

BALERNO COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

# BALERNO TIMES

*Rights  
Week 2022*



*Moana*

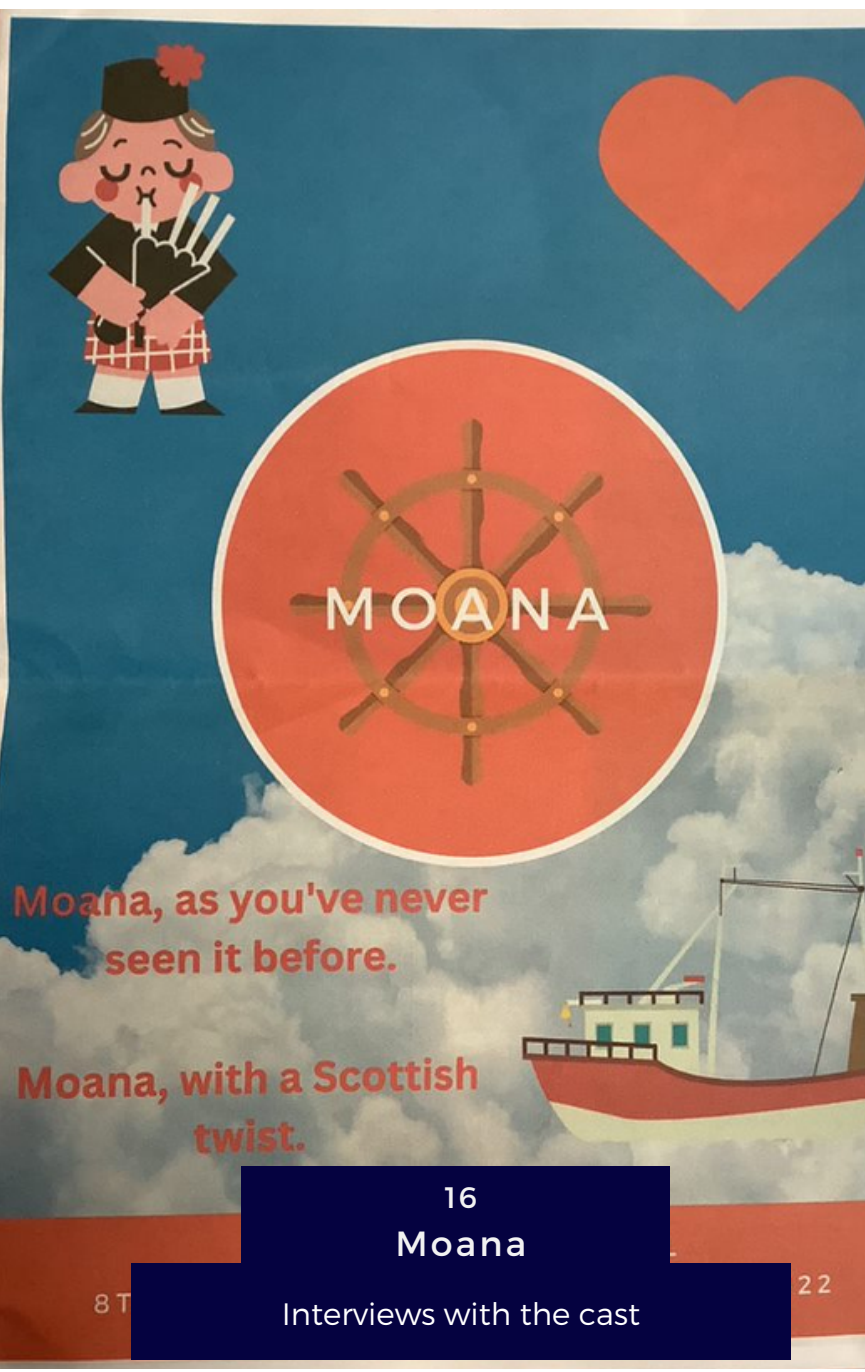
The Pacific Islands meet the Scottish Highlands!

**SCHOOL  
FOOTBALL**

**November and December Bumper Edition!**

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by Hans Crawshaw

## *Editor's Note*

Welcome to the School Magazine's November and December Bumper Edition.

This jam-packed issue includes a snapshot of some of the front runners of the much-anticipated Book Cover Door Challenge, as well as a wonderful piece on the Hindu festive season. But, don't worry! There's lots more to peak your interest: from tips and tricks for keeping calm and healthy during exam time, to recipes and reviews, as well as rundowns of the latest sports matches and achievements. There is something for everyone at Balerno to enjoy.

Plus, our feature article focuses on our very own hit show, 'Moana'! Check out our interviews with the cast, and, most importantly, get a glimpse of those show-stopping costumes.

We would like to thank and congratulate all of our contributors for their hard work in helping to put together this extended issue, particularly during such a busy time of the school year.

However you are spending the holidays, we hope you stay safe, relax and have fun. Happy reading!

*The Balerno Times Team*



# Rights Week



The 14th-18th of November was Balerno High School's first ever Rights Week! It was a week to celebrate diversity, education and children's rights across the world. The Rights Respecting Pupil Steering Group, the Equalities pupil team, the GSA group, and the Rights Respecting Schools Parent and Carer Forum all planned and ran lots of events and activities. Savannah, Gracie and Annerie spoke at the Wider Achievement Evening about the Rights Respecting Schools Award and here is a snippet about Rights Week from their talk:

**"The biggest project we have done so far this year is organising Rights Week which has been happening this week!"**

- We have organised a Clothes Swap Shop and Steps for Saving campaign to raise awareness of Child Labour and the work of International Justice Mission.
- Our climate change team arranged The Plastic Pledge to demand better plastic recycling in school and put more pressure on our representatives to make the changes we need to tackle climate change.
- The Article 2 hub has run every break and lunch time this week for anti-bullying week, show racism the red card and transgender awareness week. Our GSA group organised a question box for Transgender Awareness Week. Our Equalities team planned anti-bullying week wristbands and



**"I really enjoyed the clothes swap and the steps for saving campaign."**

bunting activities, a bake sale and thumbprint pledge for Show Racism the Red Card, and turned the Article 2 Hub blue for World Children's Day.

- We held our first ever pupil parliament forum meeting tomorrow to give pupils a say in decisions across the school.

Our seniors are working with the primary clusters on the UNICEF Outright campaign to promote better health care.

The RRSA group listened to Flora Alexander, chief of advocacy at UNICEF talk about all things advocacy and campaigning.

Our Parent Carer Forum organised a film screening at the Balerno Village Screen of award winning film Sonita about an Afghan refugee.

And finally, to end the week, we led the assembly on Friday for Kids Takeover for World Children's Day."



*"It made people aware about the different rights, about the difficulties that some children face in some parts of the world, like trafficking, child abuse, child labour, and more. I didn't know about IJM, and other organisations that help stop these issues, and that we can also be part of this mission by donating."*



# A look across the week:

## Monday



Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

- Book Week KAT quiz
- Book Suggestions
- DEAR
- Door Competition

@BalernoRRSA

## Tuesday



Governments must protect children from economic exploitation and work that is dangerous or might harm their health, development or education.

- KAT video on child labour
- Clothes Swap Shop (LRC at lunch)
- #StepsforSaving
- Sonita Film Screening

@BalernoRRSA

## Wednesday



Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full.

- KAT video on children's right to education
- World's Largest Lesson in Social Subjects classes
- Pupil Council Committee National Discussion Survey
- Wider Achievement Evening

@BalernoRRSA

## Thursday



Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously.

- Sign the Plastic Pledge in KAT
- Our first ever BHS Pupil Parliament Forum
- RRSA group talk with Flora Alexander at UNICEF

@BalernoRRSA

## Friday



Every child must be free to express their thoughts and opinions and to access all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law.

