

From the Rector

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of another calendar year, it is good to review what has been achieved so far in this school session 208-19. I am immensely proud of all the achievements of our young people and this newsletter aims to highlight as many as possible. My sincere apologies to any pupil who has been missed out.

At Grove Academy, we aim to give our young people a wide range of opportunities to enhance their school experience – opportunities which will help them along on their chosen learning pathway towards a successful and positive destination after leaving school. From my 5 a Day chats with pupils, I realise they value these opportunities greatly!

This year has been no exception – with trips to Washington DC and New York, Berlin, Summerlee, the WW1 Battlefields, the Queensferry crossing, Dundee and Abertay Universities and the Scottish Parliament, as well as the Advanced Engineering Group's visit to Seattle in Washington State, USA, where they won the "No guts, No Glory Award".

Please enjoy reading this newsletter and share the achievements of our excellent and ambitious young people.

Since the start of the Session in August we have said goodbye to Mr Gourlay (Maths), Mrs Stirling (English) and Mrs Lauder who has gone on Maternity Leave after the birth of her son. We have welcomed back Mrs Cassidy (HE) and Mrs Lees (Business) from their Maternity leaves, and also welcomed our three new Probationary teachers, Miss MacLaren (CDT), Mr Boyd (Physics), Mr Honeyman (Chemistry) and recently Mrs Neilsen in Modern Studies. Mr McNair and Mr Mitchell also joined us permanently in English, and in addition we have welcomed, Mrs Smith in Maths.

It has been a long hard term, but our young people and staff have worked very hard to achieve and I commend everyone for their efforts and determination. Can I please thank you for your help as parents/carers in supporting them and the school over these months. I would very much like to wish each and every one of you a very happy and blessed Christmas and all the very best in the New Year.

Yours truly,

Graham W Hutton Rector Twitter: @ghutz1

Modern Studies

Debating



It has been a busy term for the Grove debaters! Well done to Lucy Angus and Katie Walker for taking part in the ESU Mace debate where they tackled the topic of the introduction of the four day week. Tegan Smith and Lucy Angus also took part in the Donald Dewar competition debating the influence that google has over our lives.

A massive well done to all of our junior debaters who

took part in the ESU Islamic Innovations event at Edinburgh University. This was the first time that any of them had debated and they all did amazingly well. The event focused on innovations that have changed the world and was a closely fought debate between schools across Scotland. On the day the Grove team of Ella Matthews, Ishbel Scott, Bea Nicoll and Thomas Kobine were crowned winners after their arguments convinced the judges that glass was by far the most important innovation!



Higher Modern Studies Event

On Tuesday 11th December, Grove pupils studying Higher Modern Studies joined other young people from across the city at Abertay University for a 'Best Practice Event'. This event was organised by Modern Studies staff from various Dundee schools and aimed to assist pupils in their studies.

The morning session covered advice and workshops on how best to answer the types of questions the pupils will face in their final Modern Studies exam. Pupils described this session as particularly helpful and said it helped clarify some aspects for them. This was also a great opportunity for senior pupils to experience being in a university environment for a day.

After lunch, pupils were given the opportunity to watch a lively debate between two of Abertay's Sociology lecturers. Dr Donncha Marron argued that 'Brexit was voted for by a clear majority – it must not be reversed, or watered down' while Dr Wallace McNeish presented against the motion.

Pupils were then able to vote as to whether they were in favour or not. As you can imagine, this was an animated debate and a massive 82% voted against the motion.

Dr Marron said the "...debate is about engaging young people from across Dundee to actively engage in discussing key political issues affecting society today."



USA Trip October 2018

October 2018 – 40 pupils and 6 staff flew across the Atlantic Ocean to the USA. Pupils form Modern Studies, Politics, Music and Drama took part in a jam packed trip to see the most famous sights in both Washington D.C and New York City.

In Washington DC, our first stop was a bowling alley to relax after an exhausting journey despite the high quality service of being giving magnum ice lollies on board the double decker plane by BA. On our first full day in Washington we went on a political and historical walking tour. It was interesting, moving and a great opportunity to visit key places we have studied – some ran at this opportunity (you know you are!). Visiting the US Capitol Building in the political turbulent times was an eye-opening experience, one that the group of us will never forget, witnessing protests and moving speeches from political activists, while the other half of the group went on to the Smithsonian Museums

to explore the hidden gems there.

