



from the quadrangle

Otaki Scholars welcome visitor from New Zealand



Left to right: Calum Harker (Otaki Scholar 2005), Andrew Davidson (2004), Jim Blair, Iain Logan (1999), Max Schneider (2006) and Sam MacKenzie (2002)

This year our School Captain, Calum Harker, will be travelling to New Zealand as the 62nd Otaki Scholar. The Otaki Shield is given to our School Captain in memory of Captain Archibald Bissett-Smith VC, who went down with his ship, the "SS Otaki" in 1917 after a brave engagement with an enemy warship.

The Otaki Scholarship represents a prestigious link between Robert Gordon's College and the nation of New Zealand. For the last twenty years the Otaki Scholar's itinerary in New Zealand has been arranged by Jim Blair, the Events and Ceremonial Officer of the New Zealand Government. We were delighted to welcome Jim for the first time to Gordon's on Tuesday 7 June. He had a chance to meet Calum, who gave him a thorough tour of the school, and also several other recent Otaki Scholars. One of these, Chris Cusiter, is of course currently in New Zealand on other business!

Mr Ouston, Development Officer Bob Duncan, and Mr Blair visited the grave of Captain Bissett-Smith in Rhynie Churchyard on Wednesday 8 June. The photograph on the left shows them laying a wreath at the memorial to William Martin, a fourteen year old who, just months after leaving Gordon's, was killed in the same action 'with the marks of his schoolbag still on his back'.

Dear Headmaster,

Robert Gordon's College was all I expected it to be, ancient in New Zealand terms, but very modern in its outlook and facilities. It has been an absolute privilege for me to visit the College and to meet with many of the staff and a great joy to meet up with so many former Otaki Scholars and also Calum and Max. Otaki Scholars are held in high esteem in New Zealand and I am sure they will be great ambassadors for the College and Scotland for many years to come. All who attend this wonderful Scottish institution can be justly proud of doing so, and go forth to whatever the future holds with the knowledge that they have received an education second to none and are part of an enviable tradition which is unique in Scotland. Best regards to all in their future endeavours.

Yours aye,
Jim Blair
8 June 2005



Gordonian RFC Centenary Celebrations



As part of the Gordonian RFC Centenary Year celebrations, 120 Primary 6/7 children from Ellon, Mackie, Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen Wanderers, Aberdeen Grammar and Robert Gordons College took part in a fun training session at Countesswells Playing Fields on a bright and sunny morning. The children and coaches from the various clubs all enjoyed this happy occasion with the opportunity to mix with each other and improve their playing skills. At the end of the session T-shirts, designed by Abbey Niven of P7C, were presented by rugby internationalist Stuart Grimes (a former pupil of Robert Gordons College who has won 71 Scottish caps) to all the children. The best passer, tackler, side-stepper and communicator received suitably annotated T-shirts. The full Scottish Rugby Squad was training on the pitch opposite the minis (in preparation for their victorious game against the Barbarians at Pittodrie) and took time out to give the minis a few tips. They autographed training tops, arms, legs and faces – a great excuse to give to Mum for not washing for a week or two! The morning was rounded off with a burger and drink.



Former pupil and rugby internationalist Stuart Grimes with Gordonian Minis

from the quadrangle

RGCPA News

FOUNDER'S DAY BALL

Founder's Day Ball this year was once again a resounding success with almost 300 parents, friends and staff attending. This has always been a very popular social event and we look forward to next year.

effort prior to the event. Most of the supplies were successfully returned and 100 scones were gratefully received by a local charity.

REMINDER

RGCPA has arranged the second-hand book sale this year for **Monday 27th June from 6pm - 8pm**. Once again there will be an opportunity to donate any unsold or unwanted books to the local book charity, *Books Abroad*.

SPORTS DAY

Unfortunately Sports Day was a victim of the Aberdeen weather this year. RGCPA would like to thank all the volunteers who had put in so much time and

As the end of session fast approaches I would like to thank the present committee for all their hard work during the year. We have been very fortunate with a large number of parent helpers offering to assist with our many events and we thank you. The staff at the College have been extremely supportive this year and we are certain this will continue into next session.

