



The Victorian 2012

QUEEN VICTORIA SCHOOL



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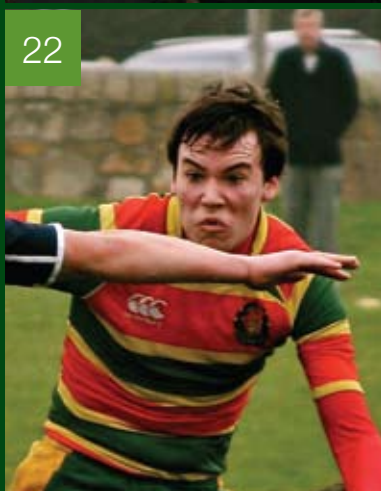
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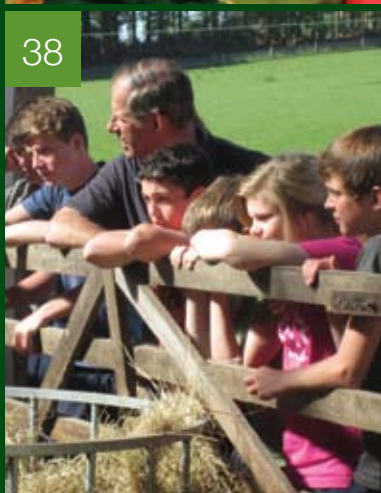
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Vision Statement

Ethos

Queen Victoria School embodies, demonstrates and promotes the following values:

- Integrity and honesty
- Respect and responsibility
- Justice and equality
- Compassion and empathy

Academic

The School strives to help each pupil realise his or her individual academic potential to the full at each stage of his or her school life.

Non-Academic

The School strives to provide a wide and diverse range of extra-curricular activities to develop the whole person.

Civic and Service Responsibility

Queen Victoria School is an asset to the Ministry of Defence, and through it to the personnel of the Armed Forces. It provides a Service benefit by offering stability and continuity of valued Scottish education to the children of serving military personnel who are Scottish or who have served in Scotland.

Pastoral

Queen Victoria School aims to ensure that at least one adult member of staff takes a continuous, proactive interest in the development of each pupil, meeting with him or her regularly and providing both structured and responsive discussion. Through its boarding house structures the School provides a valid and valuable alternative to the pupil's home environment during term times. Partnership with parents and carers is welcomed. The School encourages parents and carers to involve themselves actively in their children's learning and in the life of the School.



Colour Party.

From the Head – Grand Day 2012

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen of all ages, and thank you for being with us today, at the beginning of a very special Grand Day.

Queen Victoria School – QVS – is a place where employees tend to come, and to stay. We have had very little staff turnover for some time. This year, however, through a combination of personal reasons and the Ministry of Defence's Voluntary Early Release Schemes, we will see fourteen staff having left in a 12-month period. Out of a total head count of seventy-eight, that's a significant number.

Two of our housekeepers, Helen Heslop in Cunningham and Kate Cullen in Trenchard, have left this year, each of them missed by the Houses to which they had given many years of hard work and good-natured service. Benny Kaney, who had an almost irrepressible ability to remain cheerful in the face of any adversity and unpleasantness, left our General Hands team for work closer to home. Yvonne Cockburn and Evelyn Bisson left the Finance Department, each having found it a unique workplace within their wider MoD experience, Yvonne over several years here, and Evelyn over a shorter period. Sandy Stockman and Margaret Roy retired from Stores in the autumn of last year, having supported pupils and staff in both very practical and in more psychological ways for many years in post. Bert Tomkins, our Drum Major, and Eileen MacDonald, who was both our Highland Dancing Instructor and Housemistress in Wavell, left in November of last year. Both had an impressive track record of service to the School, both contributing on the ceremonial and the pastoral sides, and they are hard acts to follow, leaving generations of pupils and many staff with fond memories of their commitment to QVS.

David Garden retired in January as Principal Teacher of Chemistry, leaving us, and Scotland, for his home in France where he intends to continue writing, as well as enjoying the sun and a life of greater leisure. Just how difficult his post has been to fill is illustrated by the fact that we still have no permanent teacher of Chemistry. I'm delighted that situation will be rectified in August. This summer will

see Richard Allan leave the Estates department after years of hard work and, sadly, considerable periods of ill health; we wish him well. And at the beginning of September, Mrs Cath Tomkins, Matron of Haig for many years, will be retiring. Cath's memories of Haig boys cover more years than she perhaps cares to remember, and her stories of her charges – past and present – would fill several books!

All of these colleagues have served the School and its generations of pupils not only in the ways that we would find listed in their Job Descriptions, but also in numerous personal ways, many of which are probably remembered only by the individuals who were involved. QVS is a remarkably close community, in which everyone is constantly aware that we are all here for the sake of the pupils, and it doesn't take much imagination, I think, to realise how vital the humour, reassurance, cheerfulness and warmth of people such as the Storekeepers, the General Hands, the Housekeepers and the other support staff are, especially to new pupils and those going through difficult times. It isn't just those of us who are on the front line when it comes to dealing with pupils who are part of their support network. The commitment of everyone who works here to the wellbeing of the pupils is one of the outstanding characteristics of the School.

This year will also, however, see the retirement of two absolutely key members of staff, who won't thank me for what I'm going to say about them this morning because they are both very shy – as well as retiring – and extremely modest. Mr Graham Carroll, Deputy Head (Pastoral and Guidance), and Mr Colin Philson, Senior and Academic Deputy Head, have helped several Heads to run the School, over many years. When Mr Carroll retires this summer, he will have worked at QVS for more than 36 years. Mr Philson, retiring in October, has been here for 15 years. Between them, their remits – the Pastoral and the Academic – cover almost everything that the School does. And being the colleagues that they are, they have been personally involved with most areas of QVS life over the years – as Tutors, as Housemaster, as rugby coaches, as a CCF Officer, and by supporting and participating in the many and various aspects of School life.



Clockwise from top left: Cunningham House prefects; Haig House prefects; Wavell House prefects; Trenchard House prefects.

Hearing Mr Philson sing at an OV Burns Supper during my first weeks here, for example, has left an indelible memory seared into my recollection.

It's appropriate, then, in this final year of their tenures as Pastoral and Academic Deputy Heads, that the School should have been visited by both the Care Inspectorate (whose remit is the pastoral and welfare aspects of the School) and Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education (who look mainly at the academic life).

The Care Inspectorate arrived on the morning of Remembrance Sunday. "I made a mistake," the lead inspector said to me afterwards. "My husband was right. He said, 'You can't possibly go there on Remembrance Sunday' and I said, 'It'll be fine; it'll just be a nice little service and I'll slip in at the back.'" When she and her colleague arrived just before 10 o'clock, as the visitors were gathering for Morning Music, I think she sensed that for us, Remembrance Sunday wasn't quite what she had imagined. However, I was delighted to see them, and pleased that they accepted my reassurances and welcome, and decided to carry on with the inspection that day and the next. No clearer or better illustration of just what we are here for, and how much our military connection means to us, could have been conjured up for the Inspectorate. Parents, Old Victorians, staff and pupils cannot have failed to impress upon our visitors just what a very special, necessary and much valued school this is. As you know, we were awarded two Grade 4s and two Grade 5s – very good results indeed, and a fair recognition of the work done on a daily, weekly and monthly basis, year in, year out, by Mr Carroll and all those who work with him to ensure that the pupils are safe, and feel secure and happy during their time here.

It's not just the in-House work that the Inspectors recognise – the Catering Committee, the School Council, the activities and care within the Houses, the extensive Hobbies programme; the links that Mr Carroll has fostered with outside agencies also count in our favour. Similarly, his work as Child Protection Coordinator and in ensuring that our staff work to meet the Scottish Social Services Council's registration requirement, and the consultations that he organises with pupils, staff and parents – all these things feed into the QVS pastoral experience which was commended so highly by the Inspectorate.

We've been fortunate to welcome two new members of the Housemaster/mistress team this year – Mr Niall Lear, taking over Haig from October last year, and Ms Rebecca Appleyard, who took up her post as Housemistress of Wavell in April this year. Mr Lear came to us from Lathallan School, and teaches in the PE and Games Department as well as being Housemaster of Haig. Ms Appleyard has had extensive experience covering several schools in the course of her career to date, and will be teaching in the RE Department – or Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies department, as it should more accurately be called. This is a particularly welcome development as we move to teaching Core RMPS throughout the School, which is a national requirement, but not one which all schools manage to fulfil. I'd like to take this opportunity of thanking publicly Mr Porter, who stood in as Acting Housemaster in Haig from August until the October break; Mr Kirk, who bravely acted as Housemaster in Wavell from November until April; and Ms Edwards who was Acting Housemistress in Trenchard in the first weeks of the academic year.

On the academic side, we had the pleasure of a two-day visit from HMIE in March. Although this was what is called a QUIPE visit – Quality Improvement and Professional Engagement – and not a full inspection, we were very aware of the presence of the Inspectors in the School, and of the weight which their findings carry. We were very pleased with the outcomes of their visit, which recognised the unique nature and purpose of the School, the invaluable work done in Trenchard and in Primary 7, and the contributions made to the education we provide by the Ceremonial elements, the Combined Cadet Force, the S6 Volunteering programme and other leadership opportunities available throughout the School.

Perhaps because the academic is the “bread and butter” of any school – that is, the basic provision that must be there – it is sometimes too easy to overlook the hard work that goes into organising that aspect of our lives. Mr Philson not only constructs the school time-table – a massive, perplexing and immensely powerful tool for bringing about the best academic conditions possible in a multi-faceted school such as ours – he also organises the public exams which are taken by our senior pupils, the procurement of supply teachers when ours are absent, the arrangements for student teachers spending time at QVS, the setting up of our School information management system, and much, much more. It was with Mr Philson that I worked most closely, and necessarily extremely quickly, when we found out one morning last November just how many of our teachers had decided – regrettably – to take strike action that day. Perhaps most noticeable amongst his duties for many of you are Mr Philson’s organisation of Prize Giving both here in the marquee and in the afternoon of Grand Day, and his “master of ceremonies” role on both occasions.

Both Mr Philson and Mr Carroll have been for many years rugby coaches and referees. I know that their input has been appreciated not only by their colleagues but by generations of pupils. Just how much that meant to the Old Victorians could be seen on OV weekend in March, when four OV teams, representing different generations of pupils, played in a tournament organised here at the School by the Old Victorians Association. Perhaps needless to say, almost every one of the players – and the supporters – knew Mr Carroll and were delighted to see him again.

It’s been a good year for QVS rugby, despite the lamentable state of our pitches, and the 1st XV excelled themselves by making it to the final of the National Bowl Competition. Unfortunately, a composite team under the Boroughmuir banner beat them in the final at Murrayfield, but it says a lot for their spirit that, although quite devastated, the players rose to the occasion and enjoyed an excellent Sports Dinner to mark the end of the rugby and hockey seasons, here in School the following evening.

The CCF have also been busy this year, including our Biennial Inspection in October. It’s taken a while to get shooting back up to speed after Captain Kilmartin stood down this time last year, but I’m delighted to report that one of our new Stores staff, Mr Scott Harrison, has taken up this challenge and is determined to have a QVS team at Bisley once again next year. Just in case you think I’ve strayed from my theme of the morning, I should say that – yes – Mr Carroll was an officer with the QVS CCF some time ago. I know that because I’ve seen him in uniform in the BBC programme on QVS which was made in the early 1990s – although I’m still a little uncertain about whether someone with all that dark hair and a moustache actually was Mr Carroll – but I’m assured it was!

Both Mr Carroll and Mr Philson have been active supporters of the

Pipe Band and Dancers over their years at the School, including helping out during Tattoo commitments both here and abroad. This year has been a difficult one for our Band and Dancers, with both Mr Tomkins and Mrs MacDonald having been ill for a considerable period of time before they retired in November. Both during their absences and after their retirements, we have called on the services of a number of supply instructors, too numerous to mention here by name. It has been particularly difficult for the Pipe Major, Mr Ross, managing these absences. And then he, too, had to be out of School during the year, for a long-awaited knee operation. I am grateful to all who have helped out during these difficult times, not least the pupils themselves, most of whom have been cooperative and understanding, and in particular to the Senior Dancers, who have taken on a great deal of the work this year. We have been fortunate to have the assistance of Mr Keith Bowes as acting Pipe Major, and were delighted to welcome our new (permanent) Drum Major, Mr Jim Clark, in February. Ms Mischa Drever joined us as Highland Dance Instructor in early June; she cannot be with us this morning because she is graduating as a PE teacher, but she will be with us for the Edinburgh Tattoo, as – I know – will many parents and other supporters who are assisting with the supervision of pupils; many thanks for your help.

Other notable events during this year have included the expedition to Morocco in October, led by Miss Low and Mrs Rankin: it was a challenging undertaking, which required a great deal of organisation and some courage, and has proved to be an experience which will be unforgettable in the best sense for all involved. For reasons best known to themselves, Miss Low and Mrs Rankin decided to call the camels they were riding, “Colin” and “Graham”.

There has been the Kids’ Lit Quiz, and there have been visiting authors to the School, all organised by Mrs Sheerin in the Library. There has been volunteering of many sorts, overseen by Mrs Adams in her capacity as S6 Coordinator, including a very successful evening hosting the Rotary Club’s “Winter Treat” for pensioners. (And if some of you thought I was going to try to link Mr Carroll to that one, you’re wrong: I wouldn’t dare.)

After spending much of the year without the viewscreens and the organ in the Chapel, because of electrical problems, we were able to celebrate the rededication of the Chapel in April this year, ably led throughout both the problems and the celebration by our Chaplain, Mr Boyd.

Courtesy of Her Majesty’s Commissioners, we presented Jubilee Medals to staff and pupils in February, to mark the Queen’s accession to the throne. And on the theme of medals, we have three recipients this year of the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award: they will receive certificates from the School this afternoon during the Parade, to mark their achievement.

Looking ahead to the summer – look out for QVS in *The Scots Magazine* in their July edition; on BBC 1 this Sunday, in *Songs of Praise* from Dunblane Cathedral; and of course at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in August.

One of the paradoxes of School life is that the School remains the same, even although the people within it come and go. The pupils will always be aged between 10 and 18; there will always be a Head, Deputies, teachers, support staff, prefects and monitors – even although these roles will not be filled by the same individuals. This year’s Prefects, led most impressively by Jordan Angus – Senior Monitor – and Tamara Kirkwood-Wright – Deputy Senior Monitor,

have led the School with maturity, good humour and a manifest but unobtrusive sense of duty. I am grateful to them, and wish all of this year's leavers success and happiness in whatever lies ahead for them.

Thank you to all of you for your continuing support of Queen Victoria School – pupils, parents, staff, Commissioners; we are, as I often say, all in this together, and the contribution of each one of you is much appreciated. You would not, however, wish me to finish today without returning to those two key members of staff who have given so much to the School over their time here.

There is a scene in one of my favourite films – I've mentioned it before – in which a senior officer says to his protégée that it is time for him to retire, and that he intends that she should replace him. Her reply – in one of the most gracious compliments I've heard – is this: "I could only succeed you, Sir; never replace you." Mr Adams will do the job of Deputy Head (Pastoral and Guidance) every bit as well as Mr Carroll has done, and I am sure that the same will be true of

whoever is appointed to succeed Mr Philson as Senior and Academic Deputy Head; but they will do that in their own ways, and can only succeed, never replace, the colleagues who are leaving us.

Like all the great schools which were set up for a particular purpose, not just to provide education for the children who happened to live in the neighbourhood, Queen Victoria School has an enduring function and an identity separate from that of its transient population. I sometimes say that it is "a Patek Philippe of the schools world" – referring to the advertisements you'll have seen for a rather impressive make of wristwatch. As the slogan has it: "You never really own it; you just look after it for the next generation." That is what Mr Carroll and Mr Philson have been doing for a good many years, and it is what we all commit ourselves to doing in the years to come.

Thank you for listening, and do have a very happy summer holiday.

Wendy Bellars, Head

Senior Christmas Meal

The Senior Christmas Meal was enjoyed by all; pupils, School staff and catering staff.



Clockwise from top left: Overseas House Assistants; Staff from Teaching and Business Support; Pupils and Staff; Wendy Bellars, Head.

The Norman MacLeod MacNeil Trust Fund

Trust Fund Awards – 2012

The NMMTF was set up by Jack Mainwaring MacNeil, in memory of his father Norman MacLeod MacNeil [1898 – 1952] who was boy drummer pupil at Queen Victoria School from December 1909 leaving in July 1912. Sadly, Jack himself passed away in November 2011.

The purpose of the Trust is to develop the qualities of leadership, self-confidence and self-esteem in selected pupils of the School by the payment of grants to enable them to participate in such physically demanding or cultural activities as decided by the Trustees.

Norman, the youngest son of Sergeant Major James MacNeil of the Cameron Highlanders, joined QVS as a pupil in 1909. Departing for Canada in 1912, at the age of 14, he worked in various logging mills before responding to the 1914 WWI call up joining the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, located in Vancouver. At the young age of 17 he was on the front lines seeing action at Vimy and the Somme.

In 2011, the NMMTF provided grants totalling more than £2,000 to support the following pupils activities:

Hannah Ashcroft	Morocco Expedition
Jordan Clark	Morocco Expedition
Morven Craib	Morocco Expedition
William Lynch	Morocco Expedition
Luke Masters	Morocco Expedition
Kennedy Morrison	Morocco Expedition
Rachel Read	Morocco Expedition
Kieran Shaw	Morocco Expedition
Heather Stanfield	Morocco Expedition
Antony Tickel	Morocco Expedition
Caitlin Willis	Morocco Expedition

Corey Furnace	Duke of Edinburgh
Callum Halliday	Duke of Edinburgh
Charlie Jones	Duke of Edinburgh
Luke Masters	Duke of Edinburgh

Remember, The Norman MacLeod MacNeil Trust Fund is there to be used – give it some thought and if you want to know more speak to a member of your House Team or check out the QVS website (www.qvs.org.uk) for further details and an application form.

It would be useful to note, when applying, that the Trustees pay particular attention to the supporting details provided along with the application. This significantly helps the decision making process and the more detail provided in support of the application, the better. The Trustees are also keen to ensure that any grants fit well within the overall purpose of the Fund, which is to support pupils who wish to advance their education, leadership, self-esteem, help broaden horizons and generally develop wider skills. The Trustees are keen to keep up with activities that the Trust Fund helps to support and ask for a short written report of the activity outlining the benefits the pupil has gained.

The annual deadline for submission of applications is the close of the calendar year. It is also worth noting that if you have a particularly ambitious project in mind, it is worth starting to plan early and seek advice.

