



# Menziesshill High School

## Summer Newsletter

### June 2013

Head Teacher - Helen Gray

Yarrow Terrace, Dundee, Angus, DD2 4DW

Email: [menziesshill@dundee.gov.uk](mailto:menziesshill@dundee.gov.uk)

Tel: 01382 435 677 Fax: 01382 435 664

Website: <http://menziesshill.ea.dundee.gov.uk>

## Menziesshill Head Boy and Head Girl

Welcome to our new Head Boy and Head Girl, Ross Starke and Rachel Beattie. They did extremely well successfully achieving the posts against very strong competition. The leadership in pupils is evident by their professional presentation and ideas. They have already displayed commitment and organisation in the Primary transition days. Ross and Rachel have both proved to be excellent ambassadors throughout their career in Menziesshill High so far and I wish them every success in the coming year.



My sincere gratitude to Jon Vaughan and Rebekah Maxwell for their hard work in the roles of Head Boy and Head Girl 2012/2013. They both leave us to take up careers in Community work and Teaching respectively. I know they will be a success no matter what they do.



## Menziesshill High School A Message from the Head Teacher

The year in August started with the success of our Olympians, Para Olympians and our own pupil examination results. Our Standard Grade results in relation to those pupils achieving 5 or more credit passes increased by 10%, the biggest increase in the city. Our senior pupils continued to do well, matching the achievements of previous years in Higher and excelling in achievement in Advanced Higher. Positive feedback from all SQA invigilators on pupil preparation, behaviour and purposefulness was pleasing and our efforts to improve pupil self-belief paid dividends.

Our study clubs and Easter school (sponsored by our parent council), have seen increased numbers in attendance. Pupil feedback was positive and there is a sense in the school that achievement is possible for all.

Our Extended review carried out in September highlighted;

*“Very good relationships between teachers and pupils, and all staff members.... Learners feel safe and valued in school. They have a positive attitude to learning, are attentive and respond well in lessons ... and... Behaviour in all areas of the school was seen to be of a consistently high standard. Pupils are encouraged to take responsibility and contribute actively to the life of the school and the wider community.”*

Pupil achievement is evident all around us with excellent behaviour, uniform and effort. Our Celebration of Success assemblies are now every term and our House System has an increased profile. House captains next session will have a leadership role in supporting guidance staff in taking this forward.

Pupil Voice has played a huge part in school improvement this session, with pupils on working groups and leading focus groups in learning and teaching.

We have continued to develop the Curriculum with recognised industry awards, an Enterprise course in S1, an increase in uptake in Skills for Work courses, an Interdisciplinary course for all S2 and employer mentors working with individual pupils.

Partnership working has been crucial to these developments and many more exciting opportunities are in the pipeline for the coming session. The highly successful Health and Well Being week was an illustration of true partnership working. Both pupils and staff engaged in activities together, building skills and knowledge and applying these in context.

As this session ends, so it brings with it staffing changes. We say goodbye to colleagues and welcome new ones. This year we wish Aileen Hynd, Sylvia Smith and Robert Weber a long, healthy and happy early retirement!

To other staff moving to new schools, I wish them every success and thank them for their contribution and commitment to our young people. Finally, to new staff, I know they will be welcomed into our school community.

This is a year of unprecedented change in education, with new qualifications, and a new way of viewing planning, learning and teaching and assessment. I can without a shadow of doubt say that your young people have the most hard working and committed staff working for them to provide the best service possible. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for their support to the school and one another.

As always, we commit ourselves to supporting your young people to achieve all they are capable of and I look forward to the challenges next session brings and working with you all. Have a wonderful summer.



# Menzieshill High School



### Top of the Class:

Senior pupils in S5-6 are required to wear a school blazer, senior school tie with a black or white school shirt.



### Your Choice:

Pupils may also wear plain black or red sweatshirts/jumpers.  
No hoodie style tops are allowed.  
All pupils are encouraged to buy a black blazer.



### Back to Basics:

The school uniform for all is a white shirt, school tie, black trousers or skirt of appropriate length and black shoes.  
No leggings are allowed.

### PE Kit:

Pupils are required to wear a plain black T-shirt with black shorts.  
(personalised t-shirts available from PE Department)  
No football colours/strips are allowed.





## Menziesshill High School Health & Wellbeing Week

All S1-3 pupils participated in two full days of health and wellbeing activities involving both staff and a number of partner agencies. These activities covered core health and wellbeing areas such as physical wellbeing, food and nutrition, personal safety and social and emotional wellbeing. Staff from the PE Department and Active Schools delivered fitness testing sessions whilst the Science Department carried out a range of activities designed to get pupils to 'know your own body'.



On the theme of Food and Nutrition, pupils had the benefit of input from the dietician from Tayside Contracts who delivered a session on 'you are what you eat'. The importance of a healthy diet was reinforced by the Home Economics staff as all pupils cooked a healthy meal of vegetable risotto followed by a fruit salad consisting of unusual fruits.

A big hit from the pupil perspective was the sessions offered by the Fire Brigade. Pupils donned fire gear and were given hands on demonstrations on how to put out different types of fires.



Our two drama teachers delivered sessions on emotions and feelings and staff from the local branch of the Samaritans provided a workshop for pupils on mental health. We were pleased to welcome a number of staff from our Community Learning Development partners who worked with pupils looking at the impact of the local environment on wellbeing.

In addition to these activities the first day of our pupil activities saw Tayside Contracts provide a Barbecue (healthy of course) and the annual staff v pupils football match at lunchtime. On day two some of our other partners such as Xplore and the school nurse offered a health drop in at lunchtime. Feedback from these activities has been very positive, from pupils, staff and partners, and we now plan to make this an annual event. All partner agencies commended pupils for their performance over the course of the two days. The Health Week activities culminated in the School Sports Day on Thursday 23rd May.

