

Bell Baxter High School



Whole School Standard and Quality Report 2010 - 2011



Bell Baxter High School

School Context

Background

Bell Baxter serves the town of Cupar and a number of villages in North East Fife. Our nineteen associated primaries share our vision for pupils : *'To give them the best preparation for life'*. Our school's values are rooted in: respect for self and others, tolerance and openness. Our vision statement is displayed throughout the school.

We are one of the largest schools in Scotland with a roll of around 1750 pupils and 178 staff including 132 teachers, and 46 full-time and part-time support staff which includes staff in Administration and Technical Services, Janitorial Support, Information Services and Direct Curriculum Support and Pupil Services staff. This brings with it an almost unique set of challenges and opportunities to continue to deliver a first class education for all our pupils. The new S1 roll is 281 with 15 classes and 10 practical sections formed. Approximately 10% of our roll are here on placing requests.

We can trace our school's origin back to the 13th Century but our culture, aims and strategies are clearly focused on delivering a learning experience which will prepare all our pupils to participate successfully in the 21st Century.

We are also supported by a wide range of services which include Family and Community Support Teams, Psychological and Health Services, Social Work, Police, Skills Development Scotland, Kilmarnock School, Friends of Bell Baxter, Cupar in Bloom and local sports clubs and businesses. The Parent Council is now well established and is an active voice in support of the school.

Attendance rates for last year are slightly below Fife and National averages. This reflects a rise in our unauthorised absences. Our exclusion rates have been consistently low over the last three years and in line with Fife and National averages which have seen a reduction this year. Free School Meals registration has seen an increase from 5% to 10% of the school population over the last three years. 91% of all our leavers have positive destinations, above both Fife and National averages. Our staying on rates of 83% in S5 and 65% in S6 remain in line with national averages.

"Bell Baxter High School was given an outstanding report following the recent inspection by HMIe (Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education).

Using the new inspection model, introduced last year, the school was rated as 'very good' across all indicators. This report ranks Bell Baxter as one of Scotland's top performing schools."

(Fife Council Education Service, May 2009)

1.1 Improvements in Performance - 'Excellent'

By the end of S2

Curriculum for Excellence courses have been embedded in S1 and S2 and all S2 pupils are experiencing enrichment courses. Pupil choice has ranged from running Premier Events in the faculty of Health and Well Being to musical theatre in Expressive Arts faculty to Rocketry in the Science faculty. Pupil Evaluations are very positive and staff have noted increased level of motivation, pupil enjoyment and achievement.

In this the last year of 5-14 reporting the English faculty achieved their highest ever levels of attainment in both reading and writing, 19% above Fife average in reading and 16% above the Fife average in writing. Attainment in S2 ranks the school top among our comparator schools and in Fife number one for reading and two for writing.

In Mathematics our S1 results have demonstrated improvement for previous years. By the end of S1 our pupils had achieved 15% above the Fife average. After a disappointing dip in S2 results into negative value last year, it is pleasing to note an improved picture where 71% achieved level E.

Science SOSCA results are in line with expectations from P7 PIPs scores.

Reading SOSCA results are in line with expectations from P7 PIPs scores.

Maths results are much lower than expectations from P7 PIPs scores.

By the end of S4

There has been a slight dip across all indicators of between 1-2%. Most disappointing is the significant decrease in 5+ at level 5. The number of pupils with approved flexible packages and their individual achievements are not reflected in these figures. However the successful outcome of stage two appeals will impact on these figures.

Major Strength Over Time

Standard Grade Art & Design, Biology, Drama, English, Modern Studies, Physics, Religious Moral and Philosophical Studies.

Intermediate 1 Administration, Intermediate 2 Physics.

Improved Performance from Previous Year

Standard Grade Chemistry, Standard Grade Craft & Design, Wood Working Skills.

English at level 3

95% of the cohort achieved at this level. The school is below other schools nationally. Based on NCD, attainment of males and females is similar.

Maths at Level 3

97% of the cohort achieved at this level. The school is in line with other schools nationally. Based on NCD, attainment of males and females is similar.

English and Maths at level 3

93% of the cohort achieved at this level. The school is below other schools nationally. Based on NCD, attainment of males and females is similar.

5+ at Level 3

93% achieved at this level, an improvement in our ranking with comparator Schools from 16-14. Based on NCD, attainment of males and females is similar. We are ranked in the lower middle quartile of comparator schools.

5+ at Level 4

83% of our cohort achieved at this level, the school is above other school nationally. Based on NCD, attainment of males and females is similar. We are ranked in the lower middle quartile of comparator schools.

5+ at Level 5

Although there is a significant dip from 42% - 34% the school is in line with other school nationally. Based on NCD, attainment of males and females are similar. We are ranked in the bottom quartile of comparator schools.

Value Added PIPs to Standard Grade

Nine of our Standard Grade Subjects have added value with four losing 0.1 of a grade, one subjects 0.2 of a grade and two 0.4 of a grade. This reflects a change from last year where only two subjects did not add value.

Taking our pupils predictions into account the S4 Cohort have underperformed at 5+ level 3 and level 5 but exceeded their PIPs predictions at 5+ level 4. Between P7 and S4 performance fell by the equivalent of 0.9 SMID deciles with pupils in SMID deciles D8 and D9 underperforming from PIPs prediction.

By the end of S5/S6

Overall, across all levels, the results in the upper school are excellent and demonstrate sustained improvement. Stage two appeals will impact on these figures and reflect further improvement.

Three Candidates passed their Baccalaureate in Science, two pupils achieved distinctions.

Major Strengths Over Time

Higher Art & Design, Biology, Business Management, English, Maths, Intermediate 2 English.

Improved Performance from Previous Year

Higher Drama, Physics, Product Design, Intermediate 2 Chemistry.

By the end of S5

1+ at Level 6

The overall trend over the last five years has been very positive with a further increase from 49% - 56% this year. The school is above other schools nationally and in the upper middle quartile of comparator schools.

3+ at Level 6

The school has maintained its improved performance at 33% above other schools nationally. Based on NCD, attainment of males and females is similar. The school is ranked at the upper middle quartile of comparator schools.

5+ at Level 6

The school has seen a 1% reduction from 18% - 17% but we are still performing well above other schools nationally. Based on NCD, attainment of males and females is similar. The school is ranked at the upper middle quartile of comparator schools.

By the end of S6

3+ at Level 6

There has been a dip of 3% from last year's exceptional result of 43% maintaining us above other school nationally. Based on NCD, attainment of males and females is similar. The school is ranked in the lower middle quartile of comparator schools.

5+ at Level 6

Improvement has been sustained with a further increase of 31% from last years 28% placing us above other schools nationally. Based on NCD attainment of males and females is similar. We are ranked in the upper middle quartile of comparator schools.

1+ at Level 7

The school has sustained last year's improvement with 20% placing us above other schools nationally. Based on NCD, attainment of males is better. We are ranked in the upper middle quartile.

Value Added PIPs to S5/S6

At every indictor, bar one our senior pupils outperformed their PIPs predictions. By S6 PIPs predictions at 3+ level 6 was 41.8% and our pupils achieved 40.1%.

Areas for Improvement by S2, S4, S5 and S6

By the end of S2

While Maths has improved the results are still lower than PIPs predictions when compared with SOSCA results.

By the end of S4

Based on PIPs predictions and our ability to add value:

5+ at Level 3.

5+ at Level 5.

Maths and English at Level 3.

Standard Grade Computing, Geography and Maths.

Intermediate 1 and Intermediate 2 Maths.

By the end of S5/S6

Higher History

Intermediate 2 Admin, French, Maths and Physics.