Susan J Rutledge, HRBP/Assistant Business Manager

Extract from Pupil's Report on activities supported by a NMMTF Award

I started Highland dancing at the age of 11 when I first started at QVS and over the years I have taken various exams starting from the Bronze Award up to the Premier Cup (Grade 12) – receiving high marks ranging from 93% up to 97%. I then sat the Award for Excellence and received a high distinction mark of 98%. This prompted me to sit the Highland Dancing Teaching Exam and with the encouragement of Mrs MacDonald, my parents and the funding I received I was able to accomplish this.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Norman MacLeod MacNeil Trust Fund in enabling me to get this qualification and to thank Mrs MacDonald and the School for supporting me over the years. I hope that I will be able to offer others the same opportunities I had. Thank you again.

Jamie Irving

This GAP Year has given me so much. Living on a limited allowance, being given responsibility for other people, making some great new friends and travelling independently whilst seeing the world has been an incredible experience. My time in Australia would have been difficult if I had not arrived in the country with the confidence, self reliance and leadership skills I had already gained during my time in QVS.

Robert Williams



Morocco – An Expedition of a Lifetime

After fundraising for a number of months, in October of 2011 I was excited to embark on an adventure of a lifetime – the QVS Expedition to Morocco and the Sahara Desert. Twelve pupils and two members of staff headed off just as the October break was beginning. I am happy to share this reflective piece on how I felt whilst experiencing various different attributes of Morocco.

After a full day of travel, including three flights, we eventually landed in Marrakesh. Nothing prepares you for the sights, sounds and smells of such a vibrant place. The (not so) luxurious Hotel Ali where we would spend our first night saw us spend a night of constant disturbances - two Islamic men haggling for what seemed the world, the constant banging of drums and not forgetting one of the favourite Marrakesh sounds - the vuvuzela! I eventually managed to get a couple of well-needed hours of sleep. A battle within had ensued as a result of the discomfort awarded by my hard woven bed sheets clashing with horrendous sounds reverberating from the surrounding areas. My troublesome night's sleep was soon to be disturbed again by the Call to Prayer at an unearthly time in the morning. It became immediately apparent to me that there was not a chance on earth of falling back to sleep; partially due to a slight adrenaline rush brought on by my well awaited anticipation and also keenness to make tracks into the day ahead.

I whacked on some sun cream after scrambling into my long forgotten shorts. Thanks to Scotland's overly warm weather, I had not

seen the need of this item of clothing for a long time. Suitably dressed I scurried towards the terraced dining area, perfectly situated overlooking Marrakech square – I was stunned by how different life was in comparison to the way communities operate in Britain. This factor caught my full attention, and I watched in fascination as the owners of the numerous stands below quickly set up. It was a haze of moving activity and colour. After breakfast, I found myself stuffed into a small car which drove to the Atlas Mountains. So many winding roads made me feel extremely sick.

Today was the 11th of October and ready for the day ahead, we embarked on the journey towards a refuge, located at the bottom of Mount Toubkal. It was a blisteringly hot day and the sun's light was brightly reflecting off the top of the Atlas Mountains, the tips soaring high into the sky. They made the most beautiful silhouette on the sparkling rivers far below – it was truly magnificent, it also thankfully managed to keep my mind off the overly hot weather.

Thanks to the intoxication of the beautiful landscape, making the many minutes of our hard walk feel more like mere seconds, it seemed like no time before we came upon our point of rest at Around's Shrine. Shortly after this, I found myself forcibly drawn towards purchasing a delightfully refreshing bottle of chilled Fanta before even contemplating resting.

Following many hours of exhausting trekking - made all the worse by



At the Summit of Mount Toubkal.



Communal living at the Gite.



Making friends with the local children.

the rocky terrain - we eventually reached the refuge of our destination. This consisted of a stone building with a group of slumping terraces on the relief of the slope and rocks scattered on the surface of the ground. This was where we would now have to muster up even more energy to go about setting up our tents after such a long day trekking. It was overwhelmingly hot in the mountains during the day, but by golly, I felt a great drop in the temperature at night, making any attempts at sleep seem a somewhat strenuous, almost impossible task. Moreover, the threat of a 6.00am wake up certainly was not helping to lighten my mood. For breakfast, I strangely found myself comforted by the luxury of enjoying a much desired chocolate milkshake, despite it being arguably dodgy owing to the interesting but seemingly necessary use of powdered milk.

After what had turned out to be a not such a productive start to my fourth day in Morocco, I somehow had succeeded in completing the acclimatisation trek that was 2400 metres above sea level. I found this trek surprisingly difficult, often feeling breathless with the altitude as well as the stunningly beautiful views, and not forgetting through sheer exertion. I somehow miraculously managed to complete day four.

Finally, the day had come in which we were to climb Mount Toubkal, the highest mountain in North Africa - certainly not for the faint hearted! I filled myself to the brim with porridge, in the hope that it would act as my fuel for the rest of the day. The first obstacle we met was a large south facing Scree slope (a large talus slope with assorted rocks), I knew straight away that there was a hard day ahead of me. It was vital that we stayed alert to the occasional loose rock, which could have lead to a personal landslide or a potential funeral. Being a bit of an 'adrenaline junky' I enjoyed this fear factor and the threat of danger somehow made the trek all the more challenging and enjoyable. I literally felt on top of the World when I made it to the summit of Mount Toubkal.

After reaching the summit of 4300m above sea level, we paced ourselves gently down the mountain; I occasionally used the large quantities of loose rocks to surf down. Eventually, ready for rest, we returned eagerly to the refuge. To our shock, somebody in our group became ill, falling victim to altitude sickness. Despite our sympathy for his predicament, this unfortunately meant we now had to pack up and head back to the youth hostel in Aroumd. Although I was extremely tired this presented itself as another challenge in my eyes - travelling 28km in total in one day - and it was a thrill to get back to our Gite for a well earned rest.

The next few days were reserved for helping the locals of Aroumd build a road. This community project was both time consuming and exhausting. However, thanks to the repetitive action of shovelling mud, sand and rocks I was able to enjoy the benefits of feeling as though I had been hitting the gym!

The road completed, we had gained much respect amongst the locals. Even the stubborn old men of the village seemed pleased with us, and would stop and reward us with a delicious apple hand picked that morning. This was so heart-warming and made our effort seem all the more worthwhile.

Now that we had completed our community project it was time for us to go. As we began our venture towards the unknown horizons of the Sahara desert, I felt extremely sad to be leaving behind the countless friends we had made.

Our wake up on the 17th of October was both brutal in my eyes, but essentially well organised as we had a long nine-hour journey lying ahead of us. Travelling in a luxury minibus (again I would have to question the word 'luxury'), I found myself completely stunned by the scenery, especially the changes between the widely different and magnificent landscapes. For the first few hours, we were living the high life, soaring across the Atlas Mountains. After that, the landscape morphed from a concoction of luscious greenery, to sparsely vegetated semi-arid land that over time had turned to a scorching hot desert. This mesmerising, and hugely unique and special drive sadly soon came to its end.

The time had finally come for me to hire my first desert taxi, from The Camel Farm. This was to be the highlight of my trip. My camel, appropriately named Rupert Windfree (as he had a talent for passing wind), and I bonded almost immediately. At first, it was overwhelming being suspended eight feet in the air but I soon became quite the camel jockey. Before long, Rupert and I felt we could take on the Grand National. The camel trek was superb and after trekking through Desert sands for at least seven hours, we settled down for the evening in a Bedouin tent set up by our hosts and enjoyed a traditional home cooked meal.

As we had only the one night in the Sahara desert, some of us decided to drag our sleeping bags from the Bedouin tent to the top of a large sand dune to enjoy a night sleeping under the brightly lit night sky. I witnessed the most breathtaking display of stars imaginable and will never forget that image.

Sadly, all great things come to an end and we finished our trip in Zagora, a desert town, before heading back to the UK via our three return flights.

There is no question that this rare opportunity helped me develop many unique attributes, as well as testing me to the limits on occasion. However, the one thing I am truly thankful for is that the Expedition showed me that I was born to be a leader. The Expedition team of 2011 would like to extend a big 'thank you' to Miss Low and Mrs Rankin for organising and facilitating the trip. It really was the experience of a lifetime.

William Lynch (S5)



Monitors.



Monitors – 6th year prefects.

Senior Monitor

Good morning, Victorians, past and present, commissioners, members of staff, guests, friends and family and our Inspecting Officer-Bishop Moth. May I say how grateful we are for your presence today, and the time you have given us at such short notice.

I'm sure everyone here remembers the day, and weeks surrounding the day, when they left school. It is a momentous time period in anyone's life. I leave today, and honestly I feel excited and that I'm ready for the challenge ahead but still thinking back on my last seven years at QVS is deeply saddening. I only realised this when I was writing my speech for the leavers' meal on Monday, I was thinking of all the fun I've had, the friends I've been able to make, the experiences that I would be able to get nowhere else and the endless amount of stories I'm able to tell. But today it would probably be best to keep most of them to myself.

I'd like to thank Mrs Bellars for giving me the honour of being this year's Senior Monitor. The Senior Monitor post is whatever the Senior Monitor of the year makes of it. There is no specific job description and each year every Senior Monitor leaves behind a different legacy. First and foremost I saw the post as an opportunity to represent the School's student body, to try and carry the voice of the students forward to the staff and always try and make the best decisions based on the well-being of my fellow Victorians. However, I soon found out that the voice of the staff has to also be relayed to the students, which when it's not what they want to hear, doesn't really make me the most popular person in school. I'd like to thank the current Victorians for making my time as Senior Monitor as pleasant as possible and my team of Prefects and Monitors, especially the Deputy Senior Monitor Tamara for making my job so much easier throughout this past year. Another key aspect of being the school's Senior Monitor is trying my best to demonstrate and promote the

school's ethos: Integrity and honesty. Respect and responsibility. Justice and equality and compassion and empathy. Surprisingly, this was rather easy for me. This is because this ethos has been demonstrated and promoted to me throughout the past seven years without me realising. The staff, pupils and general day to day business of the school implant the ethos into you and they combine to make a Victorian. Wherever we go in the world whether it's an expedition to Morocco, a Band trip to Switzerland or just relaxing at home in the holidays, although I'm sure some of the parents here might not believe it, these qualities are an integral part of everything we do.

This is my main thank you to the school, for making me the young adult I am today. The school shapes the lives of everyone who passes through its gates without them even knowing. For me it has been a real sanctuary. My friends and I have become a real band of brothers; I can always rely on them for a cheer up when I'm down or a gentle kick back down to earth when I'm up. I'd like to thank my family for their support and gathering behind me throughout all the tough times over the years. And lastly I'd like to thank **ALL** the members of staff for the work they have done for all the leavers throughout our time at QVS. From George on his morning bin run to Ally in the dining room to Mr Ronald, my tutor for the past six years or Mr Carroll a QVS servant for the past 36 years. Each and everyone has had such a positive effect on our lives. Apart from of course the shivers down my spine I got when I was in first year and Mr Carroll brought out his infamous "I'll nail yer testes to wall" comment during a games session. But seriously, like every Senior Monitor before me I can only say thank you to the school and the opportunities it's given me. On behalf of all the 2012 leavers, one, big, thankyou.

Jordan Angus, Senior Monitor



Bishnu Dura S4.



Tarah Lynch S3.



Rhona Wilson S4.



S2 Poppy Patch



S2 are given an overgrown piece of land to sort out.



They are reading '*Private Peaceful*' (a story set in the First World War) in English, so they decide to transform it into a 'Poppy patch'.



Although poppy seeds were sewn, it would be a long time before they appeared, so the S2s busy themselves with wood and a poppy template and came up with...



Pretend poppies! Some of the S2s wrote the name of a loved-one or a 'hero' on the wooden sticks in memory of their sacrifice.



Then it was time for 'ready, steady, plant!'





Cunningham House.

Cunningham House

“The price of greatness is responsibility.”
– Winston Churchill

One of the four ‘pillars’ of the QVS vision statement is responsibility. The school places great store in all individuals accepting responsibility for their actions, choices, duties, trustworthiness and above all accountability. Accepting responsibility should also mean that you cannot blame others for the choices you have made. Sometimes when we fail to acknowledge reality and blame or make excuses for our problems we do act like victims. It is only when we hold ourselves accountable by becoming aware of where we are, owning it and seeking solutions that we can then become the true leaders in the House, School community and Society.

Also as a part of the House community, the boys are responsible for treating others so that they can be treated the same; they need to participate in all House activities and decisions; so allowing them to be active, contributing and responsible citizens.

This is what the boys in the Cunningham Community must strive for in all they do, both at school and home.

Sadly this year we said goodbye to Mr Ross as House Deputy. He has committed himself to the House for over ten years and will be missed by all the boys. We welcome Mr Kirk into the House Deputy role after a successful time as Housemaster in Wavell House. He has brought a tremendous amount of experience and since Mr Kirk’s arrival Cunningham is now the ‘capital’ of Darts and Chess, which he has introduced – I think a sign of misspent youth personally! – but the boys are really enjoying them and it is great to see both older and young boys ‘sparring’ on both boards. League tables and championships are the order of the day now, along with competition, which is great to see.

We also said a huge goodbye to Helen who has been Cunningham Housekeeper for many years. She will be a great loss to the House

due to her listening ear, cheery disposition and the fact she worked so hard to help the boys develop. The boys presented to her a pampering day at Gleneagles and the S2 cooked her a meal – which I am glad to say she survived!

The Easter term saw a lot of disruption to the House due to the refurbishment and painting of all the rooms and living spaces. A big thank you must go to the boys who stoically dealt with the disruption and temporary sleeping arrangements. The results now are a fresh and bright living environment, along with an improvement in the comfort levels in the common rooms.

As always I must put on record my huge thanks and gratitude to my House Team who look out for not only me, but also the boys in their tutor groups. They also show the wider professionalism of picking up worries and concerns from everyone in Cunningham. Because of this all the boys realise they are looked after, can air their personal concerns and worries and have many excellent tutor outings. A big thank you also to Sarah, our Matron, who organised from scratch a wonderful end of year House party. It included a huge hog roast (10 hours to cook), indoor gladiator games and a very competitive basketball match. It was an excellent way to end a very busy year in Cunningham.

As ever we had to say goodbye to our leavers who nearly started the same time as I did at QVS. The sadness is only tempered with the knowledge and evidence that the boys have grown into young men, who have accepted the need to be responsible and are forward thinking adults who don’t blame others but strive to excel in a very competitive world.

Mike Eastham, Cunningham Housemaster

Having been a resident here since the days of S1, I am fairly confident that I have gained a detailed insight into what really makes Cunningham a truly great House to be part of. Though I may receive a ‘small’ amount of abuse from the majority of my friends for saying



this, I have to admit that we are truly privileged to have the staff we do. They are all unique characters who never shy away from joining in on the sort of jokes that can only arise from being in a 'boys-only' environment. And while it may not seem much (but is still greatly appreciated nonetheless), they never fail to carry out their duties without a smile on their face. As for the tremendously smooth running of the house, huge credit must go to Mr and Mrs Eastham who are a great, proactive housemaster and matron combination. Since first arriving five years ago they have organised countless numbers of specific year group social events and it has now got to the point

where we expect one every few weeks!! Special mention must also go to Karen who works tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that the house is a pleasant area to live in and also goes out of her way to resolve any issues that the house members are involved in. Lastly, I would like to reserve my biggest thanks for the boys themselves whose camaraderie will make my final year in Cunningham, an enjoyable one.

Veeransh Bohora



Haig House.

Haig House

As I sit staring at a blank screen, wondering where to start, I realise that it is almost eleven months to the day that I started at Queen Victoria School, moving from Aberdeen with my trusty dogs Stig and Mowgli. Time obviously flies when you are having fun, or when you are so busy you don't realise it is even moving! Eleven months and I have to say I have enjoyed it greatly....so far!

Starting in a boarding house is a daunting prospect for both pupils and staff alike. It was comforting to be greeted by such a warm and caring house of boys last October. The sixth years led by example and were a credit to themselves and the school throughout the year. I am hopeful that the new crop can live up to their predecessors. They have some big shoes to fill.

Apart from the occasional water fight and general misdemeanour the house ran relatively smoothly last year. With tutor trips and many varied sporting activities the pupils within Haig were kept busy at most times.

The Haig office was always a lively place to be to hear about the goings on within Queen Victoria School and the Haig House dominance of the weekly 'Haig v Cunningham' football match.

I have been hugely impressed with the close knit nature of the community that is evident within the house. It is clear, that there is an understanding of certain core values; respect for the house, kindness towards each other, support for the house events and activities and a general enthusiasm from all, to do their best within Haig.

I believe that I am very fortunate to be involved in a House which is full of identity, spirit and talent. Haig contains a vibrant community with an experienced team of tutors who play an active and committed role in the day to day life of the pupils. All of this has played an important part in helping me settle into the job and feeling part of the team.

Niall Lear, Haig Housemaster



Luke Masters Advanced Higher.



Shona Colville S3.



Trenchard House.

Trenchard House

Another action packed year has filled the lives of pupils, parents and staff in Trenchard House. It has been an emotional roller coaster and an exciting new challenge for the new pupils of Trenchard House. But, whatever the emotions experienced the pupils have clearly made the most of their time at Queen Victoria School this year. A huge amount has been learnt by the pupils, of both themselves and others, and I hope that this will stand them in good stead for the rest of their QVS journey.

The staff and senior pupils continue to provide an extensive range of activities for the pupils. With the annual pantomime trip to Glasgow and various House trips including; the cinema, Ten Pin Bowling, Swimming at Dundee, shopping in Stirling and numerous Tutor group outings, it has clearly been a fun filled year. Fortunately, I managed to miss performing 'Ice Ice Baby' in the talent show due to a technicality issue with a pupil, who shall remain nameless! Congratulations to 'QV Exceptions' for transforming 'Call me maybe' into their own words about their first experiences at QVS.

The primary pupils have been learning about the history of Scotland especially with regards to the local area and have visited Stirling Castle, Edinburgh Castle and Bannockburn. Ardour proved to be another successful activity week which included a variety of activities and an adventure night in a Bothy. Special thanks go to Miss Low for organising the week away.

Despite the threat of snow fall, Rookies Parade proved to be another special occasion for all involved with the P7s. Lloyd Owen led the parade with skill and confidence and was well supported by his two guard commanders, Pabina Thapa and Fraser Arnott. All of the P7s should feel extremely proud of what they achieved that day.