In addition to our Health Week, this year our Health and Wellbeing Prefects have delivered a series of assemblies on a variety of health related topics as part of our entry for a national competition. Next session these prefects plan to hold pupil consultations to identify the key health and wellbeing priorities in our local community and look at how we, as a school, can address some of these.





## Menziesshill High School Homework Policy

Menziesshill High School will launch a new Homework Policy after the summer holidays. This new policy is based on feedback from the consultations held with staff, pupils and parents. In response to this members of the Learning and Teaching Working Group have developed our new policy. Parents will be issued with a Parental Homework Guide which incorporates the new policy after we return from our summer holidays. Assemblies will also be held in school to inform pupils of the key features of this new policy.

Based on feedback from the key stakeholders we plan to make greater use of our ability to communicate by text to keep parents informed about homework issues. Staff will now start to store homework on Glow as well as issuing homework activities in class. This should enable parents and pupils to access homework via the internet. Departments have also indicated the types of activities used and the frequency that homework is issued in each department to provide an overview of homework across the school for parents.

Given the impact that regular homework can have on pupil achievement and the valuable skills that it helps develop we would ask parents to continue to support the objectives of the new homework policy. The members of the Learning and Teaching Working Group will be reviewing the effectiveness of the new proposals as well as looking at further ways we can enhance the link between home and school through, for example, the use of new technology.



## Menziesshill High School Anti-bullying

We have continued to monitor and evaluate the school Anti-Bullying procedures. A copy of our recent findings is on the website for information. We are very pleased with the developments, especially the evidence that more pupils will tell staff and parents about bullying. This change in attitude is a very important aspect of our Anti-Bullying strategy and will enable both parents and staff to support pupils and intervene in the situation. More pupils also reported that they think staff will support and help them and that they know their parents expect them to follow the school Anti-Bullying procedures.

We have consulted pupils and many of their suggestions reflect and support current research findings on effective strategies in Anti-Bullying programmes. We will be continuing to monitor the implementation of our procedures and welcome input from pupils, parents, staff and members of the school community. We recommend that pupils and parents who are aware of a bullying incident should contact a member of staff to inform them of the incident. All reported incidents will be investigated and pupils and parents will be informed of the outcome of this investigation by letter.

Dundee City Council produced a pamphlet for schools and this is a very useful resource for pupil, parents and staff. A copy of this pamphlet can be found on the website.

We would like to thank the many pupils, parents and staff who have supported the school Anti-Bullying procedures. Working together in this way provides the most effective way to combat bullying and provide a friendly, positive ethos for all pupils.

**Fiona Booth, Anti-Bullying Co-ordinator**



## **Menziesshill High School Mentoring Programme**

### **Dundee Pupil Mentoring Programme**

The Menziesshill Pupil Mentoring Programme has continued this term with pupils meeting their mentors for sessions in school. These sessions have included looking at subject choices for next session and also support with profiling.

A key component of the programme is to provide support to help pupils gain a better understanding of the world of work and the skills necessary to progress into positive, sustained destinations. Pupils visited Dundee University Library where they saw first-hand the level of support that students receive from staff. They also learned about key skills for the world of work. They saw how communication skills, team work skills, ICT skills and creative thinking skills were very much part of day to day work.

We would like to pass on our thanks to the mentors who supported the pupils and also to the University for the invitation to visit the library.

This session's programme has been a great success and plans are well underway for the continuation of the programme next session. We would like to express our sincere thanks to all the mentors for their time and input to the mentoring programme in Menziesshill.

Well done to all the pupils- Sam Barclay, Bradley Evans, Kerri Giblin, Megan Henderson, Morgan Kenyon, Amy Lovett, Megan Pope, Beth Robson, Kieran Stuart and Emma Whitelaw. We are delighted with all the progress they have made and are sure they will enjoy the programme and further develop their skills and abilities next session.

**Fiona Booth**  
**Mentoring Co-ordinator**



On the 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2013 many of our S5- S6 were lucky enough to work with the 'Future Reach Project.

The day consisted of an exciting training workshop in schools on employability skills. The day was extremely successful – the pupils were involved in working with employers, actors and each other looking at a range of areas of employability and skills for further education and employment.

The pupils were fully engaged in the project and were very focused. The workshop allowed pupils to watch a live interview and get involved in helping the person to improve their interview techniques. They met with employers and engaged in finding out what employers look for in a candidate and how answers and skills could make the difference between getting a job and not. The pupils were also allowed to tackle some questions themselves, think about how they would answer them and learn from employers what questions they like being asked. It was an excellent workshop where pupils at Menziesshill really engaged in the experience. Future Reach were very impressed with the pupils. Well done to all. It definitely was a day to look at skills for work, life and future.



This term at Menziesshill High school a number of our S4-S6 pupils took part in Construction Skills workshops and talks with

Mel Shepherd. The pupils learned about jobs in this sector and what is required to get a position in this area. The pupils also took part in activities. One workshop group got to do some town planning another workshop group got to build a building. The pupils worked extremely well together using not only their construction skills but

certainly a wide range of skills. They fully enjoyed the experience; some even won prizes for their team work, ideas and constructions. Mel said that the pupils were excellent. We look forward to working with Mel again. Well done to all who participated.





## **Pupils' efforts rewarded and lots of opportunities on offer!**

As always, it's been a busy term with Pupil Support!