- World Children's Day Assembly
- Staff Ethos Committee fundraiser for Children in Need and UNICEF

@BalernoRRSA



AT THE ARTICLE 2 HUB TODAY

**LISTEN UP!**  
RESPECT OUR RIGHTS  
Anti-bullying Campaign

See you all at false reception at break

AT THE ARTICLE 2 HUB TODAY

**NO DISCRIMINATION**

See you all at false reception at break

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**TRANS AWARENESS WEEK**

See you all at false reception at break

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**SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD**

BAKE SALE

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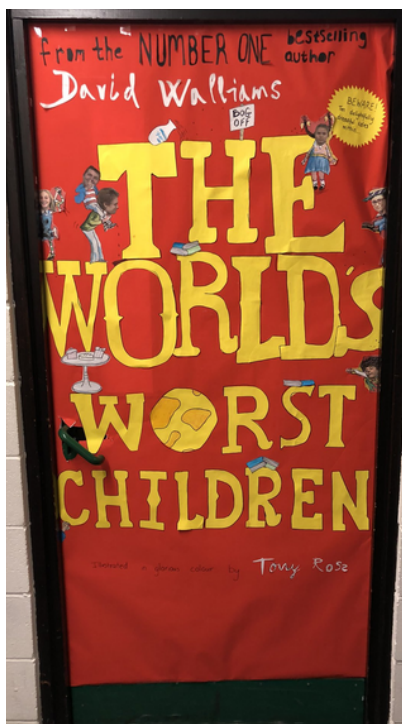
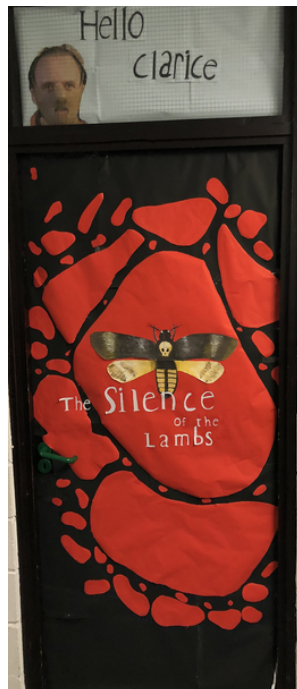
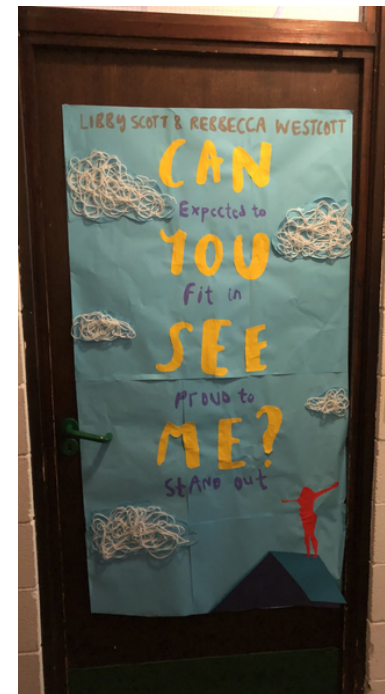
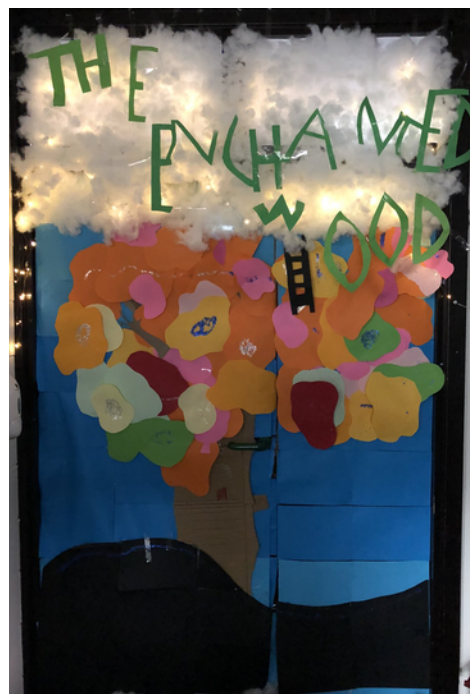
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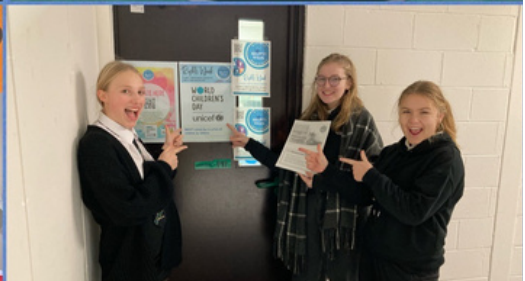


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balernohighschool So big day today with the launch of our new Pupil Parliament. Amazing to see so many leaders sharing what they and their respective committees have been doing across our school. Amazing achievement and the first step towards a more Pupil Rights Based school. Great things to come from this group of leaders. #RightsAtBalerno



"My favourite part of rights week was watching the film called Sonita. It gave me a completely new perspective of how rights aren't upheld in other countries."



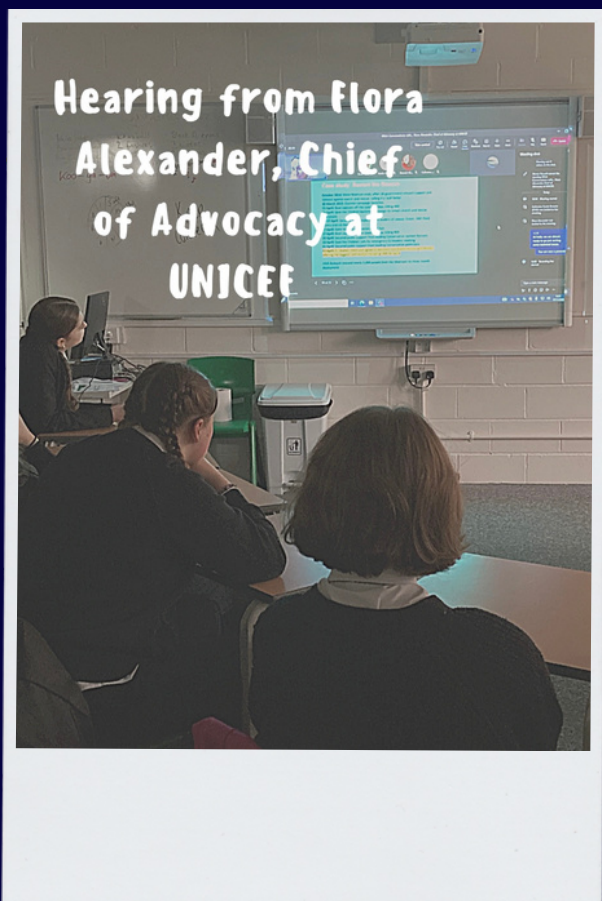


# Q&A with Flora Alexander, Chief of Advocacy UNICEF

17th November 2022

As part of Rights Week, some of the RRSA team dialled into a call with Flora Alexander, Chief of Advocacy at UNICEF. Flora talked about her role in UNICEF, shared one of the campaigns she had run at Save the Children and gave her top tips for running a successful campaign. At the end of the talk pupils from schools across Edinburgh were asked to send in questions for Flora. Thanks to the BHS RRSA Parent and Carer Forum for organising the talk. The RRSA team are feeling even more inspired to work on their own campaigns!