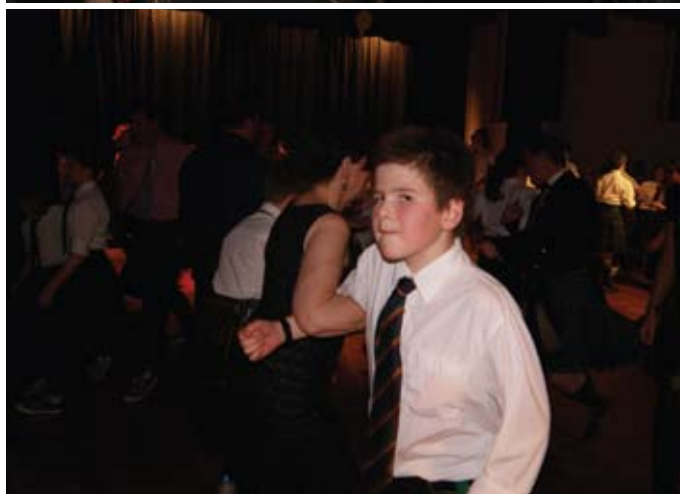
Congratulations to Caitlin Adams for organising and participating in a fundraising swimathon to help raise money for Neuroblastoma patient, Vanessa Riddle. It was a great effort by all involved and they managed to raise an impressive £570 – Well done!

The House has been somewhat transformed this year, with new carpets and windows fitted throughout. New sofas, a large flat screen TV and an Xbox 360 kinect were purchased for the bottom common room. All have proven to be well received by the pupils. Thank you to the Love family for providing the pupils with hours of entertainment and fun with the use of the 'Guitar Hero' equipment.

As usual, our Antipodean House Assistants changed at the turn of the Year – we said a sad farewell to Cameron and Millie, after an excellent year of energy and enthusiasm from them both. Hugh and Kara have replaced them with a similar positive approach. With the help and support offered by Julia, the Language assistant, who started back in August 2011, all are proving to be very supportive for the children and as ever, we are fortunate, having a total of three House Assistants in Trenchard.

This year has been fairly settled, with only a couple of staff changes. Mr McConnell joined the House as Assistant Housemaster and has proven to be a huge asset to the pupils, parents and staff, as I am sure the parents will agree. Mr Garden retired at Christmas after long service at the school. We wish him well and hope that he enjoys his well deserved rest in France. A special thanks goes to both Miss Smith and Mrs Hiddleston for covering his absence so enthusiastically, until Mr Bryce joins the House team in August. Mrs Cullen also retired at the end of the Spring term. As Housekeeper, she provided above and beyond her roles and responsibilities in the house. She was always there for the children as a sounding board or just a shoulder to cry on. Mr Boyd leaves us at the end of the Summer term, he has been promoted to Assistant Housemaster in Haig House and we all wish him every success in his new role.

As ever, I cannot speak highly enough of the House Staff and tutors. They continue to work with enthusiasm and dedication to ensure the wellbeing of all of the pupils in the House. Matron ('The Boss') continues to offer sound advice and support for the children no





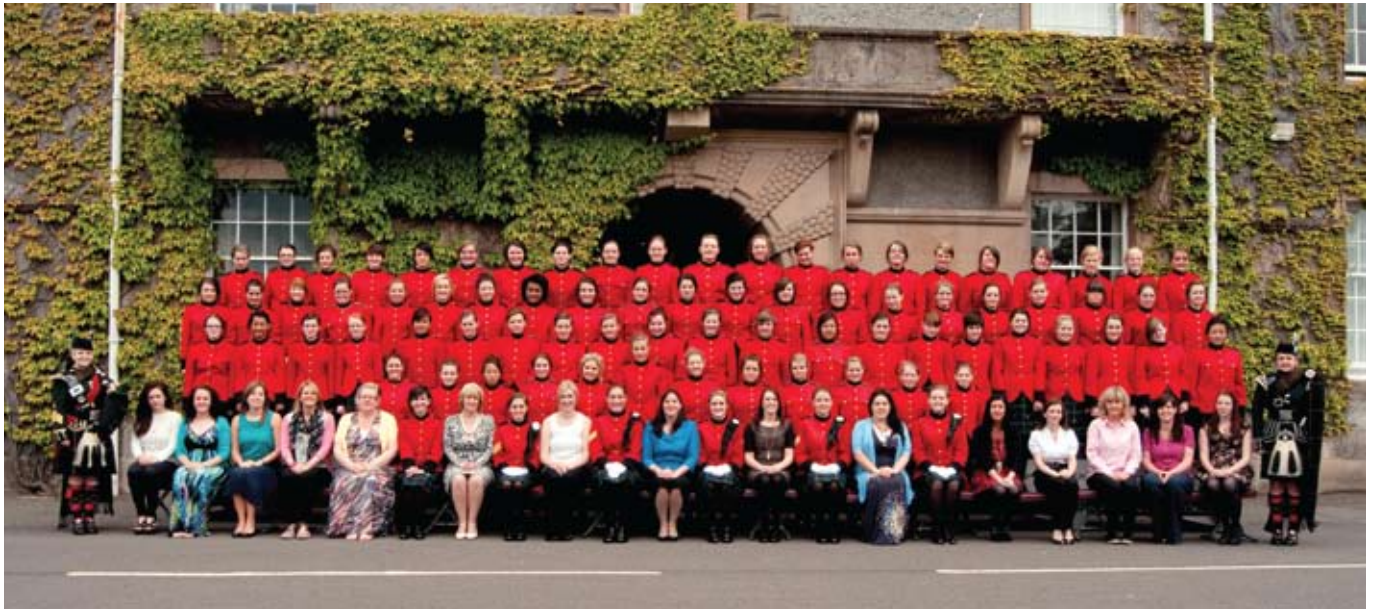
matter what the time of day. Another special thank you goes to Miss Edwards for her continued support to both the pupils and staff.

Rebecca Rew should be congratulated for her dedication and leadership qualities as Head of House. She was very thoughtful and caring towards all the pupils in the House. We all wish Rebecca the best of luck as she leaves for pastures new, she will be sadly missed by all involved in the House. My final thanks goes out to the other S6 leavers – Brogan, Leah and Alex. They certainly brought some character to the house! They supported both Rebecca and the house team in creating a supportive and caring environment for the younger children to flourish in. They organised many social events including; Trenchard's Got Talent, the Christmas Party, the Quiddich Tournament and a wonderfully prepared three course meal for the senior pupils

and guests. I am sure that Abbie, Shona, Kirsty, Derri, Heather and Jasmin will continue in the same vein, offering guidance and support for all of the new pupils arriving in August.

It has been an immense pleasure to work as Housemaster in Trenchard House since Easter 2009. It has been an amazing journey and one that I will never forget. I hope it stands me in good stead as I take on my new challenge as Deputy Head (Pastoral and guidance). I look forward to working with the pupils and parents of Queen Victoria School and would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents for their ongoing support since I joined the school.

Steve Adams, Trenchard Housemaster



Wavell House.

Wavell House

“Your life does not get better by chance, it gets better by change.” – Jim Rohn

It has been a year of change in Wavell with the departure of the long-serving Housemistress Mrs MacDonald, Mr Kirk as a fabulous temporary Housemaster, the arrival of our lovely new Housemistress Miss Appleyard, and the redecoration of Wavell House! Three new Wavell babies have been born, and the girls have enjoyed spending time with the temporary tutors who are now honorary Wavellites. In fact, everything about Wavell constantly changes, as it is the home of 84 fabulous teenagers, who grow and change from young S1 girls to mature and confident young adults by the time they reach S6. The Wavell girls have handled all the changes and upheaval in Wavell in a very positive way; they have managed to smile and laugh their way through the year (for the most part!) and they have stuck together, supporting one another, and have hopefully grown stronger and more confident as individuals.

It has also been a year of great fun in Wavell, and we have enjoyed some fantastic events throughout the year. The girls have enjoyed baking over 100 cupcakes with myself and Mrs McDonnell for ‘Bake a Difference’ week, and managed to raise money for a great cause. Mrs Hiddleston and Mrs McDonnell taught the seniors how to prepare some lovely dinners. Miss Laird helped them to get into the festival spirit by turning Wavell into a Winter Wonderland and organising the Christmas Party, among many other things! Mrs Adams encouraged the girls to channel their inner-model and get creative at the Trash Fashion night and Mrs Morea has organised many a Crafting afternoon. Ms Taylor pampered the girls with face masks and massage, and Miss Laird beautified them at her Beauty hobby. Miss McBlain challenged them with a Mathletes challenge and Mrs O'Neill spread Spanish throughout the house.

The girls have also enjoyed a Disney Party, a Dirty Dancing night, complete with dance performance from S4! A Chinese New Year celebration, the Anti-Valentines Party, an Avon night, dinners out at

local restaurants and the fireworks display at Bridge of Allan. Many enjoyed the ‘We Will Rock You’ trip to the Playhouse, and everyone splashed cash at the Christmas shopping day, along with many, many trips to Stirling with Caitlin, Amy, Alice, Hannah and Grace. The girls performed Gok Wan style makeovers on each other, and a massage therapist came to teach the girls some relaxation techniques. Many movie nights, meals and cinema trips have also added to a busy Social Calendar, and the end of term Harry Potter Party is something we are all looking forward to!

“Change is good... Change is inevitable – except from a vending machine.” – Robert C Gallagher

Laura McKenny, Wavell Deputy-Housemistress

Wavell Attention Deficit Disorder

Here's how it occurs:

I come in at seven and open curtains, doors and wake up the juniors. While the gap student wakes the S3s and above, I make a start on the weekend pass-slips. As I'm answering the pass-slips, Matron comes in and gives me a receipt for shoe polish, tights and kirby grips. I reach for the cash box. As I pay matron, an S2 comes in and claims someone has beefed her iPod. I note it in the log. As I note it in the log, a delegation of S4s come in and request additional pocket money for yet another tutor trip. As I listen to this request I realise I have to do the pocket money sheets and get to the bank. As I reach for the pocket money folder, a couple of dozen gated S2 girls come in and protest about being gated because they did not deserve their strikes for having an animated discussion at 11pm, life is so unfair and this place is terrible. As I escort them over to breakfast one of them tells me how they have just fallen out with someone who was their best friend because a Bingo biscuit has vanished from their desk.

Later in the day I return to the pass-slips. As I'm working on the



pass-slips, Matron comes in and tells me it would be a good idea to order louvre blinds for the House. I don't entirely know what louvre blinds are but I agree and set about ordering them. As I'm trying to figure out how you order louvre blinds a member of staff comes in and tells me the Wavell girls all look like they've been dragged through several hedges backwards and forwards, they've got bracelets up their arms and their shoes are a disgrace. All of them.

As I leave the office to look at hair, arms and shoes, Alanna Macfarlane comes up and asks me if I will read her English essay. As I read her English essay, Matron comes up and tells me ESS are refusing to do Wavell laundry. As I worry about what will happen if Wavell laundry is never done again, an S4 girl comes up and says she forgot to get her pocket money earlier and can she get it now. As I give her her pocket money, Eden comes up and asks if her mum has sent in a pass slip.

I go back to the pass slips. As I reply to the pass slips, a parent phones up, angry, because someone has stolen her daughter's iPod and this is ridiculous, it's happening all the time and why don't we do something about it. As I'm noting this in the log Miss McIlkenny comes in and says "Yay! Come and see the latest 500 stickers I've just stuck up around the house. As I'm leaving the office to look at the stickers, an S2 girl comes in and tells me she has found her iPod down the side of her mattress (which is where most iPods usually are, by the way). Another S2 girl tells me she is now friends with the girl she fell out with earlier. A parent comes in and tells me my, how quiet the house is, how peaceful and calm.

Later an SMT member comes in and remarks on how settled Wavell is and how the girls all appear to be either working or reading. They say how a visitor to the school that day has remarked on how splendid the girls look.

I return to the pass-slips...

I could go on. Wavell – it is the House of interruptions. It's a wonder anything actually gets done. But it does get done.

This is, mostly, a well-run House. I'm not responsible for that. My predecessor and her team are responsible. The team is the key, and with them, the goodwill of the seniors. The team give up their free time to organise more activities in Wavell than any other house. That's something to consider. Why do they do that? Why do they make the effort to bring in cooking materials, or make-up and nail-varnish pampering things, or paints, or organise massage evenings? I would suggest an answer: they like you.

You are likeable girls. Sometimes you are pains. So are we. But you are likeable girls and this is a very likeable House to have been Housemistress in. I have enjoyed my busy time here immensely. I have learned a lot from you. If I want you to learn anything from me, it's just this – be courteous to others, and be kind.

I trust you will be courteous, kind and likeable to my successor.

Eileen MacDonald, Wavell Housemistress







1st XV Rugby.

Rugby

1st XV

After being with Mr McLay and Mr Adams for the past three consecutive seasons, we now know the ins and outs and the make-up of a fierce, talented and successful 1st XV. This season has more than matched that as we feel privileged enough to be part of something truly spectacular.

Training has been hard, competitive and at times, painful. But this has bound us like a band of brothers, preparing us to take battle, bearing our skin tight tops in the name of Queen Victoria School.

Our results reflect our hard work and determination in training as we've managed to achieve our finest playing style time and time again. The system Mr McLay and Mr Adams set up encourages slick hands, fast feet and evasive play which nearly all QV players are born and bred to play like. This system has worked perfectly, bringing us many monstrous victories, first-time silverware and a shrivelled pair of lungs.

We're not saying it's been perfect, as we've had to endure heavy defeats and have been injury stricken throughout the whole season through various players. Despite this, we have always held our heads high and have played with pride and honour for the badge that is sewn so close to our hearts. This attitude that we so easily demonstrate would be very difficult to find in any other squad.

Now for a bit about the players of 2011-2012's 1st XV squad:

If you looked up the definition of a rugby forward in the dictionary, it would say something along the lines of... 'A large, ugly, dim witted brute; with no respect for his own body, or for footballers. Also loves mud.' Looking at the likes of Jake Bedwell, I can see why this description reigns true! Despite our small size, (size in numbers, not

waist!) the forward pack has had an excellent season, providing a solid platform for the backs to play on. Most of the time...! Big hitters like the almighty Cammy Hunter have lead by example, smashing it up on the front line with full body-check style tackles! He also always had the opposition scared before they had even walked on the pitch! Also beating it down in the front row is Ashwin Rai, who fiercely strikes the opposition each match, and yet stopped the game once to rescue a mouse from an engaging scrum! A true gentle giant. Kieran Shaw is next, providing the spines of scrums and lineouts with his newly learned jumping and lifting skills. His mobility around the pitch is always just grand, and he punches through the defence head first. No, literally head first; I'm surprised you haven't suffered brain damage! Charlie Jones hangs around at the back of the scrum with the easier job of number eight. But as soon as that ball gets in his hands, he flies around the opposition with both grace and ease. Veeransh, keep up the excellent lineout throws and all the hours of dedicated practice you put in to perfect them. Ollie, keep up the near perfect tackle count – it's going to be a hard one to improve for next season. Will, well done my padawan. I have taught you all I know, but take my position, you must. Gary, keep going to the gym and you are going to seriously hurt someone! So yeah, keep going! Mr first XV Corey M, you have finally come of age, and I think you have near enough proved how valuable you are already. Jake, the classic rugby forward, you were truly born to play this sport, I hope you stick around for the squad. And Jamie. Aren't you just a lovely ball of fun!? But finally, thanks boys. It's been a pleasure working with and playing alongside you all.

The backs have provided real spark in the team. Pure pace and agility have allowed our ball in hand running rugby to flourish. I have nothing but admiration for Callum Halliday. After coming back into the squad after numerous seasons out, he's taken like a duck to water, as he took the number nine shirt for his own. Every time he goes to pass



Clockwise from top left: 1st Year Rugby; 2nd Year Rugby; P7 Rugby; 3rd Year Rugby.

the ball onto Corin the teams' heart beat stops and breaths are held as we see if Corin is moments away from being hospitalised. Corin has stood proud at ten as this season he's discovered the almighty skill of passing the ball. Massive credit has to be given to him as he risks injury upon injury in order to come out and manage the game in his own unique way. The centres have provided the power and pace as time and time again Craig's sheer determination and raging aggression take the team over the gain line each and every play. Coming into the squad for their first season with the 1st XV we had Connor Dickson, Callum Marshall, Cammy Carr and Antony Tickel. Unbelievable teklers have been shown as they hit the ground running. Being ready to step up to the mark over and over again with their finishing skills and have provided solid all-round play to the back line. Sitting deep on the pitch we have Sujay. The confidence under numerous high balls and drive in the tackle he has displayed consistently throughout the season is unbelievable. We all have massive respect for what he has done for us since his come back from his life threatening injury. And Steve... enough said...

We have to round this off with a paragraph dedicated to the two key members of our squad. No, not ourselves... But to our two exceptional coaches – Duncan 'silver fox' McLay and Steve 'squats' Adams.

Jokes aside, their depth of knowledge on this truly fantastic sport is outstanding, and it's in their coaching of this knowledge that they've laid down the sturdy foundations of our road to success. We completely speak on behalf of the whole squad when we say that we can't thank you enough, for everything you've done for our team.

We hold you in the highest admiration, for all your dedication, enthusiasm and guidance. It's given us the best and most enjoyable season we could ever ask for. Thank you.

Jordan Angus and Luke Masters

Under 16's Rugby Report

We started off the season well with a strong performance against Lomond, beating them comfortably on their home ground. Strong performances throughout the term led us to believe we would do well in our up and coming season. With experienced players such as Jamie Riddock and Cory McGown keeping the morale high within the new team, this allowed us to be more confident going into games, allowing a better level of rugby. Although confidence was high minor errors led to marginal losses against Marr and Morrisons.

Throughout the season we struggled to get a good run of wins on the bounce. Our last four games proved to be our peak of the season. With wins against George Watsons, Madras, Wellington and Earlston. We had a round-robin tournament at Madras to finish up our season. This left us on a high winning our first game against Madras, tries from Fraser McLoughlin, Darryn Moore and Charlie Lynch along with kicks from Jordan Rae led us to win. Feeling confident going into the next game against Earlston, a team we hadn't played before. We started off poorly with the opposition scoring two tries, leaving us to pull it back in the last 10 minutes with good team play leading to our tries. Cameron Arnott doing the well known 'Dino step' to cross the line for the winning try.

We would like to thank our two main coaches throughout the season Mr Gillhooly and Mr Lear for making us feel confident for every game and keeping our heads up.

Next season will be a change with the majority of the squad moving to the 1st XV, and the U16's faced with a new team.