The visit to our twin city Alexandria Virginia was a fantastic opportunity to meet our American peers and see what a public school in the USA is really like. The Dundee Twinning association were fantastic along with the Alexandria Sister Cities Committee in helping and hosting us.





In New York, we arrived late at night to the YMCA Hotel which was a sight to see ... moving on. We visited the Radio City Music Hall and the Rockefeller Centre which was a highlight for many as we indulged in the various food and clothing shops in the centre whilst some went Soho a day early. The shows School of Rock and Kinky Boots didn't disappoint as the group embraced the music and appreciated the performances of both shows although for some it was the perfect opportunity to catch up on some sleep. The next day, the group took the ferry to Ellis Island to visit the Statue of

Liberty, providing a perfect 'selfie' opportunity despite the wind and mist, which was still

in the air when we went to the 'Top of the Rock' that night. The 9/11-memorial museum proved to be chilling but very moving experience especially when some of us were practically conned at the train station.

The whole trip was an excellent experience, the pupils were an absolute credit to the school and exemplified the school values while having the best laughs!

History Department

Amiens Commemorations

In August, a small group of senior pupils were privileged to be selected by the Scottish Government's WW100 Commemoration panel to travel to France for a 4 day visit in order to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of Amiens. We were joined by pupils and staff from Clydebank High School. This was a very memorable visit and culminated in the visit to Amiens Cathedral to take part in the multinational service, attended by the First Minister.



Doors Open Day, September 2018

At the Grove Academy doors open day on the 8th September, the CWGC played a large part in organising and facilitating some of the activities in the cafeteria. They included:

- * Details of the former pupils who lost their lives in WWI and WWII
- * A board about the contribution of women in WWI
- * A board about the 'Battlefields Experience' in Belgium and France
- * Information about Hugh MacKenzie Dundee's only VC winner in the First World War
- * Descriptions and photographs of the Arras experience
- * Details of the work of the CWGC team's activities over the last few years

This year's Door Open day was centred on commemoration of the First World War. Many people engaged in conversation with the volunteers from the CWGC team and we received some complimentary and constructive comments about our displays, which we will take into account for next year.





The Battlefields Experience 2018

This years' Battlefields Experience, which took place in the first week of September, was particularly poignant – commemorating the centenary of the first Armistice. The 6 day experience was extremely well received from the pupils involved. We visited the major battlefields, cemeteries and memorials of the First World War as well as visiting and paying respects to pupils' relatives and former pupils of Grove Academy who fought in the war. The week culminated in the laying of a wreath at the CWGC Menin Gate memorial to the missing in Ypres during the Last Post Ceremony.





National Service to Commemorate the First Armistice – Sunday 11th November

On the 11th November 2018, a group of 7 senior pupil volunteers from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission elective travelled to Glasgow to take part in one of the national acts of remembrance in Glasgow Cathedral. They first took part in a march in George Square with a United Nations group for a service of remembrance at 11 o'clock. At 4 o'clock they then made their way to the Cathedral for the service. At the Cathedral we took our seats: soon after the dignitaries entered the service began, Anne, Princess Royal and Vice Admiral Sir Timothy Lawrence descended on the



cathedral. The service was very poignant with readings and hymns from those directly affected by past and present wars and some songs from the First World War. After the service the group met Princess Anne and Sir Tim Lawrence to inform them of our volunteering work over the course of the year. Sir Tim Lawrence was especially interested, given his position as Vice Chair of the CWGC.

Broughty Ferry Castle Event – Ribbon of Poppies

In early November, the CWGC team were invited to attend the Broughty in Bloom Ribbon of Poppies unveiling at Broughty Ferry Castle. Some members of the Grove CWGC team were asked to recite the poem 'In Flanders Fields' alongside the Lord Provost, Reverent Catherine Collins and the founders of Broughty in Bloom who gave readings and speeches. Sixth year pupil Rhys Beattie finished the ceremony by playing 'Highland Cathedral' on his bagpipes as he did with Grove's 1st and 2nd Pals Battalion in Belgium and France. It was an honour for the team to be a part of such an important event for Grove Academy's local community and to commemorate the fallen from Dundee and 100 years since the First World War ended.