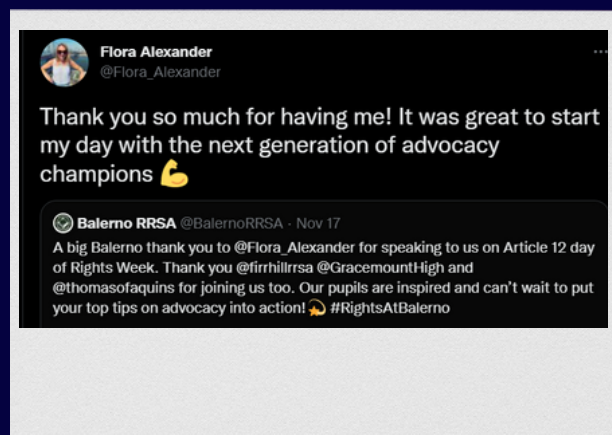
Have a read through the Q and A with Flora Alexander below!



## What difficulties or challenges have you faced planning a campaign?

So, there are always challenges. Sometimes the challenges are getting the right answers to the questions, understanding who can change the issue. At UNICEF it is particularly difficult because we are an intergovernmental organisation and therefore our ability to speak out is constrained by the relationships we have with government. Sometimes you know the issue, the people who could change the issue, but you are trying to figure out how to influence them in a way that you are able to do.

At Save the Children (Save) you have far more freedom to say difficult things to government. At UNICEF you can say them privately. The difficulty is what you can say, to whom and what is going to have the most impact. There is always a lively debate internally in UNICEF – what is more likely to have success? Condemning a government for a rights issue publicly may make them more entrenched and then UNICEF could be kicked out of the country e.g. Papa New Guinea. The balance of when we can and can't speak out is hotly debated internally.



## **What is your favourite campaign?**

My favourite campaign is one I led personally. We were campaigning against David Cameron's government to enshrine in law the commitment to spend 0.7 % of national income on aid. It is always depressing when you look back and see what has happened since. Basically, we had a position where the government had agreed to reach this financial benchmark – an internationally recognised goal for all. The UK government said they would do it but, we at Save felt that there needed to be greater protection of the commitment. We ran a campaign, at the beginning it had no chance in winning, it was a private members' bill. This is when a backbench MP has a ballot and you win your chance to have a private members bill. They never pass or become law because of all the hurdles because they lack the government support. We didn't feel there was much chance. It rested on being debated on a Friday, when most MPs go back to their constituencies. The requirement was to have over 100 MPs voting in parliament on this legislation. Our campaign involved persuading MPs from North of Scotland, from Cornwall and Wales not to be home in their constituencies on that Friday. It was a very hard proposition, but we managed to do it through a very creative campaign. We developed a website and anytime any one confirmed they would be there, they got recognition on the website, where we were doing a tally.

When they said they would 'Turn up and save lives' (campaign title) they got rewarded on social media. Those who didn't got pilloried. We got the law but sadly recently the aid budget has dropped. However, the existence of the legislation means they have to report back on how quickly they are going to get back to that level (0.7% GDP).

## **How did you get into your career? What has been your contribution?**

I studied politics at University. I was always interested in politics and social issues. I didn't have a career plan or ambition. I still don't have one, I struggle to think beyond the end of the month! I was interested in politics so, I stayed with my sister in London and I did an internship with the Department for Work and Pensions as policy research support. I did that twice. Then after that I got a job working for a small think tank doing research support. From there, I got involved in working in and around Westminster. I worked for Save on domestic issues around child poverty. Then at Save, I pivoted to work on international issues. I learned all of it on the job at Save. My last job was as Chief of Staff at Save the Children, which enabled me to get a job at the UN. It is very difficult to get a job at the UN. If you are interested in UN type work, prioritise learning languages. I didn't. I was very lucky; I am an anomaly.

Most of all it is about being persistent. Building personal connections, in any line of work, is what helps. If you are doing a good job, if you are kind and chatting with people that is more important than any specific



expertise.

In terms of contribution, the Save the Children work was far more rewarding, you could see the impact for children in UK. It was very fun too. At UNICEF, the impact might be bigger, but it doesn't feel as rewarding. You are trying to influence this big machine – like turning an oil tanker an infinitesimal point. If you influence a tiny bit then it is huge but, often you feel like you are in a bureaucracy and while the impact in the real world is big, it is less visible.

### **How did COVID affect your campaigns and UNICEF's priorities?**

We had to completely change everything. Like a lot of organisations and individuals, everything changed. For UNICEF, I had my team retreat yesterday and we reviewed our work over the last few years and our decisions. In the early days, we didn't know enough about the impact on children. It took way too long for everyone to understand the impact on children. There was a horrible acceptance that children's schooling was a lower tier priority. It revealed something quite concerning. UNICEF and others have been trying to get others to see this. Particularly the impact on learning, it is one of our top global advocacy priorities. The place where this is worst in Sub Saharan Africa but, this issues affects children all over the world. The other area is mental health. It was already a priority but covid made this so much worse.

So, yes, it did make us change our thematic priorities in advocacy and also made us realise that we have a long way to go to get people in power to respect children. The UN Convention for the Rights of the Child calls for children to be involved in decisions that affect them. That comes down to voting. Children don't vote and that is a part of why politicians don't care about what they say. The same pressures are not there compared to older voters. It put much more pressure on UNICEF to step up for children.

### **Do you take part in events like these often?**

No, I don't that is why I am really glad to be here. I occasionally do but because my job is global level so you never meet real people. Various UNICEF teams in UK who do a lot of this stuff but the global teams have less of an interface. It is nice to get the opportunity to do this.

### **Is there any more advice you would give to the pupils who are interested in a job in advocacy?**

There are so many different ways to do advocacy, so I would say mostly don't be too prescriptive. If you have a very clear career goal don't worry about working back from that. It is always difficult getting in the door. Be pretty open minded about the work you do in the beginning. I know of lot of people who did jobs that they weren't so interested in but once you are there and useful and people like working with you – again it comes down to interpersonal skills and getting on with things.



Then you can move on and into the type of work that is of most interest to you. It is about being persistent, happy to put yourself out there, contacting people via LinkedIn, people you know locally, random connections. Be a bit of pain until you get somewhere. Everyone did it. Ask people for favours, to be introduced. Apply for jobs that come up but keep asking anyone around you to get you in front of the right people. And be optimistic. If you really want to get there, you can.

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### **Finally, looking at UNICEF and across the sister UN agencies, what do you want to see for children's rights in the future?**

Reframing the political potency of children's voice and children's issues, such that it is something those in power care more about. That requires us to work with all sorts of UN agencies, outside of the UN, international non-governmental organisations, youth movements. Young people are way ahead of UNICEF. Young people have been calling us out, businesses out. If we can keep lock step with youth movements and be less afraid of giving young people the voice to speak out, even on issues governments don't like, it is challenging for example, thinking of situation in Iran. It is difficult for UNICEF to do it in a way that is safe for our Staff. If we can be more comfortable and really just give young people the platform to those in power, regardless of UN position, that's where we need to be and I do think climate has got to be THE issue.



# Duke of Edinburgh Reporters

Leah and Hamish, our reporters from the S4 Silver Group are back and can tell you about what the group has been up to this month.



## Why did you want to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh programme?

**Hamish:** My family have been involved in the Duke Of Edinburgh scheme for many years and my Dad has his Gold Award and my brother Harry has his bronze and is working for his silver. What attracts me is that it is a rounded set of challenges that will strengthen me physically, as a person in volunteering, in teamwork and in the expedition with endurance and teamwork. These are all skills that will complement the academic work I am doing and help make me all that I can be. I thought the volunteering element of the programme would teach me how to help my community in a real way rather than just for show and it is something I always want to have as part of my life. I am physically very fit as I play rugby for Currie Chieftan's, but I wanted to learn more about this aspect of my development. And the expedition will help me build my relationships with my peers that might not be in my current friend's group. Finally, I know from my family what memories and challenges this will mean. My family and I watched the Duke Of Edinburgh's funeral and I regard it as an honour to be working towards the awards he created.