Owen Campbell and Fraser McLoughlin



S1 Rugby

This season there have been many ups and downs. Our first game of the season was against Lomond. This was a tough game in which we attacked and defended extremely well, although a missed tackle in the last play let them slip into make it a six all draw right at the end. After this we were determined to win our next match against Jordanhill, which we did comfortably by four tries to one. The tries came from Lennox Baselala, two from Ryan Thompson and one from Jordan Oatley, after a brilliant grubber kick from Roderick Watson, who was a joint top try scorer with Lewis Young. They both scored six tries. Roderick was also our kicker and kicked superbly throughout the season missing only three kicks. Straun Campbell, our hooker and pack leader, was one of the players of the season, putting in loads of tackles and making loads of turnovers in both rucks and scrums. In our match against Morrisons, we were under pressure from their two very fast wingers, however our full back, Lewis Young, coped admirably with the pressure and prevented them scoring. In the second half we worked out their weaknesses which allowed us to dominate and eventually win. Our hardest match was against Strathallan. The strong opposition made us nervous and doubt our talent with the team crashing through our defence and making it hard to get the ball in our possession. However we kept our heads high and fought back with might. We passed the ball out to Aiden Imrie who belted his way down the wing getting himself a well-deserved try. Unfortunately Strathallan snuck in some tries which resulted in the game being a loss. Our best match of the season was against Hutchesons Grammar School. We destroyed them in every aspect of the game finally five tries to one. Roderick Watson and Jordan Oatley both got two tries and Lennox Basalala grabbed the other. We then played St Columba's. We were 3-0 up at half-time, thanks to Nathan Gunter's interception on the half way line. He then ran half the pitch and offloaded the ball to Lewis Young who dived under the posts. Roderick converted this well. We could have been six nil up at half time however, as Roderick had a try disallowed. After the break we switched off letting them put the three tries past us, then came on the super sub Aidan Imrie. Aidan made a try saving tackle, even though it was a two on one. It then went to a scrum and the ball was played out. Aidan who ran the pitch sidestepping and dummieing, then passed the ball to Jack Cole, our massive number eight, who scored under the posts which was then converted by Aidan.

After the winter holidays we started to go downhill and that left us with a few miss tackles and sloppy play. As it was getting closer to the end of the season we woke up and were back in the game. As it was Mr Philson's last game coaching in QVS we were determined to make the game a good one. Marr had put early tries against us but we didn't let our heads go down. The last ten minutes was probably the best we played. There was great teamwork and encouragement by our captain Jordan Oatley which spurred on Josh, Arras and Sam to make crushing tackles which led to Roddy and Lewis scoring two

well-deserved tries. All round we had a decent season and can't wait for the rugby to return after the summer.

We would like to thank our coaches, Mr Philson, Mr King and Nick the gap student for all their encouragement and praise throughout the season.

Jordan Oatley and Sam King, S1

S2 Rugby Report

This season has been the most successful we have taken part in. After being announced as Pack Leader and Team Captain we were determined to have a good season. This season we had two new players to join the S2/S3 rugby team: Ryan Macpherson and Josh Conroy. Ryan had a great season up until a serious neck injury ruled him out for the remainder of the season. Having a mixed team with the S3's and S2's proved to be an advantage due to injuries and it also was a confidence booster for the whole team.

The best game we had played in the 2011 – 2012 season was away against Morrisons; our rivals. A few amazing runs from Jasper Herbert created a comfortable lead until the second half came along. They started applying early pressure and it proved very effective because our lead very quickly decreased. Then an inspirational talk from Mr Carroll put our heads back in the game and we held them from the try line. In the closing minutes they were applying some very good pressure in our own 22 metre line. Despite this the team managed amazing defensive play and we held them out, won the ball back and got it away into touch before the final whistle blew; we had beaten our rivals for the first time.

The back line this year was solid. Help from Gareth Williams and Bradley Scott made our back line even stronger and this was proved throughout the whole of the season. Jasper Herbert was the top try scorer this year. With effective moves created by Kyle Rowe, Jasper Herbert, James Work and Antony Harvey we created some unstoppable plays to break through the defence of the opposition. The back line was solid because we weren't scared to tackle anyone and we were not afraid to try new moves. Sometimes that proved costly but we didn't worry about it and we kept practising until we got them right and when they did they worked with good effect.

The forward pack was made up from a few outstanding players. With the help of Robert Rose and Nischal Gurung heads and spirits were lifted for when Ryan was injured. Our scrum and support at the rucks were superb which allowed the backs to get the ball away quick and try new moves. Finishing the season with only losing one scrum but taking plenty against the head was a true highlight for us. Another highlight was when it was a line out and it was taken down and we



pushed a maul about half the pitch. Overall the forwards season has been one to remember.

Also on behalf of the team, I'd like to say a great thanks to Mr Carroll who was more than an amazing coach and it was an honour to be his last rugby team at this school. We wish him well in his retirement and hope he enjoys Australia.

John Kane and Kyle Rowe

P7 Rugby Report

The first lessons in P7 rugby were passing and trying to get us into the game. Our first match, against Lomond, was a training match where we got beat 6-0. The first match we scored points was against Jordanhill, two tries from Lloyd Owen and two kicks from Jack Mcneilly meant the team lost 12-10. Our next game against

Hutchesons Grammar and we were beaten 12-6. One try from Jason Gurung and also one from Lloyd Owen. Against Glasgow Academy, we were beaten again 12-6. Jason Gurung and Campbell Morrison scored a try each. When we played against Marr, a great try from Ross Dickson, an intercepted try from Jack McNeilly and Josh Dobson scored a solo try. Jack scored two from three kicks. In training we usually worked on tackling because it was needed and it worked well against High School of Dundee. Trys from Fraser Arnott, Jason Gurung and Josh Dobson led to a draw. The team all thought that Wellington were the ones to watch out for next season. All through the season everyone played well and worked well as a team. Thank you to the coaches: Mr Adams, Mr McLay, Mr Ross and all the gappies throughout the season.

Lloyd Owen and Jack Mcneilly



1st XI Football.

Football

1st XI Football

This year the 1st XI was very hopeful of qualifying for the Scottish Cup, with many of the squad remaining the same as the previous year. This gave us the much needed chemistry to begin the season with a high, as we had only managed to have a few training sessions before our opening fixture against Dollar. Thankfully, the majority of the team had kept fit over the summer break, and we managed to gain early control of the game, adopting our two touch football effectively and attacking down the wings, giving our attackers great chances to have a shot on goal. It was a comfortable, 6-1 win. This raised our hopes and expectations higher, and gave us the much needed spirit and motivation to attempt to successfully qualify past the group stages of the cup, which hasn't been completed for the last 12 years or so.

The group stages started off well, with comfortable wins at home, and a few shaky draws on our away fixtures. However other teams, were doing the exact same, and it came down to our last game of the group stages, which would settle us in a qualifying spot or just missing it. We ended up drawing Robert Gordons as our final fixture, and over the past few years, we have found it very difficult against them, so we were already against the odds, moreover with a three hour coach journey to the match. The old stats from previous meetings was obviously fresh in everyone's minds, and was shown in our shaky performance, which in turn led to us losing the game, and hence, just missing the last qualifying spot. However, it was a thoroughly enjoyable season, with many laughs and banter filled, changing room antics, which made the season so worthwhile.

I'd like to close by wishing next year's 1st XI the best of luck next year, and I look forward to hearing that you have qualified and go on to win the cup! (Always got to be optimistic).

Corin Domanski, 2012 Captain

1st 11 Football Squad

It has been a pleasure and also a pain at times coaching the 1st 11 squad. The Boys for the most part have been great. During training sessions they listen and try to take in what they are being taught, they apply themselves with vigour most of the time and continuously moan the rest of the time. They have been exceptionally well behaved when we have visited other schools, and given their all for the team. We have had our highs and lows this year as in past years, but I think this has been the best squad of boys that I have had the privilege of coaching so far. The Team spirit at times has been amazing and even though we did not achieve any trophies, the squad should be proud of themselves. They have done exceptionally well in representing the school.

Paul Warner, Coach

Corin Domanski

Corin has been a pupil at the school since 2005, and during that time I have watched him grow and develop into a very good sportsman. As a youngster Corin played football with a passion and I watched him dominate games with his quick feet and even quicker mind. Now coming to the end of his schooling in QV, I find that there are no more rewards that I have a say in to give him. I think it only proper that he is given some recognition for his contribution to the School Football team and in the fact that he has achieved a high standard of performance culminating in him gaining his second Scotland ISFA Cap. He has done a remarkable job in representing the school and throughout my time as Coach of the 1st 11 Football Squad he has been exceptional as both captain and player.

Paul Warner, Coach



1st XI Hockey.



2nd XI Hockey.

Hockey

1st X1 Hockey

The past season has been an interesting one. Unlike previous seasons, the team has gelled well together, and the banter has been insane. With the majority of the team now talking to each other in the Jamie Riddock voice, every match is one to look forward to. The season has been full of highlights, and of course, this wouldn't have been possible without the characters who make up our 1st XI.

Tamara Wilton – I'm surprised you're still standing considering the amount of balls Hannah has hit at you where you don't have any padding. You've come on leaps and bounds, and we both know you'll do well next year.

Megan – We've both got on to you about your backswing, but we do love you. Especially when players from other teams start on you and you make them cry without saying a word.

Abbie – you never fail to look glamorous whenever you play, and you've had some excellent runs up the wing during fixtures. You have been a key player all year, and I'm sure you'll continue this into next season.

Ashley – you're blind as a bat, yet still insist on taking off your glasses to play? You religiously use the wrong side of your stick during games, but that aside, you are a brilliant team player always in excellent spirits.

Eden – you are the ultimate terminator, and manage to drive through anyone who gets in your way. Your husband Dan has been there for almost every fixture cheering you on.

Emily – so skilful up front, you will do whatever it takes to bring down the opposition. Even if it means a cheeky head butt.

April – we mess around during training on a Monday, but when it comes down to it, you put in 100% during fixtures, which is clear from your many injuries.

Brogan – you were unfortunately struck off ill during the winter months yet you still insist on giving your all, a quality that is so admirable considering the circumstances.

Beth Stacey – your handsome father, forever shouting on the sidelines, has given the team heaps of advice throughout the year... even if at the time it doesn't appear to be appreciated. You seem so unbelievably casual in fixtures, yet you still play amazingly well!

Beth Little – both you and Beth Stacey come as one. We hate to think what next year will be like when you don't have her. You have been spectacular up front this year, scoring so many goals. Long may it continue.

Tamara – your knees have been wrecked for so long now. We're surprised you are still standing. You have made a brilliant return from that long stretch in which you couldn't play.

Holli – you claim to be a hockey player, yet you have been off sport for the majority of the season.

Rachel, Kelsey and Lauren – our champion benchwarmers, impact players and supersubs, you lot have been awesome, even stepping up to the plate, at some stages to play two games in a row.

The season has without a doubt had its ups and downs, as can be expected from a team of stropky teenage girls. The loss of Mr Harrison at the end of our fifth year season, as well as the birth of the gorgeous Alfie Laing, who stole our coach from us, left the team at a low. Miss Low and new coach Miss Smith took over and the arrival of Ray only increased the amount of fun, with constant 'constructive criticism' and continual burpees if we made mistakes. Alice, you literally do everything for us, whether it be strips, or extra fitness sessions; you're an actual star. Miss Low, we've tested your patience, and made you wonder why you bothered offering to coach us but you've stayed ... thank you.



Finally to Miss Scott (Mrs Scott Laing), you have coached us for almost seven years. We most definitely won't miss the timed pyramids or bleep tests but we owe so much to you. Over the years, hockey has become such a large part of our lives here at school. You have not been just a coach, but also a friend. Thank you so much.

Hannah and I have spent the majority of the season on the floor. Often, this happens when no other players are near us. Our balance is terrible. So many memories can be taken from the season. Whether it be taking the mick of Ray in his Irish accent, Alice crying when our matron dyed the brand new socks a shade of grey, Hannah spraining her ankle for no reason, or dressing up as the PE staff for Interhouse hockey.

Memorable games this season include our last game against Dollar Academy where we won 2-1. Other games include our 6-1 victory over Glasgow University and our 3-2 loss to Strathallan where our last goal was not counted but should have been.

Although the first eleven don't have anything in the form of trophies to show for the season, we've come away with so much experience, and so many memories that will stay with us for a very long time. To the first XI for next year, we wish you every success. We will both miss you so so much. Thank you again to all the coaches, who have brought us on as hockey players so far. Thank you to both them and

the players for making our final year so special, filling it with laughs, tears, and fun. As joint captains we have felt this year in hockey has been brilliant and we will miss all those who we have played with.

Good luck to next year's 1sts, I'm sure it will be an amazing season!

Hannah Ashcroft and Allana Smith

2nd X1 Hockey

It has been an interesting year for the seconds as basically a new team had to be formed and none of us were very used to playing on a team with each other. However, we soon got used to this and managed to work well as a team together.

Although we may not have won the majority of our games, we still like to class ourselves as 'winners at heart' with our amazing 'team spirit'.

The season wouldn't have been complete without our very own crazy Cara, Jen – our goalie with the ninja moves, Kelsey's falls, Lauren head butting the goalie, Lisa's runs up the wing, with Megan, Hannah and Derri's saves in defence and Devon and Caitlin setting up 'the best short corner Ray had ever seen'. A very special mention to Navino and her love of burpees and thanks to Dion and Kennedy for 'volunteering' to play for us when we were short of players.

Overall it has been a fun and interesting season. A big thank you to everyone who has helped coach us and to all the players for giving it their best every game.

Rachel Stewart

S3 Hockey

The 2011/2012 season has been a good one for the S3 hockey team with many matches and a number of wins (for once!) Our new coach Ray, from Stirling Wanderers has been partly responsible for this as we have worked on our skills a lot more at training and they have clearly improved! Well done to all who played in our matches, especially Derri Chamberlain who took one for the team; fracturing her ankle during a game. Thank you to our coaches Miss Low, Miss Smith and Ray and also to the Gappies Alice, Hannah, Kara and Grace who have been awesome. It has been a successful year and we hope to have another great year starting in August.

Megan McColl

S2 Hockey

This year's hockey season has seemed like a rollercoaster for the S2 team. There were a lot of highs and lows but in the end we all stayed determined and pulled through as a team.

Sadly some of the games were cancelled due to the weather but luckily the weather was wonderful for the last game but not the luck as we lost!

Our team are eagerly looking forward to starting the new season as we are looking to learn some more skills and improve as a team.

We would like to say a very big thank you to all the staff and gaps who have been helping us this season and an even bigger thank you to Miss Low who has been coaching us for the last three years.

Tarah Lynch

S1 Hockey

This hockey season has been full of exciting matches and we would all agree that everyone tried their hardest in every single one of them. As the season went on you could see the improvement in our skill and we started to actually win a few games!

The best enthusiasm goes out to Muscle Marshall (Lora Marshall) who would always lift up your spirits by scaring the other team with her grinding teeth and using her hockey stick as a gun. The best saves go out to Imogen-Powell-Leanord, who even at her height can save some pretty good goals.

The most amazing setups go to Anais Scott and Georgia Mowat, with their good tactics, motivation and running up the field always getting the ball to the strikers. The best defending goes to Sushmita Gurung, Emmy Moore and Kirsty Aimer, with their amazing skills they shot back anything that came towards them.

The most skilful goals go out to Aoife Dillion, Lauren Pedder and Alicia Smith, with their powerful hits they always got it past the opponent's goalie. The best and funniest ways of revenge must go out to Joelle Campbell and Francesca Cockburn. They would always make you laugh with their jokes to try and win. The best and most interesting conversations have to go to Cameron Smith and Katy Searby. Although they have really amazing skills, they always love to chat!

The most determined players are Kirstin Hughes, Caitlin Adams, Yolande Page and Georgia Clark; they would always try their hardest and would never give up. The most impressive team work goes out to Freya Collie and Hollie Keenan, who would always work together to get the ball to our team.

Well done to all this seasons' captains and man of the matches, although some people didn't always make the team they constantly did well in games and practices.

Anais Scott, Kirstin Hughes and Sushmita Gurung

Cross-Country

Although races were limited over the winter months QVS pupils did show that they have talent in this sport. In the local Stirling schools' championships held at Stirling RFC the following pupils gave a good account of themselves by finishing in the top 20 in their respective races.

P7 Girls	Carys Dodd
S1/2 Girls	Anais Scott, Kirsten Hughes and Georgia Mowatt
S1/2 Boys	Jasper Herbert, Kyle Rowe and Sam Stockman
S3/4 Boys	Connor Young, Christopher Bell, Bradley Scott and Tom King
S5/6 Boys	Robbie Leckie

The boys S3/4 team finished 3rd in the team event overall.

The above pupils were then selected to compete for Stirling Schools

at the Regional Forth Valley Championships. This was held at the beginning of March and for the first time at QVS. The course was soft and very muddy; however, Connor Young used his local knowledge and had a fantastic race, being pipped at the post to finish second. Robbie Leckie also finished second in his age group. Both runners helped to ensure that Stirling won the team competition, beating Clackmannan and Falkirk.

Connor Young also had further success, winning his race at Strathallan in March. Along with Sam Stockman and James Work they won the team competition for their age group.

Well done to all those who raced this season, showing determination and commitment.

Steve Laing





Grand Day Trophies & Awards 2012

Cameronian Shield For Piping (For The Best Piper)	Hannah Ashcroft
Senior Drum Majors Shield (For The Senior Drum Major)	Alexandra Shields
Highland Dancing (Highland Dancing Society of London Cup)	Danielle Cowan
Combined Cadet Force (For The Best CCF Recruit)	Prateeksha Khawas
The Silcox Trophy For Shooting	Conor Winning
Sir Charles Grant Memorial Trophy (For Outdoor Pursuits)	Rebecca Rew
Victor Ludorum Trophy (For Best Sports Person)	Corin Domanski
The Ben Philip Senior Memorial Bowl	Antony Tickel
The Ben Philip Junior Memorial Bowl	Anais Scott
Annual Challenge Cup (For Outstanding Contribution To Wavell)	Danielle Cowan
The Dr Lindsay Memorial Salver (For Leadership 'On' and 'Off' The Games Field)	Luke Masters
The Prince Philip Medal (For Outstanding Contribution, Participation and Achievement During Their Time at Queen Victoria School)	Jordan Angus



The Kids' Lit Crew at St Mungos High School.

The two teams looking confident!

Kids' Lit Quiz

Following our first ever Kids' Lit Quiz competition last year, we decided to try again this year. Some of our previous team members, now in S3: Sian, Elle and Kieran, acted as mentors and put the new hopefuls through their paces, testing them twice a week with questions from a whole range of children's literature. The pupils who attended the quiz at St Mungos' High School were, from P7: Joe, Freya, Mhari, Charlotte and Aimée. From S1: Imogen and S2: Charlotte, Rachel, Francesca and Daniel. Mentors and adult

supporters took along a great array of banners with which to cheer on the teams, made by Mr Fletcher's Art class.

The pupils enjoyed meeting authors Victoria Campbell, Linda Strachan and Alex Nye.