Lady Haig's Poppy Factory Visit

On the 1st of November this year, two members of staff and fifteen senior pupils from the History Department's Commonwealth War Graves Commission elective visited Lady Haig's Poppy Factory in Edinburgh to commemorate the countdown to the centenary of the World War 1 Armistice. Once the group had arrived at the factory, we received an engaging talk from volunteers and staff from The Royal British Legion and the CWGC.

After another fascinating talk from Poppy Scotland about their work, we had the opportunity to go on the production floor and were given a demonstration on making poppies by hand. Our tour guides informed us that these would all be sold, and it felt so inspiring to be able to contribute to the Remembrance effort. We then got to make our own school wreath which we were able to lay at our War Memorial during a special S6 remembrance service. Overall, it was a fantastic and insightful experience. On our way home, we received a guided tour of Comley Bank cemetery in Edinburgh, where the CWGC have a plot.



Summerlee Industrial Museum – S4 History

Grove's History pupils have had a close encounter with Scotland's industrial past.

Over 60 pupils took part in a very successful visit to Summerlee Industrial Museum in North Lanarkshire in October. The visit is a key part of the pupil's learning for the National 4/5 "Changing Britain" unit.

Pupils and staff experienced the damp and darkness as they ventured down into an early coal mine and saw the working conditions and dangers that miners faced in their daily toil. Thankfully, the safety helmets saved many from a bump on the head! Above ground they visited the miner's cottages, to see how living conditions had changed from the 1840s, but chose not to avail themselves of the outside toilet facilities.

A tram ride and a walk past the railway sidings took us to the Monkland canal. In the interactive exhibition hall pupils saw the industrial machinery of the museum itself. Many accepted the challenge of controlling the simulated blast furnace and running off the molten iron into the pig beds. Pupils also experienced an interactive talk and primary source handling task on the First World War – obviously!





Grove Academy War Memorials

In recent year Grove's war memorials have been badly affected by adverse weather. Friends of Grove are working with Grove's History department to restore and relocate these important tributes to its former pupils into the school assembly hall in a specially built display case. Supported by The War Memorials Trust, Dundee City Council and Robertson's this venture will help preserve an important period in Grove's long history for future generations.

We are also trying to gather more information for those mentioned on the memorials. We plan to hold a rededication service for the war memorials and the memorials for pupils killed in later conflicts in spring 2019 to which relatives would be most welcome. If you have any materials or a story to tell about a relative on the memorials please contact Mr Doherty or Mrs O'Rourke at Grove <u>grove@dundeecity.gov.uk.</u>



Physics

In September, the S6 Physics Advanced Higher classes attended a Rotational Motion Workshop at Dundee University in the Physics Teaching Laboratory. This consisted of an introductory talk and completing two experiments. The pupils worked in pairs and were helped by undergraduate demonstrators.

Physical Education

Grove goes for Gold



Grove Academy has been recognised with the prestigious National Gold School Sport Award for improvement and achievement in delivering Physical Education and wider opportunities within physical activity and sport. It is a SportScotland initiative that supports and motivates school communities to continuously improve. Grove Academy is the first secondary school within Dundee to reach the gold standard.

Physical Education teacher Rachael Orchiston, who led the process of going for gold said "We are delighted at Grove Academy to have been awarded the Gold School

Sport Award. It is an amazing achievement celebrating the commitment and dedication of our young people who participate and lead various different sporting activities. It also recognises the staff who regularly give up their own time to help support these clubs. At Grove we aim to encourage as many pupils as possible to be physically active as well as celebrating individual and team success at local, regional and national competitions. To be the first secondary school in Dundee to be awarded this is fantastic and something we are very proud of here at Grove Academy".

Sofia's gift for Grove

Former pupil Sofia Ramzan pop in to Grove during Active Girls week to present the PE department with a signed commonwealth games shirt from this year's competition on the Gold Coast, Australia. Sofia competed in the team Gymnastics event while studying at Grove and is a true inspiration to all at Grove Academy. The top will be proudly displayed in the PE department.



