

# **The Royal High School Edinburgh: 2012-13 Annual Report**

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## **Summary**

- Very good results at Higher – one of best on record
- Continued work by all departments on new National courses due to start in new session for S4
- Planning in place to develop the school as a Community Sports Hub
- Raising significant funds for charities and for the Support Fund through the sponsored walk (involving over a thousand pupils)
- Success in the National Gallery and Pushkin creative writing competitions
- Participation by senior pupils in a year long reviewing project with the Festival Theatre
- Continued success at the Edinburgh International Film Festival's Schools' Competition
- Organisation of a Sports Day for S2 by pupils, raising money for Comic Relief
- As part of a whole school focus on Holocaust memorial Day, a moving address to all S2 pupils by a survivor of the Rwandan genocide
- Establishing a French film club for S1 and S2 pupils
- Winning a British association Gold CREST award for research by senior pupils into storage of energy generated from renewable sources
- Sporting achievements included: the Under 14s becoming football champions by winning their league for the first time; retaining the Edinburgh Schools' 7s Series; sisters Heather and Julie MacPherson winning titles at the Scottish Schools' Badminton Championships and also being selected for the Scottish Team for the World Championships; the S1 netball team reaching the Scottish Cup Final
- Over 80 pupils working with the Deborah Colker Dance Company as part of an Edinburgh Festival project
- Participation of over 50 pupils in DanceQuest, a national 3 year project involving the Prince's Trust and the Festival Theatre
- The Fiddle Group performing at the European Secondary Heads gala dinner and the Ceilidh Band performing at a fundraising evening for Poppy Scotland and the Girl Guides
- The Parent Council continuing to campaign for better road safety measures at the back gate and challenged the local authority on funding of technological support for additional needs pupils as well as the proposal to rotate head teachers from school to school periodically
- The PSA continuing to raise significant funds for the school through a series of events
- Staff departures included Diane Santana (PT Business Ed); Janette Shearer (Maths)

## **Prize Giving**

Sheriff Frank Crowe (President of the FP Club) chaired proceedings, releasing his usual string of amusing anecdotes, including one where he described his son, a Stewart's pupil, winning a prize, and selecting a learned volume. Frank said that had he won a similar prize at the Royal High, he would have selected the omnibus edition of the Eagle or something more racy.

Mrs. Janette Shearer, retiring after 13 years of dedicated service in Maths and Guidance, having made a significant contribution to the wider life of the school, presented the prizes.

The Honourable Lord Jones, Senator of the College of Justice (Scottish High Court Judge) delivered the FP Address. Mike Jones came late to the Law, having started his working life as an Pilot Officer in the RAF. Among the stories he recounted of those days was of his experience as a Phantom bomber pilot, on a simulated A-Bomb mission over central Europe. The hamstrung RAF provided a fail-safe to the possibility of blindness at the moment the bomb exploded – an eye patch. American Phantom pilots, in common with their astronauts, had gold-tinted goggles which minimized the risk of blindness. He described how the phantom, at top speed would have covered Princes Street in less than 2 seconds. Sadly Mike died in March 2016 at the age of 68.

Aoife Crummey, Dux of the school, responded with an engaging and insightful speech.

## 2012-2013 Photos



2013 Crichton Cup – all four nations



Dux Aoife Crumney with Janette Shearer



S1 Students at the Dounans outdoor camp



**2012-2013 6<sup>th</sup> Form**