



TAIN ROYAL ACADEMY

ACADAMAIDH RÌOGHAIL BHAILE DHUBHTHAICH



Parents' Newsletter

Cuairtlitir

Volume 10 Issue 1

September 2010
An t-Sultain 2010

RECTOR'S COMMENT

I'd like to thank all parents and carers for your support for our sponsored walk. Our pupils benefit from the additional funds raised for our school fund. I will keep you updated as the funds are received.

Our S1 pupils are settling in well and are enjoying being part of TRA. Our focus this year is implementing Curriculum for Excellence in S1 and developing it for S2 and S3 for next year. Our staff are focussed on this development and are involved in development work with colleagues in our associated primary and special schools.

The Scottish Government has granted an additional In-service Day to be taken next term. TRA and its associated schools will take it on Tuesday 26 October. Please note that this is now additional to the already scheduled Inset Day on Monday 25 October, immediately after the October break.

Many of you will have noticed the work which has been taking place in TRACC over the summer. This is almost complete and will result in improved lighting in the car park, disabled bays, along with a new reception, toilet and changing areas with a disabled hoist for the pool.

Donnie Macleod, Rector

PLEASE NOTE: parents/carers

In the interests of health and safety, parents/carers are requested not to enter the school car parks when dropping off or picking up children. In addition parents/carers should exercise care when parking in Scotsburn road to pick up children at 3.40pm.

Finally could parents/carers please ensure that all children are advised to use the underpass at the A9 and not cross the road itself.

OCTOBER HOLIDAY 2010

school closes Friday 8 October

Inset Days-Monday/Tuesday 25/26 October

School re-opens for pupils
Wednesday 27 October

TRA Parent Council

The AGM of the parent Council was held on 16th Sept - thanks to all those who attended and a warm welcome to the new S1 parents who came. We currently have 16 parent members of the Parent Council. All parents/carers are automatically in the Parent Forum and entitled to attend meetings, and to volunteer to become parent councillors. Other members include the local councillors, teacher representatives and the school captains.

Meetings offer the chance to keep abreast of school development plans and to air any relevant issues with other parents and those in charge!

Issues discussed this time included mobile phone/social networking safety, lunches, school buses and proposals for the future of the dilapidated TRA buildings.

The social/fundraising side has taken a back seat recently whilst efforts were going into the Malawi Exchange fundraising. We are always looking for volunteers for this type of activity.

Of course the meeting could not finish without an expression of thanks to Paul Hoggarth for the fantastic work he has done as Chairman of the Parent Council since it was set up, and of the School Board before the changeover.

We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting to be held on Wed 17th November, 7pm, Room 6, just to the left of the main

Caroline Hurren

SPONSORED EVENTS

Friday 10th of September was the day of the sponsored walk and thankfully the weather had stayed reasonably dry for the week leading up to the walk. It did rain a bit in the morning but by the time the walk was underway the weather turned out to be great.



Mr McCaffery from the local constabulary joined us again for the walk and enjoyed himself.

The marshals did a grand job of making sure the other pupils from the school were going in the correct direction and not getting lost.



The staff deserve thanks as well for completing the walk with a spring in their step and a smile on their face and making sure it went well (as well as picking up all of the litter!)

There was also the Sponsored Read-In which was well adhered to and enjoyed by those who took part.

The sponsored walk and read-in is a major source of income for the school in financing many of the extra curricular activities in the school and we greatly appreciate sponsorship of the pupils' families and friends for this.

Mark Jones, Acting Depute Rector

SCOTTISH OPERA WORKSHOP

On Thursday 9th September a group of S4 -S6 pupils from Tain along with pupils from Dornoch Academy, Invergordon Academy and Fortrose Academy enjoyed a workshop in the company of members from Scottish Opera in TRA Assembly Hall.

The workshop was based round the opera 'Carmen' by Bizet. Those attending the workshop were treated to hearing two members of the cast singing arias from the opera. Also, they learned a bit about producing an opera and helped set a scene. This included joining in and acting out a scene which was most enjoyable. Some of the costumes were on display and the workshop ended with a rousing 'Toreador' being sung by all present.