Actions for Improvement to further raise Attainment

- ▶ Continue to aspire to being a fully Restorative School with emphasis on building relationships.
- ▶ Specific Action Plan for S4 – discussed and agreed on 9th September.
- ▶ Pupil Services, Depute Rector and Admin Staff meet regularly to review attendance procedures. Action points are being implemented and will take account of revised Council Procedures.
- ▶ Adjustment of staffing in Pupil Services, new post will replace First Aider with additional School Support Officer.
- ▶ All faculties to be rigorous in their monitoring and tracking, collegiate session on Learning Together using quantitative data planned for March 2012.
- ▶ In addition to S5 Mentoring Programme forty S4 pupils and thirty S3 pupils have been identified as underperforming and will now also be mentored (2/3 pupils to 1 teacher).
- ▶ All S5 pupils will have two Tree of Knowledge presentations.
- ▶ Faculties have welcomed the breakdown of component marks and visits to comparator schools, who are performing better than us, are already underway.
- ▶ Out of school learning information distributed to all S4/S5/S6 pupils and information on Website for parents.
- ▶ Easter Revision Programme has been expanded from last year's provision.
- ▶ Revision of standard letters to parents to ensure consistency and to ensure parental support.
- ▶ Increased use of Glow and Website to support pupils, being led by new post of Support Services Co-Ordinator.
- ▶ All of S1 have been trained to access their E-Portfolio to begin process of reflecting progress and Wider Achievements.
- ▶ In House CPD Programme to support staff as leaders of learning.
- ▶ Support for staff to attend SQA courses to develop subject expertise.
- ▶ Sharing of good practice across faculties built in to Faculty and SMT agenda.

2.1 Learners' Experiences – 'Very Good/Excellent'

We aim to be an excellent school and our drive for improvement is undertaken against a backdrop of a very positive ethos. We are a very inclusive school and have rigorous procedures in place to enable us to meet the needs of all our pupils. During 2010-2011 the Education Service carried out an audit across all Fife Secondary Schools in relation to school's procedures for supporting pupils. The feedback the school received was very positive.

"Universal and additional stages of intervention are very well defined and all staff understand their roles and responsibilities to learning needs across the school."

Getting it Right – Audit visit December 2010.

Attendance figures for the school are extremely positive and our exclusion levels are very low.

We place great emphasis on the promotion and ongoing development of a positive ethos and we believe this is a significant strength of our school. Our positive behaviour management statistics indicate that the vast majority of our S1-S4 pupils consistently meet school expectations, and as a result, receive Year Head, Depute and Rector's Certificates acknowledging their positive progress. Significant numbers of Good News Letters are also sent home and Positive Referrals are made to Curriculum Leaders and Senior Leaders which provides opportunities for individual pupils' successes to be recognised. Our School Uniform Policy is widely supported as evidenced by statistics gathered throughout the year.

Creating opportunities for our pupils to contribute to, and comment on school policies, procedures and future developments is an important priority for the school. Our Pupil Council meet regularly to discuss issues that affect our pupils' day to day experiences. Pupil Focus Groups are used to gain a pupil perspective on whole school developments and priorities. During session 2010-2011 groups of pupils were invited to comment on our School Improvement Plan and our revised Relationship and Behaviour Policy. Additionally, many faculties now routinely give pupils the opportunity to comment upon and give feedback on matters associated with course work, learning and teaching.

A calendared programme of ethos visits by the Senior Leadership Team supports the work of teachers in the classroom and further encourages pupils to give their best at all times.

Evidence of our ethos extends well beyond quantifiable data. Relationships throughout the school are overwhelmingly positive and the learning and teaching environment is purposeful and calm.

We give the highest priority to maintaining and developing positive relationships throughout our school. We have clear expectations of our pupils in relation to their behaviour and we employ a range of behaviour management strategies to deal with any disruptive or inappropriate behaviour.

We are on a journey towards becoming a "Restorative School" which essentially means that our approach is one which places repairing harm and relationships at the centre of

any action we take to deal with inappropriate or challenging behaviour. Our staff are involved in ongoing training to further develop their skills in restorative approaches.

Our Register Teachers set the tone on a daily basis and work within a clear set of guidelines.

Our noticeboards, plasma screens and classroom displays highlight our ethos and recognise pupils' work and achievements. Our Assembly Programme is used as a vehicle for reinforcing key ethos messages. Our Assemblies are often pupil led.

One of the highlights of the school year are our Celebration of Achievement Assemblies. The material for these Assemblies is generated by both staff and pupils, with many staff taking the opportunity to praise individuals, groups and, indeed whole classes.

The result is a tremendous affirmation of the achievements and successes of our pupils.

In June 2010 we held our first ever S1 Awards Ceremony to recognise the many achievements of our S1 pupils on completion of their "Curriculum for Excellence" S1 experience. Mr Ken Greer, Executive Director of Education, Fife Council, presented the awards to a wide range of S1 pupils, for amongst other things; outstanding progress, effort and particularly meritorious work in one of the eight learning areas that make up the S1 experience. It was an excellent ceremony, enjoyed by pupils, staff and many parents.

Our senior pupils are a valuable asset in the promotion of school ethos. Our Prefect body, some 150 strong, are key role models for our younger pupils. They are there to help younger pupils by encouraging them to behave responsibly and safely and also to assist if there are difficulties. Our Senior Peer Counsellors support our younger pupils in many different ways, from individual counselling, support and guidance to working with groups or whole classes. The Peer Counsellors are managed by experienced staff and are fully trained in order to give our S1 and S2 pupils the best possible support. Our Paired Readers, Charity Group and Young Enterprise Group impact positively on school ethos through their various activities.

Our pupils have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of sporting and cultural activities both within and outwith the classroom and a significant number of our staff give of their time both willingly and with enthusiasm to support these activities.

The level of pupil participation in clubs, activities and excursions is excellent and many of our pupils are involved in enterprise and charity work in and beyond the school.

We believe that pupil and staff participation in these activities builds positive relationship and fosters a sense of belonging and pride in the school.

Formally, we recognise pupil achievements and successes through our annual Colours and Award Ceremonies. Over the last few years we have expanded the criteria and range of areas for which pupils are eligible for School Colours. 79 pupils were awarded School Colours in session 2010-2011 for outstanding school achievement or service in the following areas; Curricular Achievement, Artistic and Creative Achievement, Sporting Achievement, Service to the School and School Service in the Community.

5.1 The Curriculum - 'Excellent'

Our curriculum has a clear rationale. By providing a rich learning experience and developing skills for learning, work and life, we realise our school vision -

"to give all our young people the best preparation for life".

We have continued to develop our curriculum in line with local and national advice. Our curriculum has been designed to ensure that all pupils experience a broad general education up to the end of S3, followed by a senior phase where pupils develop a portfolio of qualifications and the recognition of wider achievements. Pupils who entered S1 in 2010/11 are following a curriculum structured around eight learning areas. The learning experiences which a young person undertakes and the outcomes that will be achieved are set out clearly in Building the Curriculum 3. The planned classroom experiences provide challenge, relevance, progression, coherence and enjoyment and enable our learners to develop the knowledge, understanding, skills and attributes relevant to each curriculum area. As new experiences are developed we are addressing the importance of implementing a strategy for literacy and numeracy as well as health and wellbeing across our curriculum. A Health Promoting Week took place in June of this year and involved all S1-S3 pupils.

In recognising opportunities for personalisation and choice an extremely wide and varied enrichment programme has been developed for pupils in S2 and S3. This programme enables pupils to study subjects in greater depth and broaden their experience by applying skills to new contexts. Currently 29 enrichment options are available in S2 and 31 in S3.

