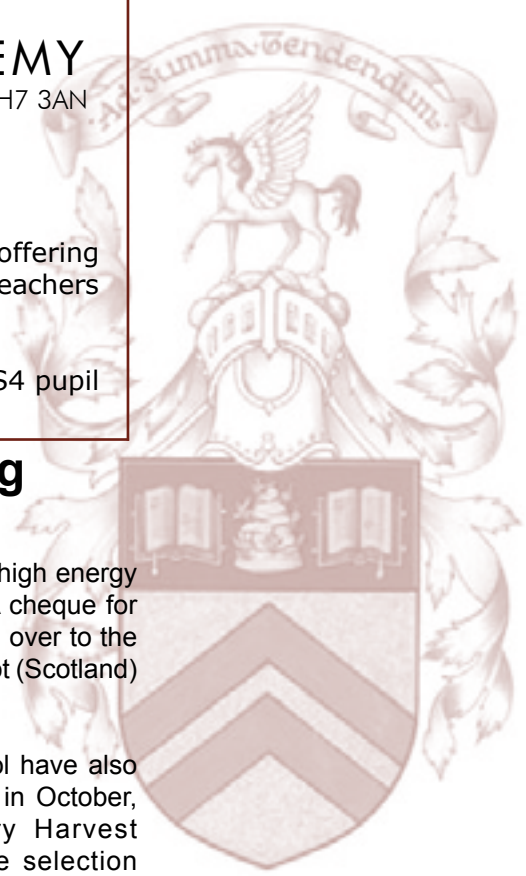


'Morrison's always tries to bring out the best in you, always offering new opportunities and challenges, along with a sense that the teachers really want you to succeed.'

- S4 pupil



Morrison's Puts the 'Fun' in Fund Raising



by taking part in a high energy workout session. A cheque for £1000 was handed over to the Kidney Kids' mascot (Scotland) in October.

The Primary school have also been busy: again, in October, after the Primary Harvest Assembly, a large selection of groceries was handed over to The Salvation Army. In November, The Primary had a very successful Shoe Box Appeal on behalf of Blythwood Care. Nearly eighty shoeboxes crammed with Christmas gifts were donated to the charity and these will be sent all over the world to worthy causes.



Morrison's Academy's Charities' Committee has reached new heights in raising money for good causes this term. A wide variety of activities has been organized by the committee recently and, thanks to the tireless efforts of Mrs Taylor and her willing band of helpers, a huge amount of cash has been raised by pupils, staff and parents.

He showed pictures of the wood being cut in readiness for the project. In September he revisited Morrison's to update us on progress. The Pavilion had been finished, was operational and is already making a difference to many orphans and families. However, there has been a further development in our link with the Likhibula.

Children in Need Day, always a popular event in the calendar for both Primary and Secondary, was another outstanding success. Over £1000 was raised by pupils who brought in their spare pennies. (It's amazing what can be found down the back of the sofa!) Various Primary and Secondary Cake and Candy stalls further bolstered the committee's coffers.



As avid readers of the newsletter will know, last school session, Morrison's Academy Charities' Committee decided to establish a link with the Scottish Malawi Foundation to raise money so that a Storytelling Pavilion at Likhibula House on Mulanje Mountain could be built.

The cost of a well qualified teacher in Malawi is £1200 and, since Morrison's raised more than was needed for The Pavilion, it was decided that the excess money should provide the salary for a local teacher and it is Morrison's Academy's intention to maintain this support for as long as it is needed.

The generosity of all members of the Morrison's community must be commended. Thanks to all who have participated and contributed and, once again, huge credit must go to Mrs Taylor and her Charities' Committee.

The whole Morrison's Academy community joined the challenge of raising the £5000 that was needed to build the Pavilion: the target was reached very quickly and, in June, Bobby Anderson (Chairman of the Malawi Foundation) returned to the school to collect the cheque.

Closer to home, Morrison's pupils raised £1257 for good causes by holding a 'Sporting Heroes' charity event. Pupils not only paid for the privilege of coming to school dressed as sporting heroes, they also had the chance to raise more money



REFLECTIONS ON AUSCHWITZ



David Hiscocks talking to Mr O'Kane ,,,

"Since Auschwitz we know what Man is capable of. And since Hiroshima we know what is at stake." Viktor Frankl (Austrian psychiatrist and psychotherapist)

Viktor Frankl's thoughts on Auschwitz are a reminder and a warning to everyone about the depths to which Man can stoop. Kim Donaldson and I recently were given the opportunity to see the real Auschwitz and not just study it from books. The death camp in Poland was run by the Nazis in the Second World War and used in their attempt to exterminate the races they considered 'sub-human'. Six million Jews in six years of war were murdered along with Gypsies, Soviet prisoners of war, disabled people and other 'undesirables'. At Auschwitz itself, 1.2 million people were murdered. Just to read these numbers on the page challenges our ability to comprehend such an atrocity: to be invited by Mr Lovegrove to visit the actual site left me with mixed feelings of nervousness and curiosity.