RGCPA Committee meets once a month and organises events such as the Ball, Christmas Fair and Sports Day amongst others. We are also involved with fundraising for the many 'extras' your children benefit from. This year we will be able to provide all the items from the 'wish list' and £8000 was granted from funds to allow the purchase of a new school mini-bus which many parents will have already seen parked in the school grounds.

This year has been a very successful one and we appreciate the good communication between Mr Ouston and our committee. Volunteers will once again be required in September so have a think about it and have your turn at getting involved.

Carolyn Armstrong, Chair RGCPA.



Thomas Sanders

RGC Election Results

On May 5th we held our very own mock election, and the results were as follows:

Jennifer Allan (Green)	25
Douglas Blake (UKIP)	74
Jonathon Blaydon (SNP)	14
Katherine Duncan (Labour)	36
Joanna Farmer (Lib Dem)	69
Catrina McCabe (SSP)	10
Malcolm Wright (Conservative)	43

Development News

Book Launch Evening

The evening of Monday 9th May saw over one hundred guests and a large number of staff gather in the Blackfriars Building for the launch of Jack Webster's book, **The Auld Hoose**.

Jack, a former pupil, met up with many distinguished old school friends including the Doric broadcaster Robbie Shepherd and comedian Buff Hardie of "Scotland the What".

The Head of College, Hugh Ouston, introduced the evening, followed by a talk from Jack, who then spent a considerable time signing books. The book charts the history of the College and highlights teachers and pupils over the 250 year history of the College.

It is available from the Development Office at a special price of £16 + £2 UK postage for parents and former pupils. A good buy for all those with an interest in the College.



Pelican Pins

The College has had specially commissioned gold Pelican Pins made by Sandy Menzies, jewellers. These are to be awarded by the Head and Governors to Gordonians and friends of the College who have been of exceptional service.

The College has also decided to issue all school leavers, starting this session, with a coloured enamel graduate "Pelican Pin" of a similar design. Accompanying the badge will be a message from the Head of College and the President of the Gordonian Association, with useful contacts for the future.



achievements, development & parents' association news....

Individual Pupil Achievements

Over the Easter weekend Eugene Ong (S6) went to Denmark as part of a team from the Northeast representing Scotland in an International Badminton Festival involving 16 countries. Eugene won the Silver medal in the Singles competition, and the following day was paired with Icelandic player Thor Henn in the Doubles competition. They went on to win some exciting matches and eventually finished 6th overall in the Doubles.



After a successful winter season where he finished runner-up in the U14 Scottish Tennis Open in February, William Collins (S3) went on to represent the North of Scotland in a County Cup tennis match in April in Northumberland, where he came 2nd in his group.

He then played for Tennis Scotland in Edinburgh in May against a team from the Leeds Tennis Academy, and as part of the Men's team for Cults Tennis Club he reached the quarter-finals in the Scottish Cup. We wish William continued success over the coming months when he will be taking part in the following tournaments: The Scottish Open, the North-east of Scotland Tennis Tournament, the North-east Schools Tournament and the Middlesborough Open.

Gavin McLean (6B1), Claire Benzie (6B1), Alison Logan (6B1), Jenny Frampton (6B2), Aaron Thom (6C1) **Jaspars** Keith Elliott (6C2), Caroline Alexander (6B1), Kirstin Wilson (6T2), Debbi Jennings (6T2), Isobel Chen (6S2), Yasmin Strachan (6C1), Campbell Howitt (6B2), Stephanie Thom (6C2) **Junior School Classroom Assistant** Tabitha Baird (6C2), Kelly Leslie (6C2)

Science Club Noris Suranudpreda (6S2)

Fairtrade Gavin McLean (6B1)

Yearbook Victoria Steele (6T1), Lori Selkirk (6B2), Stephanie Thom (6C2), Isobel Chen (6S2), Ken Kirton (6B2), Kirstin Wilson (6T2), Gavin McLean (6B1), Alex Workman (6T1)

News Group Robert Thomson (6S2)

Blackfriars House Alun Evans (6B2)

Straloch House Victoria Steele (6T1), Simon Gaskell (6T2), Joanna Marr (6T2), Alex Dearden (6T2)

Collyhill House David MacFarlane (6C1)

Sillerton House Innes Crawford (6S1), Howard Chen (6S1), Sarah Robertson (6S2)

contact us...

