



Pupils spend day on HMS Campbeltown



HMS Campbeltown

A Report by Frank Rochford and William Semple

On Monday 22 September, 25 pupils and two members of staff of the Grammar School had the chance to go out on HMS Campbeltown for the day.

Pupils left the school just after 9 o'clock to head down to the NATO jetty to board the Type 22 Batch 3 frigate which is a descendant of the famous ship that fought in the Battle of the Atlantic in 1941 and 1942 before being blown up, deliberately, in the Battle of St Nazaire in 1942, after ramming the gates of the huge dry dock used by the German navy. This meant that the Germans couldn't use the dock for the rest of the war.

When the Pupils boarded the ship, they got a safety brief by two male crew members. After that they were given soft drinks and tea, which was very enjoyable. HMS Campbeltown set sail at approximately 10.00 am and soon was heading out on a triangular course, first south east towards Ailsa Craig before turning west for the island of Sanda, then turning north to pass the Learside coast and back into Campbeltown Loch. After the safety brief we started to go round the ship from the bottom to the top. Some of the pupils got to hold a mini gun, SA 80 and Heavy machine gun. These were only the basic weapons on board. We also got a demonstration from a crew member about fire-fighting on board which was gripping to watch.

As we headed back home there was a man overboard demonstration which was given by the highly skilled rib commander. This was a very exciting show and a very interesting piece of work. The ship arrived home at 3.00 pm. Alistair Macphail had a chance to throw the rope over onto the jetty but sadly missed. All the pupils enjoyed their day at sea and it put some smiles on their faces.

Staffing News

Interviews were held in the School on Thursday 25 September to appoint a new English teacher in place of Miss Currie, who left at the beginning of the term. As well as a formal interview, candidates were asked to teach an observed lesson to a third year English class. Pupils were asked for their input to the process by giving their views after the lesson.

The successful candidate, Miss Hayley Ashton, has accepted the post and will be taking up her duties as soon as an enhanced Disclosure Scotland check has been carried out.

Argyll Youth Games Badminton Winners

At the Argyll and Bute Youth Games held in Oban recently, the CGS team were clear winners of the badminton tournament.

Pictured here are our prize-winning team which comprised Lindsay Armour, James Cairns, Duncan Hooper and Louise Mitchell, all in S3.

Well done Team CGS!



The Calcutta Cup comes to CGS



A lot of teachers were every bit as excited as many of the pupils recently when the Calcutta Cup was brought to the school on the Argyll and Bute leg of a nationwide tour. The magnificent solid silver trophy was on display, under careful guard, in the school foyer over a lunchtime.

The history of the cup is an interesting one. On Christmas 1872, a game of rugby was played in Calcutta - the first ever played in India - between a team of Englishmen and one consisting of Scotsmen, Irishmen and Welshmen. The Calcutta Rugby Club was formed in January 1873. Because the game of rugby wasn't particularly suited to the hot climate, the Club disbanded in 1878. Its funds were drawn from the Bank in silver rupees, which were then melted down to make a silver cup. The cup - The Calcutta Cup - was then presented to the Rugby Football Union, and is now contested annually between England and Scotland.



The cup is about 45 cm high, with three handles in the shape of King Cobras. The domed lid is topped by an elephant, said to be modelled on one owned by the Viceroy of India. Scotland are the Cup's current holders.

Music Department News

Romeo and Juliet

Senior music students, instrumentalists and singers attended a concert in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall on Tuesday 23 September given by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra. The focus of the programme was music inspired by Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet'. Presenter Paul Rissman discussed important concepts in works by Prokofiev and Bernstein and throughout the performance musical extracts were displayed on a giant screen. A very large percussion section added additional atmosphere and excitement to the performance, which the pupils unanimously voted a resounding success.

Instrumental Gift to the Music Department

The music department is making full use of a splendid acoustic guitar, five string banjo and powerful amplifier generously donated to the department by the widow of the late Anthony Dance of Kilkerran Road, Campbeltown. The banjo is enjoying a revival at the moment and students are intrigued by the sympathetic drone string.

CGS Radio Project



Lewis and Calum introduce some music.

