



# Merry Christmas

December 2017

## From the Rector

Dear Parents/Carers

As we reach the end of another calendar year, it is good to take stock of what has been achieved so far in this school year 2017-18. I am immensely proud of all the achievements of our young people and this newsletter aims to highlight as many as possible. My apologies to any pupil who has been missed out.

At Grove Academy, we aim to give our pupils a wide range of opportunities to enhance their school experience – opportunities which will help them on their chosen learning pathway towards a successful and positive destination when they leave our school.

This year has been no exception – with trips to Iceland, Berlin, Summerlee, Auschwitz, Dundee and Abertay Universities and the Scottish Parliament – and a host of outstanding sporting and cultural achievements, to boot.

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

On the staffing front, we will bid farewell to Mr Bruce Beckett, as he retires from the PE department. Mr Beckett has been an extremely popular member of staff who is highly regarded by pupils and staff alike. We shall miss him in his current post, but are pleased that he has agreed to come back in January on a supply basis – he will be warmly welcomed!

We have also said goodbye to Mr B Martin (Computing) and Mrs C Lorimer (Senior Technician) and Mrs J Lees (Business Studies) has gone on maternity leave. This term we have already welcomed to permanent post in the school Ms Ashley Smith (Geography and Numeracy), Miss Danielle Reid (geography), Mrs Claire Crabb (Biology), Ms Rachel Orchiston (PE), Mrs Helen Mackie (HE), Ms Amanda Speedie (Art and Design) and we welcomed back Mrs Michelle Stirling (English) from maternity leave. Also starting at various times in January will be Ms Jodie Wilkie (HE), Mr Terry Masson (PE) Ms L Adair (Guidance) and Mrs Carla Barbour (DHT). And with these appointments we have managed to fill all vacant posts, bar one.

It has been a long hard term, but the staff and pupils have worked hard to achieve and I would commend them all for their efforts and determination. Can I please take this opportunity to thank them all, and you as parents/carers for your support and help in taking the school forward so well. I'd like to wish each and every one of you a happy and blessed Christmas and all the very best for the New Year!

Yours

Graham Hutton

Rector

## SCIENCE

### Agnijo Banerjee



One of our very impressive pupils, Agnijo Banerjee, was at Dynamic Earth receiving from Shirley-Anne Somerville, the UK Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science, the Bronze Medal of the Royal Scottish Society of Arts, together with a book token to value of £100 and a citation in the form of a certificate, for being one of the four pupils in Scotland to achieve equal top marks in the recent Highers in Engineering Science. The event was organised by

the Royal Society of Edinburgh and The Royal Society of Chemistry.

### S1 Science

S1 Science pupils showed their creative sides when they were challenged to build a model cell for home learning as part of their first Biology unit. Some of their creations are on display in the library. Many pupils also showed some talent in baking as they made cell cakes which were not only works of art but also extremely tasty!



## History Department

### Summerlee Industrial Museum – S4

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 September. The visit is a key part of the pupils' 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 miners' 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 had the chance to investigate the social history of the area through the many exhibits relating to trade unions, football teams and leisure activities. Of course, it was hard to drag Mr Anderson away from the First World War section.

Pupils said of the visit: "I really enjoyed Summerlee because we got to experience how they lived and worked in the past." "We got to see everything that we'd only seen in diagrams." "It showed us what the houses actually looked like." "I got to know what it felt like in a coalmine for myself." "It helped me understand the environment they lived and worked in.

### **Commonwealth War Graves Commission – S5 Volunteering**

As part of the S5/6 electives programme, a small group of S5 pupils who took part in the 2017 Battlefields Experience have been volunteering for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The group have been involved in using the CWGC archives to research the Grove Academy Roll of Honour. In September, the group organised a small ceremony in Barnhill cemetery to commemorate the centenary of the death of Alexander Campbell, a former pupil. The group organised a wreath to be laid, some words to be said and Rhys Beattie to play *Flowers of the Forest* on his bagpipes.

The group are now involved in mapping the 44 CWGC gravestones in Barnhill cemetery, to help visitors to the site find their way around. This will also involve working with the CWGC operations team in order to repair/replace CWGC headstones.