Although neither of our teams won, the P7s are keen to try again next year and the older ones have also volunteered to help.

Schools' Fantasy Football League

This year, the Schools' Fantasy Football League had its largest amount of entrants with 58 staff and pupils playing. The Premier Cup overall winner was Robbie Hope with his team *The Blue Boys* (442) then Mike Bell came second with his team *Billy G Mashers* (419) and Scott Calder third with his *Musketeers XI* (396). The staff winner was

Mr Lawrence with his team *BeaOOOOoys* (366). The FA Cup was a tie: the winners were Jack Cole with *Jack United* and Mr Hiddleston with *Paddy's Prods* (60). Congratulations also to our 'Managers of the month': Chris Bell, Owen Campbell, Rhys Clark, Fearghas Gray and Ollie Mitchell, who won twice!

Visiting Authors



Victoria Campbell

Victoria Campbell, author of *Viking gold*, visited the S1s in the Library on May 8th as part of their Viking project in History. She talked about being an author and gave us tips on how to improve our writing, then

read the start of her book. Robbie Hope tried on a Viking helmet and Caitlin Adams held a Viking sword.

Max Benitz

Max Benitz, author of *Six months without Sundays: The Scots Guards in Afghanistan* was our guest speaker for World Book Day on March 1st. He spoke to all S5 and S6 pupils: explaining the historical perspective to the current Afghan situation and his experiences as a guest of the Scots Guards. After a book-signing session, Max joined the S6 and the Head for drinks and dinner. He was very impressed by his warm QVS welcome.

Chris Mitchell

Chris Mitchell, the author and illustrator of the *Realm Legends* series of childrens' fantasy books visited our P7 and S1 pupils on 29th November. He brought two of his characters with him, in full costume: the hateful Annie Revoltful and the scary General Boak! Chris read excerpts from his book and showed pupils how to do their own cartoon portraits of Annie. He also donated one of his sketches to the school library. Chris, Annie and the General then signed seventy books for our pupils.



The Responsibility Wall showing the Progress of the 'responsible Citizen' Reward.



Rhona Wilson S4.



April Shiel S4.



Eilidh Firth S3.



Modern Studies

On a freezing 1st December, S3-S6 Modern Studies pupils visited the Scottish Parliament, along with several Santas (or rather 'Fathers for Justice') who were protesting outside the building. We were given an interactive session to check what we knew about our Parliament, then we met our local MSP, Dr Richard Simpson and Willie Rennie,

the leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats who talked to us about their role and answered our questions. We then went to hear a debate about youth unemployment, which was attended by about thirty MSPs (out of 129!). After that we went for a long lunch then enjoyed a scary session in the Edinburgh Dungeons!

French

It's been another busy year in French! I am happy to report that the 2011 European Day of Languages was bigger and better than before, and will hopefully set the precedent for 2012! Primary 7 and volunteers from a variety of year groups lead morning assembly with songs in French and Spanish and a presentation providing information about European Day of Languages. The library was abuzz with keen linguists at lunchtime, who took part in a variety of games and quizzes! Madame Coates came to visit S3 French and they happily inundated her with questions about her home town in France! Mr Buchanan manned the minibus and along with the school car, QV pupils managed to take over a large section of local Italian restaurant, Corrieri's – buon appetito!

S3 French took part in 'Bake A Difference' week, and managed to prepare some cake recipes in French... and eat lots of gateaux!

In April, QV pupils from S4 and S3 took part in a Scotland-wide competition run by the Institut Français. A quiz was sent via email at 1pm on 21st March and teams were tested on speed and accuracy! I am delighted to report that S4 were joint 2nd place and S3 joint 6th place! A HUGE well done to all involved!! Pupils taking French also attended a 'Galette Evening' at the Alliance Française in Glasgow, where they sampled the French cake, practised their baking skills, and mingled with the French-speaking guests.

Between all this there have been a few French film nights in school, and planning for a school trip to Paris in October 2012!





Fairtrade Fortnight

As part of the Standard Grade Geography Course, pupils study international trade. This year, the 27th February – 14th March was Fairtrade Fortnight, so the S4 class agreed to help Mrs McDonnell promote the Fairtrade cause and at the same time further their own knowledge and understanding.

The first event held in the fortnight was a tea and coffee morning, which staff attended. It was run by S4 Geography volunteers, who served tea, coffee and fairtrade home baking. Attendance was good and with the help of the catering staff, everyone seemed to enjoy their morning break, especially Mr Carroll who seemed to have a particular weakness for the lemon drizzle cake!

The class also held two assemblies, one for the lower school and one for the upper, to promote fairtrade and the events which were taking place during the fortnight. Each assembly was held by a different

group of volunteers from the class, but had one thing in common in the shape of an appearance from 'Barry the Banana'. With the help of Connor, Owen, Demi, Dion, Chris and Charlie, Barry spread the word about why the cause was important and helped to advertise the fairtrade chocolate café to be held later that week.

The chocolate café was held for one night only and sold fairtrade chocolate bars, crispy cakes and hot chocolate to pupils in the Wavell common room. It was a huge success and this year, the total raised was £240! This money is being donated to Water Aid, a charity helping to provide clean water supplies to less developed parts of the world, preventing the spread of deadly diseases.

Many thanks to all who helped out and donated to or attended events during the fortnight.



Geography Field Trip

We set out on our drive to High Borran in Windermere on 31st August and stopped in St Bee's on the way to embrace the strong sea breezes and observe some coastal management and erosional features. We arrived at the centre mid afternoon, much to everyone's relief, if only to escape DJ King's debatably terrible tunes. We were then treated to the first of many meal time feasts, before settling in to an evening of the yearly 'not in a pub quiz'.

On the next day, we set out early, with Mrs McDonnell's Higher class going to do a sand dune study which involved collecting data on vegetation, slope angle, soil moisture, pH and light intensity across the sand dunes whilst battling torrential rain. Meanwhile Mr Eastham's Int2 class headed off to the slightly drier Yorkshire Dales to do some limestone caving, squeezing themselves through cave networks with stalagmites and stalactites. Both groups picked up a lot of knowledge first hand and there were many highlights such as Ashley Watson talking to frogs and the hot chocolate with cream on our return to the centre.

A restful evening of the X Factor and some amazing puddings provided by the centre chef had everyone with smiles on their faces and Andrew swapping recipe ideas.

The next day, Mr Eastham's class headed off into the hills to explore land use and glaciated scenery. They carried out field sketches, took photographs and recorded the direction of glacial striations.

Mrs McDonnell's group headed off to the Yorkshire Dales where a sunny day meant some great caving opportunities and some keep fit too, as Cameron Carr, ever the keep fit fanatic displayed his push up capabilities to the group several metres underground!

Our last evening was a movie night before a final tidy and a good night's sleep.

Our journey back went via the market town of Keswick where all pupils carried out surveys to investigate the impact of tourism and National Park status on the area. Despite the rain which meant a prompt return to school, all of the pupils left with a greater understanding of the course they were studying and an overall experience which they would remember for a long time.

Mrs McDonnell and the Higher and Intermediate 2 Geography class





My First Year at QVS

'My First Year at QVS' started as a class discussion I had with the P7's at the end of our 'My Environment' project.

All the pupils had their own memories about the school and couldn't believe that they had nearly completed a year at QVS. They thought the time had gone so fast but couldn't wait to start S1.

Here are just a few of the memories that our youngest students would like to share with you.

Compiled by Gail Edwards (Primary Class Teacher/Trenchard Deputy Housemistress)

At the beginning of the new school year in August 2011 it was fun meeting all the new people here at my new school. When I first arrived I was met by an S1 called Robbie Hope. He seemed a bit nervous at the start but he soon started talking and telling me all about the school. He then showed me around some of it. I then started making friends with the people in my year, and after no time at all I was good friends with Josh Beard, Jason Gurung, Campbell Morison and Josh Dobson. We have great fun together.

The worst bit was when my Mum and Dad had to leave.

On our first proper day of school a few people got lost which I found quite funny but you could tell the teacher wasn't happy about it. Now during school we all get to class on time and no-one gets lost.

On the weekend we just about all of us go to Tesco on the Saturday, and on the Sunday we go to the first shop. We get what we call tuck which basically means sweets and chocolate. Because we are in Trenchard house we must hand in tuck and put it in the tuck cupboard then we are allowed to get it out on the weekends.

To get into this school you have to have a parent in the armed forces, for example, my Dad is in the Royal Navy so that is how I am able to come to QVS. A lot of people have parents abroad like me. I live in Gibraltar but I go to school in Scotland and lots of my old friend's think that's a bit strange but my friends at QVS know just how I feel.

Ross Dickson

The first year here at QVS was tough but I pulled through. Prep is the worst thing I have to do at the school.

In Primary 7 we are really lucky to have been on lots of school trips. Here are some of them; Glasgow Science Centre, Museum on the Mound, Stirling Castle, Edinburgh Castle and a lot more.

On the weekend we can go to Tesco as long as we are in a group of at least three. On Saturday we have school for a little while and if we have finished our class work we can watch a movie. On Sunday we have chapel which is a long time.

We have good places to play and the school playing field is a good place to go and play football or rugby.

The rooms in Trenchard are big and there are high beds and low beds. They are a bit comfortable. The boarding house is OK and it's now got an X-box. We also watch a film sometimes or rent a DVD.

The food is OK and on Friday we get a pizza so we call it Pizza Friday. On Thursday we sometimes get an ice cream. You can choose to have a hot meal or there is a salad bar as well.

We had an Activity Week as part of our Environmental Studies, 'My Environment' and you can see the pictures on the QVS p7 Blog Spotter.

Josh Beard

This first year at QVS has been the best. Some people get homesick but they always get through it.

The teachers help us with work. We even got to do school work at Edinburgh Castle as part of our project on Wallace and Bruce. This was my favourite trip and we have been on many trips.

Rookies Parade was when we had to march for the first time on our own dressed in our ceremonial uniform. I really enjoyed doing that and my Mum and Dad were so proud of me.

Ryan McGuinness

My first year at Queen Victoria School has been so much fun. The Housemaster for Trenchard (which is the house I am in) is Mr Adams. I know Mr Adams because my older brother was at the Duke of York Royal Military School where Mr Adams was before he came here.

The best places I think are Wavell Woods, playing fields and the Astroturf because that's where we get to play.

In Trenchard there are three common rooms. The bottom common room is for films and to 'hang out' in. The middle common room where we have supper and the older ones use to watch a film that we can't watch because we are too young. The top common room is for our senior girls.

In Primary 7 we got to go on loads of trips but the one I liked the best was when we went to Dynamic Earth and the Royal Observatory in Edinburgh.

Aimee Lessels

My first year at QVS was the best year and school I have ever been to. I have had some really good times with friends at the school and I made friends really fast.

There have been times where I get a bit homesick but I always get over it really fast and my friends help me.

On the weekends I always go out with my friends. We sometimes go to Tesco and we sometimes go to First Shop but we always go to one of them.

We have been on loads of trips with the Primary class as part of our project work. We went to loads of different places on these trips and I loved them all; they were all really fun.

We have four Houses but I am in Trenchard which is the mixed Junior House but I think that it is the best House because it is more homely and we also have a house master Mr Adams who is really funny. We also have the Gappies and their names are Hugh, Julia and Kara. They are really funny as well and always make me laugh.

When we do sports in the winter term we do hockey but for the summer term we all do athletics to practice for sports day. It is really hot in the summer term so it is really tiring but we survive.

Emily McNair

My first year at QVS started on the 22nd of August. My Rookie Keeper showed me to my room and I got unpacked. After a few hard long weeks of really hard work we had our first school trip to Edinburgh Castle as part of our class project work about Wallace and Bruce. It was a very good trip. There were many more trips after this like Stirling Castle, Bannockburn Heritage Centre, Dynamic Earth, Glasgow Science Centre, the Royal Observatory. I have also been on lots of Tutor trips and had fun quad biking and Ten Pin Bowling. Near Christmas we had the Rookies parade when the P7's had to march for the first time. It was freezing it was snowing!

Lewis McAuley

My first year at QVS has been good.

I like to go on trips with my Tutor group. On Thursday I went to the cinema to watch the Avengers. All of my Tutor Group loved the movie

Before we went into the cinema we went to KFC. When we went to the movie, I bought a box of sweets and a Coke.

We waited for the whole group and then we gave the ticket to the lady before we had to find a seat.

We watched the movie and had to go back to QVS and we went to bed.

Waisea Vuatalevu

My first year at Victoria School

Your friends are supportive

1st

Your friends are the best

Everyone is nice

All people are equally treated

Rarely people are horrid to each other

At

The

Queen

Victoria

School

Sam Drummond

My time at QVS so far has been good, but what I think is the best is that you make friends for life!

School is fun as well and you go on a lot of trips to historical places. In the summer term we all go to Ardgour for four days outdoor activities.

Once you have finished school you can go to the playing field to play football or just chill out and have a laugh with your friends.

When you first come you have a Rookie who will help a lot with any homesickness. On the first weekend your Rookie also takes you to Tesco so you can see where to go and get a feel for the school and Dunblane.

Annabelle Sclater



Ardgour 2012

P7's went on an activity week to Ardgour; there were lots of fun activities packed into the four days!

Over the three nights, the P7's got split into three groups to go camping. We camped in a Bothy, which is a small hut with large shelves to sleep on. At the Bothy we made smores and had hot chocolate. We collected wood to make a fire too! Group two saw a black spider the size of a digestive biscuit! On the long walk to the Bothy Iona jumped into a mud puddle that went up to her waist but she kept on walking, we just held our noses!

During the activities in the woods such as low ropes, high ropes, zip wire and the walking activities, there were lots of midges or as Waisea likes to call them 'midgets'! We would say that the high ropes was the most enjoyable activity, however some people found it the scariest.

For one of the days at Ardgour we had an activity day, which meant the Athletes, Medals, Judges and the Torches were all competing against each other. Some of the activities included a timed rock wall climb; there were different difficulties of climbs which gave us different amounts of points. The group at the end of the day with the most points won, the Medals came first!

Everyone really enjoyed their time at Ardgour and we're sure next year's P7's will love it just as much! We wish we could go again!

Charlotte Sowden and Iona Love





Miss Low's P7 Red Group

Piping, Drumming and Dancing (PDD)

When I first came to QVS, I had no idea about Piping, Drumming, and Dancing (PDD). The first week we came, everyone got to try out different things to see what we preferred. Once we had decided what we wanted to do, we learnt the basic stages and progressed to where we are now. We chose piping and we are glad, because we enjoy it lots! Also, we hope to be in the school pipe band.

The school pipe band is for talented pipers and drummers. They play Scottish tunes which we march to in our parades, which we have nearly every month. However, the dancers have morning music in front of the school, depending on the weather, before parades to show off their terrific talents.

Pabina Thapa and Carys Dodd

Trenchard House

At Trenchard I've experienced all three terms, but the summer term is the best by far, because of the good weather. The first two terms are tough and you will get homesick, however you will get over it with the help of seniors and tutors.

You can go out on weekend pass or day pass but only after school on Saturday, unless you get permission from the Head to go out early. If you don't go out P7's are allowed to go to Tesco or First shop, as well as the playing fields and Wavell woods. Sometimes there is a Parade weekend and your House Master/Mistress will organise a house trip for you. The trips are usually swimming, bowling or the cinema.

Recently we got new furniture in the common room, the windows got replaced and we got new rugs in our room, which makes it more like home.

You are allowed to bring your phones, cds and iPods' but P7's can only collect their phones after school and they must hand it in by 8.30pm. From there on you get ready for bed and then be on beds by 8.45pm, lights out at 9pm but sometimes you get an extension if the weather's nice, so you can play outside.

Iona Love and Madison Robb

Rookie's Parade

Rookie's Parade is a big thing in P7 at QVS. We had been practising for weeks before with Mr Stacey and Charlie Jones. We were all decent at our drill. Lloyd Owen was Parade Commander, Fraser Arnott was Number 1 Guard Commander and Pabina Thapa was Number 2 Guard Commander. They were all ready to command the Parade.

Before we started, Mr Adams was checking all of the boys' socks whilst parents were already coming down the hill. It was really icy and snowy outside and the P7's were getting nervous. Lloyd Owen was nervous but he wanted the parade to start.

When it started there were mixed emotions of excitement and nerves. The Guard and Parade Commanders made everyone feel a bit better with their words of drill. The three award winners were Campbell Morrison who won Best Rookie, Madison Robb won Best at Drill and Chloe West won the Most Improved at Drill. When it was finished, everyone felt really relieved.

"Rookies was very cold but we made it through and got it right!"
Madison Robb and Iona Love.

"I was very proud when I won best rookie, I was surprised but I was very happy!" Campbell Morrison.

"I was very proud of myself!" Lloyd Owen.

Lloyd Owen, James Love and Jack McNeilly

Election Week

Once we came back from the Easter holidays, we started an election week as it was close to the real elections.

We picked five candidates and they chose people to be in their party. When we were all in our different parties, we worked on making the rosettes, speeches, newspaper articles and posters. We worked very hard to get people to vote for us. The candidates were Aimeé Lessels with The Halfer's, Jamie Thompson with Child Benefits, Jason Gurung with WITF (Where Is The Food), Carys Dodd with The Dumbo Party and Sam Drummond with Free Work. Jason Gurung won with his very persuasive speech although everyone else was very close behind.

Pabina Thapa and Carys Dodd



Outdoor Week

One of the P7 activity weeks was the amazing outdoor week, planned by Miss Low.

During the week we did several outdoor activities. Some were related to Maths and Language and some were problem solving. One of the activities we did was designing a dream forest with inspiration from Wavell woods. We also looked for worms, wrote outdoor poems and found out about bug habitats. We used the resources in Wavell woods to create 2D and 3D models of the human skeleton, Obi (Mr Adams dog) and a house to scale. The last activity that we did was a Maths challenge, where we had to find the arrows and answer the Maths related questions on them. Our favourite activity was definitely the come dine with me challenge where we had to make a yummy three course meal out of the objects in Wavell woods.

Throughout the week we won prizes for all of the activities we did. Luckily it was nice weather. We really enjoyed outdoor week and we would like to do it again.

Charlotte Sowden, Emily Collins and Mhari Sibeth

P7 Games

For games the boys do rugby and the girls do hockey.

Throughout the season the boys had a lot of good matches, some downfalls but we managed to fight through it and we had our great moments and most of us learnt well from scratch. The quote below is about our first rugby match.

"The night before my first rugby match I was so excited and so was the rest of my year, when it was match time I was really nervous but it turned out great!" Lloyd Owen

The P7 girls only had two matches, one away and one at home; here are some quotes from the P7 girls.