Pupil support led lunchtime drop ins and clubs have continued for young people to take part in in their own time, and we have been supporting 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year pupils to take part in The Corner's Health Buddies and Peer Education projects after school. Pupils taking part have completed their volunteering as peer educators and over 30 have qualified for Saltire or Dynamic Youth Awards this year.

## **Well done to all involved!**

Alongside this, we have continued to provide one to one support or group work opportunities to pupils where appropriate and this term they have included a youth issues group and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year transition groups. Feedback from pupils has been consistently positive –

*"It has helped me a lot"*

*"I got more self-confidence by attending the group"*

*"I am able to talk more openly about what is going on in my life"*

There have also been lots of links made and sustained with agencies and local Community Learning and Development workers this term. Pupils involved have benefited from working with agencies including Menziesshill's local youth team; Tayside Fire and Rescue; The Shore; The Corner; Xplore; Showcase the Street; NHS; Young Carers and 16 + activity agreements to mention a few. We would like to say thank you to every one of them!

One such programme is the "Sporting Chance" sessions provided in partnership with "Showcase the Street". This encourages confidence and self-esteem by using sport as a medium. The young people taking part have all been benefitting from the activities and getting fit at the same time!

In the Easter holidays we provided opportunities for pupils to take part in art and music workshops in partnership with Dundee West Youth team and The Shore. You can see some of the artwork created here.



And this summer we will be running more workshops in conjunction with Dundee West youth team, so if you want to get involved, get in touch with Kerri, Hester or Ruth.





### **Author Catherine MacPhail visits Menziesshill High**

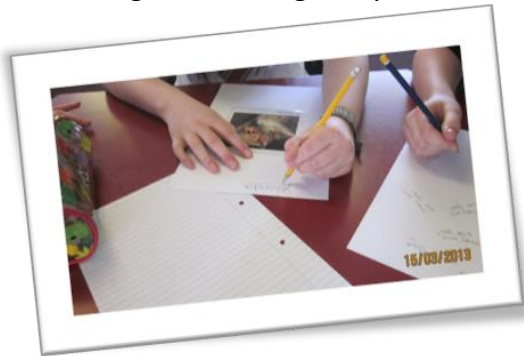
An audience of S3 pupils were held enthralled by author Catherine MacPhail in February as she talked to them about her novels and how she came to write them. They had been reading her award winning novel "Fighting Back" in class and were so enthusiastic about it, borrowing many of her other titles from the library, that Miss Scott the librarian arranged for her to come and talk to them.



Her infectious enthusiasm and story-telling had them thoroughly engaged and when she read them the first chapter of her new novel "Mosi's War" you could almost feel the frustration that they would have to wait months before they could find out what happened next. Cathy involved members of the audience as well, making them characters in the stories she told as she showed how a novel developed and after answering questions from the audience she left us with our very own challenge: the first line of a story for us to write!

### **Science and Literacy working together!**

In March the author and scientist Gill Arbutnott visited Menziesshill High to run a Science writing workshop for some of S1. Pupils discussed what makes an engaging non-fiction text and then used their literacy skills to work on two challenges. They had to take a boring piece of text (a recipe for cakes) and make it interesting and exciting. They also were given photographs of *very* strange animals and had to create accompanying text which was just as arresting. The results were most impressive and the pupils have since been able to use their skills in both Science and English.



### **Books.fun transition visits to primary school**

This year's books.fun transition visits were as much fun as ever. Miss Scott and teams of S1 pupils visited the P6s and 7s in our associated primary schools to tell them about the library

and play book and reading related games. The Story Bag produced some amazing tales (next year's S1 clearly have very good imaginations!) and both The Reading Game and Book Bingo produced lots of excitement. Many thanks to the great team of S1s who helped: Kayla Craig, Anna Ferguson, Abby Lang, Niamh McLaren, Nicole Miller, Kianne Newton





### **Health Week**

S1 – S3 all came to the department during health week. The focus was on eating more fruit and vegetables and more complex carbohydrate. Pupils made risotto with seven different vegetables and fruit salad with six different fruits.



### **S1 Textile Technology**

All S1 pupils took part in a fabric project. Pictured below are Kanza Rehan and Finley Fyfe with their cushions



### **Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland**

46 pupils passed the examination for the Elementary Food Hygiene Award and will shortly receive their awards. Well done to everyone.



## Menziesshill High School Modern Studies Department

Another busy year in the Modern Studies Department...

S1 – 1A and 1C met with Lord Provost and local councillor Bob Duncan as part of their studies on rights, elections and local decision making. As well as talking about his role as a councillor and of the Lord Provost of the city, Mr Duncan was 'open to question'.



Most S1 pupils took part in a 'rich task' experience in Camperdown Park at the end of May. Working across History, Geography and Modern Studies, pupils first undertook a piece of work that covers subject-based skills and knowledge, before taking part in a health-related afternoon activity.



S2 – Lewis Soutar, Jamie Thomson, Bethany Gerrard, Levi Shepherd, Emma Young, Emily McNeil, Kirsten Ferrier and Lucy Stewart will represent Menziesshill High School in the annual S1/S2 quiz to be held in Baldrigon Academy.

S3 – Thirty three pupils in S3 visited the Scottish Parliament in March. After a tour of the parliament building, they met and spoke with local MSP Joe Fitzpatrick before going into the Chamber of the parliament to view the parliament at work.

Well done to Niamh Brunton the school-based winner of the Harry McLevy Memorial Award. Niamh was third overall in the citywide research-based competition. Niamh is pictured receiving her certificate from Claverhouse Training Group's Chief Executive Alistair Cameron.



