

# Royal High School Edinburgh

## 2016-2017 Annual Report

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### Overview

This document is a distillation principally of the 2017 Annual report. Interviews with the Rector, Pauline Walker, are complemented by the Prize Giving speeches of Dux Ross Witney-Hunter and Ken Macintosh MSP.

The full version of the Annual Report is available as part of this history package.

### Annual Report extract

- Very positive set of SQA results
- In S1-3 students have made very good progress in their Curriculum for Excellence courses
- Within National 5 65% of learners achieved at least 5 passes and 21 young people achieved excellent results with 8 passes at A.
- The majority of our students are now able to gain an award in at least one Higher by the end of S5 (78%). A significant number of pupils gained 5 A band awards at Higher in S5 and 3 A band awards at Advanced Higher in S6.
- Wider achievement also continues to be an area of strength, with pupils being presented for a number of volunteering awards, as well as engaging with programmes such as JET (Jobs, Education and Training), Career Academies and the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative. Opportunities to perform, participate and compete in a wide range of extra-curricular activities such as Sports, Arts, Music and Dance.
- We continue to lead the way nationally in our ICT provision and all our S3-6 pupils are now equipped with iPad devices which they use both in school and at home.
- One of our key projects this year has been developing our Outdoor Classroom space which opened in February 2016 with a wonderful torch lit ceremony led by the fantastic Davidson Mains Pipe Band.
- Our Parent Staff Association (PSA) changed their name this year to The Royal High School Parent Fundraising Group to enable them to be more informally involved with the school.
- We provide a wide variety of opportunities for our pupils including residential trips. So far this session we had a very successful German exchange in December followed by a very enjoyable ski trip to France in March and our Romanian Habitat for Humanity trip will also take place.
- We also planned an action-packed Activities Week in May. Our S1 pupils travelled to Belmont Outdoor Centre for a week of outdoor education and gained many fantastic memories. 140 of our S3 pupils travelled to the Belgian WW1 battlefields for a real life-changing experience.
- Our Former Pupils Edinburgh and London clubs continue to work very closely with the school and support us in many ways including attending our events and services, providing work experience, giving inspirational talks and mentoring. Our School and Nation Captains again attended the Edinburgh dinner, while School Captain Angus Farquhar gave excellent after-dinner speeches at both Edinburgh and London dinners

### Teachers departing

- Several long serving colleagues retire this year. After 33 years as teacher of Drama Mrs Gaye Almond retired from her post in January. Mrs Almond introduced Drama to school and built up the successful department it is today. Ms Jill Templeton has been with us in Home Economics for 23 years and during that has introduced our students to lots of trips and opportunities including the annual Royal Highland Show visit. Mr Darren McKinnon, our Curricular Leader of Maths, left us after 19 years to take up post as a Quality Improvement Officer for Edinburgh Council. Mrs Kathryn Gray, teacher of Maths is also leaving us after 17 years. Ms Morag McCallum in Modern Languages has been with us for 12 years. Ms McCallum taught both French and German in the school and was also an excellent supporter of our wider achievement opportunities including the annual Paris trip and S1 Residential. Mr Frank Lagan who has been teacher of Computing in the school for 12 years,

has left us to take up post closer to home in Larbert High School. He was the driver behind The RuffityBuffs which not only supported many of our students but also provided entertainment across our community as he took the annual RuffityBuffs Panto on the road to our local nurseries and care homes.

- One teacher who has left but stayed is Mrs Kate Fraser who left her role after **18** years as Curriculum Leader of History and Modern Studies in April this year. Fortunately for us she has remained with us in her new promoted post as Depute Rector.

## Prize Giving

Ross Witney-Hunter was Dux. Josh McCullough played Apres un Reve by Gabriel Faure. FP Club President David Williamson expertly chaired the event, and Ken Macintosh MSP, Presiding Officer of the Scottish parliament delivered the FP address. The prizes were presented by Ms Jill Templeton, a long serving Home Economics teacher retiring this session.

The Dux (Ross Witney-Hunter) and Former Pupil (Ken Macintosh MSP) speeches are reproduced in full towards the end of the full Annual Report.

## Photographs from the year

A very few are reproduced here, to augment those shown in the body of the Annual Report



2016 EIFF winners



YP1 - £3000 cheque for Hopscotch



2016 Initiative – One Word! This group's word is FRIENDS



Sport #1



Sport #2



Sport #3