Geography Department

We've had a busy term out and about doing field work and gathering data for various assignments. Our Advanced Higher pupils joined pupils from Harris Academy at Tentsmuir to study sand dune succession. Dr Rebecca Wade, Senior Lecturer in Environmental Science at Abertay University also took AH pupils to a site in Glen Clova



where they learned about her river project. Higher pupils have recently been gathering data in the inner city and CBD areas of Dundee which they will use for their assignment in February. National 4 and 5 pupils walked into Broughty Ferry where they did traffic and pedestrian counts, shopping surveys and measured environmental quality. They will all have written up their assignments before the Christmas break. Our S3 classes have been finding out about Climate Change which has been a

very topical issue. John Berry, Sustainable Transport Team Leader at Dundee City Council came to talk to them about transport in Dundee and what they could do to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Only last week, Travel and Tourism pupils completed their World Host Training with Chris Muir, also of DCC. World Host is



an internationally recognised customer service training scheme and Dundee is trying to become a World Host city. To find out more and keep up to date with our department activities why don't you follow us on Twitter @grovegeoggers?

Business Studies

George R Donald ~ Enterprise Competition

On Wednesday 31 October four N5/Higher Business Management/Administration & IT pupils took part in the George R. Donald Dundee Secondary School's Enterprise Challenge at the Michelin Athletic Club. The challenge involved the teams tackling a live business challenge, in a competitive environment and up against tight deadlines. The challenge this year was to create a new business idea surrounding Circular Economy – with the Grove team focusing on the aspect of 're-use' rather than just recycle. They were given 2 minutes to present their business idea at the end of the day and created A1 poster's demonstrating how their business idea could be resourced.

The Grove team – Kacie Lyttle (S5), Ben Garden (S5), Lily Bowmen (S4) and Finlay Kenyon (S4), supported by Miss Lowden and a representative from Michelin – came up with a fantastic idea of creating a service to refill everyday items to local business's, for example, cleaning products, to encourage them to cut down on plastic usage. The group presented the idea passionately, demonstrating a sound understanding of the business environment. Well done Team Grove



Computing Science

iDEA Award

The inspiring digital enterprise award or iDEA Award has been created by The Duke of York. In line with Prince Andrew's core areas of interest: Education and Skills, Entrepreneurship and Science, Technology and Engineering iDEA aspires to be the digital and enterprise equivalent of The Duke of Edinburgh Award. Through a series of, well written and exiting, online challenges pupils in Grove Academy have been working towards career-enhancing badges, unlocking new opportunities and, ultimately, gaining an industry recognised award to help them stand out from the crowd.

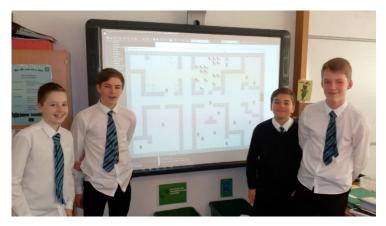
So far 14 pupils have achieved their Bronze iDEA award and 2 pupil have gone on to successfully achieved their Silver iDEA Award. With over 50 other pupils working towards their awards we hope to receive many more certificates from Buckingham Palace in the near future.

S2 IDL Computing Science

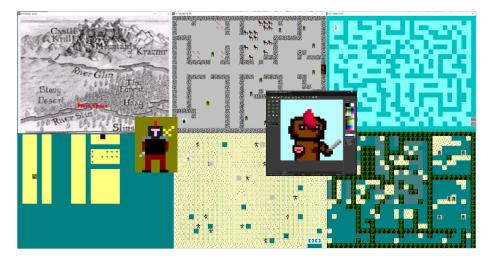
Team: Dylan Anderson; Daniel Caterer; Fergus Holmes; Jason Scott

Escaped from Kraznir!

Congratulations to the S2I team: Dylan Anderson; Daniel Caterer; Fergus Holmes; and Jason Scott for completing their IDL computer games development project.



This is a significant achievement as the first S2 team to develop their individual maze game levels, then fully integrate them into a complete team game. The boys showed excellent leadership and team working skills, solving integration problems to test and fix the working end product.



English Burgess Writing Competition

Some S3 pupils have been working hard on their entries for the Annual Burgess Writing Competition which, this year, invites writers to consider what it might be like in a new virtual reality chamber in Dundee. This state-of-the-art, high-tech chamber - known as Victo**R** - will take them on a tour of old Dundee where they can experience everything from touch, to sight and smell! We wish our three entrants - Monty Monteith, Chloe Phillips and Naomi Craik - the very best of luck with their entries.

Scottish Studies - Scotland in Focus

This is a great time of year when the first half of S3 have the opportunity to showcase their skills and talents as they make, bake and create aspects of Scottish life and culture, past and present. The work produced by pupils has been excellent: we have tasted shortbread, tablet and im-bru cupcakes, been taken on a virtual tour of Scottish castles in Minecraft, looked at a wonderful model of Holyrood Abbey (pictured), been taught to dance, and been entertained through music and song! And that's just for starters! The skills and talents of our pupils are amazing - and the second half of the year group who start work in January have a hard act to follow! Well done to all!