Congratulations also go to Bradley Evans who was winner of a national internet-based research competition. Organised by the Modern Studies Educational Trust (MSET), Bradley's entry on the ways that government helps to meet the needs of dependent groups was described by the judges as "high quality, detailed and attractively presented". Picture shows Bradley being presented with his certificate by Menziesshill Depute Mr Andy Creamer.



S3 into S4 Modern Studies pupils started their N4/5 course after the Easter break. The first unit of study is Crime and the Law. As part of this course, Police Scotland (Dundee Division) will visit the department to work through a series of activities with pupils that highlight the work of the police when responding to a major terrorist incident. PC Frank Storrier will also speak with pupils on his role as the local community police officer.

S4 - Menzieshill HS were runners-up in the annual S4 internet-based Powerpoint research challenge. Terrific effort from this year's trio of Liam Dunn, Molly Fowlie and Callum Ewan.



Well done also to the dozen pupils who participated in the Modern Studies Easter school revision session.

S5/6 - Local MP Jim McGovern visited the department in January. This was a follow-up visit to the department's visit to the Houses of Parliament in September. Once more the department thanks Jim for his support and co-operation. The department will offer next session's S5/6 Modern Studies pupils the chance to visit the Houses of Parliament in September.

All 18 Higher Modern Studies pupils took part in the annual Higher Modern Studies Revision Conference. Hosted by Menzieshill HS and supported by Dundee City Council, Claverhouse Training and the MSET, pupils were given insights into best practice in exam papers, before going on to engage in a series of activities that aimed to improve their exam skills.



Well done also to those pupils who attended the Modern Studies Easter school revision session.

### **Police Scotland (Tayside Division) Visit to Modern Studies**

PCs Kevin O'Donnell, Jim Mitchell and Frank Storrier visited the Modern Studies Department (5 June) to lead a group / role play learning experience highlighting the ways in which the police respond to a large scale emergency, why the support of the public is important in ensuring effective policing and why it is important for the both the public and the police to react in a fair, balanced and impartial manner. Feedback from the S3 and S4 pupils involved was positive in what was a different but interesting way of learning. A special mention to Callum Ewan and Niamh Brunton who were 'promoted' on the day to Chief and Deputy Chief Constable for an excellent press briefing.

PC Storrier who is the community police officer for this area of Dundee will return to speak to S4 pupils next session on the role of a community police officer. Thanks to everyone involved for their hard work.

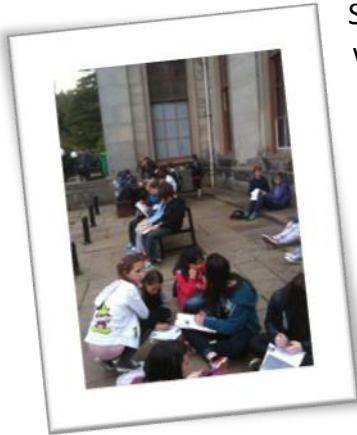




## Menziesshill High School Geography Department

Throughout this session the Geography department at Menziesshill High School has continued to deliver the new CfE courses from S1 to S3 with a particular focus on co-operative and active learning.

All S1 pupils took part in a Social Subjects Interdisciplinary Learning Project where they worked in pairs to produce a booklet called 'Discover Dundee'. The booklet incorporated elements of all 3 Social Subjects and involved pupils researching into Dundee's history, living and working in Dundee and Dundee's Waterfront Project.



S1 pupils also participated in a Social Subjects Health and Well-Being trip to Camperdown Park on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2013. In the morning session pupils completed subject related activities about Camperdown Park. In the afternoon some pupils participated in sporting activities such as football and rounders, whilst others went to the wildlife centre to investigate the varied and interesting species there.

In S2 Geography, as part of the Earth Forces unit, pupils have been learning about the 2011 Japan tsunami disaster. Pupils researched into what life was like for Japanese people 2 years on from the disaster and presented BBC news reports to one another. Definitely some budding journalists amongst them!

As part of the Urban Studies unit S3 pupils learned all about what life is like for people living in Shanty Towns in Less Economically Developed Countries. S3 pupils also got the opportunity to build their very own shanty houses and once complete they carried out self and peer assessments on the quality of their shanty houses.

After the Easter break S3 pupils were also very busy carrying out an Added Value project relating to the Urban Studies unit. In order to gather data for their projects pupils went into the city centre of Dundee, interviewed members of the public and carried out surveys on the land use. All pupils were very well behaved and it was an excellent experience for all involved.



The Geography department at Menziesshill High School also had the opportunity this session to deliver Advanced Higher Geography as part of City Campus. Pupils from Morgan Academy, Baldragon Academy and Harris Academy travelled to Menziesshill on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon to be taught the Advanced Higher Geography course. As part of their course work the Advanced Higher students attended a 3 day course at Kindrogan Field Studies Centre where they took part in a soil, urban and river study. Great fun was had by all and the Advanced Higher pupils found this to be a very worthwhile opportunity.

Finally the Geography department would like to take this opportunity to wish a farewell to Mrs Booth. As well as being a member of the Guidance team Mrs Booth has also worked as part of the Geography department for the last 3 years. Throughout this time she has made fantastic contributions to the department and we wish her very well in her new post at Grove Academy.



## Menziesshill High School Social Subjects S1 Joint Trip to Camperdown Park

Sixty S1 pupils were given the chance to visit Camperdown Park as part of a cross-curricular Social Subjects event. After a series of learning activities that had a focus in Geography, History and Modern Studies, the pupils then had the chance to play rounders, football or visit the wildlife centre. Although there was heavy shower around lunchtime, it didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the pupils (and staff!). Feedback on the day was generally very good with pupils making connections in their learning, as well as keeping fit and enjoying themselves. Well done to everyone who took part. Behaviour was very good and it was great to see so many of our young people joining in and having fun.