## What did you get up to at the weekend training in October?

**Leah:** On October 8th, the B Duke of Edinburgh groups attended day one of their first training weekend. The aim of this day was to learn new skills that would be very useful on our expedition or in any situation where we were exploring the outdoors. A few Duke of Edinburgh expedition leaders attended and were fantastic at helping us develop and practice these skills. Firstly, we learnt how to put up tents. We were in our expedition groups and had to work as a team to figure out how to build them with little to no instructions. There were also



One of the teams racing to put up their tents

competitions between teams to see how fast we could put up the tent. We also learnt how to use a Trangia (contraption used to cook outdoors) and put these skills into practice by making hot chocolates. After lunch we were given a demonstration by one of the leaders as to what we need to pack for our expedition. This was useful as it let us know how we could make the bags as light as possible. Finally, we were taught some navigational skills by planning route cards for our walk the next day. We had to read maps, plot points and measure distances in order to find the best and most accessible way to get to our destination. Overall it was a great experience as we learnt many life skills and bonded more with our expedition teams.



Learning to cook outdoors



Giving it a go!



Delicious results!



Success!

## S5 Silver Group 21-22

As well as our S4 Silver group completing more training, it has been a big month for our previous Silver group. They did a fantastic job at their Silver presentations during the Wider Achievement Evening. They all had to create their presentation, show it on the night and come up with some challenges for their stall. The fold the map challenge and rucksack challenge proved particular favourites. A huge congratulations to this group for completing their Bronze and Silver Awards through Covid and for being well deserved winners of the Resilience Award at the Wider Achievement Evening. Check out some pictures from the night below!



I thought the volunteering element of the programme would teach me how to help my community in a real way.

LEAH SCHMIDT



Senior pupils at the DofE stall on Wider Achievement Night



Senior pupils at the DofE stall on Wider Achievement Night

# Moana



This year the school show was the fantastic Moana, an adaption of the Disney film with added Scottish flair. Mr Coulson, Mrs MacMillan, Mr Hendry, the cast and stagehands all worked incredibly hard to bring the musical adventure to life.

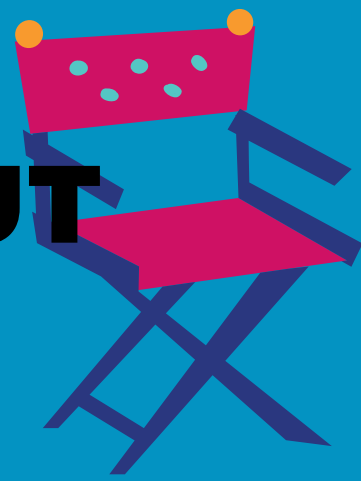
Moana, the Balerno edition, follows a young Scots girl as she tries to save her village and island from destruction by travelling across the ocean to restore the heart of Te Fiti. Helped along the way by Maui, a cheeky demi-god, Moana battles sea creatures and her own self-doubt.

The Balerno Times interviews some of the stars of the show.





# DIRECTOR'S CUT



AN INTERVIEW WITH MR COULSON

BY REYA PANY AND GRACIE HURST

## How was it turning the film into a play and directing it?

"If you think about what five year old and six year old do in the nativity we put them in headscarves and head dresses, think about how uncomfortable it would be to put teenagers in that situation, putting them in grass skirts and getting them to speak Māori, it just seemed uncomfortable so we set it in Scotland"

## How was it working with all the students? Was it challenging?

"The thing with P7's is they will do everything, join all sorts of clubs, but we had a gap in shows because of Covid so S2 didn't get the chance in S1 so this year, there was only one S3 and no S2s. Missing the first year made it easy to fall out of the habit and enthusiasm of primary school. So we want to encourage as many S1-S3 to experience the show as much as possible"

## Do you think the show impacted students academically?

"We choose the date very carefully, we do it in the first week of November as it doesn't interfere with prelims and practical

exams, which gives us nine weeks to prepare everything from casting to opening night. So it's a sprint. If students have academic clubs or events they can easily prioritise them. We make it very stress-less."

## Do you think Moana and Katie Moray merged well together?

"None of it makes much sense, it's a bit of nonsense and its supposed to be fun and if it brings laughter and maybe a tear to some peoples eyes, I don't care about plot as long as its really fun."

## What was your favourite part of Moana?

"I really liked the singing and dancing, it was really lovely as we had students teaching other students the dances, for example s5s were teaching the S1s certain



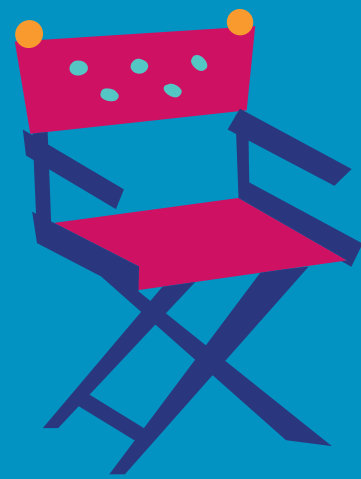
dances which is a challenge in its own, as a teacher I can point then in the right direction but the S5s were teaching them whole dances and its hard to keep them focussed as they are very bubbly and excited so perhaps for that reason the S1 dancing as they were taught by the S5s.

"That's one of the reasons we do the school show , to get many people from different year groups and interests working together."

### **Do you think that everyone that participated had a creative voice?**

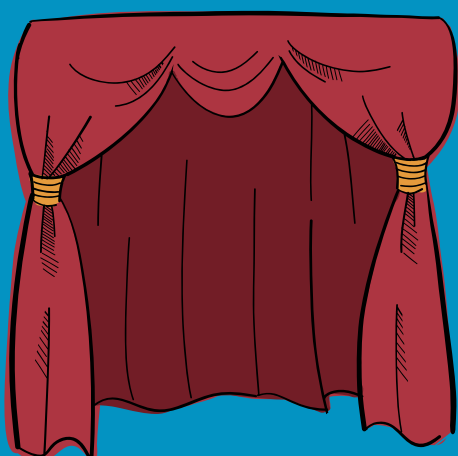
"I hope so, sometimes when the s1 ask a lot of questions, I tell them there is no bad idea and how will that work, if they can tell me their vision, it can be done, there is no harm in them trying it out. I hope it's a very democratic process.

"In order for us to be able to get this show to where we can perform on opening night requires me to be a bit manic so it may seem as tho I'm a bit everywhere all at once. We don't ask people to do specific things, we encourage them come to us with ideas, dreams and excitement. That way they are doing what they want"



### **How do you think the show all tied well together?**

"I like the show to be really good but that's not the most important part. The most important thing is the experience. The show is going to be good if the experience is good. We had all these ex pupils come back to watch the show and we wondered if they came back because the school shows had some effect on them."



# The Stars

Did you enjoy being a part of Moana?

**Kate:** Yes.

**Savannah:** Yes.

**Aodan:** Yes, because it was very fun and quirky

What did you enjoy most about being in Moana?

**Kate:** I really enjoy being in the production, I really enjoyed having the creative freedom that Mr Coulson provided for us.