The workshop was a great success and all present not only enjoyed the time but learn a lot about all aspects of theatre.

*Mairi Mackenzie,
Music Department*

FORMER PUPILS

We often hear, informally, of former pupils' achievements in further study, the world of work and in the community at home and abroad. Such endeavours can be highly motivating and offer a real focus for our current pupils. If you are aware of any news in this regard, please contact the school.

Graduations

Graeme Tennent University of Glasgow
BSc

Oliver Warburton Heriot Watt University
BSc Mathematics

Marcus MacIver Heriot Watt University
MA Accountancy and Finance

Kevin Morrison Heriot Watt University
MEng Structural Engineering

Jonathan Ross Heriot Watt University
BSc Planning & Property Development

Christopher Rodgers University of Aberdeen
MA (Hons) Accountancy

MALAWI FUNDRAISING EVENTS

TRA School Fete



The Malawi Exchange fund was considerably boosted by the TRA Fete held on June 26th. Ms Harpham had put together an excellent event with great support from the staff of the school.

The school's assembly hall was packed with a great variety of stalls such as bric-a-brac, baking, crafts, face-painting etc. Mr Cairncross of the Art Department was even on hand to sketch portraits, while outside in the sun hot dogs and burgers were on sale, cooked by A & I Quality Butcher of Inverness.



Guessing the weight of the cake (baked specially for the occasion) and guessing the name of the elephant were popular as was a fiendishly difficult electric buzzer challenge.

A great deal of hard work by many people went into the event, both on the day and in the days leading up to it. The final total for the sum raised was an excellent £831. We are extremely grateful for all the effort put in towards our project.

Etape

My big adventure this summer was participating in the organised cycle event called the Etape du Tour. This is a ride for amateurs following a mountain stage of the Tour de France a few days before the professionals do it.

This year's route was in the Pyrenees, from Pau, over the Col de Marie Blanque, the Col du Soulor and finishing on the Col du Tourmalet.

There were ten thousand entrants of whom 6,888 finished. I came in 6,347th - not a record-breaking ride, but I was delighted to complete the event. I managed to survive the heat (my thermometer recorded 36C), avoid the "broom wagon" which sweeps up those who don't meet cut-off times and have an absolutely superb, truly unforgettable day.



MALAWI EXCHANGE

Since last November we have been fund-raising for our exchange with the Ekwendeni Community Day Secondary School in Malawi. On Monday 27th Sept the Tain group set off on the first leg of the exchange. A group of eight pupils travel with three teachers on a trip lasting three weeks.

The group is looking forward to meeting the ECDSS staff and students and it will be good to meet up again with Mr Mtete, head teacher of the school, who visited TRA in May last year.

Pupils will report back on their experiences next term.

Angus Gray, Depute Rector

TRA Physics goes to CERN

Mr Bremner drove us in the minibus to Inverness; we didn't have a lot of luggage because we knew there would be lots of walking and carrying. There would be lots of changes from one transport system to another. The next bit of our journey was by Megabus to London.

When we arrived in London in the early hours of the morning I was fed up of being cramped in a bus for 12 hours and was glad to get off it. The journey was awful and I don't recommend Megabus to London to anyone. After arriving we went and had breakfast in a café which went down well with everyone because we were all starving.

We then started the walk to the Science Museum via Hyde Park, it was a lovely place to sit and take in the sun, I found it strange sitting on grass with trees all around knowing I was in the middle of London. At about eleven we decided to continue on to the science museum, it was a huge building with many different sections inside it including: Flight, Agriculture and Space. It took a long time to just see a few parts of the building and I think it would be quite easy to get lost in there. I thoroughly enjoyed the visit to the science museum and would like to go back one day.

After that we went on the London underground to St Pancras station to catch a Eurostar to Paris, this high speed train was on a different level to the overcrowded bus. I would like to go back to London one day but not in the near future.



next day we went to the Arc de Triomphe, very hot and stunning views, then the Musee de Louvre and sat by the fountains. We didn't have time to go in, very hot and huge queues. But we did enjoy our lunch at a pavement café, with a small orchestra playing in the near distance, tres formidable!