## Remembrance Day Activities – November 2017

A number of senior pupils studying History were involved in delivering a very successful run of assemblies to mark Armistice Day in November.

These assemblies were developed and delivered by a group of senior pupils who had taken part in the Battlefields Experience.

Pupils were also involved in selling poppies to class at registration every morning.

## WW100 Arras Commemoration

In April, two S3 pupils were chosen by Dundee City Council to represent the people of Dundee at the Scottish Government's commemorations of the centenary of the Battle of Arras in 1917.

Lucy Mitchell and Eve Wood were joined by Emily Lynch and Carrie Mitchelson, who represented the people of Angus, and spent 3 days touring the First World War battlefields and monuments in Belgium and France as part of the commemorative trip.

The visit culminated in a very special Beating Retreat ceremony in the town of Arras where pupils met with the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon and other key dignitaries.



Katie Wood (S6) produced these two images as part of her Higher Art and Design folio in order to commemorate Remembrance this year.

**RMPE Department**

**German Visit**



For the fourth year in a row S3 pupils from Grove visited Berlin. The visit was a collaboration with Modern Languages and RMPE. During our time there the 46 pupils visited: the DDR museum, the TV Tower, the Jewish Museum, the Olympic stadium, Sachsenhausen Museum and Memorial, the Brandenburg Gate, Story of Berlin Museum, the Reichstag, the Berlin Wall, many Christmas markets and too many restaurants in THREE DAYS!!!!

### **Vision Schools – level 1**



A Vision School will be committed to the view that the Holocaust is an important part of young people's education, while appreciating the challenges that teaching the Holocaust can raise in primary and secondary schools. Schools therefore need to demonstrate their existing commitment to the importance of Holocaust education, to developing teacher confidence in Holocaust education and achieving teacher expertise in this area. Grove is only one of three schools to have been awarded this award.

### **Holocaust Education Group – planning the conference**

Pupils at Grove are preparing to host Scotland's first ever Holocaust Pupil Conference, in June 2018. They hope to have a Holocaust survivor speak at the event and are creating workshops for all invited guests. At the same time the Anne Frank Trust will bring (again for the first time in Scotland) the exhibition Anne Frank + You. This includes a life size reconstruction of Anne's room in the secret annex.

### **Lessons From Auschwitz (LFA)**



This year again two S6 pupils were chosen to take part in the Holocaust Educational Trust's programme, Lessons from Auschwitz. They listened to Eva Clarke, a Holocaust survivor who was born in Mauthausen concentration camp, Austria. The following week they were joined by over 200 pupils and the Deputy First Minister, John Swinney and travelled to Poland where they visited the Museum and Memorial Auschwitz. For their next step they are presenting to all year groups, contributing the pupil conference and hopefully working with primary schools.

### **Anne Frank Trust Ambassadors**



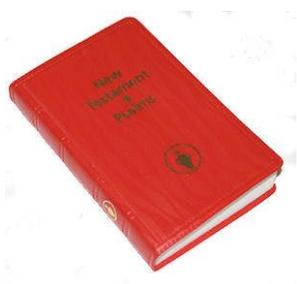
For the second time the Anne Frank trust trained S2 pupils to guide pupils and staff around the Anne Frank: A History for Today exhibition. This was seen by most in S1-S3 and as a consequence of their great work 6 were chosen to be Ambassadors and had gave a lesson to all pupil on the P7 induction day. The Ambassadors, together with all the Dundee Ambassadors travelled to Amsterdam to visit the Secret Annexe in November and in January they will be in London to represent the Anne Frank Trust at the national Holocaust Memorial Event.

### Ambassador reception in Edinburgh



Present and previous LFA Ambassadors from Grove Academy were invited to hear Karen Pollack MBE, Chief Executive of the Holocaust Educational Trust, and John Swinney, Deputy First Minister and Minister for Education speak at the annual Scottish Ambassadors Reception. There were Ambassadors from around Scotland as well as representatives from Education Scotland, Holocaust Educators as well as Henry and Ingrid Wuga, who escaped Nazi persecution on the kindertransports.

### Visits from the Gideons



During the recent S2 unit on Christianity pupils were visited by Gideons international. Each pupil heard a presentation from the volunteers, asked and answered questions and were offered a copy of the New Testament and Psalms.

