



# T G S V O I C E

T H E G O R D O N S C H O O L S N E W S L E T T E R



Welcome to the first paper edition of TGS Voice - The Gordon Schools Newsletter. School captains Maggie Dufus and Robert Lochhead along with a small team of senior pupils have been working hard to get this new look newsletter up and running. The articles and stories have been written by pupils to share our news, successes and achievements with you.

In addition to this paper copy we are also excited to announce the launch of our TGS Voice Online Edition. TGS Voice Online is the website of The Gordon Schools newsletter and is managed by our S4 Wider Achievement 'Newspaper' group. Any pupil in The Gordon Schools is welcome write articles, book reviews, film reviews, features or any other kind of content for submission to our online publication.

*(Visit [tgsvoiceonline.wordpress.com](http://tgsvoiceonline.wordpress.com) for the latest news and articles featured. Articles can be submitted by pupils at [tgsvoiceonline@gmail.com](mailto:tgsvoiceonline@gmail.com))*

## A NEW LOOK!

### WINTER TERM DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### OCTOBER

**MON 27th:** School restarts for staff and pupils  
**FRI 31th:** History Stirling/Bannockburn Trip

#### NOVEMBER

**FRI 7th:** Remembrance Ceremony  
**MON 17th:** In-service Day  
**TUE 18th:** In-service Day  
**WED 19th:** In-service Day  
**FRI 21st:** Theme Day  
**THUR 27th:** S4 Parents Evening

#### DECEMBER

**WED 3rd:** S5/6 Parents Evening  
**MON 8th:** The Sound of Music - Evening  
**TUE 9th:** The Sound of Music - Evening  
**WED 10th:** The Sound of Music - Evening  
**TUE 16th:** Junior School Dance  
**WED 17th:** Senior School Dance  
**FRI 19th:** Christmas Service - Last Day of Term



### QUACKING AFTERNOON!

Saturday the 6th of September saw the return of the ducks for the TGS Duck Race! Mrs McLeod and her team of helpers worked tirelessly to sell a whopping 1,200 ducks to bidders from the school and the local community. The morning dawned fine as the Huntly Express came down to the launch site where the fleet of ducks were released into the high flowing, chilly waters of the river Deveron.

The 1<sup>st</sup> prize went to Mrs MacDonald, TGS; 2<sup>nd</sup> to Johnny Foulter, Huntly; 3<sup>rd</sup> to Cathy Mortimer, Alford. The lame duck award went to Lucy Buckley, S2. Proceeds from the Duck Race help to boost school funds.

Many thanks to all who bought ducks and to all those who helped on the afternoon—including the local Scouts!



# THE HILLS ARE ALIVE!



# CAST LIST

After the success of the schools 2013 production of Grease, the team behind the school show are excited to bring you this years show - The Sound of Music. The cast was announced before the summer holidays and rehearsals are now well underway. The show will take place on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of December and we look forward to seeing you all there!

**MARIA** - Maggie Duffus  
**MOTHER ABBESS** - Ciara Ennis  
**SISTER BERTHE** - Jenna Morrison  
**SISTER MARGARETTA** - Molly Williams  
**FRANZ** - Simon Norris  
**FRAU SCHMIDT** - Rebecca Henderson  
**ELSA SCHRAEDER** - Isadora Lee  
**MAX DETWEILER** - Harris Williamson  
**ROLF** - Alastair Reed-Jamieson

**CAPTAIN VON TRAPP** - Matthew Anderson  
**LIESL** - Megan McGowan  
**FRIEDRICH** - Tom McGowan  
**LOUISA** - Ellen Harper  
**KURT** - Ewan Skinner  
**BRIGITTA** - Holly Birkhead  
**MARTA** - Libby Gerrie  
**GRETLE** - Josie McLeod

# OUR NEW SCHOOL WEBSITE IS ON THE HORIZON!



Since returning in August we have been hard at work building our new school website which will be officially launched at the end of term.

The site is designed to help parents, pupils and members of the wider community find any information they might need about the school. It is also a place where we can highlight the achievements and successes of our young people. We are very proud of our school and keen to tell the world about it.