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in this issue...



Jack Webster book launch

Living with Lady Macbeth?

Postcard from Italy

from the quadrangle

Srikantharajah (6S2), Stephanie Thom (6S2), Karen Ward (6B1), Kieran Parry (6S1), Julia Webster (6S2)

Orchestra

Campbell Howitt (6B2), Dharshika Srikantharajah (6S2), Michelle Allan (6B1), Catriona Hood (6C2), Julia Webster (6S2), Alistair Millar (6S1), Karen Ward (6B1)

Concert Band

Tabitha Baird (6C2), Chloe Bell (6B2), Eilidh Crawford (6C1), Alex Workman (6T1), Keith Elliott (6C2), Peter Hutchison (6C2), Alistair Millar (6S1), Jane Morel (6T1), Eileen Mutch (6S1), Kieran Parry (6S1), Sarah Robertson (6S2), Karen Ward (6B1)

Girls' Hockey

Elaine Rattray (6B2), Emily De Boer (6C2), Karen Ward (6B1), Harriet Jackson (6B1), Ji Sun Lee (6T1)

Swimming

Sophie McAllister (6T1)

Netball

Natasha Bairstow (6B1), Stari Gunarathne (6B1), Karen Ward (6B1), Debbie Kerr-Hunter (6C2), Lori Selkirk (6B2)

Boys' Hockey

James Howard (6T2), Kieran Parry (6S1)

Rugby

Robert Thomson (6S2), Howard Chan (6S1), Simon Morgan (6T1), Keith Elliott (6C2)

Junior School ICT

Stephen Maxwell (6C2), Sarah McKay (6C1), Geoffrey Thubron (6C2), Tom May (6C2)

Library

Gavin McLean (6B1), Claire Benzie (6B1), Alison Logan (6B1), Jenny Frampton (6B2), Aaron Thom (6C1)

Mary Noden (6C1) - Re-award, Tom Dean (6C2), Cassie Connell (5S1)

Debating

Robert Gallon (5S2) **Girls' Hockey** Eileen Mutch (6S1), Stephanie Reid (5S2)

Swimming

Kyle O'Neill (6S1) – Re-award, Max Schneider (5S2) – Re-award

News Group

Gavin McLean (6B1), Aaron Thom (6C1)

Karate

Stari Gunarathne (6B1)

Boys' Hockey

Graeme Johnstone (5B2), Simon Gaskell (6T2)

Rugby

Calum Harker (6C1), Joe Speakman (5T1), Angus Willis (5B1), Peter Hutchison (6C2), Malcolm Howell (6B2), Alex Dearden (6T2)

Chamber Choir

Michelle Allan (6B1), Tabitha Baird (6C2), Rowena Burrows (6C1), Victoria Steele (6T1), Isobel Chen (6S1), Sarah Coles (6C1), Isla Newcombe (6S1), Dharshika

pupil achievements....

Chess

Congratulations to the RGC 'A' team - Charles Curry (S6), Adam Bremner (S2), Denesh Srikantharajah (S4), Ruairidh Milne (S1) and Rachel Curry (S2) - who are through to the final of the Scottish Schools Championship after a comprehensive victory over Douglas Academy from Glasgow.

Good luck to Blair Hawthorne (S2) who will be representing Scotland in the Chess World Championships in Belfort, France in July.

Girls' Hockey

Louise Fleming and Claire Hunter (both S3) have both been selected for the U16 Scottish Hockey team to play in two Tournament weekends this summer - one will take place in Manchester in June and the other in Edinburgh in July.