## Menziesshill High School Philosophy Department

This year the Philosophy Department has been involved many things. We invited 'Amina' a nationwide group that supports Muslim Women in Scotland to the school. This group is based in Dundee and Glasgow and at this present time are running several campaigns. "You can change this" is a national campaign aimed at Muslim Men in Scotland that is attempting to break the silence surrounding violence against women. "I Speak for Myself" is a national campaign that empowers Muslim women to share their personal messages with fellow Scots, so that together we can challenge damaging stereotypes. The campaign, through a travelling exhibition of women's personal messages, aims to tackle misconceptions and common stereotypes about Muslim women, thus reducing inequality and sexual discrimination not only within the Muslim community but also in the wider society.

Amina came to the school at my request to give a presentation to S5 pupils to mark International Women's Day. The presentation highlighted the inequality suffered by women everywhere. Amina also attended a National 3 RME class to discuss women's rights with the pupils.

We have also helped to support our Health and Wellbeing prefects in their production and delivery of whole school assemblies highlighting mental health issues among pupils at school.

The Philosophy Department attended the Al Maktoum senior pupil conference on 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2013. Six S5 pupils had the opportunity to engage in topical discussion concerning: Globalisation and Multiculturalism, Islam and Muslims, What is Shariah and Women and Islam. Workshops provided opportunities for students to mix and exchange ideas with students from the other schools in Dundee and with students and lecturers from the college. Al Maktoum is an independent and international research led college of higher education. The students are mainly Masters and PHD students.



## Menziesshill High School History Department

The past twelve months have been an exciting time of change for the History Department at Menziesshill as another lost soul departed Scottish shores to pursue the 'Australian Dream'. Admiral Tommy Bruce has joined the Scottish diaspora (hopefully temporarily) and in doing so has left behind a strong department with an excellent reputation for both attainment and uptake. Petty Officer MacDonald manned the bridge in the interim as Captain Baird jumped ship from HMS Morgan to navigate a course for success on what has so far been a stimulating adventure of *Discovery*.

One of the highlights of the year for the department has been the strong ties that have been cultivated with the local community, specifically with Brian Kelly (Education Officer for Dundee Heritage Trust). "You can't cross the sea merely by standing and staring at the



water" - and with that in mind we introduced 'Captain Scott and the Race to the South Pole' to the curriculum (hence the excruciating nautical references). Discovery Point kindly provided a treasure chest containing a considerable variety of sources which S1 pupils (and some staff!) have enjoyed researching, reading and modelling.

Special thanks must be extended to Mrs Baird whose tireless dedication to keeping the History Department bundled up for Winter manifested itself in the creation of two beautifully decorated Christmas jumpers that proved as suited for the roiling seas of education as Captain Scott's sou'wester. The winking lights of the festive sweaters inspired a special Christmas celebration of the World War One Christmas Truce with S3. Tables were upturned to represent trenches, carolling in both English and German was heard echoing through Charleston and small gifts were exchanged as the pupils sought to better understand the humanity that can still exist amidst the horror of war.

The final year of Standard Grade was emotional and we believe we bade it a suitable farewell to the 'Davy Jones' Locker' of education. The S4 pupils played an important role and worked hard for which we hope they, and the senior pupils, are amply rewarded in August.



Finally a special mention to Christopher Vannart who has been awarded the inaugural 'Dundee Heritage Trust Award for Higher History'. This award would not have been possible if not for the generous sponsorship from Dundee Heritage Trust, facilitated by Brian Kelly. It will stand for generations as the peak for all historians at MHS to aspire to!

Just remember: "By looking to the past we are better equipped to see (or sea!) into the future!"



## Menziesshill High School Music Department

### Percussion Ensemble

In February the senior percussion ensemble performed at the Perth concert hall for the regional round of the Music for Youth Festival. The adjudicators were so impressed by their performance that they invited the group back to perform at the national event, which will also take place at the Perth Concert Hall, on Thursday the 13th June where they will represent Dundee alongside musicians from all over Scotland.

In March both the junior and senior percussion ensembles competed at the Arbroath Music Festival where the senior group won first place and regained their winning title. Kirsten Ferrier, Callum Ewan, Sam Walker, Philip McLaren, Christopher Vannart and Ian Christie also performed as soloists at the Arbroath festival in drum-kit and tuned percussion classes.

Later on in March both of the ensembles performed at the Dundee Arts Festival where the junior ensemble were awarded silver and the senior ensemble gold. Murray McArtney, Kirsten Ferrier, Philip McLaren, Sam Walker and Ian Christie also performed as soloists at the Festival in drum-kit and tuned percussion classes.

The senior percussion ensemble performed at the Caird hall in back to back events at the end of March. The first performance was part of a Dundee City Council and Edinburgh University collaboration performing James MacMillan's "The Confession of Isobel Gowdie". For the second performance the senior percussion ensemble were invited to join the Dundee University Symphony Orchestra for their production of Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana". For most of the group this was their first experience playing with a full sized symphony orchestra. Both of the concerts were a huge success.





## Dundee Schools' Art Festival

Members of the Music Department were busy in March at the biennial Dundee Arts Festival. The festival ran from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> of March with performance classes in the Caird Hall, the Marryat Hall, the Bonar Hall and the Music Centre. Menzieshill High School pupils were involved in solo classes and group classes throughout. Over the three days pupils achieved three bronze awards, fourteen silver awards and thirteen gold awards.

As well as the festival classes, lots of our pupils were involved in the annual concerts which take place in the Caird Hall. For pupils in the Senior Wind Ensemble and the Schools' Symphony Orchestra this involved a residential weekend at Belmont Camp, Meigle immediately before festival week.