The we got on the TGV, fast and very comfy, especially for the students in First Class (Mr & Ms Wright travelled 2nd class !). We arrived in Geneva late Sunday, the hostel wasn't on the map and all the tram lines seemed dug up! After an exciting bit of confusion we arrived at the hostel, again very comfy, very welcome beds.

Finally we got to CERN, the home of the LHC (Large Hadron collider) and the real aim of our trip. CERN was absolutely amazing, the huge scale of everything is hard to imagine. The ingenuity of the experiments and the presence of so many super-intelligent people leave you feeling that you have come to a special place and with such intelligence mankind can solve any problem. And that we really can find, what the LHC is designed to discover; the secrets that so far are hidden from science. One



We arrived in Paris on a very hot summer's evening, had quite a long walk to the Metro then arrived at a lovely little hotel 'Rue de la Felicete', where we were very comfy and pleased of our beds! The

via London, Paris and Geneva

part of the philosophy of CERN that really impressed us was that everything is made public, 'We have no secrets!' The level and precision of the engineering involved is that of the worlds best and really makes you want to be involved in this kind of work; if not here, then somewhere where engineering is at the cutting edge We all thought that Physicist Calum, had arrived at his natural



home and we wouldn't be able to tear him away! After a tour of the site including seeing many of the components of the collider we returned to Geneva. Unfortunately when the collider is running you are not able to go down into the underground tunnels.



After CERN, we headed into Geneva itself for a tour of the United Nation's offices based there. The first sight of the UN was a huge wooden chair with a broken leg towering above almost everything. As well as being an astonishing artwork, the three legged chair symbolised the landmines and cluster bombs and it acts as a reminder to politicians in the UN building. Directly opposite the chair was the UN itself. There was a corridor of flags leading to

the Palais des Nations behind a very large, metal gate. After the very polite security guard explained that we were at the wrong gate and a brief walk, we came to the correct entrance to the UN offices for the tour. The first stop on the tour was the main chamber for the meetings. The massive room was split into four main areas: the middle of the lower level for the delegates, a stage, ground floor boxes for the translators and a first floor balcony that surrounded three sides of the hall for the public. While seated as delegates in the vast space, we were told about the UN as it is now such as the number of states (192 including all fully recognised independent states, apart from Vatican City) and the six official languages for the United Nations meetings (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish). We were then



guided further into the building and told some of the history of the League of Nations, the United Nations and the building and grounds. Despite not being allowed into the gardens, we could look out onto them to see some of the sculptures, artworks and, of course, the peacocks that are allowed to roam the grounds freely. Along most of the corridors were paintings and artworks that had been donated to the UN by member states. The most impressive of the donations were a tapestry of a temple from China where, wherever you stood, it looked like the door was in front of you and the ceiling of the Human Rights and Alliances of Civilisations Room, donated by Spain, which was covered in stalactites and painted with pigments from all over the world. It was absolutely incredible! The tour in general was great, and the information we learned about the history and politics was fascinating.

Cont/

Very early, Tuesday morning, back on TGV, back to Paris, onto the metro, a hugely crowded visit to the Tour Eiffel, again very hot. We boarded the Batobus for a trip along the Seine, which took us to Notre Dame - wonderful and highly recommended! We got time for shopping, in the Galleries Lafayette, the highlight of Paris for some of the girls! We thank Shona for the Paris itinerary and her ability to communicate in French! From Paris we reversed our journey via St Pancras to home.

Lachlan James & Tam Hardy

TRA SPORTS UPDATE

CONGRATULATIONS to S3 pupil John Allan who has been selected to represent North of Scotland Schools' Football Association in this season's Inter- Area Under 15 tournament. This is an excellent achievement by John as he was up against pupils from as far afield as Stornaway, Thurso, Banff and Fort William.

Their first game is against Angus and Fife at the beginning of October so we wish John all the best and we'll keep an eye on his progress and report on the match in next month's newsletter.