Standard Grade and National Qualifications, based on the current qualification framework, continue to be the basis of the curriculum for our current cohorts in S3-S6. While these qualifications are unchanged for our present cohorts of learners, Faculties are engaging with the revised qualification framework.

Our Curriculum Strategy Group continues to provide advice and support in taking forward our plans for the senior phase. Plans focus not only on the qualification framework but on the development of the four capacities - to enable each child or young person to be a successful learner, a confident individual, a responsible citizen and an effective contributor. In session 2011-12 all pupils in S5 and S6 will receive their entitlement to two hours of Physical Activity and will make choices from an extremely wide and varied programme of activities ranging from Zumba classes to basketball and mountain biking. All S5/S6 learners have opportunities to recognise wider achievements and enrich their curriculum. This includes participation in publicity, charity and young enterprise groups. The Baccalaureate qualification offered in Science continues to be offered. This new qualification, at Advanced Higher level, offers a rich learning experience and provides an excellent preparation for university life. The high standard of work undertaken at Bell Baxter has been recognised nationally, and candidates and their teachers have contributed to a national conference on the Baccalaureate.

In order to meet the needs of all of our young people and to build on our partnership working the school has offered courses in partnership with Adam Smith College in

Glenrothes and Elmwood College in Cupar. Partnership working has enabled the provision of opportunities and experiences not currently available in school, eg skills for work programmes of study in engineering and construction, courses in Psychology and so on. We aim to build on our present partnerships and in January of this year established an Enterprise Learning Community with Scotland Colleges.

Our Department of Additional Support Needs continues to provide programmes of work for those pupils requiring more flexible pathways, for example, pupils are involved in Natural Connections and ethos of work programmes involving our local college and local employers. We recognise the importance of a seamless transition from primary to secondary school and have continued to address our partnership working with our cluster group of associate primary schools. A collegiate session was hosted at Bell Baxter in May when opportunities existed for primary and secondary colleagues to engage in dialogue to take forward transition arrangements. A follow-up session will be hosted by the cluster group in the new session.

Our extensive programme of curricular and extra curricular activities includes opportunities for local and overseas travel to such diverse destinations as India, China, France and the USA.

The 16+ initiative has formalised opportunities for pupils to move into positive and sustained destinations when they leave school. We work closely with Skills Development Scotland/Careers in ensuring our young people are prepared for the world of work and meeting their future aspirations.

As we move forward in our three year Improvement Plan and, as part of our self evaluation curriculum, developments have been clearly set out – the need for a curriculum which is dynamic, innovative and flexible and which meets the needs of **all our** learners.

Key priorities for the year ahead include:

- *Building on our preparations for the senior phase of Curriculum for Excellence (implementation from 2013).*
- *Further developing the curriculum in S1 to S3.*
- *Evaluating our current S1-S2 curriculum.*
- *Enhancing our engagement with pupils, partners and parents to ensure a shared understanding of Curriculum for Excellence including the framework for assessment.*

5.3 Meeting Learners' Needs – 'Very Good/Excellent'

Improving learning and teaching is central to the work of the school. This continues to be the focus of improvement planning, curriculum development and quality assurance processes.

ICT/

ICT

The school has continued its development of ICT facilities to support learning. We continued to invest in the purchase of additional digital projectors, Smartboards and computers as well as new software to support initiatives. Our Assembly area has benefited from the purchase of a new media system. Work has also begun on the installation of a wireless network in the LRC which should provide more flexibility in the way in which ICT resources are used in the school.

“Glow”, a trusted and safe digital learning environment, is an exciting development which has much to offer practitioners, pupils and their parents. Indeed, it is transforming the way the curriculum is delivered in schools throughout Scotland. To date 45 staff have undertaken training to support this new initiative and pupils have been issued with usernames and passwords and received preparatory lessons on this exciting development. Work with our year groups on this initiative will begin in earnest in the new session.

Our school website continues to be enhanced and acts as a medium to share and communicate information. Many of our Faculties have uploaded work on to their areas of the website for pupil access in school and at home, for example, course materials, homeworks, etc.

Study Support

The study support programme this session was designed to support targeted groups of pupils and provide study support classes at examination times.

- ***Targeted Pupils***
Seventy-two S5 pupils were supported through a mentoring programme.
- ***Study Support Classes***
Two-hundred-and-thirty-one Study support classes were offered to pupils immediately in the lead up to preliminary and SQA examinations. Additionally Easter revision classes ran in some Faculty areas.

5.9 Improvement Through Self-Evaluation – ‘Excellent’

As a school we are committed to self-evaluation which informs our actions for continuous improvement. We have calendared processes in place to support self-evaluation and actively seek and respond to the views of our partners. We continue to build on the achievements of our learners both in school and in the wider community.

Evidence used to support self-evaluation.

- Results in National Qualifications and 5-14 results
- PIPs and SOSCA data
- School statistics on attendance, latecoming, behaviour management, including positive referrals, exclusions and tracking pupil progress
- Faculty progress reviews relating to School Improvement Plan
- Faculty Standards and Quality Reports
- Progress update on working groups

- A planned programme of learning and ethos visits
- Staffwise survey return
- Meetings of SLT and SMT
- SLT links with Faculties
- Pupil evaluations on the quality of their learning experience
- HMIE Professional Development Resources – From Very Good to Excellent

For the first time all Faculty staff participated in the attainment review meeting with senior leaders. These meetings resulted in the sharing of good practice in relation to raising attainment and agreed actions to support further improvement.

At a collegiate session staff were supported to become more confident in the use of data to support the monitoring of progress in S1 and S2. At an Improvement Planning session all staff considered the results of the Staffwise Survey and points for action. From January onwards our focus was to use our self-evaluations to plan our priorities and issues for Action for our next three-year Improvement Plan. National and Council Priorities, National Standards and consultations with staff, parents, partners and pupils have informed our plan.

Our agreed priorities for the next three years are:

The Curriculum

Learning & Teaching

Relationships

Leadership and Team Work

Our priorities will be addressed by teams of staff who will develop and implement the Action Plans. Our progress will be measured by evaluating the impact of our Actions on improving the quality of learning and teaching.

Central to our approach to improvement is our commitment to **continuing professional development** of our staff, our priorities for the year were informed by our Improvement Plan and a significant proportion of our time was allocated to staff to implement the S1/2 curriculum and to develop the S3 curriculum. This time included the two additional Closure Days.

At our Closure Day in February on Sharing Good Practice, staff had the opportunity to demonstrate their faculty's S2 enrichment experience and share the pupil experience of other faculties.

At our November Closure Day we provided further training and support in Restorative Approaches through a series of workshops. One workshop was in the form of a play presented by S6 pupils. Staff had to 'stop the action' and suggest more restorative ways of working. Evaluations for the day were extremely positive and informed future developments as we move to being a restorative school.

Our popular school-based programme continues to expand. New courses, which were well received, focused on developing leadership skills at all levels. A well-attended Behaviour Management Group ran very successfully throughout the session. A session on Communicating with Parents resulted in the completion of guidance for staff being added to our Staff Handbook. Staff also had the opportunity to relax at a Samba Band session and to hone their skills at Artisan Baking.

Throughout the year, all faculties have been represented at National and SQA courses related to understanding standards. Pupil Services and support staff have participated in courses relating to Child Protection, Self Harm and Improving Resilience. Pupil Support Assistants have completed training in Moving On. Additional Support Needs staff have attended courses in Troubling Behaviour and Handling Young People.