The new site will also see a jump into the digital age for TGS with the addition of a school Twitter account that both parents and pupils can use to keep up to date with school notices, announcement, news and success stories.

You don't have to wait until the October holidays—you can start following TGS on Twitter now at @gordonschools. If you don't have a Twitter account you don't have to miss out, you can still access our tweets by visiting <https://twitter.com/GordonSchools>

## S1 MATHS CHALLENGE

Well done to all those who participated in the S1 Maths Relay in September and especially to the winning teams who were as follows:-

- 3rd—Nienna Brill, Melissa Buyers, Louise Gordon, Stuart Reid (BADENOCH)
- 2nd—Mina Brennan, Ben Fletcher, Liam Stephen, Grant Taylor (SETON)
- 1st—Rion Cameron, Libby Catto, Jessica, Carl Stocks (GORDON AND SETON)

## MORE MATHS SUCCESS

Further maths achievement for TGS at the Enterprising Maths Day competition. Our team of two S4 pupils and two S3 pupils were victorious against the rest of Aberdeenshire bringing home the title and making it through to the national final in Glasgow in November.

Congratulations to:- Simon Norris, Stephanie Norris, Felix Roberts and Findlay Munro.

## OH CAPTAIN! MY CAPTAIN!

School Captains Maggie Duffus, Robert Lochhead, Isadora Lee and Lewis Whyte have new additions to their team of senior school pupil leaders with new house and sports captains.

**Badenoch**— Danielle Ainslie, Lauren Dow, Amber Eastwood, Hannah Grieve. **Fraser**— Ellen Harper, Rebekah Watson, Aaron Penny. **Gordon**— Jill Alexander, Duncan Gibb, Megan McGowan, Rebecca Bradley, Sarah Dingwall. **Seton**—Ciara Ennis, Nikki Mellor, Matthew Anderson, Kirstie Gordon.



# LORD OF THE FLIES

S4 PUPILS ANDREW AND FRASER RAEBURN AND S1 PUPIL EWAN SKINNER RECENTLY WON COVETED ROLES IN A PROFESSIONAL PRODUCTION OF 'LORD OF THE FLIES' AT H.M. THEATRE IN ABERDEEN. ANDREW TELLS US ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCE.

“ At the end of August Fraser, Ewan and I were involved in a U.K based project “Mathew Bourne’s Lord of the Flies”. There have been over 8,000 boys involved in the project so far with 150 boys being selected to be part of the cast in their local venues. For each show 24 boys are selected to make up the local cast along with the 8 professionals who tour with the company to every venue.

We had to audition to be in the project all the way back in June. There were over 80 boys auditioning, there were 4 lots auditions on day 1. If you got through your audition then you were given a recall for the next day, thankfully we got given a recall for the next day and eventually made it into the cast.

We had rehearsals once a week all the way through July. Once August hit we had rehearsals Monday – Saturday that were long and hard. The last week was show week so we were in rehearsal from 10:30pm to 11:00pm.

This project was an amazing and unbelievable experience for us and was by far the best thing we have ever been involved in. The project was much harder physically and mentally than we could have ever imagined. There were six shows in four days and we all performed in all of the shows.”



## FEATURE: A FEW OF MY FAVOURITE THINGS

TO TIE IN WITH OUR SCHOOL SHOW, WE DECIDED TO RUN A FEATURE ASKING TEACHERS ABOUT THE FAVOURITE ITEMS THEY HAVE IN THEIR CLASSROOMS.



### MR ROWAND

This issue features Mr Rowand. A biology teacher at TGS who has a penchant for the weird and whacky!



A REAL HUMAN SKULL!



A HUMAN SKELETON



THE CLOCK THAT USED TO RUN THE SCHOOL BELL



MUMMIFIED CAT



NARWHAL HORN

After teaching Biology here for 12 years Mr Rowand’s room is filled with weird and interesting things. When we asked about this he mentioned to us an array of strange things.

We picked these as our favourites. Firstly the 1.5m long narwhal horn. Mr Rowand said he liked this in particular because “it’s quite rare and valuable” and you can “fool people into thinking it’s a unicorn horn”.