Mike Stainke

INTERHOUSE COMPETITION This year's competitions have got off to an exciting start with the Senior Boys' Football. For games have already been played and the scores so far are:

Duthus v Garrick 3 - 0
Morrich v Struy 1 - 1
Struy v Duthus 1 - 0
Morrich v Garrick 1 - 0

THIS YEAR'S EXTRA-CURRICULAR PE CLUBS

- Monday** Girls Fitness after school
- Tuesday** Badminton and Short Tennis at lunchtime
- Wed'day** S1/S2 Basketball at lunchtime
S1-S6 Rugby after school
S1-S6 Hockey at lunchtime
- Thursday** S1-S6 hockey at lunchtime
- Friday** Fun Friday - come along and do a variety of activities at lunchtime in any venue in the PE Department

Come along and give the activities a go. A great way to keep fit and socialise!

Nicki Dillon

Mrs and Mr Wright, the group leaders would like to add a huge thanks to Mr Iain Carlton who did much of the background preparatory work for the trip and much of the organisation. A thank you to Mr Bremner and parents who helped with transport to and from Inverness. And a special and very heartfelt thanks to the students on this trip for their friendly warm humour and company, a credit to themselves, the school and their homes; a wonderful trip; thank-you.

SENIOR BOYS FOOTBALL v DORNOCH ACADEMY

The senior boys football team got their 2010 campaign underway with a convincing win away to local rivals Dornoch. The conditions favoured neither team. However it was Tain that made the better start and got on top of the game early on, with Alasdair Mackintosh going close with a header that narrowly evaded the top corner. Tain's 'keeper Sean McCarthy was called into action on two occasions, making fine saves from two one-on-ones. That proved all he had to deal with in the first half as Tain replied with two quick fire goals through Joe Stainke and Donald Matheson. The tackles were now flying in and both sides were lucky not to receive cautions their way. Calum Macdonald and Alan Duff then went close from two corners in quick succession.

Tain began the second half the way they ended the first with Alasdair Mackintosh putting a glorious chance from eight yards wide of the post. Donald Matheson then got his second of the match with a fine individual effort. Joe Stainke also added to his goal in the first half with a close range effort. Dornoch didn't ever really look like posing a threat to the Tain goal in the second half and the game was ended as a contest with twenty minutes remaining as Ayah Rattanaphithak rifled in from 20 yards. The goal of the game was the final one in which substitute Nick Mein linked up with Alan Duff, playing a one-two around the Dornoch defence, and then Mein slotted in from eight yards out. The game finished 6-0 in Tain's favour, with the result never in doubt.

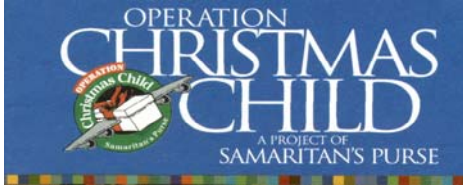
*Alan Duff,
S6 Sports Prefect*



GOLD DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

On 24 June 2010 six young people from the Highlands were presented with their Gold awards. **Calum Ross from Tain Royal Academy** was presented with his Award badge at a meeting of the Full Council by Convenor Sandy Park. Calum was an enthusiastic and motivated participant and he enjoyed attending the Scottish Space School Summer Camp as his residential project.

The Convenor congratulated the young people on their success and said, "to achieve a Gold Award takes a lot of hard work, time and commitment."



This year TRA are participating in the **Shoebox Appeal** for **Blythswood Care and Samaritans Purse.**

Your donations will fill shoeboxes for people who are victims of war, poverty and disease. If you would like to donate any of the items listed below could you please place it in the box (covered in Christmas paper) outside the school office or the HE Department. **You could make this a Happy Christmas for many people. Thank you!**

Toiletries-
soap
shampoo
shower gel
face cloth
sponge
roll-on deodorant
moisturising cream
moist wipes
brush/comb
shaving foam/razors
toothbrush
toothpaste

Clothing-
hat/cap
scarf
gloves
socks
tights
Toys
small toys eg
ball/tennis ball
small puzzle
car/truck etc
hair accessories
Jewellery
No stuffed toys

Stationery-
notepad
colouring book
pens
pencils
crayons
felt pens
pencil sharpener
rulers
erasers

Miscellaneous-
sewing equipment
household candles
screwdrivers/pliers
Sweets
'best before March 2010'
(NO CHOCOLATE)

DUE TO IMPORT REGULATIONS ALL GOODS SHOULD BE NEW OR NEARLY NEW - DO NOT INCLUDE CERTAIN ITEMS DUE TO CUSTOMS REGULATIONS eg chocolate, other edible items (crisps, biscuits, tins or cake), clothing (other than listed), glass or fragile items

Articles in **bold** are the basics which would be most useful. Thank you.



