



effective contributors

confident individuals

successful learners

Youth and Philanthropy

The Youth and Philanthropy Initiative aims to provide secondary school students with a strong academic philanthropy programme, which gives them the hands-on experience of assessing community needs and making grants to grassroots charitable organizations. The programme empowers young people to actively participate in the development of their communities, it engages them as dedicated problem solvers and volunteers, and helps promote a sense of responsibility, respect and a commitment to building compassionate communities.

Five groups in total progressed to the finals in KSS. Each group had chosen a different charity, and the winning group won a cheque for £3,000 for their charity, COPE. COPE is a small local charity which supports young people at the point of greatest need, and the roll-out impact of staff training is of significant benefit to schools within the Glasgow area. Ellen McLernon of COPE said this about the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative:

'The commitment, support and kindness that both the pupils and staff have demonstrated has been astounding, and in keeping with the original spirit and ethos of the initiative that includes being a responsible and caring citizen.'

The winning group were accompanied by one of their Pastoral Care teachers to the Beach Ballroom in Aberdeen for an evening of celebration and presentation. Winners from all the schools from Scotland, teaching staff and representatives from each charity were present at this great event.

Parliament Visit

On, Thursday 27th October, A group of S4 Modern Studies pupils headed through to Edinburgh to meet their new MSP, Bill Kidd, who was elected in May. At the Scottish Parliament, pupils were taken to a committee room where they had a Q&A session with Bill. At midday, everyone was given a ticket for First Minister's Questions where they witnessed a lively debate. After lunch in the sunshine, the pupils spent the afternoon at the Edinburgh Dungeons. Everyone, including Mrs. McMillan got quite a fright! Everyone had a great day.



Valencia 2011

During May 2012, 30 pupils will embark on a much anticipated trip to Valencia. After months of fundraising activities, including a Christmas raffle (for which tickets are currently being sold), these lucky pupils will have the chance to experience life as a professional footballer for 5 days.

The pupils will be training next door to Valencia's first team squad, and will also have the opportunity to attend a Valencia vs Villa Real game. The two cultures will also mix, as Knightswood plays two games against local teams.

This trip is designed to not only enhance the pupils' football skills, but also their social development and overall life experience.

By Rachel Walker (S6)



Basketball

In the last of the England Basketball Inter Regional competitions for 2011, Scotland's U13 Boys travelled to Lillishall representing Scotland and, from start to finish, they did their country proud.

The Scotland Squad, captained by Knightswood's own Alistair Mathieson S2, worked and played hard all weekend, achieving overall 4th place in this national competition.

Well done Alistair!



Swimming Success

Knightswood Secondary had a successful evening at the Glasgow Schools Swimming Championships on 31st October at Whitehill Pool. Sam and Jack Mclean (S5) both received a silver medal in each of their chosen categories, which are butterfly and breaststroke respectively. Sam and Jack have made an outstanding contribution to swimming at Knightswood, and have been keen to act as peer mentors for other young people on competition days. The silver medals are down to a lot of training and practice, with 5am starts being the norm! The twins' work ethic and pool achievements have inspired Jimmy Smyth (S2) to enter a time trial to see if he can join Sam and Jack on their next venture - The Scottish Schools Swimming Championships in January. Knightswood can pride itself on being one of the most successful state schools to compete at city-wide competitions in recent years.

However, swimming at Knightswood is not just at the elite level. Young people, regardless of ability, are encouraged to take part in a range of swimming possibilities at the school and this includes non-swimmers who may wish to come along for a 'fun' pool session after school.

GLEE Club

After the outstanding performance of Grease by the school Glee club we get to find out what the two mains of the show really think. In this interview I get to talk to Brooke Shields (Sandy) and Bryce Lamont (Danny) about their thoughts and feelings about the show.

So how does it feel to know that the show is over?

Brooke: Depressing because it was so much fun and we have all become really close.

What did it feel like to perform in a hall full of people?