Six students from S5 have joined this year's CGS Radio Project. Every Monday afternoon they record a programme of rock and pop tracks in the studios of Argyll FM. This goes out every Tuesday evening at 9.00 pm. Catherine Armour, Shannon Brodie, Thomas Carlin, Robert Fox, Calum Houston and Lewis Semple have been enjoying their time as radio DJs so much that they're going to be taking on additional responsibilities after the mid-term holiday. From Thursday 23 September, they're going to be presenting the 'Homeward Bound' show live on the air from 4.00 till 6.00 pm. Depending on where you live, you can pick up Argyll FM on 106.5, 107.1 or 107.7 FM.



Robert operates the console during recordings.



Catherine and Shannon stand by to go 'on the air'.

Internet Safety - Advance Notice

Mr Iain McLean, Children's Services Social Worker, will be offering individual appointments for parents at the S1 Parents' Evening on Tuesday 25 November, to provide information about internet safety. Further, more detailed information and an appointment sheet will be given out with the Parents' Evening materials.

The future's bright - the future's green

Campbeltown Grammar's S3 pupils have been the first in Argyll & Bute to take part in 'The Path is Green', trailblazing a nationwide initiative rolled out by Careers Scotland which encourages young people to think about green careers.

Both the national coordinator of 'The Path is Green', Nigel Akam, and Kay Johnston of Careers Scotland in Campbeltown have visited the school and pitched in with Mr Wilson's RE class. Mr Wilson explained, "The pupils have been investigating moral issues associated with global warming, and this was the ideal opportunity to link what has been learned in the classroom with 'real life' consequences and opportunities here in Kintyre". Our visitors from Careers Scotland remarked on the first class quality of work and excellent behaviour of all participating pupils. Below are some of 3.3 in action!



House Captains and Vice-Captains 2008/09

	CAPTAINS	VICE CAPTAINS
BENGULLION	Kenny Kerr Claire Newlands	Ross Ferguson Megan Hill
DAVAAR	John Lamont Lorna Armour	Jonathan Mogie Kimberly Donnan
KILBRANNAN	Kenneth Mathieson Fiona Mitchell	Christopher Thomson Alison McKerral
KNOCKSCALBERT	David Johnstone Paula Galbraith	George Good Alanna Williams

The House Captains and Vice-Captains are appointed to assist with the organisation of Inter-House sport tournaments. These are now up and running for the season, though some houses seem to be having a bit of a job putting together teams for some of the competitions. We wish the House office-bearers all the very best as they undertake their duties and responsibilities.

Futures Evening

A 'Futures Evening' for the parents of children with additional support needs is to be held in Stonefield Castle Hotel, Tarbert, on Thursday 9 October at 7.30 pm. If your child has additional needs and you would like to know about what will happen when s/he leaves school, you will be most welcome to attend. There will be information on finance, colleges, care managers, careers and the resource centre service.

Evaluation of the Primary/Secondary Transition Programme

For some years now, the South Kintyre Schools Primary/Secondary Transition Programme, organised along with Fusions, has been an important feature of the way we prepare pupils for the move from primary up to 'the big school'. It was recognised by HMIe as a major strength. However, we are always looking for ways to improve even on good practice, so a survey of parents was recently carried out in order to evaluate the programme and see what improvements we could make. The following are the results of the evaluation. The percentages are based on 59 returns. Not all questions were responded to.

1. How worthwhile were the following activities for your son/daughter?

	Not Worthwhile	Quite Worthwhile	Worthwhile	Very Worthwhile
Residential weekend at Castle Toward (May)	0%	0%	18%	82%
Health Promotion Day (May)	0%	8%	53%	39%
Visit from Guidance Teacher (May)	5%	7%	48%	40%
2 Induction Days at CGS (June)	0%	0%	8%	92%
Parents' evening at CGS (June)	0%	13%	46%	41%
Rural primary transition days (Jan/Mar/May)	0%	7%	40%	53%

2. Do you feel you have been well informed about your son/daughter's transition to CGS?

YES - 100% NO - 0%

3. Do you have any concerns about your son/daughter starting secondary school?

YES - 7% NO - 93%

4. Do you have any suggestions to change/improve the transition programme or any comments on aspects you feel worked well?