Kyle Dewar and Ian Christie were two of the pupils involved in the concerts.

As well as performing some of the pupils were responsible for meeting and greeting the invited guests at the concerts.

Throughout the Arts Festival all Menzieshill High School pupils proved to be great ambassadors for the school.



## RSNO Community Project

The Music Department is involved in a three year project with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra. This year activities have been based within the school and over the next two years we will be working together to roll events out into the local community. Earlier in the year Higher pupils worked with musicians to develop their composition skills and were invited to a "Naked Classics" performance in the Caird Hall. More recently five musicians from the orchestra delivered three workshops to all of S1. Below is a picture of a group of S1 pupils with the musicians.



## City of Discovery Charity Concert

Pupils from the school choir have had the experience of working with Anna Flanagan who is an award winning soprano and the vocal coach for the BBC Proms. The pupils have participated in workshops with Anna in school, as well as attending weekly rehearsals in the Music Centre along with other pupils from around the city to create a Dundee Schools' Choir.

The choir then gave an amazing performance in the Caird Hall on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June where they performed alongside Lesley Garrett CBE and the Royal Scottish National Orchestra. The concert was in aid of the Ninewells Cancer Campaign and Tayside Area Cancer Support.



You can find out more about the event at: [www.cityofdiscoveryconcert.co.uk](http://www.cityofdiscoveryconcert.co.uk)

## Associated Primary Music Events

Our instrumental instructors have been working hard to build links with pupils in our associated primary schools. A Young Musician competition took place with all the pupils competing in school heats before the winners took part in the final in Menzieshill High School. The adjudicators came from the team of Royal Scottish National Orchestra musicians we had in the school and they were very impressed by the high standard of playing. They were less impressed at having to pick a winner because they said the job was so difficult! In the end though they managed to pick one, the winner of the competition was Rael Watt (p7) from Hillside Primary School who played Royal Procession on the trumpet. Congratulations Rael! Rael will now have the opportunity to perform his winning piece at the Summer Concert on Tuesday 25 June.

Instructors have also been collaborating to create a cluster orchestra which is a first for Menzieshill High School. This involves instrumental pupils from the associated primaries and S1-S3 pupils from Menzieshill getting together to rehearse and perform a piece at the Summer Concert.

Both events have taken a lot of organisation on part of the instrumental team within the music department and they have done a great job!

## Instrumentalist of the Year

The department continue to have a large number of entries for the school Instrumentalist of the Year competition. The competition is two parts – S1-3 and S4-6 and this year there are in the region of fifteen entries for each one. The competition took place on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June with Mr Charlie Maynes adjudicating both finals. Keep an eye out on the school website for the winners. Menzieshill music department also had five senior pupils enter the citywide Instrumentalist of the Year. The semi-final took place on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June with the final on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June. All the best to all the pupils involved!



## Menziesshill High School Mathematics Department

During the 2012-13 school session pupils have taken part in three competitions at UK, Scottish and local Dundee City level. In April, 48 S1 and S2 pupils entered the UKMT Junior Challenge answering up to 25 challenging questions. Best in School and a Silver Award went to Rachel Smith. Best in S1 and a Silver Award went to Amy Paton. Silver Certificates will also be presented to Jamie Nicholson and Lewis Soutar. Winners of the Bronze Award were Owen Dwyer, Nathan Bruce, Jamie Savage and Matthew Turnbull. During the autumn and spring terms, in their own time, S1 to S4 pupils worked on two sets of problems provided by the Scottish Mathematical Challenge. John McIntosh earned a bronze certificate for his efforts and a number of other pupils came close to the threshold for a bronze award.

On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2013 eight pupils will take part in the annual Enterprising Maths in Dundee competition being held at Harris Academy. Pupils have been researching and preparing posters on the Sequences theme and practising mathematical games. It is expected that Bradley Evans, Luke Heppenstall, Murray McArtney, Natasha Inglis, Matthew Turnbull, Rory Starke, Lewis Soutar and Emma Young will be a credit to the school as they compete against teams from across the city for the chance to take part in the National final later this year.

S1-3 pupils in all classes have the opportunity to participate in on-line Manga-High and Sumdog competitions collecting "medals" or points as they progress through levels. This can be done in school and at home. Jenny Anderson, Callum Blair, Catherine Chan, Chelsey Dunsmuir, Ryan Etchels, Ruaridh Lowden, Jamie Savage, Amy Scott and Lewis Soutar are to be particularly commended for their efforts and achievements.



## Menziesshill High School Modern Languages Department

Last week our annual trip to France took place, and 32 excited S2 pupils took off for Boulogne and Paris for a packed 6 days. A tired but happy group arrived back on Tuesday full of stories and laden with souvenirs. While the group were away, the national languages competition took place in St Andrews University last Friday. Despite fierce competition from the winners of school heats from all over Scotland, Abby Lang took 3<sup>rd</sup> prize in the Junior French, and Bradley Evans took 3<sup>rd</sup> prize in the Senior German. Congratulations to them both! Congratulations also to Kirsty Smith (S6), who this year was the only pupil in Dundee to successfully complete the Languages Baccalaureate. To complete her baccalaureate Kirsty also worked with the Modern Languages teachers at Harris, and we are grateful for their support. Kirsty is going on to study languages at Heriot Watt University.

Primary Modern Languages have once again provided our pupils with the chance to share their knowledge and develop their tutoring skills. 24 S2 pupils visited our primaries as tutors in French working with groups of P7 pupils, and proved themselves to be confident, imaginative and professional. As the Scottish pilot project in French at Hillside Primary progresses, with pupils learning French from P1, our pupils can look forward to increasing fluency in French.