Our Librarian and another member of staff delivered a training session on Glow to Fife Primary and Secondary teachers. Supported by Learning and Teaching Scotland, staff across all faculties have been trained as mentors in Glow. Increasingly we are seeing the impact of this training on learning experiences in our classrooms.

Our admin team have continued to induct new staff and keep up-to-date with new developments in e1.

The school has supported a number of students and probationers. Evaluation of their experiences are testament to the commitment of our staff to provide a stimulating, supportive and enjoyable placement.

Congratulations go to two of our Curriculum Leaders, Grant McAllister and Susan Moffatt, who have been accepted on the Flexible Route to Headship training programme. Mr McAllister is also one of the leaders of the Fife Science Milestones working group.

Another of our Curriculum Leaders, Graham Dick, was sponsored by Learning and Teaching Scotland on a three-day visit to explore the way Stockholm technological education is delivered in Sweden and its relevance to curricular developments in Scotland.

Reflecting changes in the curriculum and a reviewed emphasis on Health and Wellbeing, three members of staff have trained as Trek Leaders and one has qualified as a Forest School Leader.

Over the next three years we are committed to developing all our staff as leaders of learning. We have further engaged with our Primary colleagues to not only participate, but also to contribute to our school-based programme of CPD. There will also be a renewed emphasis on sharing good practice and working collaboratively on learning and teaching methodologies.

Wider Achievements

The following, taken from Faculty Standard and Quality Reports, reflects some of the wider achievements of Bell Baxter pupils.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS

- ▶ Senior Personal and Vocational Group made a presentation to all year group Assemblies about their trip to Iceland.
- ▶ A Japanese disaster fund raiser included Sushi tasting with all proceeds going to The Red Cross.
- ▶ Senior DAS group successfully participated in Ethos of Work programme.
- ▶ Pupils participated in a Residential experience on the Island of Eigg as part of John Muir Awards Trust Scheme.

ENGLISH

- ▶ A strong focus on the importance of reading has been developed through continuing the personal Reading Programme in S1 and S2 with many pupils achieving Bronze, Silver and Gold awards; and the Royal Mail Book Award.
- ▶ S2 pupils have had the unique experience of taking part in the Scottish Book Trust and BBC live author webcasts on six occasions throughout the year.
- ▶ Pupils taking our English and Teenage Fiction Enrichment also had the chance to visit The Fife Author Festival to attend a workshop with Michael Grant – one of the authors they were studying.
- ▶ The Bell Baxter Book Award which encourages critical reading, for S3 pupils, moved into its third year. We maintained links with writer Keith Gray, as our patron, who launched this year's Award and also provided two inspiring creative writing workshops. The Award this year was also supported by Waterstone's in St Andrews, The Parent Council and FP Association and JEM Computing, Cupar. Chae Strathie (children's author) was present when the winner was announced.
- ▶ World Book Day was also celebrated with a community event Book Giveaway. In all of the above the central role of the Library Resource Centre is acknowledged.
- ▶ The theme of this year's National Poetry Day "Home" was celebrated with an "At Home" in the conference room for all pupils and staff. All guests were treated to tea, cakes and poetry and wrote a quotation or an original piece of poetry on a "brick" which was used to build the poetry "Home".
- ▶ Mrs Livingstone's Burns' Club went from strength to strength, with pupils from S1 to S6 competing at Fife and National levels, and achieving great success.
- ▶ In January, Mrs Livingstone and Mr Thomson of the Social Studies Faculty were responsible for the first Bell Baxter Burns' Supper for many years. Pupils were responsible for all parts of the organisation of the event from designing tickets, waiting at tables and of course performing.
- ▶ Mrs Kerr's S1 class took part in the Courier Front Page competition and was awarded second place winning £500 for the school. The pupils wrote and designed a unique front page, using an interview with Dundee Rep actress and former pupil Helen Darbyshire as the headline story.

- ▶ Our S6 Publicity Group run by Mrs Martin and Mrs McIntyre continue to contribute to the local paper in the Bell Baxter Diary.
- ▶ Our collaborative S1 Fairtrade project ensures that our pupils gain insight and understanding of the experiences of others in our world and the part they can play in improving those experiences.
- ▶ To support the study of literature in S5/S6, theatre trips to Dundee Rep to see “Talking Heads” and “A View from the Bridge” at the Lyceum, enhanced pupils’ understanding of the texts.
- ▶ Ms Stuarts’ S1 Literacy Group organised a quiz for all S1 pupils in which their learning in all areas was tested. All Faculties contributed questions with a literacy focus to the “Extreme Team Challenge”, and pupils gained House points.

EXPRESSIVE ARTS

A key focus in Expressive Arts this session has been the preparation for a production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. Director, Mr Richard Robb, and Musical Director, Miss Jillian Spence, have worked with a cast drawn from S2-S6 pupils. Mr James Kidd has choreographed movement for the show, and Mrs Kirsty Simcock is ‘on the book’. As I write this, the cast are holding a weekend rehearsal to fine tune the different elements and bring the show together. We wish them every success and are looking forward to seeing the mysterious plant that has been gradually taking over Mr Robb’s room as the summer goes by (I think it has been flourishing in the wet weather). Thank you to retired art teachers Mr Harry Johnston and Mr Bill McSeveney for help with the design and execution.

As usual, however, there have been many other productions and a large number of ‘friends and family’ have come into Bell Baxter to enjoy drama performances. Six different S4 productions took place over evenings between September and February and between them involved over 100 pupils as performers. Two Higher Drama and one Advanced Higher Drama class also gave evening performances of their Investigative and Devised pieces, and this involved around 50 pupils. Many of these productions were very ably supported by S6 technical teams. Particular thanks to David Rees, Jamie Blair, Sam Hardie, and Sophie Bartholomew for all the work they put in to support pupils lower down the school and their drama teachers.

In October, Ms Kate McGladdery directed ‘*Much Ado about Nothing*’ at The Byre Theatre, St Andrews, as part of the Schools’ Shakespeare Festival. Her production was widely acclaimed as distilling the meaning of the play in an entertaining way. Her young cast clearly had a thorough understanding of the words and meaning, and Ms McGladdery, along with co-director Mr James Kidd, succeeded in bringing Shakespeare to life for cast and audience.

A slightly different audience very much enjoyed a production directed by Mrs Kirsty Simcock. Her audience was her colleagues – all of the teachers at Bell Baxter watched the piece devised and rehearsed with her S5/S6 drama performance class about how **not** to deal with behaviour management issues! All of the pupils were involved in deciding how the issues would be portrayed, but particular mention must be made of S6 pupil Lyndsey O’Donnell, who played a key part in directing the performance. Lyndsey will be going on to study Drama at Napier University next year. There was a clear focus on humour in the production, but the question and answer sessions afterwards clarified for

teachers how even small things can influence the outcomes and behaviours we see in the classroom. It was also interesting that the senior pupils who took part said that they had gained from seeing things from the teacher's point of view. All agreed the job was much harder than it looked.

Pupils were also involved in making two films this year. The first was a reflection of their S6 experience and will form a valuable memento of this key year for them. The second film reached a slightly larger audience: the famous S6 flash mob that swept the world and even ended up on the BBC 9 o'clock news! Sophie Bartholomew, who played a key part in making both films, is studying Media at Dundee University next year.

There were two major drama trips this session. Mr James Kidd again led the trip to enjoy London's theatre world last June, while Mr Eddie Gaines and Ms Kate McGladdery organised a week-long visit to Italy in the Easter holidays, with pupils taking part in drama workshops in the idyllic setting of Lake Garda. They had a number of excursions to places associated with the theatre, and even got to see Juliet's balcony.