"We had a hard few terms learning from scratch but we tried really hard and next term they don't know what's going to hit them!" Madison Rob

"We struggled at first but when we got into it we tried hard, we concentrated and found our feet in the end." Mari Macpherson and Skye Love

Jason Gurung, Fraser Arnott and Campbell Morrison

Life in Primary

Through the year of Primary seven so far, we have done many activities. Such as, money week, outdoor week, the election, Wallace and Bruce project, space project, Christmas play and lots of trips.

In money week we went to the Museum on the Mound and had a visitor from The Royal Bank of Scotland. When we went to the Museum on the Mound, we made our own coins.

For outdoor week we spent all of the periods we have in the Primary Department in Wavell woods. We made Obi, a skeleton, a house and a three course meal out of leaves, sticks, stones and mud.

We had an election week where we got put into groups which were our parties. There was one candidate per group who had to decide what they would do if they won. Jason Gurung from the WITF (where is the food) party won!!

We also did a topic on Wallace and Bruce. We went on trips to Bannockburn Battlefield, Stirling Castle, Edinburgh Castle and we were also meant to go to the Wallace monument but it was too windy and dangerous to go up.

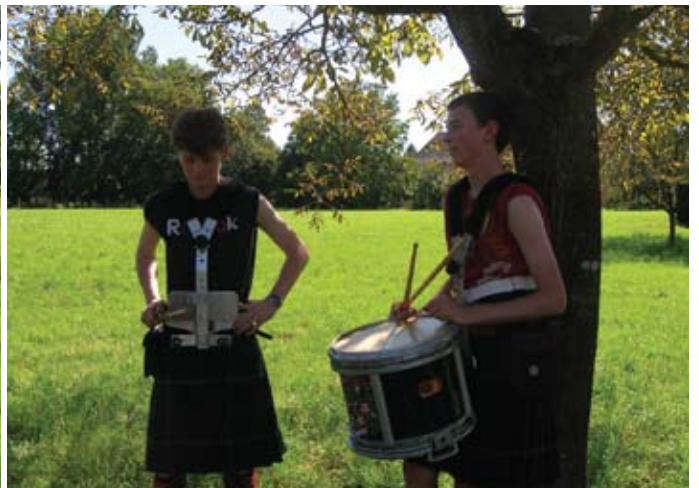
For our Space project we went to the Royal Observatory, Dynamic Earth and the Glasgow Science Centre.

At Christmas we also did a Christmas play called Five Gold Rings. Lloyd Owen was Matt and Charlotte Sowden was Lucy. They were the two main characters.

Charlotte said "It was a lot of work learning all of my lines!"

Mari Macpherson and Skye Love









Pipe Band

There are times when life seems to get the better of you and things just can't get any worse! You lose your Drum Major and your Dancing Instructor in the same month with the Royal Edinburgh Tattoo less than a year away. Both Bert and Eileen after devoting nearly 40 years' service between them decided to call it a day and retire. They will be sorely missed. I hope they both have a very long and pleasant retirement.

However, the band stands still for no man. It took a wee while to get Jim Clark, our new Drum Major and Misha Drever our new Highland Dancing Instructor in place just in time to put the finishing touches to our item for the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. They both had a very steep learning curve but thankfully they are both still here none the worse for their fast lane introduction to QV. I would like to thank Jim for stepping up to the plate during my enforced absence and managing the band, all the engagements which were numerous and of course teaching the pupils.

The pupils were not entirely free of disruption during this time with temporary instructors coming and coping with a lot changes to their normal routine. But, to their credit they managed to overcome everything that was thrown at them and continued with preparations for the Tattoo with good spirit.

We got the band back together on the 27th of July for our rehearsals over the weekend, before we started the rehearsals for the Tattoo in Redford Barracks on the Monday or "Hell Week" as it is known.

Scots College Pipe Band from Sydney Australia joined us on the Sunday which was a tremendous success with friendships forming very quickly, which I hope will continue long after the Tattoo finishes.

"Hell Week" almost no sleep, short periods of idleness, followed by long periods of rehearsals, followed by long periods of coach travel and followed by long periods of even more rehearsals. It was a great relief to actually start the Tattoo and to catch up on some much needed sleep.

The Parental contribution to the pastoral support was nothing short of brilliant and I would like to thank all the parents' who gave up their holidays to support the Tattoo.

To all Queen Victoria Staff who also gave up their well-earned holidays to support our pupils for the duration of the Tattoo on behalf of all the Ceremonial I thank you for all your efforts. In particular I thank Carol-Anne Taylor and David Breingan our Director of Music, without whose help it wouldn't have been the same experience for the pupils to enjoy.

Tattoo last night, tears all over the place, hugs, handshakes some cheek kisses and that was just the Ceremonial staff! But mostly tears and even more tears and yet even more tears from the leavers to anybody who passed by. Thank you to all the Victorians who give up their holidays to support Queen Victoria School.

As one venture finishes we are busy planning another, with a Piping, Drumming and Dancing Christmas Concert in the new theatre, more details will follow but it is safe to say it will not be your usual concert.

G Ross, Pipe Major





Another very interesting year for music!

Every year at Queen Victoria School is an interesting year, however, 2011-2012 may be one of the 'most interesting' yet. As most of you know we have been waiting for a purpose built music centre for this most musical of schools for a long time now. At the start of the year the music department consisted of Room 20 and three spaces in the building shared with school stores numbered room 19. We also make use of many other spaces around the school to facilitate instrumental lessons and practice.

While deep in the frantic preparation for this year's Edinburgh Tattoo performance the MOD were forced to condemn room 19. Apparently having a rotting roof, floor and walls was a problem. Within days of grand day Room 19 had vanished demolished without protest in a small cloud of dust. We now have a new home which arrived on the back of some low loaders from another MOD site which will provide a much larger and brighter set of rooms until we finally get our purpose built performance / teaching facilities.

The job now is to kit this building out to provide the best teaching and rehearsal space for our youngsters.

Instrumental music continues to flourish at QVS with nine visiting instructors covering all orchestral instruments as well as guitar, drum kit, piano and singing. Our P7 pupils all receive at least two terms playing a wind band instrument and may then opt to continue and purchase their own instruments. As always we do our best to provide whatever lessons and instruments required encouraging and developing our students' talents. This year has seen the purchase of a wonderful chamber grand piano for the chapel and two clarsach, harps, to develop more students playing traditional folk instruments.

SQA results were again excellent with all of our standard grade candidates passing at credit level and very good passes for our Higher class with Ash Price gaining an excellent A pass. Our one S5 advanced higher candidate Alanna Macfarlane dazzled the examiner with her playing and gained a fantastic A pass in this the most advanced school exam offered by the SQA.

A number of our pupils sat ABRSM external exams this year with some excellent results. Our 100% pass rate continues this year with certificates for Aoife Dillon, Kirstin Hughes and Jack Cole in grade 1 clarinet with Aoife gaining a distinction pass. In grade 1 flute Rachel Graham passed with merit. Georgia Clark and Lauren Wilton both received certificates for trumpet Georgia at grade 3 and Lauren at grade 4. William Adam passed both grade 4 theory and grade 5 piano.

Christmas and Summer Concerts, in the traditional fashion, took

place this year with some very good ensemble playing in both as well as the solo and large group items. The summer concert fell into place at the last moment despite all the grand day and tattoo preparation and the chaos caused by the movement of a ton and a half of music equipment to a temporary store in the central hall can room. The excellent solo items, including a tearful and moving parting song from Alex Shields, were well supported by the wind band which included a large number of younger pupils playing in their first concert.

All of our P7 pupils took part in three nights of rehearsal and recording for the BBC Songs of Praise programmes. These performances from Dunblane Cathedral will be shown over the next year and are another example of the community activities our youngsters contribute to. The youngsters did exceptionally well learning around ten new hymns in a few days to be ready for the recordings. The TV crew and all involved were generous in their praise of the commitment, behaviour and musical skills of the QV pupils.

Due to their advanced skills a number of our students have been performing and been tutored beyond QVS. One of these students, Alanna Macfarlane, is now attending the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and playing first bassoon in the junior student first orchestra. Alanna has also worked with a number of military bands and is hoping to sit ABRSM examinations at high level on bassoon, clarinet and flugel horn over the next year!

Our sixth year leavers this year include Leah Brummitt and Alex Shields. Both of these students have contributed a great deal to QVS music over their stay. As key players in the wind band, Alex on saxophone and Leah on clarinet they will be missed. Alex has left us with great memories of her wonderful voice and skill when introducing and hosting our singing concerts, and I will never forget clarinet lessons with Alanna and Leah as we attempted to play a variety of trios and solo works. From the music higher class we lost Graham Bell as a fifth year leaver. Graham's wonderful sense of humor and playing on the xylophone always brightened our week.

Other groups and individual pupils attended a number of public concerts and played for groups in and around Dunblane as well as around the country during holiday periods.

With a fresh group of young musicians arriving for the start of the new year, RAF wind band workshops and concert to attend, a large new group of certificate candidates and new music facilities to sort out I think we are in for another interesting year of music 2012- 2013.

D V Breingan, Director of Music QVS





Clockwise from top left: Owen Campbell S4; Charlotte Herbert S4; Luke Masters Advanced Higher; Hannah Sloan.



Gold girls.



Silver boys.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

This session started off with the Gold level girls group undertaking their expedition training in the Cairngorms. The successful expedition had mixed weather, however the scenery, wildlife and spectacular panoramas more than made up for the rain. The midges on the other hand were at times dreadful, so much so the girls decided their assessed expedition should go ahead in April before the wee nasties appear.

This is an account of their Assessed Expedition;

We began our walk on Saturday the 21st of April. We started walking through the wooded area and were met with lots of cyclists going back the way we had come. The weather was quite warm and sunny resulting in us taking a break to 'delayer' about half an hour after our descent. After about an hour of casual chat and shared thoughts on how the walk was going to go we met a man who had lost one of his three dogs, all apparently being identical. We apologised and stated that we had not seen or heard the dog and continued on our way. There were quite a lot of sheep and cows in the fields and we discussed the lambing season leading to a conversation about farming in general. Further along the way we reached the bridge crossing the river Tilt for a drink of water and a quick munch on cheese strings, sandwiches and sausage rolls. After our fifteen minute break we continued on our way. With signs warning us that we may fall to our death if we get too close to the gorge, we kept close in to each other, causing us to frequently bump back packs. We had decided not to break again for lunch until we reached Marble Lodge or half past twelve, whichever came first! The sight of buildings brought about excitement, however none read the wanted words 'Marble Lodge'. The sheep were free to wander around and there was a kennel of five dogs all with different breeds in them that Rachel found very angry and scary. Eventually we came across Marble Lodge at exactly 12.30pm. We couldn't have planned it better if we had tried! We happily sat down to have lunch with Rebecca eating chicken sandwiches and sausage rolls, Tamara eating egg mayonnaise rolls and Rachel having a full quiche, scotch eggs and some Frubes. After finishing our lunch we had gotten quite cold so put our layers back on. As we were doing so, a lady staying in Marble lodge came out to speak to us. We bid farewell and continued on our way. Further along the road we met some other people doing their Duke of Edinburgh. Stopping to take a break we turned to see the view from behind us only to spot Mr Shannon, but when he spotted

us he hid behind a tree! So we continued walking however every so often would turn to see if we could catch him out. Unfortunately this didn't happen. As we approached Clachghals farm we noticed three horses so took some time to pay them a quick visit, however they were nowhere near as entertained with us as we were with them and just ignored us. Reluctantly we left them, getting closer and closer to Forest Lodge. By the time we approached Forest Lodge Tamara had grown tiresome and moody causing us to take another break in the wooded area located behind it. We perched on some rather large trees which Tamara fell off backwards causing much hilarity for Rachel and Rebecca. They dragged Tamara another ten minutes to where the camping site was and looked for a good campsite, agreeing that Tamara had in fact found the best campsite. Setting up the tent we were met with lots of fellow D of Eers passing, headed towards Forest Lodge. Mr Shannon finally arrived and after being interrogated about hiding from us, which he was adamant that he hadn't, he continued further up to set up camp. We explored the area and found that a process to make a pathway in the forest next to us had begun. Eventually we retired into the tent to cook our dinner of noodles, pasta, bacon grill, digestive biscuits, Frubes and crème brulees. After an exhausting day we fell asleep in the warmth of our sleeping bags and body heat gained from spooning. On day two we awoke very early to the sun shining through our tent. We had our breakfast of beans, sausage, porridge, waffles and pain au chocolats before packing up the tent with the help of Rachel and her superb rolling up skill. We set off on our way making our first point of call Mr Shannon's tent to let him know we were off. We started off along the track and found an excellent water source only to discover after guzzling the water that there was in fact a bone in it. Further along the road we came across lots of frog spawn and stray sheep. At around half past eleven we reached Bedford Memorial Bridge with the beautiful Falls of Tarf behind it. We stopped for five minutes to take in the view and thought that it would be a great place to stop for lunch but agreed that it was in fact too early. After setting off again along a narrow path (Allt Garbh Buidhe). We realised we were actually quite hungry and so decided to stop again just below Loch Tilt. We agreed that this would only be a snack as yet again we were waiting for either the campsite or half past 12 to approach before we had lunch. However we managed to consume a large number of cereal bars, cheese strings, sweets and a bar of chocolate which had been considerably weighing Rebecca's bag down. We ate so much, that



Clockwise from top left: Silver girls river cross; Silver girls camp; Boys bronze, Boys silver.

we no longer wanted any lunch. As it began to hail we decided to make the final stretch to the campsite. The path soon disappeared in to bog and we were left to find our own way over the open plane. Regaining the path we hoped to be at the campsite by three, but the track almost seemed never ending and Tamara's knees were beginning to give up the ghost. However, soon enough the ruins of Bynack Lodge appeared and we all magically received a last lease of life which got us to the campsite for half past two. We later discovered that the ruins were the remains of an old hunting lodge built in 1831. In its day it witnessed the company of the big bad Queen Victoria herself! It was later used as a bothy which was its downfall as passersby used the wooden wall surroundings as fire wood. We set up our tent and decided to explore the area, which again proved rather interesting. We came across what we thought was a bird in a cage but in fact turned out to be a Multi Ladder Trap of which a crow had fallen victim. After pondering over what this contraption was and why there were dead deer in the bottom we thought a good old game of pooh sticks was in order. Tamara's twig proved inadequate for the job and seemed to place last each time. Rebecca's was slightly better at dodging the rocks on route, however Rachel's seemed to know what it was doing and won each time. (We are certain she cheated). In the distance we could see the valley filling up with rain clouds, and frightened it would soon reach us we decided to return to our tent where we would cook our evening meal (tomato soup, pot noodles and another of Tamara's strange smelling pastas) and retire to bed.

Rebecca Rew

The next groups out were the Bronze training expeditions to Glen Artney. Over the two weekends both the girls group and the boys group had some very cold weather with the night time temperatures dropping below freezing.

Unfortunately due to clashes in events and other commitments both the Bronze Boys and Girls assessed expeditions have had to be postponed until September.

Boys Bronze training expedition took place in Glen Artney.

NAME

Connor Kelly	Bradley Scott	Cathan Clark
Lee Hutchison	Kieran Smith	Rhys Clark
Garath Williams	John Kane	Daniel Theyers
Stuart Baird	Robina Ferguson	Jenna Galloway
Megan McColl	Sarah Sweeney	Frances Ratunaceva
Hannah Pill	Alexandra Anderson	Navino Gurung
Lauren Wilton	Bishnumaya Dura	Rhona Wilson
Stephanie Searby	Hannah Sloan	Elle Gemmell
Joseline Whitehead	Ashley McBroom	Lisa Graham

Girls Bronze training expedition also took place in Glen Artney.

Girls Silver training expedition was in Glen Lyon. The three day expedition had mostly dry weather with a breeze keeping the worst of the midges at bay. Navigation training and camp craft were the focus of the training expedition and the girls all improved their knowledge and abilities.

Boys Silver training expedition was also in Glen Lyon. This remote area was perfect for giving pupils the opportunity to improve their expedition skills. The sense of wilderness and solitude certainly allowed the groups to develop their self reliance and confidence. Imagine no mobile phone signal?

Tom Shannon, Outdoor Pursuits



Bouncy assault.



CCF shooting girls.

Contingent Commander's Report

S6 AT Weekend to Rothiemurchus



The new S6 members of the CCF enjoyed the weekend at Rothiemurchus. We left QV after classes on Friday 2nd September and returned on Sunday evening. The aim of the weekend was to bond the senior CCF cadets through adventure training. Friday evening the cadets organised the after dinner entertainment. On Saturday morning half the group went mountain biking while the other half went canoeing. At lunch time we all met up and swapped activity. Saturday night's entertainment was bingo. On Sunday after tidying up and handing back the accommodation the whole group enjoyed a hike up Cairngorm, we did not see the weather station in action however our weather was perfect. After the success of this S6 AT weekend we hope to make it an annual event.

Biannual Inspection

The Biannual Inspection took place on Wednesday 5th October and the Inspecting Officer was Brigadier G E Lowder MBE. The day went well and everyone enjoyed the occasion. Here is an excerpt from the Inspecting Officers report;

I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to Queen Victoria School CCF, in my capacity as Commander 51 (Scottish) Brigade conducting the Biennial Review. I am very grateful to the Head, the Contingent

Commander, all officers and the cadets for their hospitality. I observed a full range of activities, spoke with a number of staff, and came away re-assured that the cadets, all with strong connections to the Services, thoroughly enjoy the cadet experience. I was delighted to see that the Contingent had arranged for a visit from a Sea King Helicopter from HMS Gannet, and a number of cadets were given a flying experience.

Installation of Gov Castle

Major General Nick Eeles, late of the Royal Artillery, was installed as the Governor of Scotland's most iconic landmark, on the Castle Esplanade on Thursday, 29 March 2012. The ancient ceremony was conducted by the Lord Lyon, King of Arms, and means that the General is now a member of Her Majesty The Queen's household in Scotland. It was a great honour for our senior cadet Coxswain Charlie Jones to be selected to be part of the Generals escort. The General also had two Queen Victoria orderlies Bradley Wood and Jordan Oatley.

CCF Beating Retreat



Wednesday evening saw Fettes College playing host to the Massed Pipes and Drums of the Scottish Schools' Combined Cadet Forces. This event, usually taking place on the Esplanade of Edinburgh

Castle, was at short notice moved to the grounds of the College owing to work on the Tattoo stands at the Castle. Eleven Schools sent a mix of pipers, drummers, buglers and dancers for this performance at which Wing Commander A V M Murray OBE MA RAFVR, formerly a Vice Chairman of the CCF Association, Chairman of the Scottish CCF Pipes and Drums Committee and a CCF Officer of over 40 years standing took the salute. The evening was blessed with glorious sunshine and a good crowd of spectators as well as being attended by the General Officer Commanding Scotland, Commander 51 (Scottish) Brigade, the Commanding Officer of the Royal Scots Borderers, a number of other distinguished guests from both the military and piping worlds and nine School Principals. The participating Schools were;

Daniel Stewart's and Melville College, Dollar Academy, The Edinburgh Academy, Fettes College, George Heriot's School, Glenalmond College, Loretto School, Merchiston Castle School, Morrison's Academy, Queen Victoria School and Strathallan School.