This year our annual Languages in Work event for S4, and Passport to Europe for P7 are being reorganised to fit with the Curriculum for Excellence, and we hope to be able to hold them in their new format next year.

This year's summer prizewinners in Languages are:

S1 Catherine Chan

S2 Rachel Smith

S3 Chelsea Cameron



**Menziesshill High School  
Physical Education Department**

Menziesshill HS was represented at a number of Active Schools festivals winning medals across a range of different sports including Girls Football, Water Polo and Golf. Despite being one of the smaller high schools in the city, Menziesshill strive to attend as many Active Schools festivals as possible. Driven by a committed P.E. Department and other school staff, Menziesshill ensure that opportunities exist for the pupils to showcase their undoubted talents.

An enthusiastic group of S1-S2 girls attended the Active Schools Football Plate finals winning every game and showcasing their undoubted talents to the many spectators who came along to watch.



**< S1/2 Girls with their plate.**

**Rory Starke & John-Paul Laing with their Silver  
Medals from the S1-S3 Golf Festival >**



## **Water Polo**

Menziesshill had both S1/2 and S3/4 teams entered into the Active Schools League this year. S1/2 team performed well and grew in confidence as players as the league developed. They finished the league in 4<sup>th</sup> place, missing the last round due to a clash of circumstances.

This year has seen several changes in the S3/4 Water Polo team, with many new faces joining the team at the start of year. Despite this, the squad have shown huge developments in terms of commitment, enthusiasm and determination and succeeded in winning the Active Schools League. Congratulations again to all players.



**< Champions! The Water Polo Team with their trophy**

## **Scottish Schools Water Polo**

Menziesshill High School pupils travelled to St Margaret's Academy in Livingstone to play in the Scottish Schools Water Polo Championships.

The S1-S3 team made it to the quarter finals closely losing out to Dunfermline in a highly competitive match. Menziesshill's open team progressed to the semi-finals but were narrowly beaten by George Watson's College.

## **Basketball News**

The basketball club have had another successful year. The S5/6 team were winners of the Plate Final. The S3/4 won the League and Bronze medals in the cup finals.

The Basketball club meets on Thursday lunchtime with coaches from Dundee City Council and we are keen to have more players at all age groups attend.

## **Girls Football**

A group of talented Dundee female players selected through Active Schools Girls Football Festivals formed a 'Dundee City' Girls team and were triumphant at the SFA Midnight League National finals at Tynecastle on Thursday 30th May. The girls fended off competition from 10 other qualifying teams from across Scotland to claim the trophy, beating Gala Girls in the final.

Menzieshill HS was proudly represented by S3 pupil Beth Robson (GK) who displayed exactly why she was selected with a string of fantastic saves and numerous clean sheets!

At the same event Leila Strachan (S1), Rachel Smith (S2) and Shaney McCabe (S2) participated in the S1-S2 section and executed some defence splitting passes, strong tackles and instinctive finishing in front of the goal.

This project was organised through a multi partnership approach with Active Schools, Leisure & Culture Dundee and Community Learning & Development and the Scottish FA.

Over the past year the pupils of Menzieshill have proven that it's quality, not quantity, that matters and Menzieshill certainly have that in abundance.



### Rock Challenge 2013

This was the first year that the school took part in the Rock Challenge which was held in the Caird Hall in Dundee. The pupils started rehearsing for this in the October 2012 and performed in February.



There were 37 pupils involved in this project: dancers stage crew, hair and make-up artists and costume and prop design. The school came third and did amazingly well. We won seven awards throughout the event. The pupils are already excited about this year's Rock Challenge. New members are welcome. This will start again in August 2013.

### Extra-Curricular Clubs

Menzieshill have a number of extra-curricular clubs that run during both lunchtime and after school. All clubs have been well attended and the commitment and coaching from the staff has been first class.

Active Schools will be working with the P.E. department to make sure new and exciting opportunities exist to increase pupil participation in sport.

Time / Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
LUNCHTIME (1pm till 1.40pm)		Badminton S1-6 (Mr. Thorburn) Blue Gym  S1-6 Rollerama (Bev/Hester/Kerri) Wooden Gym	S1-4 Hockey Grove Menzieshill (Chris Anderson) Wooden Gym	S1-6 Basketball (Sports Dev & J. Dorward)  S1-4 Rugby (Mr. Clark) Pitch  S1-6 Table Tennis (Mr. Mcdonald)	Interhouse Competitions
AFTER SCHOOL (3.40-4.40pm)		S1-S6 Rock Challenge (Mrs Waddell)		S1-S6 Rock Challenge (Mrs Waddell & Jen Dingwall)	

## Sports Day

Sports day was held as part of our Health Week, we had a huge number of participants and although the weather was a bit on the chilly side we had a very successful day.

All of our event winners received a trophy and the overall winners of each age group are detailed below.

Age group	Boys	Girls
S1	Brendan Howett	Anna Ferguson
S2	Ben Mooney	Shaney McCabe
S3	Pavel Pliskov	Carys Anderson



### Sports day winners 2013

Each house entered the inter-house relay competition which was very hotly contested.

Weem won most of the relay races and eventually came out top of the inter-house point competition that was part of sports day.