One of the most amazing things we found was a full human skeleton—a real one! We found this hidden away in an old wooden box adding to the mysterious aura of it.

The last and possibly most impressive was the mummified cat that has dried up in the school walls next to a heater. In the words of Mr Rowands “it’s a dead dried up cat in a box, what’s not cool about that?!”



# THE GREAT DEBATE



The next round of the NOSS competition will be held on our home turf with The Gordon Schools hosting the third and final debate with the motion 'This House believes we over-protect our young people'. The event will take place on the evening of Thursday 6th November 2014. A time is yet to be confirmed as we have debate teams travelling all the way from Fortrose to compete."

*(The debate team would like to invite any interested staff, parents or pupils to join us as spectators for the final round of the NOSS competition—the formal debate is often followed by a floor debate where spectators have a chance to participate. Debate club runs on a Tuesday lunchtime in A20).*

Iona and Eliza were joined by Angus Pope in the NOSS Public Speaking Competition held at Nairn on Wed 17th September. The newly formed team competing in their first ever public speaking competition team were placed within the top two of six teams within the competition, making it through to the final which will be held in Aberdeen in March 2015 where they will compete against teams from Robert Gordon's College and St Margaret's school for Girls.

“ Debating Club is on Tuesday Lunchtimes run by Mr Knack and Miss Abercrombie. Eliza and I have been debating partners for over a year and have taken part in debates such as the Auld Hoose Debate competition and the North of Scotland Debating competition. Unfortunately last year we didn't get to the final but hopes are up and we're working hard to raise our arguments for the three rounds of this year's North of Scotland Debating Competition which will be held in various schools across the North East. Debating hugely helps confidence and will improve public speaking along with engaging yourself to think in a more sophisticated way about issues which may not directly affect you. It is also great for meeting other individuals who are keen debaters.

Eliza said "Debating has encouraged me to become engaged in current issues and discover new topics in more depth that I wouldn't have otherwise."

The motion for the first round of the NOSS competition, held on September 9th at Nairn Academy, was 'This house condemns the World Cup'. The second round, held 8th October at Millburn Academy, brought the motion 'This House would negotiate with terrorists'.

## STEM IN THE PIPELINE COMPETITION

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of August, a team of 6 pupils travelled to the University of Aberdeen to participate in an induction day for the STEM In The Pipeline competition. *STEM In The Pipeline* is a 3-part oil and gas industry project for teams of S6 pupils. This competition takes place in 3 stages - the induction day, the project and the presentation. The induction day includes four workshops, which focus on critical aspects to the oil and gas industry such as Geology, Finance, Drilling and Processing. The project itself is about locating an oil and gas field, planning on how to extract the contents of the field and estimate how much profit we could make out of the venture. Once this has all been done, the team must present its findings to a panel of industry professionals and university professors and be assessed on how well they have done. Candidates who take part in this project will be able to complete their Silver CREST Award. CREST is a UK award scheme recognising success, building skills and demonstrating personal achievement in STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) project work. The Gordon Schools will be against other schools in the area such as Alford Academy, Inverurie Academy and the current winners of the competition, Aberdeen Grammar.

## THE SPORT REPORT

A round up of the TGS sporting achievement and success for this terms newsletter!

### RUGBY

Teams from The Gordon Schools travelled to Elgin to compete against a composite team of players from Elgin High School and Elgin Academy in a friendly ahead of their comp. Teams from S1/S2, U-16s and Senior sections competed on the day. U-16s and S1/2 both won their matches with a young senior team narrowly losing out.

### FOOTBALL

TGS S1 & S2 boys football team travelled to Meldrum Academy on the 16th of September to play a fixture in the Aberdeenshire Cup.

The boys soared to a glorious 9-1 victory. Robert Ward was the team's top goal scorer with 6 into the net. Owen Murison put 2 goals away while Jamie Paterson helped out with another.

The boys will face Turriff in their next Cup match.

### ROAD RELAY

Thursday the 18th of September brought the Inter House Road Relay.

Fraser were victorious and came 1st with 21 points; Seton were 2nd with 19 points; Gordon 3rd with 15 points; 4th were Badenoch with 13 points.