Korba, Johanne Thomson, Emma Milligan, Sandie Leung, Kayla Ho, Stephanie Lee, Rosa Bell, Pamela Arugu, Meadow Belal, Isla Campbell, Laura Hunter, Natasha Measom and Cendrine Wolf

# Race for Life Holy Rood High and Active Schools working together!

Thirty girls from S1-3 have entered the Women's 5K Race for Life which takes place on Sunday the 14th June to raise funds for Cancer Research. The girls have been attending weekly training sessions where they have been working hard to prepare for the race. We are really grateful that so many young woman want to take part in such an event. Several of the girls already attend regular extra curricular activities, however for many of the group this is their first time participating in an activity out with school.

Hopefully we are engaging a large group of girls to take part in an activity. Running can improve overall wellbeing and is a great habit/life skill to have while dealing with life's ups and downs. We hope by taking part in such an event that this will give them the motivation to continue running/jogging throughout their lives and help support their own physical and mental health in life after Holy Rood. With so many girls joining the group we are happy to announce that we will continue a jogging/running club for the new school year.

## Holy Rood Boys Football team



Holy Rood U13s did well too, reaching 2nd place in the Edinburgh School League. Again a fantastic team with great potential that is coached by 2 senior pupils, Sean Gilhooly and Cameron Oge. Both Sean and Cameron successfully passed their Level 1.2 in Football Coaching Qualification, which will only help to support the team next year. The team has the added support from Mr Mitchell who works in the CDG Faculty.

## Holy Rood High U15s Basketball

Both the boys' team and the girls' team got to the quarter finals in the Scottish Basketball School Cup. Being in the top 8 schools throughout Scotland is a great achievement. The pupils' commitment to the team and school is a credit to both the school and themselves. This has opened up further training as many of the team come down and practise their basketball skills at lunch times. Many of our senior pupils come down and spend time with our S1 and S2 to encourage and support them in developing new techniques on the Basketball court.

Holy Rood Boys Football had a very successful year with their U15s getting to the League Cup final. Unfortunately, they were beaten 2-1 by Lasswade High School. That aside, the sportsmanship from Holy Rood was fantastic, along with their 2 coaches Max and Dillon who are ex-pupils from Holy Rood. They did the school proud and the potential in the team is amazing. They are looking forward to bringing some silver to Holy Rood RC High School in 2015/16.

## HRHS Netball Team

A fairly new sport to Holy Rood High, lead by Miss Padden from our PE Dept, has a regular 28 girls coming along on a Monday after school to train. They have had two successful games against James Gillespies and Broughton High and were the winning team in both games. We are hoping to enter a team into the Scottish Cup for the next school year. Very exciting!

## Holy Rood Dance

Holy Rood Dance is on 3 times a week, Tuesday (Contemporary), Wednesday (Hip Hop) and Thursday (Ballet). Two of our senior girls Charley Gallagher and Amie Westgarth also do an after school club on Thursdays. The Dance group raised the roof here at Holy Rood during our cluster dance show. They performed their Edinburgh Schools Competition entry where they came 3rd in the overall competition.

Along with Metafit, Badminton, Athletics and Volleyball, there is lots for pupils to choose from our Extra Curricular Activity. For more information contact Lorraine Dickson Active Schools Coordinator Holy Rood RC High School [Lorraine.dickson@ea.edin.sch.uk](mailto:Lorraine.dickson@ea.edin.sch.uk) 0782 538 7256

## Holy Rood's Career Academy Students Graduate with Pride!

On Tuesday 21st of April 2015, ten students in S6 from Holy Rood attended a graduation ceremony at the stunning Edinburgh Assembly Rooms on George Street. They, along with over 200 other S6 students from across Scotland, were graduating from the Career Academies UK programme that they had been a part of for the previous two years. The event was a spectacle and the students enjoyed various presentations and inspirational talks from some of the top executives in global business, before receiving a well-deserved certificate and praise from their families and mentors. It was pleasing to note the amount of pride coming from the pupils as they walked up on stage to graduate. The Career Academies UK programme run in school is a two year commitment, with students in S5 being paired with a mentor from business with whom they work alongside for the duration of the programme, developing skills required for work. A four week paid internship at the mentor's business is provided for students at the midway point of the course. Holy Rood currently has five new pupils on board, with room for a further six within our new S5.



# Food and Textile Technology

The S5/6 Hospitality pupils in the faculty have enjoyed our annual trip to Prestonfield House Hotel to discover more about the hospitality industry. The S4 Hospitality students had a cooking session with the Head chef: Stefano from Rigatoni's, they had a fun hands on cooking experience making Carbonara the Italian way. On 1st June, Paul Wedgewood, owner and head chef of Wedgewood The Restaurant, spent a very busy afternoon with the S3 Hospitality class. The students made Sweet potato gnochchi, meatballs, fresh tomato

sauce, and topped it off with homemade pesto. The students had lots of fun learning new skills and chatting with Paul about being a chef.

## Upcoming Events:

The Royal Highland Show – the senior students will get a chance to visit the The Royal Highland Show on the 19th June, it is always an exciting trip with lots of opportunities to discover more about our food and tasting it!