## Dundee Schools Athletics Championships

Menziesshill High School participated in the Dundee Schools Athletics Championships on Thursday 13th June at Caird Park. Pupils competed in many different track and field events ranging from 100m Sprint to the Shot Putt. They performed excellently in all events entered and the championships highlighted the talent of our pupils. Medal winners were as follows:

<b>Gold -</b>	Pavel Pliskov	Shot Putt
	Beth Fyffe	Javelin
	Kirsty Bell	1500m
	Shaney McCabe	Long Jump
	Carys Anderson	Shot Putt
	Beth Robson	Javelin
<b>Silver-</b>	Hannah Edwards	Shot Putt
<b>Bronze-</b>	Kirsty Bell	800m
	Shaney McCabe	100m
	Shaney McCabe	200m
	John Sinclair	High Jump



Throughout the whole day pupils were courteous and friendly to other competitors and officials. These pupils were also confident, enthusiastic and determined individuals and were an asset to the school. Congratulations to all medals winners and participants.

Mrs Waddell  
PT Physical Education





## Science - Easter Egg Challenge



On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March all S1 pupils gathered in the hall to participate in the Science Easter Egg Challenge.

Their challenge was to protect an ordinary egg (uncooked) from breaking when dropped from the walkway in the hall.

Prior to the challenge pupils had chosen their teams (maximum of 4) within their own school houses and had decided on a team name. Pupils were given 25 minutes to design something that would protect their egg, many having brought resources from home with some supplied by the science department.



All pupils worked extremely hard on their designs and great team spirit was shown by all pupils. After the 25 minutes were up eggs were then dropped from the walkway to see which designs could indeed protect the egg from breaking.

Many interesting designs were seen including putting an egg in a jar of peanut butter, wrapping the egg in glittery play dough and many designs featuring a parachute.

Many of the eggs survived the fall showing that we have super scientists within Menziesshill High School.





## Menziesshill High School Chemistry Department - Chem Bus

On the 20th February 2013 S2 pupils were treated to a visit from the University of St Andrew's Chembus. Pupils were first given various demonstrations involving nitrogen, oxygen and carbon dioxide.



no

Flowers placed in liquid nitrogen by pupil volunteers were instantly turned glass-like and bananas placed in liquid nitrogen were then shown to be of use to hammer in nails should the need arise when hammer is available.

Pupils were also treated to flying bugs through the production of carbon dioxide and popping balloons filled with nitrogen gas. Pupils were then split into four groups to gain some hands on experience of various experiments including turning copper coins to gold, making coloured slime and filling balloons with carbon dioxide from dry ice.



In all a great experience was had by all S2 pupils showing them that chemistry has lots to offer.



## Menziesshill High School Parent Council

The Parent Council is a tremendous vehicle for parents to be actively involved. They meet approximately 6 times per year and they support the school through fund raising and seeking parental views. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their continued hard work and in particular our office bearers Lesley Nicol, Treasurer and Lesley Mays, Chairperson. Both are stepping down as their sons leave the school. I personally have found them a tremendous support and thank them for their commitment and hard work for all in Menziesshill High. We wish them well and welcome our new Chairperson Alison Collins and treasurer Kirsty Turnbull.

**Our first meeting of the session is at 6.30pm on August 21st in the school - all are welcome.**

H.Gray



## Menziesshill High School McManus Citizenship Awards – Louise Fox

*“Dundee S6 pupils who have proved to be truly community-spirited through their efforts at home and at school have been recognised at a special ceremony on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June.*

*The annual presentation of the Lord Provost McManus Citizenship Award was made at the City Chambers.” - Dundee City Council News Archive, June 2013*

Our very own Louise Fox was lucky enough to be part of this.

Louise was a Prefect and House Captain at Menziesshill High School where she performed these duties extremely diligently. She has been involved in organising coffee mornings for various charities and helped choreograph and perform in The Rock Challenge event which was held for the first time in Dundee this year.

Louise has represented the school in many sports although her speciality is water polo where she represents both Scotland and GB – she has been selected to compete at the Commonwealth Games in 2014. Louise was selected to carry the Torch as part of the Olympic Relay and did soon the last leg to Scone Palace.

Louise is the only Platinum Sport Ambassador in Dundee which she gained for her excellent efforts in promoting a healthy lifestyle both within school and the wider community. Louise helps to brighten up the day in Ninewells Hospital by delivering papers to the wards each morning. Her cheery disposition and confidence in chatting to the patients provides a good start to the morning.

Louise has successfully completed her bronze and silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards and is currently working towards her Gold. She volunteers at the Girl Guides and has organised a show at a local OAP complex and is currently a Bank of Scotland Local Hero for her work in the community.

Louise hopes to become a PE teacher through studying at Edinburgh University next year.





## Menziesshill High School Ceilidh Band 2012-13

Being interested in traditional Scottish music, the five members of “Braes of Menzies” began playing together in September. Since then they have won Silver in the Fife Festival of Music, Gold at the Dundee Festival, and on Saturday they won the Memorial Cup at the Perthshire Gaelic Mod in Aberfeldy. Their next “gig” is at the Dundee Flower Festival. While they are pleased with their successes, the main thing is that they have lots of fun playing together.



From left : Andrew Battes, Rachel Beattie, Shaun Falconer, Kirsten Ferrier, Ian Christie



## Menziesshill High School Dundee School Holidays 2013-14

### **Autumn Term 2013**

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2013 - Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2013

### **Winter Term 2013**

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2013 - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2013

### **Spring Term 2013**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2014 - Friday 28 March 2014

Mid Term Holiday - Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2014 and Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2014

### **Summer Term 2013**

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2014 - Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2014 (Good Friday - 18<sup>th</sup> April 2014, May Day - Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2014, Victoria Day - Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2014)

Further information on schools available from - <http://www.dundee.gov.uk>

**<http://menziesshill.ea.dundee.gov.uk>**

Our school website is constantly updated with new information. Visit the above address to find out what is going on throughout next session.