Music

Trinity College Results:

Luke Borwell (1S1), Grade 4 Euphonium; Jonathon Brown (1B2), Grade 2 Trumpet; Oliver Brown (1B2), Grade 3 Horn in F - Merit; Andrew Buchanan (2S2), Grade 1 Saxophone; Tom Dean (6C2), Grade 7 Saxophone; Keith Elliot (6C2) Grade 6 Cornet; Abigail Foster (4C1), Grade 4 Flute; Jennifer Hutchison (1C2), Grade 1 Flute - Merit; Peter Hutchison (6C2), First Concert Certificate Clarinet; William Jamieson (2S2), Grade 6 French Horn; Christina Johnston (1B2), Grade 1 Saxophone - Merit; Sarah Jane Livingston (4B2), Grade 5 Clarinet; Amy Victoria Lyon (2T2), Grade 3 Saxophone - Distinction; Iain MacLeod (5B1), Grade 7 French Horn; Felicity Mithen (4S2), Grade 5 Saxophone; Corrie Anna Mosley (3T2), Grade 5 Saxophone; Andrew Murray (2S1), Grade 3 Horn in F - Merit; Fergus Mutch (4S1), Grade 6 Euphonium; James O'Kelly (4T2) Grade 5 Clarinet; Thomas O'Kelly (2T2), Grade 1 Saxophone; Sam Paul (4S1), Grade 7 French Horn; David Pierce (2C2), Grade 5 Trumpet; Chris Pollard (4T1), Grade 7 Violin; Julia Redman (3B2), Grade 5 Trumpet; Keith Riddoch (1S1), Grade 4 Euphonium; Michael Sawaryn (1T1), Grade 4 Trombone; Daniel Trail (4B1), Grade 5 Saxophone; Calum Veitch (1C2) Grade 1 Saxophone; Eleanor Workman (1T1), Grade 1 Saxophone - Distinction.

Associated Board Exam Results:

Gordon Anderson (4B2), Grade 4 Clarinet - Merit; Rachel Meldrum (4C2), Grade 2 Violin; Samantha Pearce (5C2), Grade 8 Flute - Distinction; JJ Reid (4B2) Grade 4 Flute; Gavin Smith (6B1), Grade 7 Flute; Connie Wigg (4S1), Grade 7 Euphonium - Distinction.

Rugby

Congratulations to the 1st XV who won the North Schools Cup (Downreay Cup) for the second year running. Well done to Joe Speakman (S5), Stephen Kilshaw, Robbie Thomson and John Geddie (Captain)

(all S6) who all scored a try, and Euan Milne (S6) who scored two.

Scottish Mathematical Council Awards

The Scottish Mathematical Council have awarded the following pupils in the Mathematical Challenge 2005: Ami Munro (S2) - Junior Gold; Emma Wood (S1) - Junior Gold; Jennifer Allan (S2) - Junior Silver; Clark Pennie (S2) - Junior Silver; Corrie Robertson (S1) - Junior Silver; Heather Robertson (S1) - Junior Silver.

Show Jumping

Congratulations to the Equestrian Team - Rachel Hardman (S6), Tabitha Ward (S6), Jennifer Matthews (S4) and Anna Brand (S5) - who won the Scottish Schools Combined Training Championships at Gleneagles on Sunday. The team also won the best Dressage Team Competition and Tabitha Baird came 1st in the Individual dressage competition and won the overall Individual championship, with Rachel Hardman coming 3rd and Jennifer Matthews 4th. All in all an excellent performance from all four riders.

Colours and Merit Awards March 2005

Colours

Music

Mary Noden (6C1) - Re-award, Tom Dean (6C2), Cassie Connell (5S1)

Debating

Robert Gallon (5S2)

Girls' Hockey

Eileen Mutch (6S1), Stephanie Reid (5S2)

Swimming

Kyle O'Neill (6S1) – Re-award, Max Schneider (5S2) – Re-award

News Group

Gavin McLean (6B1), Aaron Thom (6C1)

Karate

Stari Gunarathne (6B1)

Boys' Hockey

Graeme Johnstone (5B2), Simon Gaskell (6T2)

Rugby

Calum Harker (6C1), Joe Speakman (5T1), Angus Willis (5B1), Peter Hutchison (6C2), Malcolm Howell (6B2), Alex Dearden (6T2)

Merit Awards

Chamber Choir

Michelle Allan (6B1), Tabitha Baird (6C2), Rowena Burrows (6C1), Victoria Steele (6T1), Isobel Chen (6S1), Sarah Coles (6C1), Isla Newcombe (6S1), Dharshika



Do you know about the College cat?