Tain and Easter Ross Ward Forum
Thursday 28 October 2010
in Fearn Village Hall from 7.30pm to 9.30pm
(refreshments from 7pm)

Topic: Planning - the Council's Role
and an update on the Highland wide Local development Plan

Members of the public are welcome to attend.
There is time set aside for questions from the public.

If you have an enquiry about your Forum; would like to submit questions in advance of the meeting; or have any special requirements/needs to help you take part, please contact Carol Elliot at Tain Service Point or by phoning 01349 886643 or by emailing carol.elliott@highland.gov.uk.

"working together to help each individual reach their potential"

SCHOOL CALENDAR - SESSION 2010/2011						
OPEN				CLOSE		
2010	Tuesday	17	August	Friday	8	October
2010	Wed'day	27	October	Thursday	23	December
2011	Monday	10	January	Friday	8	April
2001	Tuesday	26	April	Friday	1	July

NB - Good Friday 22 April 2011; Easter Monday 25 April 2011; May Day - Monday 2 May 2011

SCHOOL CALENDAR - SESSION 2011/2012						
OPEN				CLOSE		
2011	Tuesday	16	August	Friday	7	October
2011	Tuesday	25	October	Thursday	22	December
2012	Monday	9	January	Friday	30	March
2012	Tuesday	17	April	Friday	29	June

NB - Good Friday 6 April 2012; Easter Monday 9 April 2012; May Day - Monday 7 May 2012

TRA - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

27 September	S4 Parents' Evening
6 October	Hallowe'en Disco
25/26 October	INSET Days
2/3 November	Gaelic Debating Trip
9 November	S3 Parents' Evening
11 November	S1 Buddy Trip/Rollerbowl
17 November	HPV Vaccination S2 Girls
18 November	S5/6 Parents' Evening
22 November	S4 Prelims start
23/24 November	Gaelic Debate Trip
08 December	S4 Prelims finish
16 December	Christmas Concert
21 December	Junior Dance
22 December	Senior Dance
25 January	S4 Reports issued
26 January	S1 Parents' Evening



Welcome & Well Done

A big welcome and well done to Rachel Agnew, our new receptionist here at TRACC, and to Darren Houlston who was successful in securing a part-time Leisure Assistant post.

MONDAY	10.00 - 11.00	3rd Age Keep Fit Multi Purpose Hall
	18.30 - 19.30	Spinning Multi Purpose Hall (Places must be booked)
TUESDAY	18.30 - 19.30 & 19.30 - 20.30	Spinning Multi Purpose Hall (Places must be booked)
WEDNESDAY	18.00 - 19.00	Body Tone Small Gym
	19.00 - 19.45	Aqua Aerobics Swimming Pool
THURSDAY	10.00 - 11.00	Gentle Spinning Multi Purpose Hall (Places must be booked)
	18.30 - 19.30	Spinning Multi Purpose Hall (Places must be booked)
FRIDAY	10.00 - 11.00	Pilates Multi Purpose Hall

Please contact reception for a current swimming pool timetable



First Aid

We are currently looking into running various first aid courses. Please register any interest at reception.

Tain Amateur Swimming Club

Are you interested in Swimming, do you want to learn and train more? Contact a Supervisor at TRACC or the Swimming Club for more information.

Spinning Bikes

A big thank you to all who were involved in the sponsored cycle to raise funds for the purchase of our new spinning bikes, its great to have so much community support with things like this. Our classes are still as popular as ever and the new bikes have made such a difference.

High Life

The High Life Membership scheme allows you and your family to choose leisure options which suit your lifestyle and your pocket. Choose from our All Inclusive Membership, Budget Membership or Pay-As-You-Go Membership. We have something to suit everyone, contact us for further information.