**Savannah:** Getting to make stronger connections with people throughout the school.

**Aodan:** I enjoyed doing the songs, watching and praising my friends.



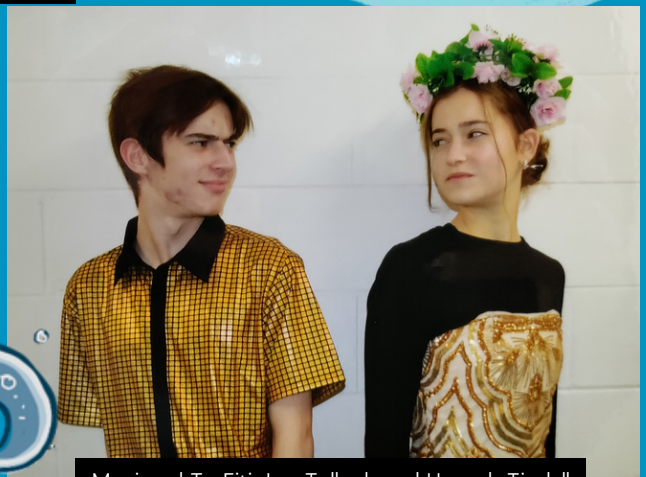
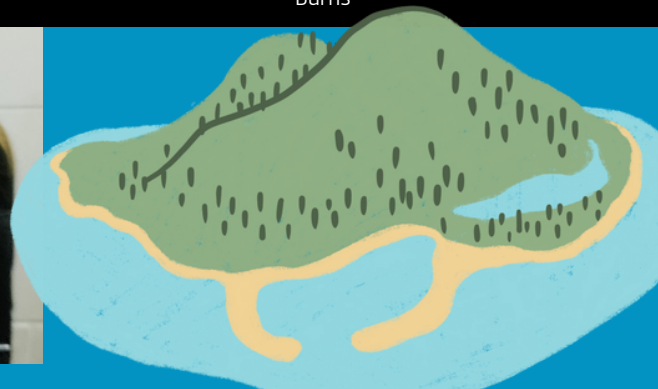
Senior Ensemble: Aodan Gillan, Dylan Hamilton and Aimee Robertson



Tamatoa: Eilidh Hogg, Annerie Griesel, Robyn Cartwright and Eowyn Burns



Pua, Morag and Hei Hei: Merrie Macbeth, Savannah Cain and Maddie Rennie



Maui and Te Fiti: Joe Tulloch and Hannah Tindall

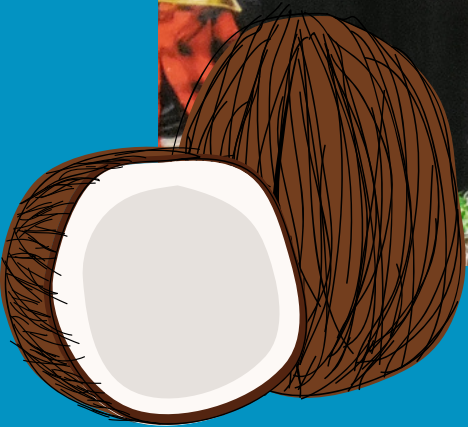


Chief Tui, Moana and Sina: Katie Drewell, Kate Hammond and Emily Smith

# "CONSIDER THE COCONUT!"



"You're welcome!"



**Do you think you will carry on with auditioning for roles in plays?**

**Kate:** Schools- yes because it's a very fun environment outside- yes I love acting.

**Savannah:** Yes.

**Aodan:** Definitely, despite the nervousness I will definitely continue auditioning because I know my friends and staff have my back (including Gracie, Mrs MacMillan and Mr Coulson).

**How did the rehearsals impact your schooling?**

**Kate:** I had less time to revise but at that point I hadn't really thought about it, I really enjoyed having something to look forward to at the end of the day.



The Chorus: Dylan Hamilton, Edith Shannon, Alex Tindall, Megan Erasmuson, Mark Hammond, and Emma Turnbull

**Savannah:** For the majority - no, all the rehearsals were at lunch and after school there was one full day rehearsal on a Monday where we missed a little of school, but it wasn't so much that we had tons to catch up on.

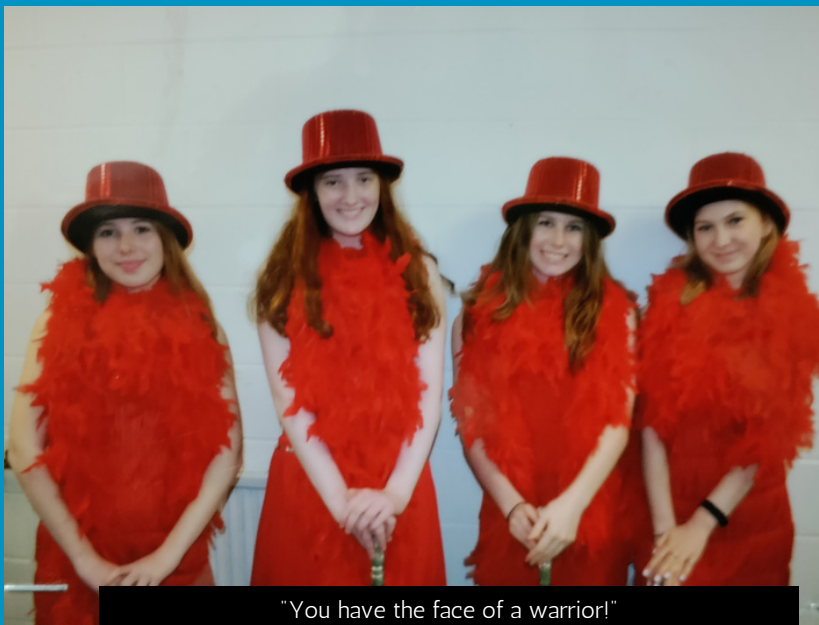
**Aodan:** It only affected us when we were out of class on the Monday lesson 3-7.

**Would you change anything about your performance?**

**Kate:** Go for it more, give it laldehy!

**Savannah:** I think my performance went well. I didn't forget my lines on the night so that was a plus!

**Aodan:** Yes, I would have liked more lines.



"You have the face of a warrior!"

Tessa Ramsay, Merrie Macbeth, Stephanie and Sophie Rushworth



Joe Tulloch as Maui

# PRELIMS



As our senior pupils prepared for their prelims, *Gracie Hurst* asked the S4s how they were feeling.

## How are we feeling about prelims?

Nervous, scared, unprepared.

Pressured

Feeling okay for most of them, but chemistry is a big no-no.

## How often do you study?

4 hours with breaks in between

1 hour or none at all

25 mins, break, 25 mins, repeat

## Are there any specific study methods you use?

Rewrite anything a million times

Flashcards

Past papers

Mind maps

Looking over notes



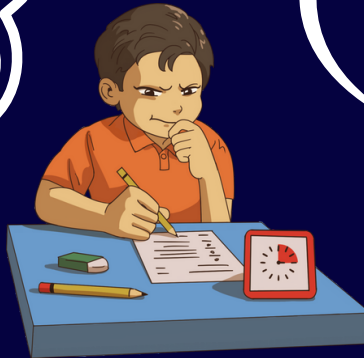


## How important do you think prelims are?

Kinda important, but especially for appealing

Mid

Fairly important but not enough to combust over



## Do you have a way to deal with the stress of prelims?

Take a nap



Cry and send people pictures of myself crying to people- reevaluate my life choices

Listen to music

## How will you celebrate when prelims are over?

Because my birthday is during prelims I can't celebrate so I'm going out to dinner with my friends and a few plus ones.

Sleeping

By going out with friends and chilling

Putting up the Christmas tree

I wouldn't celebrate

# STUDY TIPS



Gracie Hurst



## Methods:

- Pomodoro technique
  - This is focussing for 25 minutes straight, after the 25 minutes take a 5 minute break and repeat for however many times you would think is an acceptable amount of revision
  - It is also a good way to work in segments so when you work for the length of time that you are so focused, after your break, switch subjects, this is allowing you to space out your knowledge but also allows your brain to have a higher attention span.
- Blurting method.
  - Write down as much information as you can remember on the chosen subject area, once you have written everything you can remember, then research the areas you missed and write those areas down to revise further. Keep doing this until you eventually remember everything on the subject area.