The Catwalk Project 2005

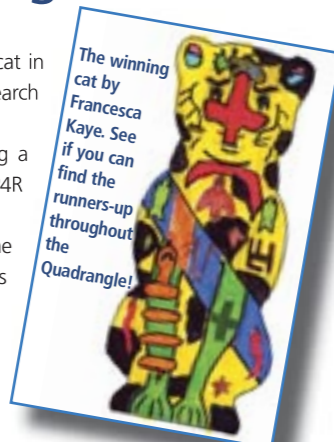
Lis Macdougall the PID Assistant and her husband kindly sponsored a 3D cat in THE CATWALK PROJECT 2005, which has already benefited Leukaemia Research and UNICEF.

They approached Caroline Chinn to involve Junior School pupils in creating a design to be painted on the cat. A competition was organized around the P4R and P4S class project on the Middle Ages.

The winner was Francesca Kaye (P4S) with her Medieval Cat design, and the runners-up were Joanna Barrack (P4S), Alexander Round (P4R) and Tomas Sanders (P4S). Congratulations to Francesca and all the finalists.

The finished cat will be on display with others from all over the city during the Offshore Europe Conference and Exhibition and at an Arts Festival in October. Look out for the College Cat over the summer and autumn months!

Sponsored by Mr. & Mrs. Macdougall, Contract Furnishing Ltd., Aberdeen.



Primary 4 Farm Visit

As part of their project on 'Farming', Primary 4 spent a day in the country on Friday, 20th May. At Thainstone Mart, the children received a hearty welcome and were treated to a very informative talk about Europe's biggest livestock market, before touring the building to watch the animals being prepared for sale, as well as the auction process itself.

The class then travelled to Concraig Dairy and, courtesy of the Marshall family, spent a wonderful afternoon, which began with a picnic on the lawn. After an interesting tour of the milking parlour and seeing the animals at close quarters, the children finished off the visit with a tractor ride.

A big thankyou is due to the many mums who accompanied the children on the day: Mrs Atkins, Mrs Browne, Mrs Cooper, Mrs Crerar, Mrs Morren, Mrs Ouston, Mrs Proctor, Mrs Taylor and Mrs Veitch.



Primary 5 Visits to Alltnacriche

In late April, P5L and P5K each enjoyed a half week stay at Alltnacriche, a residential centre near Aviemore. Both classes followed a similar programme of activities, beginning with a range of on-site challenges, namely the aerial runway, the aerial rope course and indoor curling. Much of the second day was spent at the Highland Folk Museum at Kingussie where the children visited an early 20th century farm, school, church and typical village shops and businesses. They saw history come to life when they visited a 17th century Highland village. Guides dressed in Highland clothing from the period explained the harsh life at that time. A final treat was a visit to Aviemore's impressive new swimming complex. The children are very much looking forward to visiting Alltnacriche in P6 for a whole week to enjoy a new range of exciting activities.



Golfer Paul Lawrie with P5

Primary 5 get healthy

This term, P5 have been involved in a health based topic about the body and fitness. Work has really come to life thanks to the involvement of many of the P5 parents who have given so freely of their time to share their knowledge with the children in a series of talks. Mrs Warrender, an Occupational Therapist, spoke about 'disability'; Mr Khan, a surgeon, explained the workings of the digestive system and kidneys; Mr Coull, a dentist, showed the children the importance of oral health; Dr Brownhill let the children see what was involved in being a GP; Mr Dougall, an Orthopaedic Surgeon, explained how our skeleton and joints function; Mrs Murphy explained the variety of areas in which a physiotherapist is involved and Mr Lawrie gave the children an insight into general health and fitness. Our great thanks go to all our great speakers. We know the children have greatly benefited from and thoroughly enjoyed their visit.

Apologies to the P7 girls' hockey team who went on the mini hockey tour in March - they were not beaten convincingly by Dundee High School as previously reported, but actually beat Dundee convincingly 10 - 0.