There was as usual, an extensive programme of evening trips to theatres in Edinburgh, Dundee, Glasgow and Glenrothes. These trips are organised to support Standard Grade and SQA National Qualifications courses, and to add to the cultural experiences of pupils in drama. Around 300 pupils have enjoyed such plays as *Black Watch* (twice, by popular demand), *Monster in the Hall*, *Beautiful Burnout*, *Sunshine on Leith*, and *The Cherry Orchard*. S2 pupils also had the option of spending a day on workshops at The Festival Theatre Edinburgh before watching an evening production of *Peter Pan*.

Art and Design pupils were also out and about, experiencing Scotland's culture. One-hundred-and-twenty-six S3 pupils over three days visited the gallery of Modern Art and the Dean Gallery Edinburgh where they had an opportunity to see a whole range of contemporary art for themselves. Mr Alan Watson organised the visit, which allows pupils to prepare for their Standard Grade critical response assignment for their SQA presentation.

Pupils really enjoy seeing the wide variety of work on show ranging from land art, and numerous installations to paintings, sculptures and prints of all shapes and sizes. The enthusiasm, good manners and hard work of Bell Baxter pupils was enthusiastically commented on by visitors and Gallery staff. They were all a credit to the school and themselves.

Miss Helen Silvera organised our annual Sculpture Day at Kellie Castle in Arncroach. Ms Susan Forbes accompanied our 14 S3 participants to the wonderful educational facilities of the late Sir Hew Lorimer's Studio there, working with professional sculptor, Kenny Munro, on large-scale portrait clay heads. The National Trust for Scotland runs this venture, offering Bell Baxter, Waid and Madras a day each to enjoy workshops in these glorious surroundings.

Very relevant to Curriculum for Excellence, this allows our youngsters to work as a team, albeit on individual pieces, outwith the school setting in a studio-workshop environment with a professional practitioner.

A popular new enterprise this year was a lunchtime club for S1-S4 pupils led by Ms Susan Forbes and Miss Gillian McLaren. They used recycled materials to create new fashion, and the designs were showcased at the Bell Baxter Enterprise group's fashion

show. Pupils also had to set up fashion photoshoots, and the photographs were published in the local papers.

At this stage in the session to date, from Mr Alan Watson's Portfolio Building for Art College S6 course, we have heard of the following successes so far:

Caitlin Bain: Interior design at Napier University

Janet Cameron: Foundation Studies for Art at Duncan of Jordanstone College, Dundee

Rebecca McLachlan: Foundation Studies for Art at Grays School of Art, Aberdeen

Amy McLauchlan: Film and Media Studies at Stirling University

This session began with a very exciting new initiative in Music. At the end of August we had a visit from the Pipers Trail which is a community engagement project run by the army in Scotland. The morning began with an introduction and live performance of the Bagpipes and Drums which was enjoyed by various pupils from S1-S6. Following this presentation pupils attended workshops for side/tenor drumming and chanter. These workshops allowed pupils to experience Scottish culture and the instruments. Pupils learned various skills including stick control technique, drum rolls and paradiddle exercises and fingering for the notes of a scale on the chanter.

This experience was enjoyed by all who took part.

We again have many young people representing Bell Baxter in Fife Youth Orchestra, Youth Training Orchestra, Youth String Orchestra, Schools' Orchestra, Youth Wind Band, and Schools' Wind Band. These pupils show excellent commitment and responsibility, not only for the public concerts throughout Fife, Edinburgh and Glasgow, but also to the preparation, practice and training courses beforehand. On Saturday, 4th September, 19 pupils from Bell Baxter joined pupils from other Fife schools for another of their summer concerts. There were two concerts, both taking place at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow. The lunchtime concert was given by Kingdom Fiddlers, Fife Youth Concert Band, Fife Youth String Orchestra and Fife Youth Percussion Ensemble. The evening concert was performed by the Fife Youth Orchestra conducted by Graeme Wilson and four of Bell Baxter's pupils were sections leaders within the orchestra. The standard of performance at both concerts was excellent and they were enjoyed by all.

We Will Remember

On Thursday, 11th November three pupils joined with members of the community in a service of Remembrance in the gardens of St John's church. David Anderson, Adam Bates-Gray and Cameron Thomson-Duncan played their part in the act of remembrance by performing 'The Last Post' and 'Reveille' following the two minute silence.

On Sunday, 14th November pupils again joined with members of the community in the Haugh Park for a service of Remembrance. The Brass Ensemble, led by Brass Teacher, Mr James Chamberlain, led people in the 'National Anthem' and 'The Lord's My Shepherd'. Following the two-minute silence Adam Bates-Gray and Cameron Thomson-Duncan again performed 'The Last Post' and 'Reveille'.

The annual Fife Festival of Music took place from the 1st - 11th February and this year proved to be another successful year for our musicians. Over thirty pupils took part throughout the Festival, performing as soloists, duets and ensembles.

The String Orchestra, conducted by Mrs April Randall, retained the Secondary School String Orchestras trophy for the fourth consecutive year. Calum Whytock (S6) and Magnus More (S6) received the trophy on behalf of the orchestra. Despite tough competition, the String Ensemble also won their ensemble class.

There was also success for pupils in individual classes:

Catriona Boardman (S5) (Advanced Brass on Baritone), James Lind (S3) (Intermediate Solo Guitar), Callum Simpson (S2) (Elementary Solo Guitar), Brogan Sinclair (S5) (Woodwind Advanced on Clarinet), Lewis White (S5) (Advanced Solo Guitar).

Throughout the week the high standard of musicianship associated with Bell Baxter was both demonstrated by all performers and was recognised at the Fife Festival. Congratulations to all pupils for their hard work and excellent achievements.

The Bell Baxter Dance Band, which is led by Miss Joyce Hutchison, travelled to St Monans on Saturday, 5th February to perform at the village's annual "Senior Citizen's Tea." The band was very well received by a large audience who enjoyed tapping their feet to the music. S1 pupil Kyle Innes delighted the audience with a selection of well known Scottish pieces on the accordion.

On Thursday, 24th February several pupils took part in the Burns Competition and again performed to an excellent standard winning 7 medals. There were three music categories:

Vocalists:
1st Anna Whytock (S4)
2nd Ailsa Winter (S2)
3rd Sammi Denholm (S2)

Instrumentalists:
1st Claire Henderson (S4) Violin
2nd Margaret Mellon (S5) Violin
3rd Kyle Innes (S1) Accordion

Piper:
1st Calum Winter (S5)

Three S4 pupils, Claire Henderson, Anna Whytock and Scott Murray joined pupils at Kilmarnock and performed for them at their annual Burns' Supper on 1st February.

Music was also delighted to receive the donation of an accordion from Mr D Pullar, a collector and performer of the accordion. Pupils of the Scottish Country Dance took part in a master class directed by Mr Bruce Lindsay, who performed with Sir Jimmy Shand. It was a wonderful opportunity for both staff and pupils and we hope to continue this partnership in the future which will include trips to Windygates to take part in further Scottish Music workshops/sessions.

Musicians from Bell Baxter also did extremely well at this year's Centenary Competition. The competition between Bell Baxter, Madras College and Waid Academy took place at the end of March at Waid Academy, Anstruther. Well done to Fiona Cuthill (S6) Claire Henderson (S4) and Lewis White (S5) on their outstanding performances and special congratulations go to Fiona Cuthill who won and also to Claire Henderson who was awarded second place. Fiona was presented with her prize by Miss M Dymock, the founder of the competition.

Congratulations also go to Claire, who has been awarded a place in the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland Academy and the Edinburgh Youth Orchestra.