### Visit from Taught by Mohammed



As part of the S3 Islam unit representatives of Taught by Muhammad visited the school. Every pupil listened to a presentation, asked and answered questions and were offered pens and wristbands.

### Medical Ethics conference – planning

For those pupils who are studying RMPS in the senior phase (S4-6) we are arranging a conference, in March, on Medical Ethics. The conference will involve a suite of activities in which students rotate around stations staffed by 'consultants' in law, philosophy, life-sciences

and religion. These activities will be followed by a Q&A and plenary. The subjects under discussion - as dictated by the course curriculum - will be embryo research, euthanasia and organ donation. Specific case studies will be examined, to provide focus for the pupils' activities. At this stage, we have enlisted consultants in law, philosophy and life-sciences from Dundee University, the Open University, Oxford University and the Roman Catholic Church

### **Involvement with the Local Jewish community**

As part of the RMPS course pupil have been studying Judaism. To better understand this religion we have been arranging to visit the Synagogue in Dundee as well as to meet with representatives of the Jewish community.

### **Charities so far – Maggie's**

The logo for Maggie's, featuring the word "maggie's" in a lowercase, cursive, black font.

The school charity for 2017/18 is Maggie's. We are working with them on a variety of activities, such as non-uniform theme days, bag packs, and sponsored walks over the Tay Bridge etc. so we can improve on the £8000+ we gave to MacMillan Cancer Care last year.

### **Chaplaincy**

This year pupils have organised a variety of assemblies and events to inform the school community about the variety of faiths present at Grove Academy. So far we have seen the Christmas assemblies led in conjunction with Grove's Scripture Union and later this year there will be assemblies on Holi, Vaisakhi, Easter, Ramadan and World humanist day. With each assembly members of the particular belief will be offering workshops which all are invited to learn more about faith and belief at Grove Academy.

### **Geography Department**

A group of 35 pupils and 5 staff headed off to Iceland at the beginning of October. This was a hugely successful Geography field trip and we all enjoyed the experience. Every day brought more exciting landscapes. We swam in the Secret Lagoon, marvelled at the northern lights, visited the new Lava Centre, went to Reykjavik, walked through the ice caves at Perlan, heard first- hand accounts of the eruption of Eyafjallajokull, got drenched on the basalt beaches, were amazed at glaciers, volcanoes and waterfalls, held up the bridge between the continents, smelt the sulphur at the hot springs, ate ice cream and generally had a fantastic time! Everything went to plan. The accommodation was cosy and the food was good. The pupils were a credit to themselves, their parents and Grove Academy. Hopefully we will be able to offer it again in October 2019!



## Modern Languages

Chloe Pearson and Anna Bennett were Grove's competitors in the Christine Rolfe Award for Excellence in a Spoken Modern Language. This is the first year this city wide competition has been held and every school in Dundee was asked to nominate two candidates. Chloe was commended for her command of French and Anna won the competition for her outstanding performance in Spanish. Muy bien!



## Modern Studies Department

### S3 Harry McLevy Award

This year's S3 Modern Studies Harry McLevy Award saw three fantastic entries from Rachel Anderson (Should Prisoner's be allowed the vote), Rachael Birnie (Lowering the voting age to 16) and Jack Anderson (Should the Police in the UK be armed), who were all strong competition. The school judging panel awarded the school winner prize to Jack who went on to the city wide final against the other schools in Dundee. The competition promotes investigative skills and research and is sponsored by the Pensioners Forum, Unite the Union and the Dundee Modern Studies Association, each school winner is awarded a certificate and a cash prize with the overall city winner claiming the trophy and a further prize. It is with huge delight that Jack was announced city wide winner at the awards ceremony on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> of December. Massive congratulations to Jack and all the other finalists and thanks once again to the completion sponsors.