YES - 7% NO - 93%

Among the comments and suggestions received were that more secondary teachers should visit the primaries (this is already being planned as part of our implementation of 'A Curriculum for Excellence'); that the two induction days are the most important part of the programme as they ensure the children don't feel so nervous about their first day at Grammar School; that there should be more integration with S1 pupils (the previous year's P7); that the 'rural days' would have been more beneficial with all primaries taking part. Concerns expressed focused mainly on individual issues. The overall assessment of the programme seemed to be encapsulated by the following comments:-

An excellent programme - really felt confident about transition.

Castle Toward - formative and essential

We felt our son was well- supported throughout - a great start for secondary!

Castle Toward - very beneficial; well-planned, informative parents' evening.

An excellent and worthwhile process. Keep up the good work!

Masterchef Recipe of the Month



Spicy Meatballs

Do try this at home!

Chef school started this month and this was the first dish on the menu after lots of requests for more spicy dishes. Pupils used minced beef to make these but any minced meat could be used. The mixture can be made very quickly in a food processor. Just make the breadcrumbs first then add other ingredients.

Ingredients

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 500g minced beef• 1 medium onion• 2 garlic cloves, crushed or chopped• 2 tsp mild or medium curry powder• 2 tsp ground cumin• 1 tsp garam masala• $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp salt | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp paprika or cayenne pepper• 2 tbsp fresh coriander, chopped• 1 egg, beaten• 50g fresh breadcrumbs• 1 tbsp olive oil |
|---|---|

Serves 6

Method

1. Heat oven to 180C. gas 4.
2. Put the mince into the mixing bowl. Add the onions, garlic, curry powder, cumin, garam masala, paprika or cayenne pepper and coriander, then mix well. Add the beaten egg and breadcrumbs, then mix again.
3. Divide the meat mixture into 15-18 evensized pieces and shape into balls (they should be about the size of a walnut). Always wash your hands thoroughly after handling raw meat so you don't transfer any germs that may be on the meat to other food or equipment.
4. Heat the oil in the frying pan over a medium heat and add the meatballs using a spoon. Cook them for 5 mins, turning until golden brown. Remove from the pan and place them on an ovenproof tray. Bake in the oven for 15-20 mins.
5. Remove from the oven. Remember to use oven gloves! Allow to cool slightly and serve with a fresh, crisp green salad, some pitta bread and tomato salsa.

Make it saucy

Fry 2 sliced garlic cloves in a little olive oil and add a 400g tin of chopped tomatoes. Bring to the boil, then transfer to an ovenproof dish. Add your meatballs, cover them with sauce and bake in the oven for 40 mins to 1 hr. Serve with rice or pasta.

Points Ahead Results for September

S1

Cameron Ronald	1.4	9 merits
Jennifer Armour	1.1	9 merits
Jessie-May Dewar	1.1	8 merits
Gina McMurchy	1.4	8 merits
Kate Cameron	1.3	8 merits
Lee Allen	1.3	8 merits
Calum Cowie	1.3	7 merits
Rachel Cosgrove	1.3	7 merits
Philippa Fraser	1.3	7 merits
David Farren	1.3	6 merits
Gareth King	1.3	6 merits
Charles Henderson	1.3	5 merits
Colin Ronald	1.1	5 merits
Jane Millar	1.3	5 merits
Graeme McConnachie	1.1	5 merits
Kester Broach	1.4	5 merits

S2

James Morrison	2.1	9 merits
Alison MacAlister	2.1	8 merits
Hannah McKellar	2.1	8 merits
Sally Chute	2.2	7 merits
Amy Archer	2.1	7 merits
Courtney Lang	2.2	6 merits
Jodie Hannah	2.3	5 merits
Kieran Jackson	2.1	5 merits
Georgie Mann	2.2	5 merits
Alison Campbell	2.1	5 merits

