

News from the Music Department



Pupils of King's Park Primary School

Christmas Concert

King's Park Secondary School enjoyed another successful Christmas Concert this year in Cathcart Old Parish Church on Wednesday 13th December. This year all of the proceeds were donated to the charity Glasgow The Caring City to support projects in Africa.

The pupils of King's Park Music Department displayed their breadth of talent with a very varied programme.

The award-winning Jazz Band opened the evening with a selection of pieces which they had played for the Glasgow Schools Jazz Band Competition earlier in the year. This was followed by our celebrated Ceilidh Band, Orchestra, Rock Bands and Choirs.

King's Park Choir were very lucky this year to be joined in the performance by pupils from King's Park Primary School.

We were also very lucky to have the distinguished African musician Gameli, who has been coaching a group of our pupils in the art of African drumming.

A fantastic night was had by all and it was lovely to see so many parents, staff and pupils in the audience encouraging the performers.

Julie Brown, Acting PT Music



Honours

Congratulations to Rachel Leonard S5, who was awarded an Honours Pass in her Guildhall Grade 6 Music Exam on Drum Kit.



Bridgeton Burns Club

Congratulations to ... S5 and ... S6 who took first prize in the Duet category of the Schools Competition run by Bridgeton Burns Club*. Over 500 Glasgow pupils took part in this competition which was held in St Mungo's Academy in December. ... and ... were awarded the Scottish Transport Group Trophy, and were asked to perform again at the club's prestigious Burns Supper on 25 January in the Marriot Hotel. The girls' performance was outstanding and they received a standing ovation from the 700 guests.

* <http://www.bridgetonburnsclub.org.uk/>



Claire and Jessica perform at the Marriot Hotel

Work Experience

Local employers were full of praise for all the King's Park pupils who undertook work placements this session. Here is a small selection of the employer comments.

Which Pupil?	What was the Placement?	What did the Employer Say?
Lisa Eadie	Youth Work Assistant	Very keen to get involved . . . followed instructions and completed work given to her with enthusiasm. Planned, prepared and delivered a quality art workshop.
Connor Slevin	Admin Assistant at Daily Record	Understood all tasks given, listened intently and carried out each one to a high standard. Mixed well with the rest of the team. It was a pleasure having him this week.
Kelsey Bowie	Playleader	Excellent timekeeping . . . always neat and tidy and adhered to uniform . . . willing to try and learn every task . . . Worked well with everyone and I wouldn't hesitate to employ or recommend her to any future employer.
William Allison	Operations Manager	Polite and enthusiastic lad who got on well with different people in my team. Well organised . . . always prepared . . . very willing to listen to others to increase his knowledge of the working environment. The engineers he worked with stated they would work with and train him because of his positive attitude.
Linda Hepburn	Animal Care Assistant	Fitted in well with the practice routine and was an asset during her week. Was able to carry out most tasks ranging from holding dogs, assisting dentals and cleaning. Always on time and arrived early every day.
Craig Gilhooly	Carers Centre Manager	Willing to carry out a range of admin tasks to a high standard. Very flexible and keen to undertake a range of tasks. Attended every day . . . on time, ready for work. Excellent student.
James Singleton	Clerical Worker	Always arrived on time . . . immaculately dressed . . . very keen to help and be given work . . . excellent communications skills . . . good organisational skills . . . takes pride in his work . . . very popular with all the staff.
Rachel Kelly	Child Development Officer	Excellent communication skills . . . worked well during her time with us. Had a nice way with the children and we hope to get her back as a student.
Jamie Lee McGaughey	Child Development Officer	Like a breath of fresh air in our nursery . . . enthusiastic . . . able to communicate her thoughts and ideas clearly and this was evident in her work with the children who flocked to her activities . . . Shows a real flair for working with young children.
Shakeel Ahmed	Desktop Supply and Support Engineer	Very articulate and confident young man. Very motivated and showed great enthusiasm in all tasks. Always dressed appropriately, smart appearance. Has been by far the most mature, confident and conscientious work experience trainee we have had in our section to date.

Congratulations and Well Done!

Thoughts from a Percussion Teacher

It's often said that kids nowadays are lazy, bone idle, and always up to no good!