The group that was organizing the trip was The Holocaust Memorial Project. At an introductory seminar in Aberdeen on Sunday 21st October, we were briefed on roughly what we might find. On this day we also got to talk to a survivor, 'Ziggy', who was fifteen years old at the time. This was fascinating and enlightening, actually listening to someone who had been there.

Despite having been prepared by the Introductory Day, I was not prepared emotionally for what I experienced. Our day was a long and tiring one which may have exacerbated our reaction to the contents of the two camps, making us more emotional when confronted with the many disturbing scenes. Two sights struck me as particularly poignant. The first of these was the sight of the thousands of piled up shoes collected from the prisoners of the camps as they arrived. The sheer size of the pile and the knowledge that this was only a fraction of the number actually collected, as well as the thought that their owners, soon after removing these shoes, were probably dead, was a chilling one. The second scene that I found especially disturbing was the railway siding at Birkenau. It took fifteen minutes to walk from one end to the other. The sheer volume of people which could be unloaded, processed and murdered here was overwhelming.

These incidents were two of many which I found very powerful emotionally. However despite being hit very hard by the experience, I do not regret going because it was a day that will live long in my memory. I would also like to thank The Holocaust Memorial Group for giving me the opportunity to go on the trip.

Photograph attributed to: Arbeit Macht Frei

NEW FACES

Morag Whyte

Morag joins our Administration Team as Finance / HR Administrator and is no stranger to the school after being a pupil here sixteen years ago.

Kirsty McCain

Kirsty completed a Post Graduate Diploma in Primary teaching before working at Dunbar Primary School. She feels that Morrison's has an eccentric and eclectic range of teachers and pupils who contribute to the atmosphere of the school.

Ian Cullen

Ian is our new IT technician and he is happy to be working at Morrison's. He has worked in IT for over ten years now in a mixture of support roles. Most recently he was employed by RM supporting 1500+ UK Schools using CC3.

Adele Dickinson

Adele's first taste of the classroom was at the Isabel Mair School where she worked with children with additional support needs. Adele completed her Postgraduate Diploma in Primary Education and then she took up a post at Kippen Primary School where she worked until joining Morrison's Academy.

Raphael Millon

Raphael, a native Frenchman, spent two years in secondary schools in Angus as a French "assistant". He spent last year studying at the University of Dundee for his PGDE (secondary) in French and Spanish and is happy to be completing his first teaching post at Morrison's.

Stuart Hill

Stuart joins the Science Department as the Physics Co-ordinator this term. He has extensive experience in both industry and education and has become involved in the life of the school.



PUPIL SUCCESSES

Aspiring Students Dig Out Mining Careers

S6 Pupils Jamie Fairclough and Keith Ratcliff recently enjoyed a unique learning experience at the University of Exeter's Tremough Campus, near Penryn. The two boys spent four days with the University's Camborne School of Mines, learning about mining and minerals through a jam-packed timetable of educational and fun events. The four-day residential programme was designed through a partnership between The Smallpeice Trust and the University of Exeter and was sponsored by two of the world's largest mining companies, Anglo American and Rio Tinto.



Scottish Opera Visits Morrison's

Scottish Opera visited the Primary school on Wednesday 11th November to rehearse and perform 'First Class: Passport to Paris', a newly created opera for upper primary pupils. The Scottish Opera's Education team of highly-skilled musicians, singers and drama specialists worked with Morrison's primary pupils during morning and afternoon workshops and then performed the opera in Academy Hall. Parents, friends and pupils thoroughly enjoyed the colourful occasion.



Remembrance Day

On the 11th November, 42 cadets from Morrison's Academy CCF took part in the Royal British Legion's annual Remembrance Day parade in Crieff. They joined their colleagues in the Pipe Band and marched through the town to the Cenotaph on a cold, crisp morning. The finale for the cadets was leading a march-past through James Square, saluting the standards of the town's uniformed organizations, in front of a large and appreciative crowd.



Triathlon Triumph

S1 pupil Josh Murchie has recently excelled in national and local events. Josh came third overall in Scotland in his age group (11-12 years) in the Triathlon Scotland's Youth Aqualon Series 2007. This involved a series of nine aqualons (250m swim/2km run) throughout 2007 and involved young athletes from across Scotland. In early October, Josh also won the Stirling Duathlon in the same age group, this time completing a demanding a 1km run/3km cycle /1km run.