Jack receiving his trophy

#### **S4 Scottish Parliament Trip December 14<sup>th</sup> 2017**

S4 Modern Studies pupils were given the opportunity to attend First Minister's Questions at the Scottish Parliament on Thursday. The National 4 and 5 pupils received a tour of the Parliament, watched First Minister's Questions from the gallery and then had a lunch time question and answer session with local MSP and Minister for Health and Sport Shona Robinson. Pupils were very excited about this and thought of many thought provoking questions for Shona such as why there has been a rise in foodbank use for young people in Dundee and did she support fellow MSP Monica Lennon's bill to help end period poverty. Thank you to the Scottish Parliament Education team for this opportunity. Pictures available at @\_GAMS\_ on twitter.



#### **S5/6 Abertay Christmas Debate Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

S5/6 Modern Studies, Politics and Sociology pupils have been given the opportunity to attend the annual Abertay Christmas debate. Abertay University have put on the debate for over 10 years now and always provide pupils with a highly interesting and worthwhile experience. This year the debate will look at the issue of Brexit, which feeds into many of the aspects of the Higher Modern Studies and Politics courses. Pupils will be given the opportunity to take part in the discussion at the end of the debate and also voting on the outcome of the debate. Thank you to Abertay University for this insightful event.



#### **Grove Academy – Pupil Support Workers**

##### **Christmas Fayre**

On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November, Grove Academy hosted its annual Christmas Fayre. The dining hall was transformed into an impressive Winter Wonderland with a huge selection of vendors. The day was a massive success and raised over £1450. There was also special appearances by Disney's Anna and Olaf who made the long journey from Arendelle and were on hand for a selfie or two!

## S2 Peer Education

It's been a busy term for our S2 Peer Educators who have delivered workshops to P7's classes at Eastern and Barnhill Primaries. Each P7 class in the Grove cluster receive four educational sessions of 1.5 hours. Peer Educators use games, films, photographs, quizzes and group discussion to create interactive fun learning sessions. P7s learn about risks, drugs and alcohol, internet safety, friendships and moving up to high school.



## Foodbank Supermarket Collection



39 senior pupils took part in Trussell Trust's National Neighbourhood Food Collection held over a three day period. Pupils braved the cold temperatures to encourage shoppers in local Tesco stores to donate food items to Dundee Foodbank who will support people facing hunger this winter. This year's Grove Academy's Christmas Hamper Appeal will also support the Dundee Foodbank.

## Santa Dash

A team of staff and pupils took part in Leisure & Culture's first ever Santa Dash in aid of The Archie Foundation.



## Christmas Tree Trail

Pupils from the Eco Group are spreading festive cheer by organising Broughty Ferry's first ever Christmas tree trail. Locations are available in Broughty Ferry Library. Can you find them all?



## Cyclathon

Pupils who took part in the Cyclathon were invited to attend a Civic Reception in November to hand over their fundraising cheque to Marie Curie. This year Team Grove raised over £437.



## Improving Green Spaces

Queen Street Garden was awarded an Outstanding in the It's Your Neighbourhood Awards. The Green Growers group were awarded a Level 3 – Advancing Award, and Grove Academy was awarded a Gold Certificate and first place in a schools' gardening competition.



### **S2 Skill Force Residential to Loch Eil**

20 S2 pupils took part in a week's residential to Outward Bound Trust Loch Eil Centre where they participated in many outdoor activities such as the famous 'Jog and Dip in the Loch', sailing, abseiling, and hillwalking. The course aims to develop teamwork, resilience and communication skills.



### **THE GEORGE R DONALD FUND**

On Wednesday 8 November four N5/Higher Business Management pupils took part in the George R. Donald Dundee Secondary Schools' Enterprise Challenge at the Michelin Athletic Club.

The challenge involved the teams tackling a live business challenge, set by Abertay University Business School, in a competitive environment and up against tight deadlines. The challenge this year was to create a new business idea that tackles our ever growing food waste concern, and also food poverty within our local area. The teams had the opportunity to discuss their business ideas with 'marketing panels' comprising of local marketing professionals. They were given 2 minutes to present their business idea at the end of the day and create an A1 poster demonstrating how their business idea could be resourced.



The Grove team - Hannah Leslie (S5), Craig Bruce (S5), Ross Davidson (S4) and Sally Lamont (S4), supported by Mr Martin and a representative from Michelin – were tasked with opening up pop-up restaurant, using unsold foods from local supermarkets and farms. The restaurant would help meet the needs of Dundee's growing tourism market and help train up those who are not culinary skilled. The group presented the idea passionately, demonstrating a sound understanding of the business environment. Well done Team Grove!