The Assembly Hall was alive with the "Sound of Music" on 30th March with our annual Spring Concert. Over 100 pupils (S1-S6) took part in providing the evening's entertainment with a wide variety of performances, including Junior and Senior String Orchestra, Junior and Senior Wind Band, Dance Band, Scottish Country Dance Band, Rock Band, Guitar Ensemble, plus many solo items. Congratulations to all performers on their excellent performances.

A large Bell Baxter support, all dressed as cowboys and pirates, travelled to the Rothes Halls on Thursday, 28th April for the annual Fife Schools' Rock Band Competition.

Bell Baxter was represented by "Ginge and the Red Neck Honky Tonks," (Calum Barclay, Innes Christie, Jordan Maciver, Callum Rearie, David Rees, and Calum Whytock) The band, also dressed as cowboys and pirates, played a mixed programme of cover versions and two of the band's original songs. Well done to the band on an excellent performance and congratulations to Jordan Maciver and Calum Whytock who shared the prize of 'Best Guitarist'.

As we moved into May, and senior pupils focused on their SQA examinations, S1/S2 pupils had the opportunity to take part in a new music initiative, DJ Mixing. These workshops were led by Ben McCluskey. The ASN Department also took part in a ukulele workshop provided by Norma Gourlay and Billy Muir from 'Music in Print' in Dundee.

Teachers across the Expressive Arts would like to thank all our community partners, including the many parents, carers and friends, who have supported our work with young people at Bell Baxter. As teachers, we are all committed to the work we do to support the wider achievements of pupils across the faculty. However, we could not do it without you!

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Home Economics

- ▶ Thirty S3 pupils have been involved in the 'Future Chef' competition and three pupils will be selected to work with Elmwood in the next stage of the competition.

Sports Results

▶ Athletics

Fife Schools' Cross Country Championships

Bronze S4-6 Girls (Sarah Dawson, Lucy Duff, Kirsty Orr, Emma Logan)

Fife Schools' Multi-Event Championships

Gold Ross McFarlane (S1 Boys)

Gold Emma Logan (Senior Girls)

Silver Shannon Almond (S1 Girls)

Silver Harry Winter (S3 Boys)

Bronze Natalie Guy (S3 Girls)

The Bell Baxter Boys' Team won the C & G Shield for the Best School and the Girls' Team were one point away from winning the equivalent Girls Shield.

Fife Schools' Track and Field Championships

Gold Emma Logan ('A' Girls Discus)

Gold Ross McFarlane (S1 Boys' 70m Hurdles)

Gold Ewan Simpson ('B' Boys' High Jump)

Gold Ross Hunter ('A' Boys' High Jump)

Gold	Ross Hunter ('A' Boys' Javelin)
Gold	Shannon Almond (S1 Girls' 200m)
Gold	Group A Girls' Relay
Gold	S1 Boys' Relay
Gold	Group C Boys' Relay
Silver	Emma Logan (Girls' 200m)
Silver	Ross McFarlane (S1 Boys' 200m)
Silver	Kai Francis (S1 Boys' Shot)
Silver	Mark McNair ('C' Boys' High Jump)
Silver	Cameron Thomson-Duncan ('A' Boys' 100m)
Silver	Cameron Thomson-Duncan ('A' Boys' 200m)
Silver	Natalie Guy ('B' Girls' Long Jump)
Bronze	Ross Hunter ('A' Boys' 400m)
Bronze	Shannon Almond (S1 Girls' 70m Hurdles)
Bronze	Rebecca Workmaster ('B' Girls' Discus)
Bronze	Fiona Cooper ('B' Girls' Javelin)
Bronze	Keiran Bremner ('C' Boys' 200m)
Bronze	Callum Stuart ('C' Boys' Shot)
Bronze	Callum Stuart ('C' Boys' Discus)
Bronze	Jill Geyer ('B' girls' 200m)
Bronze	Group C Girls' Relay

Scottish Schools' Under-15 Inter-Area Championships

Three Bell Baxter pupils were selected to represent Fife at these Championships.

They were:

Keiran Bremner (100m Relay) , Mark McNair (High Jump) and Callum Stuart (Shot, Discus)

Congratulations to Keiran and Mark who both achieved Personal Best performances.

▶ ***Badminton***

The Badminton Club ran weekly on Thursday after school and due to its popularity a Monday lunchtime club was started. The club regularly had around 40 pupils attending from all year groups. Twenty-two pupils competed at the Fife Schools' Championships where Bell Baxter won one gold and four silver medals. Victoria Baird and Fiona Cooper beat Jennifer Patrick and Caitlin Brown in an all Bell Baxter final, whilst Liam San Roman won three silver medals for boys' singles, boy's doubles with Murdo Sinclair and mixed doubles with Caitlin Brown.

▶ ***Curling***

The school team was entered in the Hay Trophy at Perth Rink and played extremely well to finish in 3rd place.

▶ ***Dance***

The Junior Dance Club has run all year on Thursday lunchtimes and has been attended by over 30 pupils on a regular basis. They performed at year group assemblies a dance choreographed by the Dance Captains. Some senior pupils (boys and girls) joined them in their next two performances at the school's Burns Supper in January and at Kilmarnock School. They performed a contemporary Scottish dance to help raise money for the café at the Adamson Hospital in Cupar. Both dances were performed at the Fife Schools' Creative Dance Festival at the Rothes Halls in Glenrothes in March.

▶ ***East Fife Council Sports Awards***

James McKeown (S3) and Mhairi Roberts (S4) well deserved winners at the Ceremony.

James won the Junior (under-16) category for his outstanding achievements in Kayaking. Mhairi was part of the Tiggers Trampoline Club which won the Team of the Year category.

▶ ***Equestrian***

The school Equestrian Team performed admirably at the Scottish Schools' Equestrian Championships on Sunday, 8th May at Gleneagles. The 12-and-under team consisting of Louise Howat, Louise Finnie and Kelly Jack finished 5th in the overall combined event championship. The 14-and-under team of Sula Powell, Nicola Howat, Naomi Middleton and Katie Stenhouse also finished 5th. Each team was also the highest placed state school.

▶ ***Football***

Senior Football

As a result of some fine form, Bell Baxter finished as runners-up in their league section, with just one defeat, to eventual winners, Madras College.

The boys also reached the semi-finals of the Fife Cup, only losing out to Kirkland High School after a penalty shoot-out.

Team captain, Rory Kirkwood, was a regular in the Fife team which won its way to the final of the National Trophy. For the final itself, Bell Baxter's top goal scorer, John Nelson, joined Rory in the squad.

Girls' Football

The Girls' Football Club ran weekly on Wednesday after school and was attended by girls from S1-S6. The Club received coaching from a qualified SFA coach through the year.

Two S4 pupils, Jemma Corcoran and Mhairi Roberts, were selected after rigorous trials to represent the region at the Fife Olympiad in July.

▶ ***Golf***

Junior Boys' Handicap Champion: Gregor Bousie (69)

Runner-Up: Lorne Christie (71)

Senior Boys' Handicap Champion: Ian Dawson (67)

Runner-Up: Robbie Docherty (69)

Best Overall Scratch: John Nelson (77)

Runner-Up: Robbie Docherty (79))

Fife Schools' Junior Boys' Championships

The team of Lorne Christie, Gregor Bousie, Ben Storie, Glen Gardiner, produced some excellent performances to finish Runners-Up to St Leonards in the Team Handicap Competition by one stroke.

Fife Schools' Senior Boys' Championships

The team of Robbie Docherty, Ian Dawson, John Nelson and Ross Christie produced some superb golf to win the Team Handicap Competition and Robbie Docherty won the Individual Handicap by five shots.