Stefano Molfino (owner and chef from Rigatoni's Restaurant) with FFT S4 pupils



ELLY ROBERTSON  
20.03.15



LAUREN TRACEY  
30.03.15



BEATA KORBA  
24.03.15

In the Autumn term the faculty will celebrate Scotland's Year of Food and Drink 2015. The hospitality students will get to work with industry professionals and plan and put on their own event.

The S1 students will also get a slice of the foodie action too with a special Scottish food event on seasonality and sustainability.

*This is the first year we have run the National 5 Cake craft course, these are some of the final cakes the students made for the course assessment.*



## Self-Esteem Project

On Friday 22nd May approximately 30 S1-S3 boys and girls took part in workshops featuring video clips, discussion tools and activities for pupils to explore self-esteem, expertly lead by trained facilitators who visited the Expressive Arts Faculty at Holy Rood RC High School.

The workshops looked at personal and professional media and how images may be distorted from reality, how comparing ourselves to other people may affect us and what we can do to combat these issues.



## 'Share your happy'

Senior pupils from four Edinburgh schools attended a Photography Workshop held at Holy Rood RC High School on Friday 6th March 1pm until 3pm. People all over Scotland will be encouraged to submit a community located photograph, with a short caption of something in their local community that "makes them happy". Our pupils were selected as trailblazers

to show the rest of the country how to apply for Right Move's "Share Your Happy" Campaign. The work produced will appear on national television as part of Right Move's advertising campaign.



## Holy Rood Pupils to work their magic

S5/6 music and art pupils will be involved in creating animation and music for the Edinburgh Festival show of Mozart's masterful comedy 'The Magic Flute'. A richly reimagined production blending animated film and live action in a spectacular kaleidoscope of 1920s silent movies, Weimar cabaret, the dark humour of Edward Gorey and German expressionism. Immense, three-storey spiders, Nosferatu and Buster Keaton, flappers and demons, butterflies and wolves – this wildly inventive The Magic Flute is like no other.

## 'The Curious Incident of A Dog In The Night-Time'



S3 Drama pupils enjoyed viewing the performance at the Festival Theatre on Wednesday 6th May.

Winner of seven 2013 Olivier Awards, this highly-acclaimed National Theatre production embarked on its first ever nationwide tour. Christopher, fifteen years old, has an extraordinary brain – exceptional at maths while ill-equipped to interpret everyday life. When he falls under suspicion of killing Mrs Shear's dog, it takes him on a journey that upturns his world. . .



## Holy Rood Pupil Wins Paolozzi Prize for Art 2015

The prestigious Paolozzi Prize for Art recognises the creative and artistic achievements of young people in Edinburgh's high schools. Pupils were honoured at the awards ceremony on Wednesday 3 June at the National Gallery on the Mound.

The overall winner of this year's Paolozzi Prize for Art was **Casey Black**, an S6 pupil at Holy Rood High School. **Christopher Connarty** won the "Spirit of Paolozzi" category and **Jessica Malone** was commended for the "New Directions" category.

# Class of 2015



## Leavers' Mass

To mark the end of their school career, our S6 pupils along with their parents and carers came together for their final school Mass. Fr John McFadden (OMI) gathered their school experience and offered it in the celebration of Mass, concluding with a blessing and commissioning for their future. This was our largest group of sixth year with well over 100 students. We wish them all well in their future lives and careers and thank them for their contribution to school life.



## Contact

### How to get in touch with the School

If you are concerned about your child or just wish some information, please contact your child's Year Head or any member of the Senior Leadership Team. You may phone, write or e-mail. Whilst you are very welcome to visit the school, please arrange an appointment in advance to avoid disappointment, as staff commitments may mean they are unavailable to meet with you.

Call: 0131 661 5871

E-mail:

[webmaster@holyrood.edin.sch.uk](mailto:webmaster@holyrood.edin.sch.uk)

Website:

[www.holyrood.edin.sch.uk](http://www.holyrood.edin.sch.uk)

## Attendance Call Phone Number

Telephone: **0131 661 3247**

(Please phone this number when reporting your child's absence)



### Please note:

The cost of a secondary school meal from August will be **£2.35**



## TERM DATES 2015/16

### Summer Term

Term ends Friday 26 June 2015

### Autumn Term

Thursday 13 August 2015	Staff resume
Friday 14 August 2015	Staff only
Monday 17 August 2015	Pupils resume
Monday 21 September 2015	Autumn Holiday
Tuesday 22 September 2015	All resume

Monday 5 October 2015

S3 Parents' Evening

Friday 9 October 2015

Mid-term, all break

Tuesday 20 October 2015

Wednesday 21 October 2015

Staff resume  
Pupils resume

Tuesday 3 November 2015

S1 Parents' Evening

Thursday 26 November 2015

S4 Parents' Evening

Wednesday 9 December 2015

S5/6 Parents' Evening

Tuesday 22 December 2015 Term ends

## Spring Term

Wednesday 6 January 2016	Staff resume
Thursday 7 January 2016	Pupils resume
Friday 12 February 2016	All break
Monday 22 February 2016	All resume
Thursday 10 March 2016	S2 Parents' Evening
Thursday 24 March 2016	Term ends
The Easter break incorporates the following two holidays:	
Friday 25 March 2016	Good Friday
Monday 28 March 2016	Easter Monday
Monday 11 April 2016	All resume