Well I've just had the pleasure of working with Glasgow Schools Youth Theatre and working with me this year, playing drum kit, was ... a 5th year girl from Kings Park Secondary (... to her pals). I teach this girl and I thought I knew her; how wrong was I?

So there we were in the theatre, sitting at drum kit and percussion set waiting for the show to start, and to pass the time I asked what she had been up to?

Let me tell you some of the things she's been up to; let's go back in time to just before Christmas.

Supported study after school for five Highers, and of course after-school Orchestra rehearsal. Ballet and dance classes twice a week, sometimes four hours on a Saturday, "Bin do'in dancin since a wis wee sir!" Night rehearsals with her own rock band, which played a gig at the Barrowlands. Ceilidh band rehearsal, that'll be lunch times then! Now while all this is going on she's practising for her Grade 5 violin exam; she's been playing violin since primary school (40 odd pounds to sit that exam you know!!!). Her violin exam was the same week as the School Christmas concert. Now while all this is going on... did I mention she was also doing extra practice with me after school because she was sitting her Grade 6 Drum kit exam the week after the Christmas concert (that'll be another £46 please!) That exam result, Honours!



Saturday mornings? She plays percussion in Glasgow Schools Wind Band, they played two Christmas concerts.

So it's Christmas holidays, you would think it was time for a rest... Err Naw! The auditions for the National Youth Jazz Orchestra Scotland are right in the middle of the holidays! Two drum kit audition pieces to learn. That extra work and effort got her a place on the residential course in Perthshire. (Residential course fees... £300, ouch!!!)

I asked what she had been up to. I was amazed at the amount of activities crammed into a week.

... is not a one off, she's just one of the new breed of students who knows what she wants and goes full throttle 'til she gets it. Her story is music and dance based, she knows what she wants and with the hard work getting put in, I'm sure she'll get it.

So kids nowadays: Lazy? Bone idle? Up to no good? Some maybe; but hardworking kids are out there. I know this because... The music practical exams are just round the corner and I was passing by the practice rooms. I looked in on some of the students working, there were kids buddying up helping one another; nothing new there then, it happens at King's Park Secondary all the time. My point is; this was after school in their own time!

At the end of the night the theatre spotlights were switched off, and we went our separate ways home; ... to do some late night studying, and me for an early night! Aren't you glad you're not a school student again?

*John Smillie
Instrumental Instructor
King's Park Secondary*

Pupils in the News

BBC CHILDREN IN NEED APPEAL

Every penny you give goes towards helping disadvantaged children and young people in the UK.



Congratulations to King's Park pupils who raised £2,000 for Children in Need. Pudsey Bear visited the school last week to receive the cheque.

Sunday Herald – Fresh magazine

Congratulations our pupils for their contributions to Fresh magazine. Their article – a review of new music releases – was so fabulous that it was unedited by the magazine. They offered their opinions in a humorous, confident and appropriate manner. Well done!



Euroscola 2006

Last October we took part in the Euroscola visit to Strasbourg and the European Parliament, as part of a group of pupils from Secondary Schools in Glasgow. A total of 31 pupils from S5 and S6, who have studied or are currently studying French, travelled by coach to Strasbourg during the October break. We were given the opportunity to participate in a range of activities, including visits to French Secondary Schools, a day trip to Offenburg in Germany, and the highlight of the trip – a full day in the European Parliament.

The Glasgow Schools' group joined groups from all over Europe in the main debating chamber and we were given a range of topics to discuss in French. ... was elected leader of his group and delivered his findings to other multi-lingual groups.

We thoroughly enjoyed meeting new people and building our confidence in speaking French. One of the tasks involved a questionnaire about Scotland, in French, which we completed with real, live French people on the streets of Strasbourg!

Our trip was celebrated in February at an Awards Ceremony and Civic Reception, hosted by the Lord Provost, in the City Chambers.

http://europa.eu/youth/ed/index_EU0010000724.html
<http://www.europarl.org.uk/guide/textonly/Geuroscolatx.html>



Guiding Achievements

Congratulations to our pupils who are also Girl Guides:

- Anina Khamisha and Rebecca Pearson – chosen to meet the Countess of Wessex
- Jane Easton – won the Local and County Heat and will represent Glasgow in the Guiding Star Competition (UK-wide competition similar to the X-Factor)*

<http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/guidingstar/info.asp>