Affiliated Ship HMS Montrose

HMS Montrose has had a particularly busy year. I must thank her Commanding Officer, Cdr Jonathan Lett RN, for his update letters and a fantastic PowerPoint presentation on the ships deployment to the South Atlantic. Our cadets have been able to keep track of the ship and her activities, particularly the RN Section. During the ships deployment her Mission was: To protect British Interests in the South Atlantic Ocean. Part of the ship's journey was from Devonport to Ascension 4000nm Ascension to St Helena 700nm St Helena to Falklands 3300nm Falklands to South Georgia 825nm South Georgia to South Sandwich Islands 350nm. The Ship covers approximately 30,000nm during the course of the deployment

I am glad I had the chance to thank Cdr Lett in person at Grand Day as he is soon to leave HMS Montrose to take the next step in his naval career. The whole School wishes him all the best.

New Staff



Miss Appleyard.

Mr Davey.

Mr Harrison.

I am delighted to welcome three new staff to the CCF; Mr Duncan Davey to the RN Section, Mr Scott Harrison to the Army Section and Miss Rebecca Appleyard to the RAF Section. This brings our Officer strength up to recommended levels and will have obvious benefits in the Sections.

2nd Lt Harrison will in addition to his normal Army Section roll has also take up the reins from Captain Kilmartin as shooting coach and is already training a team for Bisley 2013.

After running the RAF Section on his own for nearly four years Ft Lt Gilhooly welcomes the help of Pilot Officer Appleyard.

Sub Lt Davey is a keen canoeist and rock climber which I am sure will open up more opportunities for the RN Section.

Sail on Pegasus



A group of six senior RN cadets; Cory Furnace, Kieran Shaw, Callum Halliday, Anthony Tickel, Rebecca Rew and Luke Masters, enjoyed a sail down the Firth of Clyde onboard Pegasus, a 33 foot Westerly. One of the highlights of the sail was when HMS Blyth passed and dipped her ensign much to the consternation of the cadets.

Field Day

We had a successful field day in June. The RN Section enjoyed a visit to the Clyde Submarine Base at Faslane. The Army Section left on their field day the night before so they could include a night exercise at Barry Buddon. The RAF Section visited the National Museum of Flight. All the newly recruited officers took part as well as a number of the school staff who are always supportive of CCF activities, thank you.

Thank you! – The Scottish Transport Reg

I must thank Major Jones MBE for the valuable support he has organised, providing our CCF with one of his senior NCO's each Wednesday to support Army Section training.

21 Cadet Training Team

I must thank Captain Best for providing extra personnel to support shooting during our transition.

Her Majesty's Commissioners

The visiting Commissioners for the autumn term opted for CCF to be one of subjects of their visit programme. I am very grateful to Captain Paul Du Vivier RN (ret) and Colonel Andrew Campbell (ret) for the time and effort they have given supporting the CCF following their initial visit in November. It is clear to me that all Her Majesty's Commissioners are passionate in their support of the CCF.

Brigadier Lowder and 51 Brigade

Following the Biannual inspection Brigadier Lowder has been working behind the scenes with his team from 51 Brigade to help and support our CCF. In particular I would like to thank Capt Mike Wimberly and WO1 Bill Neil who are always so supportive and helpful.

Mrs Bellars

My biggest thank you goes to the Head. Wendy has worked tirelessly supporting the CCF in all aspects. It is her professionalism, dedication and encouragement which is helping to develop and enhance QVS CCF.

Cdr CCF Tom Shannon RD RNR, Contingent Commander



Navy

When I first joined the Navy, after time in all three sections, it was very small with only around ten senior cadets. The few of us that opted for the Navy were oblivious to what we were about to become exposed to, such as Connor Dornan's lessons on the reasons for the creation of the RN, (which obviously is to protect us from Pirates), Megan Halliday's well put together first aid classes (which composed of us being able to put each other's arms in slings) and Mr Shannon's weekly summer term wind surfing and sailing trips which, during the whole of my time in the Navy section, I have only ever seen him successfully complete about five times?! I will never forget the time when Rebecca Rew came back from one of these trips to tell me that half way to their destination Mr Shannon had casually announced to the cadets on the mini bus "Oh no. The trailer's gone!" This resulted in them scouring the side of the road looking for an abandoned trailer and another failed trip to Loch Orr. Keep working on it Sir, I'm sure you'll get it right eventually.

For the past two years now I have had the pleasure of running the Navy section along with Charlie Jones. At the start of this year however Charlie took an extended role as Head of the CCF, allowing Luke Masters to fill his post as joint Head of Section with myself. The start of this year also saw the promotion of Corey Furnace to PO1; Dani Cowan to PO1; Antony Tickel to PO1; Callum Halliday to PO2; Scott Calder to PO2; Connor Dickson to PO2; Tamara Wilton to PO2 and Gary Carr to PO2. This meant that we had five divisions each with a PO1 and PO2 due to the increasing figure of cadets in the Navy section to just over 50. Many great lessons were put together with S4's Caitlin Willis and Jen Harrower stepping up to support the senior cadets. Also great team leadership has been displayed this year by PO2 Scott Calder and PO2 Connor Dickson taking many divisions for planned activities by themselves.

Miss Low stepped in this year as our very successful temporary O.C and gap student Alice Lane helped support us throughout the year, with Miss McBlain returning to the section after Christmas. A special thanks goes to them for helping provide us with our short notice demands on a Tuesday afternoon for lessons on the Wednesday. In

September some of the sixth years from all three sections were given a weekend break up to the Rothiemurchas lodge. On the Saturday we excelled ourselves in kayaking and cycling and by dinner time we were relaxing with competitive games of twister and mega jenga. By the time Sunday came around we were dreading the huge hike up the Cairngorms, but we powered through, the Navy cadets obviously being the first up and the first down, putting everybody else to shame.

Our Biennial inspection this year was one for the books. All cadets in the Navy section were given the opportunity to go up in a Sea King helicopter which had come from RNAS Prestwick. Other activities were put on during the day with support from visiting Chief Petty Officer Scott Mather.

A new tradition was set up, thanks to Miss McBlain, this summer; each section had to come up with three of the best PLTs (practical leadership tasks), each PLT was done by divisions from each section and was rated. This was then followed by a log race. I am pleased to announce that yet again, the Navy Section came out on top, beating both the Army and the RAF.

The time has come now for the sixth years to move on after an extremely busy two years running the section. I would like to thank all of my fellow sixth years for all their help in keeping me sane and preventing me from stressing out every Wednesday at precisely 14:55 when I had 10 minutes before the chaos of the beginning of CCF and I had just found out that the swimming pool was out of action or the RAF were using the sports hall. It has been a great section to work with and I have no doubt in my mind that it will continue to be so. This year especially we have concentrated on training up the S5's to take over from us with the running of the section. You are all our 'little acorns' and now it's time for you to grow and flourish and do us proud as the next team of senior Navy Cadets. Good luck to all the leavers and to everyone that remains remember that 'hard work never killed anyone, but why risk it?'

Coxswain T Kirkwood-Wright

Prize List

First & Second Year

	First Year		Second Year	
	Attainment	Progress	Attainment	Progress
English	Freya Collie	Roderick Watson	Rachel Graham	Stuart Millman
French	Nathan Gunter	William Adam	Rachel Graham	Rebecca Mcquater
German	Emelia Moore	Srijan Gurung	Sam Stockman	Caitlin Yool
Mathematics	William Adam	Kirsten Hughes	Rachel Graham	Charlotte Barron
Science	Ewan Searle	Aiden Imrie	Rachel Graham	Rebecca Mcquater
Computer Studies	Imogen Powell Leonard	Conor Willis	Prateeksha Khawas	Leon Boylan
Technical Studies	Alicia Smith	Ryan Thompson	Lachlan Bark	Daniel Beard
Geography	Francesca Cockburn	Aoife Dillon	Jared Leckie	Tarah Lynch
History	Anais Scott	Straun Campbell	Caitlin Yool	Jade Mccartney
Guildry of Stirling History Prize	Jordan Oatley		Prateeksha Khawas	
Fowler Art	Alicia Smith	Joelle Campbell	Tarah Lynch	Eilidh Firth
Music	William Adam		Lachlan Bark	
Religious, Moral & Philosophical Studies	Anais Scott	Adam Mcbroom	Prateeksha Khawas	Kyle Rowe
Physical Education	Lora Marshall & William Adam		Tarah Lynch & Kyle Rowe	

S4, S5 & S6

	Form IV	Forms V & VI
English	Ashleigh Houston	Alanna Macfarlane
Eric Drew Memorial Prize – French	Leah Tytek	Rachel Stewart
German	Morven Craib	Emily Gurung
Mathematics	Cara King	Tamara Wilton
Biology	Rebecca Johnson	Oliver Mitchell
Chemistry	Ashleigh Houston	Veeransh Bohora
Physics	Cara King	Tamara Wilton
Computer Studies	Ashleigh Houston	Cory Mcgown
Craft & Design	Bethany Stacey	
Graphic Communication		Kelsey Swan
Geography	Christopher Bell	Hannah Ashcroft
History	Rebecca Johnson	Tamara Kirkwood Wright
Modern Studies	Jason Feeney	Alexandra Shields
Music	Ashleigh Houston	Alanna Macfarlane
Physical Education	Jason Feeney	Corin Domanski
Art	Bethany Stacey	Rachel Stewart
Guildry of Stirling History Prize	Michael Bell	Brogan Stacey
Business Management	Jake Bedwell	Eden Reid
Information Systems		Cory Mcgown
Product Design		Corin Domanski
Woodworking		Calum Marshall
Williamson Salver For Girls		Tamara Kirkwood Wright
HMC Centenary Quaich		Alanna Macfarlane
Dux Medal		Luke Masters

P7

Attainment	P7	Charlotte Sowden
Progress	P7	Waisea Vuatalevu
Fowler Art Prize	P7	Abigail Cairns
Music	P7	Carys Dodd
Paul Mcshannon Quaich	P7	Olivia Williams

Third Year

	Attainment
English	Elle Gemmell
French	Cameron Arnott
German	Sarah Sweeney
Mathematics	Kieran Smith
Biology	Lucy McNair
Chemistry	Lauren Wilton
Physics	Bishnumaya Dura
Computer Studies	April Shiel
Craft & Design	Rhys Clark
Graphic Communication	Cathan Clark
History	Lisa Graham
Guildry of Stirling History Prize	Stuart Baird
Geography	Lucy McNair
Fowler Art Prize	Hannah Pill
Modern Studies	Sian Griffiths
Music	Elle Gemmell
Physical Education	Rhys Clark
Business Management	Sian Griffiths



Alex aged 11.



November 1941, the same month that the RAF was heavily bombing Berlin.



Alex – shortly after 16th June, 1944 in Syria.

Alex Mutter – A Life Affected and Cut Short By War

Alex Mutter was born in Inverness on 28th July in 1916. His father, Andrew, had joined the Cameron Highlanders in 1901 and was by that time a Sergeant, fighting in the trenches of France in the Great War. His mother, Jamesina (Mina), a devout Christian, was born and raised in nearby Drumnadrochit. She remained in army quarters near the regiment's barracks in Fort George. At the conclusion of the war, the family moved to **Broxburn, West Lothian** where Alex's father was raised and other family resided.

By 1922, two further sons, Duncan and Andrew were born and they all settled in what was to be their family home, a two roomed ground floor flat in a Victorian farmhouse, titled **Broomhouse**. The farmhouse was located near to **Niddry Castle and Niddry** a half mile south of the village of **Winchburgh**, itself some **11 miles west of Edinburgh**. To attend church, Mina walked along the nearby banks of the Union Canal, to the west of Broxburn, a round trip of seven miles, which she undertook every Sunday for over two decades.

Broomhouse by modern standards was a grim existence. It had no electricity and cooking was undertaken on a coal fired stove. Being a family of five they resided in a room and kitchen and shared toilet facilities with residents of three other flats using three outside toilets. This increased during the potato harvest when potato pickers from Ireland arrived and lived in bothies (living quarters) to the rear of the house which was basically corrugated tin huts, the floors covered in straw.

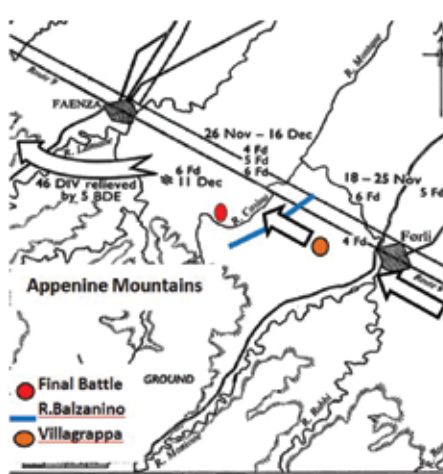
Alex attended **Winchburgh Primary School** but as a result of his father being in the armed services he was eligible to enrol at the **Queen Victoria School in Dunblane** where he received his secondary education. The photograph of Alex in school uniform was taken in Broxburn when he was approximately 11 years old. Alex was

described by his brothers as a strong willed child who enjoyed school sports. His fitness assisted him when as a teenager he saved the life of a man who through the influence of alcohol had fell into the Union Canal near to Broomhouse. On leaving school, Alex gained employment at the nearby **Niddry Castle Shale Oil** refinery and about that time joined the **Broxburn Public Band** where he played the cornet, a skill he no doubt obtained from his schooling in Dunblane. Life was difficult for every family in the height of the depression but in 1933, Alex's life would change forever. At the age of 47, Alex's father tragically died which left him at the age of 17, the breadwinner of the family.

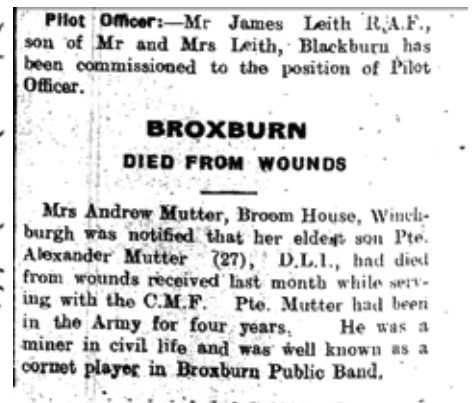
How hard life was at that time was illustrated when Alex and his brothers under the cover of darkness would scale down a steep wall onto the main **Edinburgh to Glasgow railway line** near their home and remove blocks of coal that had been thrown from the engine by a neighbour, in his role as fireman of the train. While times were hard, the shale mining industry was hitting peak production with Winchburgh being an industrial centre. Miners Rows (cottages) had been built in nearby Niddry to accommodate men and their families. Several front rooms were transformed into small shops and miners institutes were constructed where billiards and snooker were played nightly. Football was the popular sport, when in the thirties, Winchburgh and Niddry had five amateur football teams which for a population of approximately 2000 was unheard of. Entertainment was provided by local dance bands who performed at the newly constructed Royal British Legion Club as well as two public houses where darts and dominoes teams were formed. All in all, a hard working community who were self sufficient and strong friendships were formed that would continue through following generations even after Niddry Rows were finally demolished in 1960.



Broxburn.



War map.



Newspaper clipping.

For Alex Mutter, the end of the thirties was a turning point. His younger brothers had left school and they too had found work linked to the shale oil industry, Duncan became an electrician and Andrew a motor mechanic. They and Alex remained at Broomhouse supporting their mother and while Alex could have remained in a reserved occupation role, he progressed to achieve his ambition by joining the Forces, when on 30th September 1940 he travelled to Dunfermline and enlisted in the Territorial Army. Whether by choice or most likely due to demand he was transferred to the local **71 st Heavy Anti Aircraft Regiment of the Royal Artillery** when after one month Alex was transferred to **316 Battery of the 102nd Heavy Anti Aircraft Regiment**. This regiment was formed in Northern Ireland and saw action protecting vulnerable targets in Belfast and later in the industrial belt of the Midlands which came under heavy bombing from 1941 through to 1943.

The next 15 months of Alex's army life has proved difficult to chart, however his military record shows that on 14th March, 1943 his regiment left the U.K. and landed in **North Africa**, when later that summer they were transferred to the Middle East. The area of their command was known as the "Levant" which today is known as **Syria and Palestine**. Effectively the regiment was there to assist and facilitate the transition of Syria from a French Colonial State to that of independence. Similar to other Heavy Anti Aircraft Regiments, the Allies supremacy in the skies saw their role diminish, resulting in their resources being best used elsewhere. Looking back to where he was in that spring of 1944, Alex would have been unaware that the **16th Battalion of the Durham Light Infantry** had been given leave in Syria following their involvement in the 8th Army's advance from Sicily northwards into Italy. The **DLI** as they were known had been involved in fierce fighting and had suffered heavy losses. Their leave was well deserved. Ironically the regiment had strong connections with Central Scotland, when following the outbreak of war they recruited from the Lothians and trained at a camp in south west Edinburgh. Now they were requiring more recruits and in many ways Alex was in the right place at the right time and his next journey would take him to Italy and **Operation Olive**, one of the bloodiest conflicts of 1944, leading up to the conclusion of the Second World War.

The photograph of Alex was taken shortly after 16th June, 1944 in Syria when he joined **D Company of the 16th Battalion** of the **DLI** prior to the battalion returning to action in Italy. The battalion, consisting of Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta companies arrived in

Naples on 3rd July when after several days made their way 170 miles north to Bastardo where intensive training began for the next advance of Operation Olive. On 22nd August the battalion advanced a further 50 miles north west to Isla Del Piano and on 27th August they engaged with the German army defending the Gothic Line, a line of defence running east to west across North Italy north of the Apennine Mountains. They then advanced northwards and by 5th September, the Battalion had gained a further 25 miles and after heavy fighting captured Mondaino. They were relieved and rested nearby, knowing that the German Army were now on the retreat. This however was just the beginning of a bloody conflict that would have many twists and turns.