Gold Medal Winner

Despite atrocious weather conditions on Sunday 16th September, Erin O'Kane battled through the wind and rain to take the gold medal in the under-13 800 metres final of the Tayside Track Championships held at Caird Park, Dundee.

Home International Champion

Morrison's Academy pupil Iain Paterson was part of the victorious Scottish team which won the Home International Endurance Riding Competition held at the Royal Welsh Showground recently. With stiff competition from England, Wales and Ireland, Iain won the individual 50km race, riding his horse, Tansag Primo Dancer. Wearing his gold medal, Iain is pictured here holding the team trophy.

Top Conductor Visits Morrison's Academy

Christopher Bell recently visited Morrison's Academy to rehearse with the newly formed Morrison's Boys' Choir. Belfast-born Bell is Chorus Director of the Grant Park Chorus, Chicago, USA; Chorus master of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra Junior Chorus and of the Belfast Philharmonic Choir. He was largely responsible for the formation of the National Youth Choir of Scotland in 1996 and has been its Artistic director since then. He is also artistic Director of the highly successful Children's Classic Concert series. It was therefore a great pleasure to have him visit Morrison's Academy and give a workshop to the highly appreciative boys.



For his work with singers, and particularly his encouragement of young singers in Scotland, Christopher Bell was awarded Scotsman of the Year 2001 for Creative Talent. In 2003, he was awarded the Charles Groves' prize for his contribution to cultural life in Scotland and the rest of the UK.

CO-CURRICULAR

DEBATING SOCIETY

Sandy Jackson and Arthur Learoyd recently took the debating world by storm by winning the prestigious Glasgow University Union Debating Competition. In total twenty-two teams took part, from all over Scotland and England. Both the Morrison's A and Morrison's B teams qualified for the Grand Final in the Union Debating Chamber. The final motion was "This House Would Defend General Musharraf of Pakistan's right to rule".

JOHN MUIR

Several pupils were recently awarded John Muir certificates for taking part in a variety of ecological and environmental activities, including walks around the Knock, osprey spotting in Comrie, a visit to the Hermitage near Dunkeld and bird-spotting at Loch Leven.

CCF

This year's CCF came third in this year's Scottish Cadet Military Skills Competition. The team were tested in a range of activities, including night reconnaissance patrols, section attacks, First Aid and map reading over two days. The mountainous terrain and mixed weather conditions made little impact on an enthusiastic and motivated Morrison's team.



MUNICH MUSIC EXCHANGE

I don't know what the German equivalent for *entente cordiale* is but there was plenty evidence of it in Academy Hall on r when German exchange students from the Louise-Schroeder-Gymnasium in Bavaria teamed up with Morrison's musicians to host a wide-ranging and thoroughly entertaining concert.

The evening was the exciting climax to a week-long visit from our German friends, during which time they had been hosted by Morrison's families, participated in a spirited ceilidh, performed at The Hydro and taken part in an impromptu barn dance.

From pipe band to big band, Schubert to Sandy Shaw, Blues Brother to Bavarian brass, the joint concert had something for every musical taste. Academy Hall had a café-style ambience for the occasion and the informal atmosphere allowed the pupils to relax and express themselves expansively in a variety of musical contexts.

FROM THE RECTOR...

I'm choosing to write on this subject, perhaps a trifle unusual in this space, because the over-protection of children by parents is becoming an increasing concern amongst headteachers, psychologists and educational researchers. Indeed work undertaken by this last group is beginning to build up a consistent and troubling picture, one which shows that children who don't learn to cope with the rough and tumble of playground existence, whose freedom is curtailed in the name of safety and whose parents intervene too readily on behalf of their children, are at a significant disadvantage when they leave school for university or the workplace where the protective blanket no longer reaches. Put simply, such young people are not properly equipped for life.

Please don't take this the wrong way. I have enormous sympathy for parents and having had three sons of my own I know how uncomfortable even frightening it is to let go. But let go we must if our children are to grow into healthy and confident adults. Unquestionably one of the most difficult judgements any parent has to make is when to start giving greater freedom, exposing their children to an increased level of risk, allowing them to fight their own battles, letting them make potentially painful mistakes.

Understandably as parents we want to protect our children from unpleasantness of all kinds and yet we know from our own experience that life beyond the school gate, in addition to its bountiful joy and wonder, has its fill of adversity, conflict and downright shocks. If we haven't prepared our children for these eventualities then, de facto, we will have infantilised, disempowered and seriously under-prepared them for what life holds in store.

So we have to let go, allow them to experience ups and downs, resolve their own conflicts without interfering on their behalf, and we have to expose them to an acceptable but increased level of risk. Only by following this path will they develop those vital qualities necessary for navigating safely through life's sometimes difficult passage, namely self-confidence, judgment, independence and, crucially, resilience.

Simon Pengelley