Bryce: Strange, nerve wracking, but exciting at the same time, when you get up and people start to laugh at a joke or pun...or whatever, it's just a brilliant feeling and it happens every time I go on stage.

Who was your favourite character?

Brooke: I guess Kenicky because he's so funny and typical American teenager - Sandy is cool too.

How would you describe the Glee Club to those who want to join?

Bryce: It is somewhere people can go if they want to sing and be themselves.

Do you plan on performing again, if so what?

Brooke: YES! we are doing Hairspray as a new show next year.

Interview by Caitlin Dick (S3)

Future Star

Gemma Clark S3 has gained a place on the summer programme at the School of American Ballet the official school of New York City Ballet. Gemma travelled to London in October to attend an audition with the School of American Ballet, this was the first time they had been held outside of America.

Gemma is the first young dancer from Scotland to be successful in passing the audition and gaining a place on this prestigious summer programme.

Before joining the Dance School of Scotland Gemma trained at Dansarena in Ayr with Kerry Boland and was also a Scottish Ballet Junior Associate.



C.A.B.E.C

Knightswood Secondary recently competed in a heat of the C.A.B.E.C. - West construction and built environment competition, at Anniesland College. Despite not winning on the day, S2 pupils Sam Carlin, Calum McGuigan, Christopher O'Connell, Sam Riddell, Melissa Bain, Alannah French, Robbie Graham, David Sweeney, Noor Singh and Michael Wilson displayed excellent problem solving, critical thinking, and team building skills. The competition consisted of three individual tasks including building a picnic bench, constructing a solar powered watering system, and constructing a garden shed. Each task had to be completed by reading of instructions, delegating tasks, assembly of the items, dismantling and re-arranging parts ready for the next group. The pupils had a fantastic day and should be commended on their excellent representation of Knightswood Secondary.



Trains planes and automobiles...

(Thanks to Megan's Dad for his car!)

Pupils from 40 schools in Scotland, England & Germany attended a three day chemistry camp at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh. Megan Harrison (S4) attended from the Chemistry department.

Included among the amazing experiments was a CSI style investigation into the drug paracetamol, making the chemicals for

"Glow sticks" and producing colourful paint. In the evening pupils took part in quizzes, ten pin bowling and fascinating lectures. Megan's group won the competition for best timing in the colour chemistry experiment and loved the testing the glow sticks in a dark room painting.

Megan said the whole experience was great fun and would highly recommend it to Knightswood pupils.

Salut le Collège Mauzan!

Pupils in 4th Year French have a bonus this year ... pen pals in Gap, a town in the south of France! Students studying Standard Grade French are enjoying the benefits of being taught by Mme. Condamin, who has links with the Collège Mauzan, a secondary school in the French Alps. Classes have written to pupils at Collège Mauzan in the remote town of Gap. The first replies have been received, and this will, undoubtedly, help with the teaching of French and English in both schools, encouraging the pupils to write in the language they are learning. We hope to continue the correspondence throughout the year, and make some friends in the process!

By Louise Wylie

Future Poets

Knightswood Secondary School celebrated National Poetry Day with an assembly revealing the winners of our S1 Poetry Extravaganza. There was a lot of excitement surrounding the announcement as the pupils had worked hard producing their poems.

The judges, a wise panel of English teachers, read almost 300 poems which revealed, not only, the impressive efforts of all involved, but also the many talented writers in Knightswood Secondary School. It was a difficult decision, but First Place went to Oonagh Cochrane for a beautiful poem written about the Second World War; Second Place went to Amy Clark for her moving ballad on 9/11; Third Place went to Amber Miller for her lovely poem on a forgotten childhood toy; and Fourth Place went to Lyndsey Haggarty for her insightful poem also on the Second World War. There were also six Honourable Mentions whose poems thoroughly impressed the judges. These six individuals were Kai Lanigan, Lauren O'Neill, David Christie, Erin McKenzie, Joanne McDermid and Rae McGreevy.