## **Business Studies Department Young Enterprise**

Two budding entrepreneurs Allie Nelson (6D1) and Matthew Ahrens (6R2) have created their own business "Flavours of the Ferry" selling luxurious hand crafted candles with various Scottish scents including In Bru, strawberry jam and warming shortbread. Throughout the year they have been busy sourcing the resources required, producing their candles as well as deciding on their marketing and pricing strategy. The team has sold their products very successfully at a number of trading events. On Saturday 9 December, the team were part of the Young Enterprise Trade Fair in the Wellgate Shopping Centre along with 3 other school from Angus. They generated a lot of interest in their bespoke candles and managed to sell £200 worth of products. The winners of the Young Enterprise trade fair has yet to be decided. Fingers crossed!!



## Stock Market Investment Challenge – North East Region

All pupils studying Higher Accounting have been competing with 60 other schools from all over Scotland testing their maths/finance and business skills in a unique challenge where pupils have to increase their net worth through buying and selling shares in a simulated stock market.

Grove Academy were top of the North East region leader board and will compete against Glenwood High School and Madras College at the investment bank BNP Paribas on Tuesday 20 December. The 2 pupils who achieved the highest fund total during the qualifying round were Louis Brown (6D2) and Lewis Stracey (5O2).

The following pupils will represent Grove Academy at the final – Louis Browne (6D2), Jordan Jones (5R2), Charlie Kennedy (5R1) and Junaid Nadeem (5R1). Good luck 😊



★ QUALIFIERS:		
	Fund Total	Return On Investment
Brannock High School (Lan)	542,659	0.446%
Biggar High School (Lan)	537,396	0.429%
Grove Academy (NE)	499,736	0.312%
Carlisle High School (Lan)	498,904	0.309%
Glenwood High School (NE)	497,180	0.384%
Madras College (NE)	496,552	0.302%
Hillpark Secondary School (W)	478,879	0.251%

## Sporting Success ~ so far this term

Swimming - Tayside Schools Swimming Championship

Maria Cabrelli – Gold 100m Back & Silver 400m IM

Morgan Anderson gold 200m Back gold 100m Free

Olivia Clarke Gold 200m Breast silver 100m Breast

Abbie Armstrong gold 100m Back

Anna Clarke bronze 200m Back

Grove 4x50m Free Relay Gold Robyn Smith, Morgan Anderson, Olivia Clarke, and Abbie Armstrong



## Rugby

Undefeated winners of Dundee Active Schools S1 Rugby Tournament... Grove Academy 🏉 well done Mr Beckett and his boys!



## Water polo

Winners of the S1-4 Dundee Active Schools water polo competition



## Hockey

Winners of the Dundee East Hockey



Congratulations to **Fergus Rice** who has been selected into the Under 16's Scottish Hockey Training Academy.

## Grove Academy - Living for Sport Manchester Trip 2017

A number of pupils from S2-5 participated in a school visit to Manchester as part of our links with Sky Sports 'Living for Sport' Initiative. Previously the school has been visited by a number of Commonwealth Games and Olympian medallists as part of this initiative. The athletes

worked directly with students to inspire them to achieve their best whatever their situation on the belief that sport has the power to transform young people's lives and help them build practical skills and self-confidence. As well as staff from Grove Academy, the trip also included the Local SFA Community development Officer, Niall Nicholson. Niall is also involved in the delivery of our unique SFA Coaching Academy which is available to pupils as part of their choices in S5/6.

The visit to Manchester was also supported by the Manchester United Community Trust and pupils attended Premiership games involving Burnley, Stoke, Bournemouth and Manchester United. Pupils also participated in the Manchester United Learner Experience. This involved a detailed Stadium tour giving our pupils an insight into the wider aspects of running a multi-million pound business and events operation. As well as this tour pupils visited the Manchester United Museum and participated in a workshop in Manchester United's dedicated learning zone.



Pupils in the Manchester Utd Dressing Room



Pupils taking part in the Learning Zone workshop



Pupils in the Manchester Utd Press room