Attention \$1-\$3 readers!

Have you read a book lately that you particularly enjoyed? Then go along to Miss McCall's room and fill out a Book Recommendation so you can let other pupils know what brilliant book they should read next!

Home Economics

S5 Hospitality did catering for the WW1 event in school in conjunction with the History Dept. They made Pesto Pinwheels, Smoked Salmon on Oatcakes Scones, Pancakes, Malteser Slice, Bounty Bars and Truffles. A good experience for pupils who are preparing for their Nat 5 Hospitality exam where they have to make a 3 Course meal suitable to be served in a Restaurant. They now appreciate the importance of presentation of foods served to the public.



They have also been busy preparing for their prelim and making up their Christmas cakes - doing a little bit of cake craft - covering cakes and making up figurines which will hopefully be the centrepiece of the Christmas table.

All classes \$1-3 have been busy making Christmas cakes or biscuits while singing along to Christmas tunes getting into the festive spirit.



Fabric classes \$1-3 have been busy making and decorating their Christmas stockings and Mr Maclean's senior fabric classes have made skirts.

All of these will be up on twitter for parents and pupils to see.

Maths

In September, for Maths Week Scotland, S2 enjoyed a week of fantastic activities culminating in a prize giving assembly. Pupils say that they really enjoyed the week and the activities. Thanks to Ms Treece for all her hard work.

In early November, Senior Pupils took part in the UKMT Senior Maths challenge. Several pupils won bronze awards with one pupil gaining a silver award. Well done to all who took part.

He may be a former pupil, but Agnijo Banerjee gained a perfect score in the International Maths Olympiad. He remembers Grove fondly as this interview shows after his meeting with John Swinney.

https://blogs.gov.scot/engage-for-education/2018/09/18/guest-blog-from-maths-olympiad-agnijo-banerjee/

Library

This year Grove won the annual Dundee Inter-School Literary Quiz. Our team was Jamie Hodges (201), Shreya Sapkota (2R2), Ines Barbosa (2D1) and Alyssa French (2R2). Pupils received certificates, book tokens and the all-important DISc Lit Quiz Shield, presented by the lovely Moira Foster.



The inaugural Grove Warhammer Club Painting Challenge was won by Noah-John Charlett-Blyth (1G1) for his intricately detailed Vanguard-Pallador.



Music and Drama

It has been a very busy year so far for the Music and Drama Department at Grove.

In September the Rumba Band performed at the opening of the STEM project at Dundee University. This followed on from their very successful concert at the Education Scotland conference at the Apex Hotel.

In October a group of 25 singers worked with a group of

singers from London called the 'Tenebrae Singers' Following two workshops in school Grove pupils , along with pupils from Madras and Morgan Academy, performed at the V&A to a large appreciative audience. The pieces selected were chosen specifically around the theme of Ocean Liners, the opening V&A exhibition.

In November the Drama and Music Department worked with the History Department to produce a concert to mark the centenary of World War 1.

The piece, 100 Years for the Fallen was devised by S1 – 6 Drama pupils. Drama and Music pupils worked together to produce a very moving hour long concert.

100 Years for the Fallen was a fitting and moving tribute to all who sacrificed their lives in World War I. It paid particular homage to men from Broughty Ferry who lost their lives.







November 2018

Grove Academy 7pm - 8pm

Tickets:

Children - £2.50 Concessions - £2.50



December was a particularly busy year with several concerts taking place.

The first of these was 'Grove at Discovery' on December 3rd which raised funds for 'Friends of Dundee Heritage. For some of our musicians, this was their first public performance representing their school.

A highlight of our Christmas programme is our visit to St Stephens. Pupils performed at the St Stephens Christmas Afternoon Tea on Tuesday 4th December. After a lovely concert by our senior choir and string group we all sat down together for a lovely afternoon tea. A lovely afternoon had by all!

On December 11th. 49 pupils and staff travelled to Glasgow Concert Hall to perform at a lunchtime concert. This involved musicians from Senior Choir, Rumba, Wind Band, String Group, Pipes and Folk Band as well as 6th year soloists; Rachael Lindsay, Tabitha Kobine and Chloe Finnegan.



