

# Royal High School Edinburgh

## 2013-2014 Annual Report

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### Overview

This document is a distillation principally of the 2014 Annual report. Interviews with the Rector, Jane Frith, should be complemented in due course by those of the Dux James Powell and Captain, Robert Bough. The full version of the Annual Report is available as part of this history package.

### Annual Report extract

#### Rector's overview

- First year of the National Exams, replacing Standard Grades. Huge amount of work and responsibility for Staff and Students.
- Positive destinations – 95% for 2013 Leavers
- Pupils receiving 5 passes at SCQF level 5 credit up from 48% to 58% and level 4 general up from 89% to 91%
- No of students with at least 1 advanced higher up from 29% to 36%
- Long awaited ICT refresh took place over the Summer holiday
- iPads now 1:1 in S4
- West of Scotland Physics Education Group – a School team won the annual competition
- Establishment of the Outdoor Learning area – information and photos required
- Holocaust Memorial event – an all Edinburgh affair, with Guest Speakers who were all survivors of genocide, Bosnian, Cambodian and German WWII. Eva Clarke, born in an open coal truck en route to Auschwitz
- All 220 S3 pupils spent 3 full days on Project Scrooge, including a Lyceum visit
- On the Staffing front, it was goodbye to Anthea Gage after 34 years, Brian Dempsey after 20 years, David Gourdie after 24 years, and David Kirkland after 20 years. Over 100 years' experience in one fell swoop!
- Extra-Curricular – Overseas visits included Skiing to France, Modern Language students to Paris, while Geography students travelled to Italy, including visits to Vesuvius and Pompeii. Local visits included the Pitlochry Theatre, The Royal Highland Show and the previous High School buildings in Edinburgh
- The Summer Dance show featured over 250 performers, and the Fiddle Group made many appearances including the RHS Club dinner
- Extensive sporting achievements included Boys and Girls success in the Brewin Dolphin Rugby tournament.
- Scottish Mathematical Council's challenge produced gold medal winners in Ross Witney-Hunter and William O'Donnell
- Reintroduction of Sports Colours

### Prize Giving

James Powell became Dux, and delivered a sparkling valedictory speech. School Captain Robert Bough helped by his Vice Captains managed the delivery of the many prizes, presented jointly this year by Art Teacher Anthea Gage RSW, (famous for stripy clothes, zany singing and iPads) a long serving teacher who was retiring.

FP Club President Sheriff Frank Crowe expertly chaired the event, producing many memorable quotes in the process. He quipped “I've never been a success in business – that's why I became a Sheriff”; “This is the closest I've ever been to a School Prize”; On turning to face the staff in their academic gowns - “I didn't realise there were so many Nobel Laureates at School”; and finally, “At school, I eschewed prizes, but excelled at games of chance, and horse-racing (some thoroughbreds, some donkeys”).

Fraser Doherty MBE delivered the FP address. Fraser unsurprisingly is no stranger to the Memorial stage, having won prizes including the 2004 Dux of the 4<sup>th</sup> year, and Dux of Home Economics the same year, then a prize in Business management the following year.

Fraser, or Jam Boy as he is sometimes known, is Founder of SuperJam, one of the biggest specialist food companies in UK. He was taught jam making by his granny in Glasgow, and his parents recall their house being converted into a jam making factory. Fraser suggested that perhaps his greatest achievement was sharing the front page of the Sun with Susan Boyle, while another high point was a visit to 10 Downing Street. He named his teacher Anne Laing as a big influence in his business life. Anne retired in 2005, and presented the prizes at the 2006 Prize Giving. He also spoke of the TV enactment of his life, he being portrayed by a young Indian boy! He is very pleased that his Charities are flourishing, including free tea Parties (for up to 600 people at a time) organised all over the UK for elderly people who live alone or in care. He started by selling eggs as a schoolboy, but quickly moved to jam making, and his products are sold in over 2,000 supermarkets in 7 countries. His brands were twice rejected by the Waitrose selection panel, but he persisted and was successful eventually. That persistence was the main thrust of his message to the current pupils.

## 2013-2014 Photos



*The 2014 Remembrance Victoria Cross – one poppy for each of the fallen in the Great War*



*The 2014 Remembrance Service  
Rector, current and Former Pupils*



*The U16 Plate winners in the Brewin Dolphin  
Rugby tournament*



*The 2014 Sponsored Walk*



*Dux James Powell with Anthea Gage*



*2014 Prize Giving platform party. Guest speaker Fraser Doherty is fourth from left*



*2013-2014 6<sup>th</sup> Form*