As the battalion pushed north, their next encounter was at **Gemmano** a village strongly defended by the German Army, which resulted in a three week battle which the battalion won on 27th September. But this was at a high cost. D Company sustained heavy losses resulting in the company being disbanded and Alex moving to C Charlie Company. The three companies continued north where they formed part of a successful advance towards **Cesena**. The **DLI** then took the lead and entered the town on 20th October and to date this was their finest hour. They then rested for three weeks. By 14th November the battalion and other regiments had advanced west to the **village of Villagrappa** and beyond to the **Balzanino River**. The heavy rains however, pouring down from the **Apennine Mountains** flooded the rivers, significantly slowing the advance and coupled with German counter attacking threatened the aim of Operation Olive to overcome Bologna by Christmas. By 16th November both B and C Companies had advanced west beyond the battle line at the **Cosina River** only to be attacked from the air by their own side.

This resulted in both companies withdrawing and on crossing back over the Balzanino River towards Villagrappa they had to endure heavy enemy fire. The battalion rested at Villagrappa for five days and on 22nd November they were ordered to advance westwards again towards the Cosina River and make a bridgehead on the opposite bank. Their advance came under heavy fire again where the German Army could be seen setting fire to houses illuminating the skyline in darkness as they made their retreat back across the Cosina River. At the point of the river that runs east to west, the battalion made their way across the heavily flooding river and established their objective on 23rd November. Their next objective was to take control of the **small hamlet of Corla** and for the remainder of that day the fighting was intense.



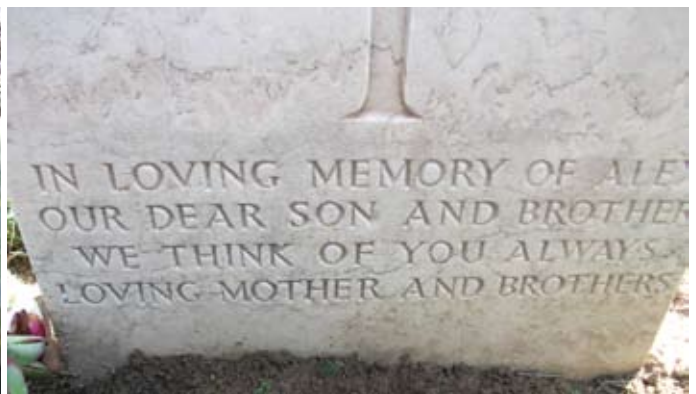
Present stone built garden wall, Broomhouse.



Alex's gravestone.



Drew at Alex's gravestone.



Inscription on Alex's gravestone.

The exact circumstances of the taking of Corla are not recorded, it did however result in **Alex being seriously injured and died later that day of his wounds**. For the battalion the fighting ensued and very quickly they along with other regiments had made their way to the Route 9 trunk road where on 24th November they could see Faenza in the distance. They remained there for three days before being withdrawn and taking up rest facilities in Forlì. It is believed that Alex's body may have been conveyed there before being transferred to his final resting place in Cesena, the town where he and his compatriots had taken a month earlier on their advance westwards. For the 16th battalion of the DLI, their fighting in Italy was complete and shortly after, they were transferred to Cyprus. All that was left was for the families of those that had paid the ultimate sacrifice to be informed of their loved one's death. That came in the form of a telegram delivered to Alex's family in Broomhouse in early December.

The news of her eldest son's death was devastating news for Mina. Her family both at the time and years later spoke of her "giving up her faith" and she made no more seven mile trips along the canal banks to her church in Uphall, Broxburn. At the conclusion of the war, Duncan married and had set up home in Broxburn, but later moved to Bo'ness. Andrew however remained single and would stay in the family home until 1952 when he too married. Mina attended the wedding in her church and the following year she made her final visit by attending the christening of Drew, her second grandchild, the only child of Andrew and Jean.

Mina was determined to remain in Broomhouse, but by the late 1950's, she was the sole occupier and was under pressure by the local landowner to give up her tenancy, who made no attempt to upgrade the house where it remained without electricity. Andrew who lived in nearby Winchburgh, visited regularly with provisions but her advancing years led to her moving to Winchburgh in 1962 near to Andrew and his family. Broomhouse was immediately demolished and all stonework was taken away to upgrade nearby walls. All that remained was a stone built garden wall. **Mina remained in Winchburgh until her death in 1964 aged 79** when both Duncan and Andrew accepted that their mother never came to terms with the death of her oldest son.

This would have concluded the life history of Alex Mutter had it not been for a conversation between Andrew and Drew in early 1981 when he admitted he was disappointed that he had not made the trip to Cesena to visit his brother's grave. Sadly Andrew was terminally ill and later that year he died without making that trip. Drew, however had promised him that he would make that trip one day but it would be 31 years later, when he would do so and seek out information on an uncle he never knew and gain knowledge of a community from a past generation.

No trip could have commenced without Drew revisiting Broomhouse and seeing as it is six decades after Alex left there for the last time. The stone built garden wall is all that is left of which can just be seen



Villagrappa.



Cosina on the SS9 trunk road.

in the foreground just above the overgrown shrubbery. The landowner had made no attempt to do anything with the land, while in the background left, nine additional holes have been added to Niddry Castle Golf Club which reopened in the 1980's.

The next stop on the journey would be three miles east of Broomhouse, Edinburgh Airport when in May 2012 the trip to Italy and Alex's grave commenced. As the flight made its approach into Bologna, it is difficult to imagine there are 11 Commonwealth War Graves located between Bologna and Rimini on the Adriatic Coast. You look down and see the SS9 trunk road winding its way west towards Bologna and you realise how important this road was in 1944-45 as the Allied Forces pushed their way slowly in the heavy rain and snow. It resulted in heavy casualties on both sides and the destruction of small villages that were raised to the round by the retreating German army. It was ironic that in 2012, this area was still suffering from tragedy where four people were killed in earthquakes near Modena just prior to the visit and a further sixteen killed a week later in the same area.

It is a 50 minute trip along the Autostrade from Bologna to Cesena, the co-capital of the province of Emilia - Romagna with a population of 97,000. In the north side of the town you come to the town's rugby club. On the day of the visit, locals were in the grounds training their dogs in the midday sunshine. Looking beyond the playing fields a row of trees conceals the cemetery entrance and as you walk through the reception gate the white headstones lined up in perfect uniformity awaits you.

No words can fully explain the beauty of this setting and the feelings you have on entering this arena. Drew made his way to Alex's grave and on looking at the gravestone, he felt a feeling of pride and sadness in being the first of Alex's family to make the trip and pay his respects. The smell of the roses and other plants surround you as you take in the enormity of this visit and on turning full circle you begin to understand the full magnitude of war. This is not a book you are reading or a film. This is the reality of war, people dying in the prime of their lives never to return home to their loved ones.

Like all the 775 graves that are there, Alex's gravestone is surrounded by roses and small shrubbery that are watered and well tended. It was a surprise when Drew pulled back the shrubbery from the gravestone and discovered the inscription he never knew existed. It can only be presumed that Mina was contacted by the regiment following her notification of Alex's death and in consultation with Andrew and Duncan, they agreed on nineteen words that summed up their feelings for a son and brother who had done so much for them and had paid the ultimate sacrifice in fighting for his country.

Drew and his wife Joan had thought what they could leave to commemorate the visit and they decided on a small plain stainless steel plaque with an inscription in Italian saying **"Questo disc e' per commemorare la prima visita della famiglia Mutter alla tomba di Privato Mutter, Alex il 25/05/2012. Una giornata orgogliosa."** In English it says **"This disc is to commemorate the first visit by the Mutter family to the grave of Pte Alex Mutter on 25/12/2012. It was a proud day"**. It was inserted into the ground below the gravestone as a lasting memory to a day that Drew and Joan would remember for the rest of their lives.

The visit to the grave completed, the next stage of the trip was to drive 15 miles west to the small village of Villagrappa crossing the SS9 trunk road at Forli which one suspects Alex's company would have undertaken in 1944. On entering Villagrappa there are no buildings that appear to be of an age from that time. The DLI war libraries do record that Alex's company rested there for five days before engaging the enemy on the east bank of the Cosina River.

In the centre of the village stands a war memorial and directly opposite the B class road to the village "Ossi" where approximately one mile west is a junction that is titled Rio Cosina and a single track road heading north. Drew and Joan had arrived in the area where Alex fought his final battle. It was not however what they had expected to find.

The area of land where Alex's company fought in the atrocious winter of 1944 crossing the flooded Balzanino and Cosina Rivers had now been totally transformed into fields of olive groves grown by tenant farmers who lived in farmhouses which were constructed after the war. Significantly the winding river that had seen heavy fighting had been redesigned into manmade ravines that circumnavigate the olive groves heading north as the photograph shows to the village of Cosina on the SS9 trunk road.

While it was unfortunate to identify exactly where Alex was killed, in many ways the transformation of what would have been open terrain with houses destroyed on either side of the river was the correct decision villagers had taken to remove all signs of a bloody battle and return to normality at the conclusion of the war. The olive oil industry provides income to an area which even now today relies heavily on the land for employment. The visit was now complete, yes with a few questions unanswered, e.g. Where was the location of Corla, a key target for the DLI on that fateful day? The answer, most likely raised to the ground and most probably the best option.

Alex Mutter – A Life Affected and Cut Short By War *continued*

Acknowledgments – Drew Mutter would like to thank the following who have assisted him in achieving this insight to an uncle he wanted to know more about. **Gordon Mutter**, a cousin of Alex who provided photographs of Alex as a boy and in army service and whose family were there to support Mina and her family through the loss of Andrew Snr and Alex during difficult times. **Andrew Pettie**, the unofficial historian of Winchburgh whose knowledge of the village in the 1930's provided an insight to what a shale mining village was like in its prime. **Tom Tunney**, whose knowledge and dedication in producing a concise history of the 16th Battalion of the DLI for all to see on his website played a pivotal role in charting Alex's short career in the DLI.

Thanks also to the Queen Victoria School in Dunblane who gave Drew the incentive to proceed and produce a record of his findings that others will hopefully view in years to come. Lastly this record of Alex's life is dedicated to his late brother Andrew, who through illness lost the opportunity to visit the grave of his brother and who did so much to help his mother move on after losing her oldest son. As the title of these record states Alex Mutter's life was affected greatly by war. The boy soldier from Broomhouse who progressed to being a provider of a shattered family at an early age and who was killed days before his company completed active service deserved more. He lived a full life which was cut too short. **We now remember him.**

US Commendation For Former Pupil

A former pupil of the Queen Victoria School in Dunblane has been awarded a US Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for service in Afghanistan during 2010.

Colour Sergeant Jason Wood was the Troop Sergeant for Bravo Company, 40 Commando, operating under the control of the US Marine Corps. Following an injury to his Troop Commander, CSgt Wood stepped up to the plate to take charge of one of most isolated patrol bases in Sangin.

This was CSgt Wood's second tour to Afghanistan. The award, certify by the Secretary of the US Navy, recognises his determination, sound judgement and dedication to his duty.

The 38-year-old said: "As Royal Marines we are all trained so that if someone in the rank is taken out, we can take over and that's what I did. You don't go out looking for medals, you go out to do your job and hopefully bring all your lads home. I'm mega proud of them for what they did in going out the gate on patrol and for their perseverance during a tough tour. For me I just did my job and what I had to do to get the job done."

Promoted to his current rank on return from Afghanistan CSgt Wood joined the Royal Marines in 1993. As well as his time with 40 Commando, he has served with Commacchio Group (now known as the Fleet Protection Group Royal Marines), 45 Commando, the Viking Training Team and at the Commando Training Centre, Lympstone. CSgt Wood has also served at sea on HMS Boxer. In his current job at the Military Training Unit, based at HMS Raleigh in Cornwall, he is involved with pre-deployment weapons training for Royal Navy personnel.

CSgt Wood attended the Queen Victoria School between 1984 and 1990 and now lives in Taunton. He said: "My father was in the Army, but I joined the Royal Marines because it looked more challenging and I wanted adventure. My career has taken me all over the world and certainly lived up to what I wanted."



Farewells

Last Autumn, Margaret Roy, our Accommodation Storekeeper, retired after 26 years of service to the School and Sandy Stockman, our Equipment Storekeeper, retired after 25 years of service. Here they

are, pictured both at their leaving presentation and in the School's Clothing Stores.



Margaret Roy with the Head.



Sandy Stockman with the Head.



Margaret Roy and Sandy Stockman.

We also saw the retirement of Bert Tomkins, our Drum Major, after 20 years of service to the School and Eileen MacDonald, our Highland Dancing Instructor and Wavell Housemistress, after 18 years of service.

David Garden, our Principal Teacher of Science, retired after 26 years of service to the School and Helen Heslop, our House Assistant in Cunningham, retired after 25 years of service.

At the end of the Spring Term, we said goodbye to two staff from the Finance & Admin Office; namely Yvonne Cockburn, our Administrative Support & Reprographics Officer, and Evelyn Bisson, our Purchasing & Admin Officer.

Kate Cullen, our House Assistant in Trenchard, and Bernard Kaney, one of our General Hands, also left at the end of the Spring Term.

After the Summer, Graham Carroll, our Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral & Guidance), retired after 37 years of service to the School and, most recently, Cath Tomkins, our Housematron in Haig, retired after many years in a variety of posts.



Eileen MacDonald with the Head.



Helen Heslop.



Yvonne Cockburn.



Evelyn Bisson.



Staff.



Movember.

Staff List

Senior Management Team:

Head W A Bellars MA(Hons) DipEd MA(EdMan) PGCE
Senior Deputy Head C Philson BA(Hons) PGCE
Deputy Head (P&G) G D M Carroll BA DCE PGCG – to June 2012
 S J Adams BSc(Hons) PGCE – from August 2012
Deputy Head (PS) C A Phipps BA(Hons) PGCE PGCG
School Business Manager S B Dougan

Housemasters & Housemistresses:

Cunningham M J Eastham BA(Hons) PGCE
Haig J A Porter MA(Hons) MSc PGCE – Acting HoM to October 2011. N Lear BSc(Hons) MSc PGCE – from October 2011
Trenchard S J Adams BSc(Hons) PGCE – to June 2012
 P N Bush BA(Hons) PGCE – from August 2012
Wavell E M MacDonald MUKA Cert PP in BE – to October 2011
 A M Kirk MA(Hons) DipEdTech PGCE – Acting HoM from October 2011 to March 2012. R Appleyard BA(Hons) PGCE – from April 2012

Principal Teachers:

G J Beattie MA MEd PGCE PGC in SFL PGD in SFL
 D V Breingan DRSAM DipEd
 G T Buchanan MA(Hons) ALCM
 D Garden BSc(Hons) MPhil DipEd – to June 2012
 D Gilhooly BA(Hons) SQH PGDSL M DipEd
 T King BEd(Hons) PGCE PGCG ATQ Primary DRSAM PGRNCM
 A M Kirk MA(Hons) DipEdTech PGCE
 J S Laing DipTechEdn
 J S Lawrence BSc(Hons) MSc PGCE
 D McLay BEd(Hons)
 D Shaw BSc(Hons) PGCE
 A Thomson MA PGCE
 R C Wright BA PGCE

Teaching Staff:

J Adams MA(Hons) PGCE
 S J Adams BSc(Hons) PGCE – to June 2012
 R M H Boyd BD(Hons) DipTh (School Chaplain)
 A Bryce BSc(Hons) MSc PGDE
 J E Coates BA(Hons) MLitt DipEd PGCE
 D J Davey BSc(Hons) PGCE
 A M Downey BA(Hons) PGDE
 M J Eastham BA(Hons) PGCE
 L G Edwards CertEd Cert PP in BE
 S C B Johns DipEd
 N Lear BSc(Hons) MSc PGCE
 V M B Low BEd(Hons)
 L MacLeod BA(Hons) PGDE
 C McBlain BSc DipEd
 A V McDonnell BSc(Hons) PGDE
 L A McKenny BA(Hons) PGDE
 J A Porter MA(Hons) MSc PGCE
 S K Ronald BSc PGCE
 J F Scott Laing BEd(Hons)
 T McP Shannon RD HNDMechEng DipTechEdn
 C-A Taylor BSc(Hons) PGCE Cert PP in BE PGC in SFL

Uniformed Staff:

School Sergeant Major D D H Stacey MBE (late Black Watch)
Pipe Major G R Ross Diploma in Piping (late Gordon Highlanders)
Drum Major H W G Tomkins Cert PP in BE (late Gordon Highlanders) – to November 2011. J G Clark (late The Highlanders) – from February 2012

Highland Dancing Instructor:

E M MacDonald Cert PP in BE MUKA – to October 2011. M H Drever BSc(Hons) PGDE MUKA – from May 2012

School Librarian:

C Sheerin BA(Hons) DipLibMCLIP

Visiting Music Teachers:

G Baillie	J Leavey
J Bamforth	A Lynch
M Bryans	H McIntosh
J Greer	G Spowart
I Hood	

House Matrons:

Cunningham	S Eastham
Haig	C R Tomkins
Trenchard	H A Devlin
Wavell	M C Sword

Housekeepers:

C E Cullen – to March 2012	K McVey
H L Galletly	M del C O'Neill
H M Heslop – to December 2011	

Medical Centre Staff:

Sister	M A Skeith RGN
Nurse	A Brennan BA RGN HV
Auxiliary	V J Hiddleston

Foreign language Assistant:

J K Haag

Overseas House Assistants ('GAP' Students):

N Anderson	C Moore
H Davies	G Paterson
H Lilley	K Spicer

Business Support Staff:

HR Business Partner & Assistant Business Manager S J Rutledge
 Chartered MCIPD
Estates Manager A McGregor
Finance & Administration Manager K Lawrie BA(Hons)
Deputy Estates Manager R S Allan ABICSc
Deputy Finance & Administration Manager I M Mair MAAT
ICT Manager N A Penrose
ICT Information Officer M A Stephen
Head's Personal Assistant C P Rankin
Senior Deputy Head's Personal Assistant A Morea
Deputy Heads' Personal Assistant L M Craig
School Business Manager's Personal Assistant A MacFarlane
Business Support Officer A B Gauld BA(Hons)
Accounts & Administration Officer M Symon
Purchasing & Administration Officer E Bisson – to March 2012
 A E M M Kerr – from April 2012
Estates Administrative Support Officer T Laird
Administrative Support & Reprographics Assistant Y Cockburn
 – to March 2012. A Paddon – from June 2012
Laboratory Technician (3) M Leask – from March 2012
Storekeeper (Clothing) M-A Fleming
Storekeeper (Accommodation Stores) M Roy – to June 2012
 S Harrison – from March 2012
Storekeeper W Stockman – to June 2012
Storekeeper (PE Dept) P A Warner
Leading Hand R G MacDougall
General Hand A MacDonald
General Hand G R McConnell
General Hand B Kaney - to February 2012
Civilian Security Officer (4) R Hiddleston
Civilian Security Officer (5) R Davies
Civilian Security Officer (5) G P McGuire
Civilian Security Officer (5) K C Covus



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