Our Christmas Concert this year took place on the 18th December. Over 100 pupils took part in this concert showcasing the talents of the Music and Drama pupils. There was a wide and varied showcase of musicians ranging from Strings, Wind Band, Choirs, Guitar Ensemble, Rumba, Jazz, Folk and Traditional!

Biology

To coincide with Dundee Science Festival in November, S3 Biology pupils had the opportunity to take part in the "Medical Marvels" workshop in the assembly hall which was delivered by Dundee and Angus College and Dundee Science Centre. Pupils were learning how to detect different disease using diagnostic tools, perform cheek cell staining and even tried their hands at performing keyhole surgery using simulation!



S6 school event

S6 pupils and staff had a 'BIG Christmas sleepover' in Grove Academy on Saturday the 8th of December. This was an alternative to the social bite's 'Sleep in the Park'. Pupils raised £410 all of which will be donated to 'Eagles Wings' who run a soup kitchen for Dundee's homeless people.

Foodbank Collection

Please find attached pictures of S1 and S3 pupils who gave up their Saturday on 1st of December to take part in a Christmas collection for Dundee's food bank at Tesco Riverside.



Beach Clean

\$3, \$5 and \$6 Biology pupils took part in the Broughty Ferry big beach clean. They were featured in the evening telegraph on the 8th of December as 'Saturday's young stars'.



All pupils involved earned their Saltire Awards.

Art and Design



We would like to highlight and celebrate the enthusiastic attitude of our young people form this year.

We had many pupils enter into the John Byrne National Drawing Competition. This purpose of this is to encourage young people to draw and use their imagination. The entries had to be 'drawings' as this is a basis on which they will be judged and by John Byrne himself.

The following pupils took part in this, producing an array of beautiful piece of work.

S1 Emma Pevis Apolline McEleavy Lewis Smith

S2 Daisy Anderson Eilidh Campbell Nelly Simion Chloe Phillips Alia Allam Teresa Assension Grace Matthew S3 Tania Iqbal Emily Crawford Leah Kidd Sofia Calmeiro-Arguello

Grove Academy Christmas Card 2018

Internal S3 Christmas Card competition – Given the changes currently being made across Dundee, we asked pupils to create a Christmas with reference to Dundee.

We were so delighted with the range of creative ideas, we struggled to choose just one – but chose five pupils' work across S3 for the final card.

Well done to the following pupils to work hard to produce a high quality outcome.

Daisy Anderson, Teresa Assension, Chloe Bridgett-Young, Sally Brown and Freya Vannet.



External Christmas Card Competition issued by Shona Robison MSP, Dundee City East to celebrate the Year of Young People.

Prizes have been awarded to the top 3 places and the winning card will be printed and distributed throughout Dundee City East.

We are pleased to announce that **two** of our pupil's won first and third place. 1st prize – Daisy Anderson and 3rd prize – Jodi Ewing

Princes Trust S4



The 6 members of the S4 Prince's Trust group created a visual display marking the centenary of WW1. The knitted poppies were donated by members of the public or made by pupils in their textile class. There were exactly the same number of poppies on the display as there were Grove Academy past pupils' life's lost. The WW1 soldier scarecrow was added as part of this year's Broughty Ferry Scarecrow Trail. The display was put up in Queen Street Community Garden.

The Prince's Trust Group carried out a whole school audit of volunteering to show how

many ways Grove Academy pupils contribute to the wider community. So far there has been over 2200 individual acts of volunteering – a great way to mark the end of the Year of the Young Person.





Big British Beach Clean in September. Grove linked up with National Car Rental and Alliance Trust to clear the two beaches either side of the Life Boat shelter The new \$1 Learning Outdoors group have been exploring their local green spaces as part of working towards a John Muir Award.





Three members of the Eco Group attended the DCC Award Ceremony and collect 4 certificates; Two It's Your Neighbourhood Awards for the Community Gardens, best school garden project in Dundee and a discretionary award from the RHS for working with Young People

The **Eco Group** ran a Macmillan Bake Sale and raised over $\pounds100$.



Grove Academy won back the **Cyclathon School's Fund Raising Cup** with an impressive £566 raised for Marie Curie Cancer Care. The photo shows a number of the pupils who took part being given the engraved cup by Ian Balgowan from the Rotary Club of Claverhouse.