<b>Blurting Method</b>		
<b>Any sub-headings add here</b>	<b>Actively recall content from memory and write it here</b>	
	Add any other information you left out/forgot	Active recall questions

- The Cornell notes
  - The smaller left hand column is for key words and questions
  - At the bottom, write a brief summary of the content on the page
  - This method discourages the use of long sentences. It is about short notes that you write down in the right-hand column using recognizable abbreviations and symbols. Prior to the note taking, draw up a list of abbreviations and expressions. This makes the note-taking process even easier.

<b>Cornell Notes</b>	
<b>Key Words</b>	<b>Title</b>
	<b>Main Notes</b>
	<b>Key Notes</b>
<b>Summary</b>	

REYA PANY

# Hindu Festive Season!

## हिंदू उत्सव का मौसम

The beginning of Autumn also marks the beginning of the festival season in many Hindu homes. The season starts in late August to early November, the dates are decided based of the Hindu lunar calendar so the dates may vary every year. Depending on the region, the festivals have many different names and stories, this article will go over the festivals my family celebrated this year.

Festivals we celebrate

The first we celebrated was Ganesh puja on the 30th of August. This is to commemorate the birth of Lord Ganesh, the God of wisdom, prosperity and good fortune. We also celebrate him as the God of new beginnings and remover of obstacles. On this day our family offers flowers and mithai (sweet treats) to God while doing the puja (prayer). Books are also placed before him, this is in the idea that he will bless our work so we will do well for the rest of the year. It's a very big festival for students and many people look forward to it so they can do well in their academics.

The next major festival was a five day celebration from the 1st to the 5th of October for the Goddess Durga, called Durga puja in the eastern side of India. In other regions of India it's called Navratri and is actually a nine day period. The Goddess Durga symbolises power, protection and strength. The story of her creation to deal with the demon Mahisasha and her powerful victory against him symbolises the good over evil message. This festival is very sociable as the



Ravana

Goddess will be situated in a makeshift tent at the centre of the community and throughout the day people will worship and give offerings and then the evening will be filled with good food, dances and cultural activities.

The next major one is Dusherra which is celebrated at the end of Durga puja on the 5th this year. Dusherra celebrates the story of the God Ram defeating the ten headed demon, Ravana. The story takes place while Ram was exiled from his kingdom and living in the woods with his wife when suddenly Ravana kidnaped her. Ravana was very well known for his ten heads that would regrow if chopped off so Ram had to use a flame arrow from various Gods to defeat him. This is celebrated by having a straw version of Ravana and shooting it with a flame arrow. This year it was even done at Calton Hill.



Fireworks on Calton Hill

The last and most famous festival of the season is called Diwali, the festival of lights which this year was on the 24th of October. Diwali is joyously celebrated worldwide as it has a very big community impact. It continues the story of Ram returning to his kingdom of Ayodhya with his wife saved from the demon. The villagers light up the way to the castle to celebrate and to honour his return. The festival is filled with fireworks, great food and everyone dresses their best. All the houses on the street are filled with lights and diyas and all families in the community meet up and enjoy the festival together.



Burning of Ravana on Calton Hill

# The History of Fireworks.

*Sophie Fotheringham*

Fireworks date back to 7th century China. However, Chinese firecrackers can be traced back as far as 200BC. It is believed that a Chinese cook accidentally invented gunpowder by mixing three normal kitchen ingredients! It is estimated that China produces around 90% of the world's fireworks.

In the UK, fireworks were used from the 13th century onwards but they didn't become popular until at least 200 years later. The first documented use of fireworks in the UK was at the wedding of King Henry VII and Elizabeth of York, in 1486. The wedding brought peace after years of war. It wasn't until the reign of Queen Elizabeth I that fireworks really became popular. The Queen found them exciting, so she created the position of "Fire Master of England", the Fire Master was in charge of making the fireworks. and all of the displays. In one of Shakespeare's plays one of his characters say, "the king would have me present the princess, sweet chuck, with some delightful ostentation, or show, or pageant, or antique, or firework." which suggest that fireworks were admired in his lifetime.

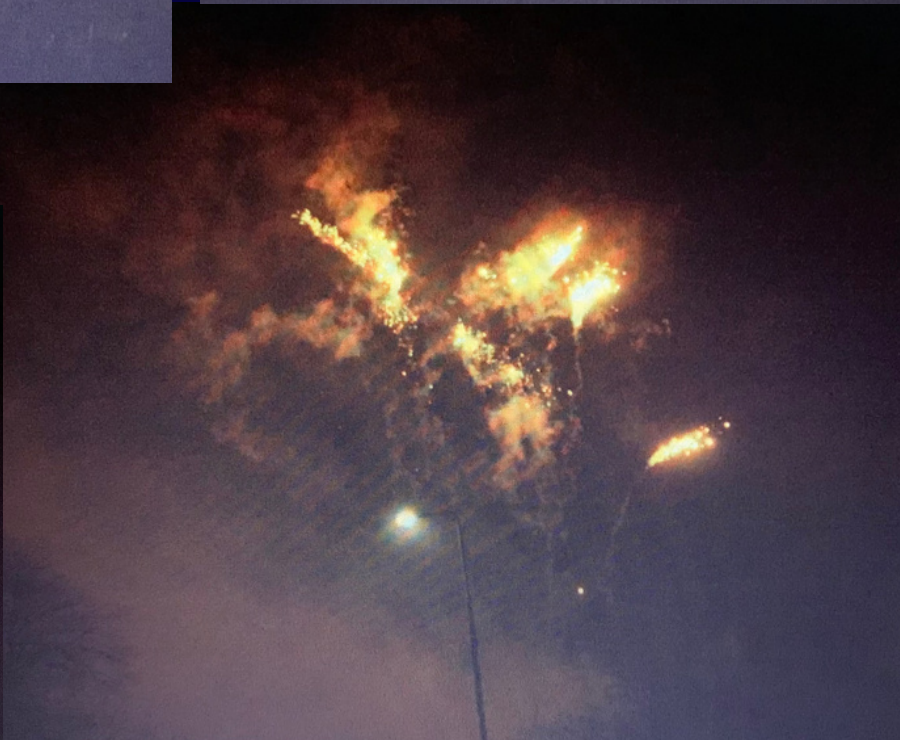
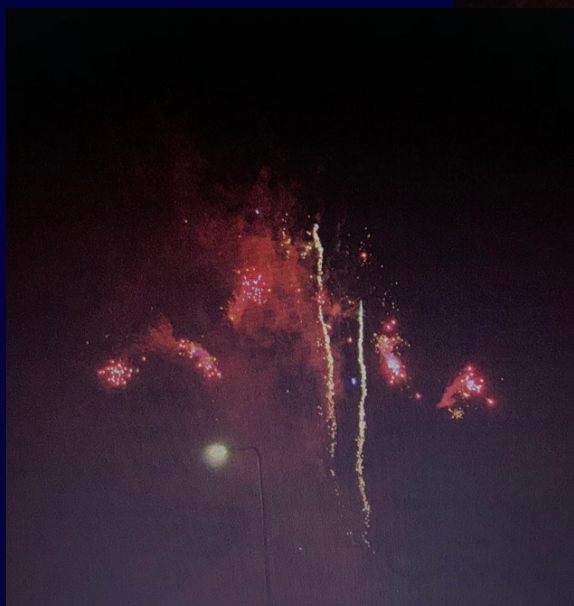
Now onto the science side of fireworks, a firework needs three key components to be able to take off. The three components are an oxidiser (which produces oxygen so the mixture inside the firework burns), a fuel and a chemical mixture. To ignite this chemical reaction all you would need to add is a bit of time. While using early fireworks, Saltpetre (potassium nitrate) was the oxidiser that produced a reaction. The colours of fireworks change depending on the different metal elements. Electrons release energy in the form of light.