Junior School Cross-Country

On Saturday 23rd April, four teams from the Junior School, Primary 6 and Primary 7 Girls' teams and Primary 6 and Primary 7 Boys' teams, travelled to the Scottish Primary Schools' Cross-Country Championships at Kircaldy.

With over 1500 competitors in the four races, the Primary 7 Boys' team of David Young, Alex Taylor, Chris Golding and David Pethick did particularly well to achieve 3rd place in the team event, for which they were awarded medals, while in the Primary 7 Girls' race, Mairi Ward was placed 7th, a very creditable achievement. All 20 competitors who took part in the event gave a very good account of themselves with many performances indicating that we can look forward positively to future events.

Bible Exhibition Visit

On Thursday 19th and Friday 20th May, around 200 children from P5, 6 & 7 attended the Ayrshire Bible Exhibition which was on tour in Aberdeen. Upon arrival, pupils were divided into small groups and a tour leader accompanied each group around the exhibition, highlighting important and interesting facts. They completed worksheets which were marked and prizes were awarded, with the girls securing more victories in the quiz, much to the boys' dismay. The exhibition proved a great success with staff, helpers and pupils, and every child went home with a free pack which included a John's Gospel and a bookmark.



Elizabethan entertainment

For a number of years now, I have developed the Renaissance Music unit for Primary 6 in to a mini-drama whereby pupils sing, play and dance music of the period in the setting of Hampton Court Palace with Queen Elizabeth on the throne surrounded by her Courtiers and Jester. Parents and friends of the pupils attend.

Mrs R. McColgan, Music Teacher

'Living with Lady Macbeth' drama production



The Senior Drama Group, an informal mix of 56 pupils, one S5 and one former pupil, gave two performances in the MacRobert Hall of 'Living With Lady Macbeth' by Rob John, on 20/21 April 2005. This modern text gave every opportunity for imaginative direction and inventive acting. A strong and experienced cast performed with energy and flair, creating moments of comedy and pathos with equal skill. Congratulations to all involved on an excellent show!



Alexander Round

World Challenge teams

There are 38 pupils in S4-S6 embarking on a World Challenge (WC) Expedition to Argentina in July 2006. The planning and preparation for this involves a great deal of fundraising, physical training, skill development and research about the destination. Whilst on expedition, three separate teams will spend one month in the country (in different areas) acclimatising, enabling them to adjust to the culture, climate, altitude and terrain. The main trekking phase requires the challengers to undertake at least one major trek, possibly at high altitude, self-sufficiently coordinating the day-to-day logistics. A week long project phase will provide the opportunity for teams to undertake valuable construction, teaching and/or care work alongside local people in a small remote community. It is certainly not an 'average school trip' as they will have to take on

very active roles of responsibility to ensure their team achieves success and numerous mental and physical challenges will undoubtedly be faced. Confronting these fears, the physical challenges and learning how to lead, manage and work with other people are transferable skills all participants will take away with them for life beyond school.

However, between now and July, each participant has to raise over £3000! To date they have organised various events, and there are a number of future events organised for next session including a race night, a murder mystery night, a ceilidh, a South American food and wine tasting evening and an informative talk on Mount Everest from Mike Truman (WCE Oversea Operations Director).

Mr W. Snow

Creative Writing winners

Six talented pupils from S3 are set to have their names in print after being selected as winners in the Wordfirsts Creative Writing Competition 2005, entitled "What's the Story?" Their winning short stories, "The Last Thing I expected" by Rosa Nussbaum, "Run For Your Life" by Christie Noble, "Grandad's Last Trip" by Corrie Mosley, "Rocks" by Michael Sim, "It Was The Last Thing I Expected" by Louis Kinsey and "Ignorance is Bliss" by Dayna Ferguson will be published in an anthology of short stories and launched at the WORD Festival 2006 - the University of Aberdeen's Writers Festival. Wordfirsts exclusively publishes work produced by

children and young people aged 3 - 18.



Rosa Nussbaum, Michael Sim, Christie Noble, Louis Kinsey, and Dayna Ferguson. Corrie was on study leave.