▶ ***Hockey***

Congratulations to Megan Pass, Rachel Burgess and Nicola Howat who were selected for the Midlands Under-14 hockey squad after a very rigorous selection procedure lasting many weeks. Megan and Nicola were then selected to represent Midlands at the Inter-District Tournament.

▶ ***Rugby***

Congratulations to Angus Guthrie, Murdo McAndrew and Stephen Martin who were all selected to play for the Caledonia U-17 team in the Inter-District Tournament. Murdo has also been selected to attend the National U-17 Training Camp. Congratulations also to Cameron Fenton who was selected to play for the Caledonia U-16 team in the Inter-District tournament.

▶ ***Swimming***

Fife Schools' Swimming Championships

Gold Ross Hunter (100m Breaststroke)
 Ross Hunter (100m Freestyle)
 Ross Hunter (200m Freestyle)
 Owen Greene (100m Butterfly)
 Owen Greene (200m Butterfly)

Silver Kirsty Simpson (100m Backstroke)
 Kirsty Simpson (100m Freestyle)
 Kirsty Simpson (200m IM)
 Ruairidh Haig (200m Breaststroke)

Bronze Ruairidh Haig (100m Breaststroke)
 Owen Greene (100m Breaststroke)
 Ewan Simpson (100m Freestyle)

Scottish Schools' Swimming Championships

Gold Ross Hunter (17-19 yrs 100m Freestyle in a new PB of 54.32)
Silver Ewan Simpson (15-16 yrs 100m Freestyle)

International Selection

Ross Hunter (S5) was selected to be part of the Scottish Schools' Team for the Wise (4 Nations) Swimming International in Dublin from 25th - 27th March.

Kirsty Simpson (S3) has been selected to swim for the Scotland East/South Team at the UK School Games in Sheffield in September.

▶ ***Ultimate Frisbee***

Frankie Hill, Laura Geyer and Joanne Rearie were selected for the GB Under-20 team for the World Championships in Heilbronn Germany.

Caio Ledingham, Fraser Simpson and Jack Potter and Callum Rearie participated in the Strathclyde University Christmas Cone tournament with Caio and Jack finishing on the winning team and Caio receiving the MVP award. Caio also played with Abstract this year, a senior team of players based north of the Forth.

INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES AND CULTURE

- ▶ In July 2010 Brogan Sinclair set off on the trip of a lifetime to Beijing, China, as one of five Fife representatives on Learning and Teaching Scotland's Chinese Immersion course. Following an exacting selection process, Brogan was picked as one of fifty Scottish S5 and S6 pupils who were to participate in an intensive three-week programme of Chinese language and culture. She attended three hour Mandarin lessons each morning in the Beijing Foreign Studies University, usually followed by various culture classes such as calligraphy, tai chi and ancient Chinese painting. Excursions were organised which took in well known places such as the Great Wall, Tiananmen Square, The Forbidden City and the Beijing Olympic Stadium.
- ▶ Closer to home, 45 of our S5/S6 pupils went to a Multi-Lingual Debate at Heriot-Watt University. The event takes the form of a formal debate with two multilingual teams arguing for and against a motion of topical interest in a range of languages. The teams deliver their views in their various native languages (French, German, Spanish, English, Chinese, and Arabic) the undergraduate students showcase their interpreting skills. This year the motion debated was "This house believes that endangered languages should be kept alive at all costs". After the debate there was a chance for staff and pupils to ask questions and we were the only school where a pupil ventured a question in Spanish. It was a very enjoyable and informative event that really tested the pupils' linguistic skills.
- ▶ This year, the faculty has organised a few challenges to provide a wide range of achievement opportunities for our pupils. Our S1 pupils enjoyed our poetry competition in French and German, with a selection of poems by Jacques Prévert, Paul Fort and Heinrich Heine. Our department also organised a dictation competition, a vocabulary challenge contest and a presentation award for the best jotter for our S1 pupils. The languages faculty was also represented in the S1 Extreme Challenge Competition, organised by the Literacy Group of the school.
- ▶ Another new initiative that has links with the faculty of International Languages and Culture is the school's Interact Club. Interact is Rotary International's service club for young people ages 12 to 18. As one of the most significant and fastest-growing programmes of Rotary service, with more than 10,700 clubs in 109 countries and geographical areas, Interact has become a worldwide phenomenon. The new Bell Baxter Interact Club is sponsored by the Howe of Fife Rotary club, with Mrs Moffatt as the school facilitator.
- ▶ Each year Interact clubs complete at least two community service projects, one of which furthers international understanding and goodwill. Through these efforts Interactors develop a network of friendships with local and overseas clubs and learn the importance of:
 - ▶ *Developing leadership skills and personal integrity*
 - ▶ *Demonstrating helpfulness and respect for others*
 - ▶ *Understanding the value of individual responsibility and hard work*
 - ▶ *Advancing international understanding and goodwill*
- ▶ *Although the Bell Baxter Interact Club was only chartered in March, they have already started working locally on a project involving Ceres Primary School Nature Garden and have made plans for an international project which will start after the summer holidays.*

- ▶ Finally, Mrs High created a French drama club which put together a play called 'Café de Paris'. A group of S2 pupils entered the nationwide French drama competition for Scottish Schools - Les Rencontres Théâtrales - organised by the Institut Français d'Ecosse. The pupils travelled to Edinburgh for the competition and were delighted to win the prize for 'meilleure mise en scene' (best staging). Congratulations to them all!

LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTRE

- ▶ Miss Doig alongside Mr Lamb is organising an overseas expedition to Peru in 2012. Both staff also manage the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.
- ▶ Miss Doig was a group leader in our Sponsored Walk during Health Week.
- ▶ Miss Doig is also supporting the Senior Phase Physical Activity Programme by offering self defence classes.
- ▶ The LRC plays a central role in supporting learning and the promotion of wider achievement across the school.

MATHEMATICS

- ▶ **Senior UK Maths Challenge**
 Gold Certificate: Catriona McBride (best in school)
 Silver Certificate: Magnus More, Iain Anderson, Jessica Bennett, Angus Macgregor.
 Bronze Certificate: Robert Paisley, Callum Rearie, Jack Potter, Chris Wilson, Gregor Strang, Penny-May Johnston, Jenifer Southcott, Yvonne Howat.

UK Senior Maths Challenge had over 65,000 entrants with the top 6% receiving gold, the next 13% silver and the next 21% bronze.

- ▶ **Intermediate UK Maths Challenge**
 Gold Certificate: Norman Macgregor (best in school) S3, and Hannah Greenlees S4.
 Silver Certificate: Scott Smith, Abby Spowart, Greg Douglas, Claire Henderson, Holly Jones, Mhairi Roberts, Kirsty Orr, Catherine Brearley, Anna Whytock, Scott Wilkie (all S4) and Kenneth Thomson-Duncan, Liam Turner and Aidan Walker (all S3)
 Bronze Certificate: Nicola Howat (2.12), Samantha Sloan (2.16), Calum Heggie (2.05), Jack Tufft (2.04), Euan Robertson (2.15), Sarah O'Donnell (2.10), Liam San Roman (2.02), Sean Morgan (2.07), Alex Strachan (2.02), Kieran Brough (2.07), Jack Richardson (2.15), Chloe Rawcliffe (2.01), David O'Connor (1.10), Robin Shears (1.06), Angus Evans (1.04), Ben Guthrie (1.09).

- ▶ **UK Team Challenge at Edinburgh University**

The school was represented by two teams:

S1/S2 Ben Guthrie, Christopher Cockburn, Eilidh Byer and Chloe Rawcliffe.