Most people have heard of gunpowder because of the Gunpowder Plot which was organised by Robert Catesby. The Gunpowder Plot was a failed attempt to blow up King James I and the parliament on the 5th of November, 1605. Guy Fawkes was discovered in the cellar of the Parliament building with barrels of gunpowder. Everyone who got caught was sentenced to be hanged. However, on January 31st 1606 Fawkes jumped from a ladder while climbing to the gallows, he broke his neck and died. Now every year we celebrate Guy Fawkes Day (also known as Bonfire night) on the 5th of November, we celebrate this day with fireworks and bonfires.



# CURRIE FIREWORKS

*Sophie Pennycook* attended the Currie Bonfire Night display and captured some wonderful photos.







## Armistice Day

*Aimee Roulston*

Armistice day is on the 11th November every year, and a two minute silence is held at 11:00 am, to commemorate those who lost their life in World War One and in wars ever since. It is celebrated at this time every year as it is the exact time and day when WWI officially came to an end. Also commonly known as Remembrance Day.

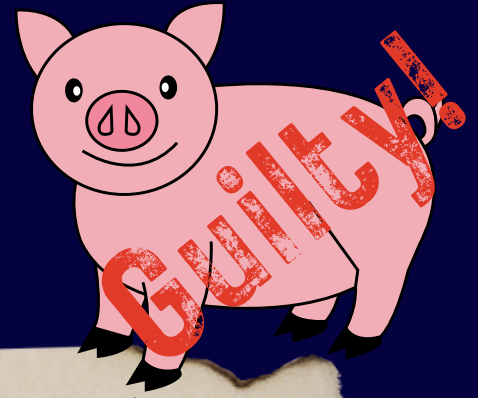
The poppy is a common symbol of Armistice day as it was the only life that could grow in the destruction of No Man's Land. It is thought to be the symbol of hope and peace. The poppies sold on and around Remembrance day are made in factories by disabled veterans, providing them with stable employment opportunities they may not otherwise have.

World War One, previously known as the Great War, was a huge event which altered many things in the time period and impacted many areas of life in the present day. 20 million people died and 21 were wounded. This impacted many beyond those on the front line however. Husbands, fathers and sons were lost and many more returned unable to work or provide for their families. Along with women and young people taking up a further role at the home front contributing to the war effort. It is important that none of this is forgotten. It was a crucial event in history and is important that those who fought are remembered. Now it is 104 years since the war ended and 108 since it began. Though the impact and bravery of those who contributed is never forgotten.

Although remembrance day centres around World War One it is also important to remember and reflect on those who have fought in others wars occurred and occurring around the world, along with those still in active duty.

# Judgemental

Isobel Hendrie



What happens if an animal commits a crime? They get taken to court of course!

During the Middle Ages animals accused of murder may have taken the stand as many humans do today. How better to find the rat population guilty for causing plague than making a single rat face capital punishments?

In the 1300s pigs were put on trial for murder, with whole churches full of onlookers waiting to hear the result of the case. These animals were anthropomorphised with their grunts and squeals being interpreted as cries. This personification of pigs meant they were seen as dangerous and aggressive for acting like wild animals. Lots of pigs were slaughtered as a result of these cases, the loss of so many pigs eventually led to a public outcry. Eventually some of the pigs were pardoned but not before many had been burnt or hanged in a style similar to the witch trials.

Even insects were implicated in crimes, weevils, beetles and locusts were called upon to apologise for spreading plague in the hope it may cure the town.

Animals were also sometimes the victims... Did someone hurt your donkey? The donkey could face their attacker in court.

Oddly enough the records for many of these cases were destroyed by rats and insects, which seems like a fittingly ironic end to this absurd part of history.





# QUEERIES

*Thank you for all the questions popped into the GSA question box! We have chosen a selection to answer this month, but don't worry if your question isn't answered here- we will continue to answer your Queeries every month.*

*If you'd like to submit a Queerie you can do so [here](#):*

*The GSA meets every Wednesday lunchtime in G38- all LGBTQ+ people and allies are welcome!*

*You can find information and support at the [LGBT Youth Scotland website](#).*

## **Q: Why is learning about gay relationships so uncommon in PSE?**

A: The LGBT Charter group are hoping to change this! But it is also worth remembering that the fundamentals of gay relationships are the same as straight ones and the things you learn about in PSE can apply to any type of relationship.

## **Q: What are neopronouns and how do they work?**

A: "Neo" means new, so neopronouns are a group of pronouns to replace she/he/they that can express gender in a different way. An example of this is Xe/Xir. People who use these may not feel that traditional pronouns represent their gender identity, or may have other reasons for using them.

## **Q: How should I come out to my gran?**

A: It can be difficult coming out to anyone, especially grandparents. I would just tell her and explain what this means and how you feel. Make sure you have support from parents and friends. ***\*Note\* you do not have to come out to anyone if you are not ready to or don't want to.***

## **Q: How can teachers support the LGBT Charter?**

A: Each term the LGBT Charter champion group meets to discuss what we have been doing and to plan ahead. If you want to get involved (pupil or teacher) let Ms Atchison or Ms Loy know. Teachers can also help by including LGBT voices and perspectives in their lessons and by letting pupils know about the group and what we do.

# Well Done To Our Girls Senior Hockey Team

This month, the Senior Girls' Hockey Team won their first Hockey Cup!



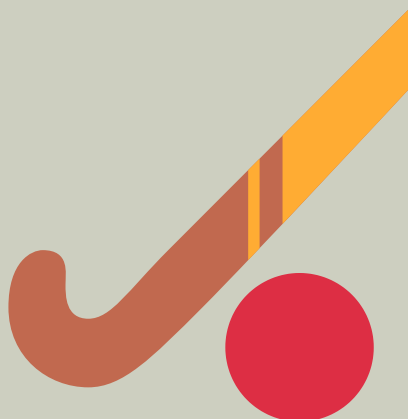
The Senior Girls Team



*Written by Lena Ranson*

On Friday 4th of November, the Girls Senior Hockey Team competed in the first Hockey Cup they have ever entered and won! The Team played three matches against two different schools; Howick and McLaren.

They played the first match against Howick, which they won 2-0 and then played a match against McLaren which they also won 2-0. They then played another match against Howick which they drew 0-0, leading to penalty flicks. For penalty flicks each team is given 5 shots at the goal, with each shot being taken by a different person. We won the penalty flicks 2-1, thanks to Maddie Lumsden and Ava Marsland, winning us the round and getting us through to the finals!



The Senior Team will be playing in the finals on Friday 17th of March with a chance to watch them play live and the matches being streamed on YouTube. Wishing them good luck!

# Hearts U14s Final Preparation

*Stanley Wilson  
November 2022*



## **Tuesday**

The players are in at 5pm for an intense session. The session starts with a warm-up which takes five to ten minutes. Then they move on to a short possession drill working on forcing the ball wide. After about twenty minutes, the possession box gets larger to challenge the players to force wide. This also lasted for about twenty minutes. The coaches then set up a drill where one team is always starting with the ball and trying to build out while the other team pressed to win the ball back and score. For the last twenty minutes the players played a game. The session finished at 6pm.

## **Wednesday**

There was video analysis at 5pm on Wednesday (which is earlier than normal) to look at what to do in possession. That took twenty minutes. Then the players did a warm-up and started the session. The coaches set up a small possession drill, focusing on the in possession team keeping the ball. After about twenty minutes the coaches opened the possession box out and added more players into the middle.