Aberdeen Music Festival

The Aberdeen Music Festival, which is taking place on 6th to 10th June, has over 70 Junior school pupils entering solo and ensemble recorder and singing classes. The most notable successes so far have been the P4/5 Choir who won their class with an "outstanding" performance award and the Secondary school Recorder Ensemble who won their class with an "outstanding" award.



The Primary 4/5 choir with the Association Trophy and conductor Mrs Elliot-Jones

Grading Success

Members of the College Karate Club attended a course and grading at St. Margaret's Hall, Aberdeen on Sunday 24th April. This was the first grading exam for the club which started this session. The course and grading were organised by GNKA Aberdeen and was led by Dirk Heene, 7th Dan and Brian Bothwell, 6th Dan. Though the training was quite advanced for the newer students, they gained a great insight into the art of Karate as well as applying basic techniques in self-defence. It was unfortunate that our instructor, Stari Gunarathne (6B1) 2nd Dan, was injured and could not take part. However, it is a credit to her that so many pupils graded successfully. The following members graded:

5th Kyu (Purple belt): Isobel Chen, 6S2; 6th Kyu (Green belt): Catriona Hood, 6C2; 8th Kyu (Red belt): Michael Duvall, 6S1; 9th Kyu (Orange belt): Natalie Hay, 6T2; Richard Stapenhurst, 6C2; Geoffrey Thubron, 6C2; Tejas Guruswamy, 3S1; Emily O'Connor, 3S2; Lewis Morton, 3T2.

Mr K. Cowie, Teacher



Back row (l to r) Richard Stapenhurst, Geoffrey Thubron, Lewis Morton, Michael Duvall. Front row (l to r) Ruth Roadnight, Natalie Hay, Stari Gunarathne, Isobel Chen, Tejas Guruswamy, Emily O'Connor

A welcome appointment

An important event and formal occasion in the history of the College Combined Cadet Force took place in April, when Lt Col Cram was appointed Honorary Colonel of Robert Gordon's College CCF.

A welcoming parade was held, attended by Lt Col and Mrs Cram, all officers, senior staff of the College and



Colonel and Mrs Cram with Squadron Leader Montgomery

the whole Contingent. An address was given in the Governors' room by Squadron Leader Montgomery and Mr Ouston replied, thanking the Colonel on behalf of the College. To mark the occasion, Colonel Cram was presented with a framed print of the Auld Hoose, and Mrs Cram received a bouquet of flowers.

The Colonel proceeded to carry out an inspection of the Cadets on parade and presented Thomas Hansford, of the Royal Air Force Section, with a promotion to Warrant Officer. Colonel Cram then addressed the parade, commenting on the smart appearance of the cadets.

Finally it must be said that the whole contingent and staff from the college are delighted to have Colonel Cram as the Honorary Colonel. He has been a good friend of the contingent and his enthusiasm and sound advice have been greatly appreciated over many years.

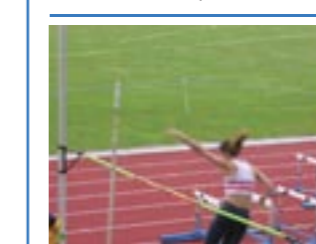
CSM Simon Gaskell, S6

Staff News

Florence, May 2005. I am the first member of staff to take advantage of the sabbatical scheme which has been set up by the Governors and on Saturday 28 May I set off for a two-week watercolour painting course in Florence. I had been fortunate enough to win a competition which entitled me to participate in the painting classes and to free flights.

Learning a foreign language is not just about comprehending and communicating; it is much more. Knowledge of Italian is a lens through which one looks in detail at the culture of the country - its literature, people, music and art. Tuscany was the scene of the most influential of the artistic revolutions in history and its masterpieces, especially its frescoes, record the transition from the stylised charm of the Middle Ages to the Classical beauty of the Renaissance. Florence was the cradle of this new artistic civilisation so it was fitting that I should be destined to go there to undertake a course of drawing and painting at the British Institute whose Renaissance building overlooks the River Arno.

The classes were scheduled for each afternoon of my two-week stay which meant that the mornings were free for exploring the many museums, churches and buildings, repositories for a wealth of artistic treasures. Despite having visited the city many times over the years, this was the first occasion on which I managed to see all the major attractions, principally because I was staying in the heart of the centro storico, a few steps from the Palazzo Pitti, and because the temperature was a very pleasant 26°.