S5/S6 Lesley-Ann Collins, Andrew Steven, Tom Collins and Brogan Sinclair.

- ▶ Orienteering afternoon for all S1-S3 pupils over three days as part of the school's health promoting week.
- ▶ Pupil participation in Scrabble Club and Chess Club.
- ▶ Mr Wheadon organised a revised activities programme over three days for S1-S3

pupils.

- ▶ RAF visit to Standard Grade pupils - team building and problem solving.
- ▶ Babcock visit to S3 and S5 pupils - putting maths in a real life context.

RELIGIOUS MORAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL STUDIES

- ▶ India Experience 2011: Our fourth journey to India is scheduled for October 2011. Twenty-seven pupils have been getting ready by learning about Indian culture and religion and raising funds to support the trip and Indian charities. We are planning to visit Delhi, Bodhgaya, Varanasi, Agra, and Jaipur. Mrs Munro has organised the trip and will be accompanied by Mr Temby, Mr Robb (Drama) and Miss Melville (Pupil Support).
- ▶ Visit to Samye Ling Tibetan Buddhist Centre - 30 Higher and Intermediate 2 pupils visited the monastery in September 2009 to support their learning about Buddhism as a World Religion.
- ▶ James Gregory Lecturer visits - We have continued to benefit from visits by eminent speakers in the field of Science and Religion over the past year including Professor David Myers, and Professor Colin Humphries. The visits were shared between Madras College, St Leonard's School and Bell Baxter.
- ▶ Mosque trip - A group of second year pupils visited the Edinburgh Mosque to develop cross cultural understanding and a deeper understanding of the curriculum.
- ▶ Links have been established with St Andrews University Philosophy department which enrich our development of pupils' experiences at all levels.

SCIENCE

- ▶ Several S1 and S2s attended St Andrew's University's Saturday Science Masterclasses, and were assistants at the P7 open evening.
- ▶ A chemistry team entered 'Top of the Bench' competing against teams reaching the Fife Final.
- ▶ Some classes used video filming in lessons and this led to three teams. Two S6 teams entered the Planet Scicast competition and won best engineering video category and a special award category at an awards ceremony at the Royal Institution in London in July. They came second in the best overall video category.
- ▶ Following our success this session with two students reaching the Scottish Space School and one qualifying from there to reach the ten who visited NASA's Johnson Space Center, two S5 students have attended this year's Scottish Space School. We wait to hear how successful they have been.
- ▶ CSI Bell Baxter this year involved 45 S1 and S2 learners as peer tutors, mentors and technicians working with 200 P6/7 forensic investigators over six days. As ever evaluation from investigators and their teachers was extremely positive. This year's celebration event focused on rewarding the hard work of our S1/S2 learners with an amazing display and handling session in the school grounds with "Falconry Scotland" allowing those of us that dared a close encounter with Xena the Eagle Owl.

- ▶ The faculty is proud that so many of our members are selected to work for SQA and Learning and Teaching Scotland.

SOCIAL SUBJECTS

- ▶ Participation and individual prize for highest personal score in Fife School's History Competition – Ailsa Winter (S1)
- ▶ S2 pupils visited the Scottish Jacobite Exhibition in Edinburgh.
- ▶ Black Watch interactive talk to S4 pupils on impact of World War 1 on local community.
- ▶ Advanced Higher History pupils took part in lectures and seminars on Russian Revolution at Strathclyde University.
- ▶ St Andrews University students of international relations worked in school with S2 enrichment pupils on Middle East topic.
- ▶ Advanced Higher Modern Studies pupils visited Fife Drugs Court and Perth Prison.
- ▶ S3 Geography pupils participated in field work in Cupar town centre.
- ▶ S5/6 Travel & Tourism pupils visited St Andrews to visit attractions, interview tourists and observe the impact of tourism on the local area.
- ▶ Visiting speakers to classes included the Parole Board, SACRO, St Andrews University to name but a few.

ICT AND ENTERPRISE - TECHNOLOGIES

▶ *Young Enterprise*

The Young Enterprise Company Programme continues to be a popular choice for our senior cohort and this year we ran two companies - Ragbags and Inspire. The YE programme allows our youngsters to gain valuable experience of setting up and running their own company in school. They elect a board of directors from amongst their peers, raise share capital and market and finance a product or service of their own choice, in doing so learning about all aspects of business. This year our companies have provided a range of products and services to the school – a charity fashion show, bags made from re-cycled clothing and materials, football competitions, Christmas decorations, tea and coffee facilities for school events, an S1 welcome party and various other school events. All students have the opportunity to sit the University of Strathclyde's Young Enterprise exam and we are delighted to report that excellent results were achieved by all students who entered the examination this session and a special mention to one of our S6 girls, Georgina Rintoull, who received the highest mark in the exam across Scotland, an outstanding achievement!

The companies also get the chance to enter into local and national competitions and 17 teams from throughout Scotland will be competing against each other at the Scottish finals for the chance to win a place at the UK Company Programme finals. Our Ragbags Company, with the support from Mrs Mitchell, have made it through to the final, good luck!

▶ ***Stock Market Challenge***

A team of pupils from S3 Accounting and Finance/Business Management participated in the “Stock Market Challenge” held in the Bonar Hall, Dundee, in November competing against 24 schools from across three regions. The pressure was on, as our team from last year “wiped the floor” to win the coveted trophy. The team were given £15,000 to invest in the stock market game and ended the day with an investment portfolio of £56,000. We are delighted and proud to report that our team came first (again!) and retained the trophy - an outstanding result for our Bell Baxter financial whiz kids! The team comprised: Jamie Laing, Natalie Guy, Deniz Gunes, James Sedgwick and Kerry Johnstone.

▶ ***Arnold Clark Competition***

A new and exciting competition to design a storyboard for an Arnold Clark based computing game was launched in 2010. A team of four girls from S6 worked hard to create an innovative and artistic storyboard based on a minibus named “Arnie” touring around Scotland. The girls’ efforts were rewarded with a highly commended prize of £500 for the school and £100 each in vouchers. This was a tremendous achievement from the team and another example of the dedication and innovation of our young learners. Well done to Laura Geyer, Laura Colford, Sophie Bartholomew and Joanne Rearie.

CRAFT, DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

This session, a group of forty S3 pupils studying Craft and Design and Graphic Communication had the opportunity to participate in “Engineering for Life” workshops, organised and sponsored by the Institution of Civil Engineers. As well as taking part in activities putting technical knowledge into context, pupils were also able to explore potential careers.

Following an initial participation last session, CDT staff have helped in facilitating conservation workshops during the health promoting activities week. A number of pupils across S1, S2 and S3 used basic craft skills in the context of a large project to manufacture bird feeders for use in the school grounds. So positive has feedback been from both learners and teachers, that consideration is being given to how this work can be extended beyond this annual one-off arrangement.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME

Approximately 40 pupils are registered for the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

TRIPS ABROAD

October 2010:	French trip to Normandy and Paris
October 2010:	History Battlefield tour to Northern France and Belgium
October 2011:	Modern Studies planned trip to New York and Washington DC
Easter 2012:	International Language & Culture staff planned trip to Spain
Summer 2012:	The Librarian and a member of the English staff are leading 21 pupils in an overseas challenge expedition to Peru.

SCHOOL COLOURS

Seventy-nine pupils were awarded School Colours.

CHRISTMAS DANCES

Over 1,100 pupils attended our Christmas ceilidh dances.

CELEBRATION OF ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLIES

All year groups participate in Celebration of Achievement Assemblies which reflect achievements both in and out of school and pupil performances in dance and music.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Over 50 pupils have participated in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.