

26th March 2009

Dear Parents,

I hope that you welcome receiving this newsletter electronically and this method does, of course, mean that it can be passed on to others who may be interested. In recent weeks, after a few teething problems, the ClarionCall system has come into its own allowing us to contact parents quickly and efficiently with important news. Do please ensure that should you change mobile phone number or email address, you inform us as quickly as possible.



The scholars on the Mound

As the Credit Crunch continues to bite, value for money has become as important as ever and I believe Craigclowan gives you exactly that in terms of your child's schooling.

Rarely has an independent education been a better investment proposition and in these times of falling interest rates what is on offer here gives a huge return. I believe that our children are able to benefit from high standards both in and out of the classroom where there is a wide range of opportunities. Now is not a time to be settling for second best and with the future likely to be ever more competitive for our children, we strive to make the most of each pupil's potential rather than allow him or her to underachieve because the alternative may be a tougher path to tread.



Skiing at Glenshee

Below you will read of some of this term's highlights and achievements and reading the reports it was clear that the vast majority of children are doing very well and making the progress that we expect and will result, ultimately, in them becoming successful learners and effective contributors.



**The winners of the Ardvreck
 U-13 Netball
 Tournament**

Form 8 has produced 13 scholars. Both of our academic entrants were successful: Isobel Houston won a scholarship to Glenalmond and George Plevan a Humanities Exhibition to Merchiston Castle. Josie Dibnah, Hugh Dingwall, Philippa Kemp, Liam Kirkpatrick and Jessica Porritt won All-Rounders awards to Fettes, Glenalmond, Gordonstoun and Strathallan while Sophie Curran, Grant Doig, Christina Farrar, Jemima Murray-Poore, Sandie Smillie and Hope Whitelaw won Sports Scholarships to Glenalmond and

Strathallan. Alexandra McLellan won a place at the Strathallan Tennis Academy.

Aiden O'Brien came through a worldwide field of thousands to win a place at The Royal Ballet School in



The debating Grand Final in Lower Parliament Hall, St. Andrews

London: a remarkable feat. Liam Kirkpatrick, Alexander Warren and Tobermory MacKay-Champion were all selected for the National Boys' Choir. Our debaters were particularly successful with all three teams progressing to the second round of the Courier/University of St. Andrews University competition for pupils up to S3 for the first time in 13 years. The "A" Team went on to compete in the final where captain Jessica Porritt and Isobel Houston did themselves proud in front of an audience of 250. The "B" team won the Glenalmond Cup. Our Chess

team won the Fair City Trophy for an unprecedented third successive year.

We had some 160 entries to Perform in Perth and first prizes were won by Mollie MacLean, Eilidh Ross, Issy Arnaud, Beth Alexander and The Junior Choir and there was a huge number of First Class and Merit certificates presented to our children all the way up from Form 1.



The winners of the Craigclowan U-11 Hockey Tournament



The gardening club

Our Under 13 and Under 11 netball teams were, not for the first time, both unbeaten, seven girls represented the victorious WOSPS hockey teams and our girls' games has been particularly strong: we look forward to seeing them in action on the rounders field. The boys have done their best to match them with the seniors finishing runners-up at the Strathallan Hockey 6s where they were defending their title while the Under 11s won the Craigclowan Tournament and represented Scotland at the IAPS National Championships in Bristol. Against

tough opposition they acquitted themselves well and finished runners-up in the Plate competition. The Under 9 boys won the St. Leonard's Rugby competition while on an individual level Hope Whitelaw has been competing on the slopes in Europe at international level and Sandie Smillie has been building towards the national championships in the pool.



Form 1 are feeding the birds



The Fair City chess tournament winners

Two teams of our young mathematicians enjoyed a Funday at Merchiston Castle where they finished 2nd and 5th out of 32 schools, there have been numerous visits to places of educational interest, the Robert Burns "Homecoming" assembly was a great success and the Bronze Eco-award is the first rung on the ladder towards the Green Flag. There has been an impressive number of children who have skied at Glenshee both on Saturdays and the ski days but unfortunately the races were cancelled and I know many families were able to enjoy a full week's skiing at half-term without missing school. I hope that those children travelling to Flaine with the school over Easter have



Address to the haggis

a wonderful time. Thank you to those of you who have given up time or resources to help with the garden project which continues to evolve: the paths are being laid during the first week of the holiday and we have a number of organisations keen to involve themselves with the project.

Book Aid International and Comic Relief were just two charities that benefited from our giving this term and the number of organisations using the school's facilities has continued to grow. The PTA took over the

Dining Hall for its first annual Quiz Night which was a relaxed and enjoyable evening and hopefully more will be tempted to try their hand next year. The PTA will be holding a coffee morning on Thursday 30th April between 0830 and 0945 and everyone is very welcome to drop in for a chat.

A constant source of frustration at school and home is fleeces that go missing. Please do put your child's name tag on the inside of the neck, on the blue side, in order that it is more visible to them and other children who may mistakenly pick up the wrong one. At the end of this term there was also a vast amount of lost property that could not be returned to its owners because there were no names in the items – please make sure that your children's belongings have their name clearly marked.



F. 2 on RSS Discovery

Just a reminder that as we have children with serious allergies to nuts we aim to be a nut-free environment and hope that you can assist with this in terms of the snacks you provide for your children.

Thank you for all the support you have given the school and your children throughout the term, it is much appreciated by us all.

For those wishing to make an appointment to see me I am here for the first week of the holiday and I hope that you all have a relaxing break.

Best wishes,

Andy .

TERM DATES:

- SUMMER TERM 2009: April 22nd – July 8th (Half-Term: May 25th – 27th)
- WINTER TERM 2009: September 2nd –December 16th (Half-Term: October 26th – 30th)
- SPRING TERM 2010: January 6th – March 26th (Half-Term: February 15th – 19th)
- SUMMER TERM 2010: April 21st – July 9th *Provisional* (Half-Term: May 31st – June 2nd)