S3

Duncan Hooper	3.1	8 merits
Andrew McClement	3.2	7 merits
Leslie Hume	3.1	6 merits
Alan Lazarus	3.3	6 merits
Alexander Palmer	3.4	5 merits
James Cairns	3.3	5 merits
Sam Glover	3.1	5 merits
Fraser Cosgrove	3.3	5 merits
John McLean	3.2	5 merits

S4

Claire Harvey	4.3	7 merits
Jamie Colville	4.4	6 merits
Alison Millar	4.3	5 merits
Peter Wilkinson	4.1	5 merits
Darren Wilson	4.1	5 merits
Alan McDonald	4.2	5 merits
Jake Sanders	4.4	4 merits
Kevin Wilson	4.1	4 merits
Sam McPhee	4.1	4 merits
Stephen McKenzie	4.2	3 merits
Craig Morris	4.3	3 merits

S5/6

Lorna Armour	5.1	7 merits
Sarah Watson	5.4	5 merits
Lise Andersen	5.4	4 merits
Sarah Semple	5.3	4 merits
Robert Fox	5.3	3 merits
Kim McNaughton	6.1	3 merits
Alana McDonald	6.1	3 merits
Karen Semple	6.1	3 merits
Rosie Dreghorn	6.4	3 merits
Carlyn McMillan	5.2	3 merits
Grace Nicoll	5.2	3 merits
Fiona Cook	5.4	3 merits
Emma Russell	5.2	3 merits

Class	Merits*	De-merits	Total Points	Average	
1.1	45	22	1293	51.7	2nd
1.2	48	5	1243	47.8	3rd
1.3	59	16	1328	55.3	1st
1.4	38	20	1196	44.2	4th
2.1	29	27	1027	38	
2.2	20	29	1016	35	
2.3	27	8	905	31.2	
2.4	43	20	1108	41	5th
3.1	16	22	870	36.2	
3.2	27	13	885	35.4	
3.3	13	17	913	35.1	
3.4	23	22	915	39.7	
4.1	13	31	695	26.7	
4.2	13	31	695	26.7	
4.3	10	21	584	22.5	
4.4	23	7	922	34.1	
5.1	7	5	809	36.7	
5.2	3	5	809	36.7	
5.3	11	3	867	33.3	
5.4	3	3	540	25.7	

House	Points	Position
Davaar	4718	1st
Bengullion	4626	3rd
Knockscalbert	4501	4th
Kilbrannan	4657	2nd



PTA News

Following the questionnaire of last session regarding the future of the PTA, it was clear that parents and teachers recognise the importance of such a group.

The present PTA committee believe that it would be in the best interests of the school to disband the current PTA, and reform as a sub-committee of the Parent Council. It is believed that this would be a positive step to secure a higher profile for this important organisation. The newly formed group will have the title **PTSA** - Parent Teacher Student Association - and its aims would continue to be fundraising for the benefit of the school and its pupils and to promote positive relationships between parents, teachers and students.

If no written objections are received by Thursday 9 October 2008 the PTA will disband and reform as the PTSA after the October holidays. Please send any correspondence to The PTA Secretary, Campbeltown Grammar School, c/o the School Office.

Watch this space for news of forthcoming PTSA events.

Parking on Limecraigs Road

A number of drivers have complained that they are having difficulty at the end of the school day getting on to Limecraigs Road from Ralston Road and vice versa owing to cars being parked on the bend at the start of Limecraigs Road. If you are picking up pupils from Limecraigs Road at the end of the school day, please park further along, on the straight part of the road, where you will cause less of an obstruction.

Dates to note this month

Monday 6 October	S4 Work Experience Week 1 begins
Tuesday 7 October	S4 Interim Reports issued.
Thursday 9 October	School closes for Mid-Term Holiday at 3.35 pm.
Monday 20 October	S4 Work Experience Week 2 begins.
Tuesday 21 October	School re-opens.
Friday 24 October	S2 Interim Reports issued.
Thursday 30 October	Hallowe'en Dance 7.30 -10.30 pm.
Tuesday 4 November	S3 Interim Reports issued.
Friday 7 November	Next issue of Newsletter.

Keeping in touch

Parents are welcome to be in touch with the school at any time on any matters of concern or interest by letter, by e-mail, or by phone.

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