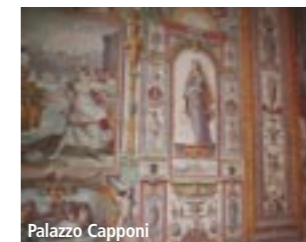


The frescoes of Santa Maria Novella and Il Convento di San Marco [containing 43 monastic cells, each with a fresco by Fra Angelico] are etched on my memory.

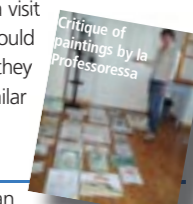
We were encouraged by our professoressa di acquerello to depict some of the beauty of our surroundings. Each class took place in a different location and we were afforded the opportunity of seeing inside some Florentine palazzi which are not open to the public. The most outstanding of these was the Palazzo Capponi just beside the British Institute; we were shown into a large reception room on the piano nobile which was decorated from floor to ceiling in original 15th century frescoes and asked to draw and paint a detail of the murals. Such opulent and gracious surroundings were truly awe-inspiring. The last class was held at the Villa Gamberaia in Settignano in the hills above Florence. From the ornamental gardens of this Renaissance Villa there is an uninterrupted view of the entire city and we spent a pleasant, sunny afternoon recording details of the gardens and statuary or of the panorama which extended below us. Unfortunately, the time rushed by - so much to see and do, so much to draw and paint - two weeks were simply not long enough!

I record my thanks to the Head of College and Governors for having given me this opportunity to enhance my linguistic knowledge and to realize a number of aspirations. I also thank my colleagues for being generous enough to cover my classes during my absence. The benefits of such a visit cannot be quantified and I would urge others to consider how they too might benefit from a similar undertaking.

Mr T. Cumming



Palazzo Capponi



Congratulations once again to Reprographics Technician Janet Lyon, who followed up her previous medal success at the Scottish Masters Athletics Indoor Championships in February by scooping four Gold medals at the Scottish Masters Outdoor Championships in May. Despite having a rather nasty cold, Janet's determination saw her through to winning gold in four events: 100m, 200m, Long Jump and Pole Vault. Next big event is the British Championships in Birmingham in July - let's hope all the hard work and determination pays off once again!

At the Aberdeen Cyrenians Sleepout Awards ceremony at the AECC on 21st April the Charity group won 2 awards - runners-up for the school which had collected the most money, and runners-up for the school with the highest average sponsorship money per person. The group raised £1844 for the Cyrenians in sponsorship money.



Sleepers-out with their awards

The Share Dealing Club at Robert Gordon's College has been running for two years now.

However, this year, with the kind support of Bell Lawrie White, the event has been more successful than ever. In fact, with over forty participating players, it was no mean feat for Andrew Dolman in S5 to come out as overall winner. Congratulations should also go to Adam Ingram (S5) and Gregory Scott (S5) who finished second and third respectively. With the event now at an end all that is left to do is present the winner's trophy. As before, thanks must go to Bell Lawrie White for kindly donating the trophy which will be presented to Andrew during the next couple of weeks. We hope to bring you photos of the presentation in the next issue of the Quadrangle.

Mr Ord, Economics & Business Studies Teacher



Congratulations to this year's Schools Fantasy League Football champion, Christopher Dyer (S2). The runner up and FA Cup medal winner was Andrew McLaren (S1), and third place winner was Adam Banks (S2). Also in the picture is Mr Elder - staff winner and Adam Bremner (finished 8th). Shaun Rennie and Denesh Srikantharajah were S3 and S4 year winners.

The Environment Group has been very active over the course of this session. The School has now gained the Bronze Award in the Eco Schools Scheme and is working towards the Silver Award. Following on from last session, we are continuing to encourage the school community to recycle paper and hope to begin the recycling of plastic very soon. As a part of the Recycool group we are also able to recycle mobile phones, printer and toner cartridges. Any of these items can be brought into school for recycling. A small sum is awarded to us for each item we recycle. Let's get recycling!!