They did this for twenty minutes, after that the coaches set up a game where the players had to get it into the two wide areas and get crosses into the box. This took 30 minutes. The players finished off with pens.

## **Friday**

The players were in at half past 4 for a thirty-minute gym session. Then there was a video analysis of what Aberdeen will do in possession and what they will do out of possession. This took twenty minutes. After that the players did a quick warm-up and rondos before starting the session. The first thing in the session was passing patterns then a possession drill. After that the players did a formation exercise about how they will play against Aberdeen. Finally, the players finished with a competitive game.



# Balerno High School vs Tynecastle High School



*Ommkaran Sibarinathan*  
November 2022

On Saturday, 5th November, the first game of the season for the S1 Balerno High School team. We were up against Tynecastle, a team that had supposedly lost their first game 10-1, so spirits were high for us. We had, in total, 13 players at the beginning, so 2 players were benched for the first half. The players in the Tynecastle team seemed really good during warmup, and most of them were at least a foot taller than players in the Balerno team. The whistle blew at 9 30 am, and it was freezing cold as we started off.

But we didn't have to wait long for the first goal of the match. 4 or 5 minutes into the game, a player from Balerno scored, giving Balerno the lead, and soon after we scored again, again by the same player. The score was 2-0 now, and we had only played for 10 minutes. The Tynecastle team started to get frustrated, but Balerno's spirits were higher than ever.

Of course, another few minutes in, Balerno scored again. And again. And again, until the whistle blew for half time. We were surprised by the lack of effort put in by the Tynecastle team.

Now the score was 5-0, and it was only half time. The substitutes came on and were guaranteed play time for the rest of the second half. The game continued, and no one scored for a while, until the Tynecastle team got past our defences and scored. But it was still 5-1, so we didn't get too stressed over it, and we even scored few minutes after, taking the score to 6-1, and by now, Tynecastle were just determined not to lose by too many points, and had practically given up. They fully gave up once it was 7-1 and focused only on defending. Not long after, the whistle blew for full time, and Balerno won, by 6 goals, their first game of the season.

# Reviews

## Book of the Month

It Ends with Us  
by Colleen Hoover

This novel follows Lily Bloom who as a young girl witnessed her mother's abuse from her father. During this time she meets the homeless eighteen year old Atlas. Atlas and her get along well and hang out often; until an unfortunate encounter with her father, followed by Atlas leaving; telling her he's moving to Chicago to live with an uncle. As an adult Lily has grown up and is opening a flower shop when she meets Ryle, a neurosurgeon, Ryle seems like the perfect man and his sister works in the flower shop with Lily; it seems so perfect. But sometimes perfect isn't always as perfect as it seems.

This book is easy to read though extremely sad. The story is based on Colleen Hoover's mother and father and their relationship. This book is best suited for those aged 14+ as it talks about mature topics.

TW: Domestic Abuse, SA

Aimee Roulston

## Movie of the Month

Se7en

Directed by David Fincher

Se7en, directed by notorious psychological thriller director, David Fincher, Follows a detective who is soon to retire – Detective Sommerset – played by Morgan Freeman, and a detective who just moved to the city – Detective Mills – played by Brad Pitt as they pursue an insanely gruesome serial killer, who completes his killings by basing them around the 7 deadly sins, Pride, Greed, Lust, Envy, Gluttony, Wrath and Sloth.

Fincher frames the pursuit of the serial killer as a long confusing macabre ordeal. To prove this in practically every scene where the characters are outside it's chucking it down with rain. Not a small drizzle of rain but buckets and buckets of rain. This conveys the depressing and grim tone of the film. When I first watched Se7en I was quite frankly jaw droppingly shocked at the vast creativity of how Fincher creates the murders in line with the sins. For instance when the "Sloth" murder occurs, The detectives find that the serial killer has been feeding a man so much food to the point the victim has stopped living. Brad Pitt and Morgan Freeman create the perfect chemistry of rookie and veteran combo. Freeman's performance of being a wise and cautious detective, with Pitt's confident and brave portrayal makes this movie far more enjoyable.

Se7en is a beautifully written and directed film, but I do warn you if you are a rather squeamish person it may not be the movie for you... but if not I would 110% advise you to watch it.

7/7 would seven again.

Theo Crane



THE CHRISTOPHER TOWER POETRY  
COMPETITION 2023

# THE PLANETS

WRITE A POEM ON THE THEME OF 'THE PLANETS'

**FIRST PRIZE £5000**

**SECOND PRIZE £3000 | THIRD PRIZE £1500**

THERE WILL ALSO BE 10 COMMENDED AWARDS, OF £500 EACH

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**JUDGES: JULIA COPUS, GAIL MCCONNELL AND PETER MCDONALD**

**COMPETITION CLOSURES: NOON, 24 FEBRUARY 2023**



[WWW.CHCH.OX.AC.UK/TOWERPOETRY](http://WWW.CHCH.OX.AC.UK/TOWERPOETRY)

TOWER  
POETRY

# Word of the Month



Try using this in your writing, conversations or classwork this month!

**LACKADAISICAL: LACKING IN ENTHUSIASM AND DETERMINATION; CARELESSLY LAZY.**

**INITIALLY USED AROUND THE MIDDLE OF THE 18TH CENTURY AS A LONGER VERSION OF LACKADAY AND LACKADAISY.**

**EXAMPLE: THE TEAM WORKED QUITE WELL, EXCEPT TIM WHO HAD AN INCREDIBLY LACKADAISICAL APPROACH TO THE PROJECT.**

# In Praise of Waiting

*Dr. Levy*

'What presents are you getting me this year?' 'Just wait and see!' This short conversation, one I suspect is quite common around this time of year, shows us both the best and worst of waiting.

## **Waiting? Pfft!**

Whether it's waiting to find out something you really want to know, waiting for a friend to arrive, for lunch, or even for a reply from your crush—waiting is often difficult and frustrating. For most of human history we have been working on techniques smooth over or hide waiting and to avoid it turning into the dreaded boredom! In the past it would have been a magazine in the waiting room, or a background radio show. Now, it's a smart phone in hand, Tiktok merging into Tiktok, checking that essential email, snapchat, or message—what's the latest, most exciting, desperate, news—vibrations echo into one another. Tiring and annoying as these parts of our technology may be they are extremely successful at making us forget that we are waiting.

These are but the newest in a long line of our attempts to fill 'empty' time or to bring life to 'dead' time. The thing is, however, that time is never only a container (though our efforts to cut it up into measurable units [hours and minutes, days and weeks] can make it seem that way), neither is time alive or dead. This way of talking has a certain beauty about it but it can also lead us to forget not only that we're waiting but how to miss what waiting can be like.



Patience may not always be a virtue and frustration at waiting is real, but waiting offers us an opportunity to see something we may otherwise miss. When time drags out it leaves space for reflection. We can look in, or around, and see things as they really are. We can look forward to an uncertain future, and we can remember a past which may not look the same as it did the first time around. It's usually easier to jump into the next action than to wait and see. It is easier to become numb. Somewhere between constant activity and intolerable boredom there exists a world of deep thought, of detailed observation, of hidden truths, and difficult questions. This a world worth waiting around for.





## *Mr Hamilton's Joke of the Month*

I swapped our bed for a trampoline...

My wife hit the roof!



# Have your say!

What would you like to see in the school magazine? Answer the survey to have your suggestions considered.



RESPECT FOR  
CHILDREN'S VIEWS



SHARING  
THOUGHTS FREELY



FREEDOM OF  
THOUGHT AND  
RELIGION



Merry  
Christmas and  
a Happy New  
Year!

from The Balerno Times

