



Mid-Season Sports Report

December 2017



@gryffe_sports



2016-2018

Pupils have already competed in various competitions this session within Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Football, Hockey, Netball, Rowing, Skiing/Boarding, Swimming and Tennis. Here's how the season's are going so far

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Archery

The pupils from Gryffe HS followed up their archery success from April by competing in the Renfrewshire Archery Championships this December. Each pupil shot over 30 arrows throughout the competition, competing against several club archers on the night. Well done to Daniel Evans for showing tremendous consistency to win the Beginners event and Lewis McGeachin for rightfully earning 2nd place!



Athletics

Gryffe athletes continue to experience success at county level through competing in Renfrewshire Schools Athletics Championships whilst also experiencing performing on national stage in Scottish Schools Athletics Association events.

At the Renfrewshire Schools Road Race in November, both individual medals and team trophies were won at On-X, Linwood as 40 Gryffe pupils competed:

- Kassi Gribben (S1 Girls) – **2nd Place**
- Arran Murray (S1 Boys) – **3rd Place**
- Evie Livingston (S1 Girls) – **COUNTY CHAMPION!!!**
- S1 boys Team (Arran Murray, Logan Thomson, John Mark Kermath, Peter Boyd, Tom McDermott, Tylar Pollock, Aedan Masterson, Rory McCamley, Elliott Hipkiss, Joe Reade) – **2nd Place**
- S1 Girls Team (Lily Caldwell, Ivana Henderson, Christina Clark, Charlotte Jeffrey, Emma Crawford, Karina Primrose, Amy Mcvicker, Kaylyn McKinnon, Kassi Gribben) – **COUNTY CHAMPIONS!!!**



The athletes now look forward to more championships in 2018 including:

- **Renfrewshire Schools Cross-Country Championships and Track & Field Championships**
- **Scottish Schools Athletics Association Indoor Track & Field Championships, Cross-Country Championships, Road Relay Championships, Pentathlon Championships and Track & Field Championships**
- **S1-S3 School Athletics Championships**

Badminton

S5/6

Luke Rogers, Jamie Aitken, Christopher Torrance, Adam Trout, Jonathan Paris and Euan Harvie represented Gryffe at the S5/6 Renfrewshire Schools Badminton Championships this year. The boys put on a fantastic display and competed very well throughout the event.

Jamie, Christopher, Adam, Euan and Jonathan successfully made it through to the quarter-finals, however this proved to be the end of the road for Jamie after a hard fought match.

A very dominant display from the boys resulted in an all Gryffe semi-final to then set up a final match between Jonathan and Adam. Both boys demonstrated their excellent ability in the final, however there could only be one winner on the day. Jonathan maintained his unbeaten record and collected his winner's trophy!



S3/4

Luke Goulding, Jamie Love, Seamus Mowberry, Grant Costello, Joel Bain, Cameron Hunter, Eilidh Campbell, Kirsten Berry, Sophie Dobbins, Jessica Fallon and Holly Kyle represented Gryffe at the S3/4 Renfrewshire Schools Badminton Championships this year.

All pupils put in a brilliant effort during the group stages of the event and encountered some challenging opponents from various schools. Jamie and Seamus managed to fight their way through to the knock-out stages of the competition, displaying their ability to handle the pressure of the competition. Both boys were successful in their quarter-final matches; however the dream of an all Gryffe final was soon shattered as Jamie and Seamus were drawn against each other in the semi-final. With all their Gryffe team mates supporting them it was a hard fought match consisting of high quality Badminton. Seamus emerged victorious and progressed into the final match. He was narrowly beaten 21-19 in the final match against a very skilled opponent and will be looking for revenge next year!



S1/2 Badminton

Pierre Minucci, Emily Black, Robbie Watson, Isla Minucci, Andrew Bogan, Sarah Bell, Llywelyn Devoy, Fiona Wilkie, Dylan Galloway, Isla Watson, Elliott Hipkiss, and Mirren Shearer represented Gryffe at the S1/2 Renfrewshire Schools Badminton Championships this year. Each of the pupils put in a fantastic performance against some very challenging opponents.

Sarah, Isla and Fiona in particular showed their skill, beating out almost 40 other girls to make it through to the quarter finals. After three very skilled and hard fought matches only Sarah made it through to the semi-finals. Drawn against a very talented player, Sarah kept her nerve in a tense and closely fought game, only narrowly missing out on a place in the finals. There was some brilliant badminton played from all 12 pupils who will be back again next year to fight for a win.

Basketball

This season, our Open Boys and Girls teams have been competing in Scottish Schools Cup competitions. Both teams also look forward to further competition with the Renfrewshire and East Schools Basketball league. Partnership between RESBA and Active Schools has offered pupils in S1 and S2 opportunity to participate in Basketball development days.

Open Boys

The Open Boys Basketball team started their Scottish cup campaign for 2017-18 with an excellent 75-33 win over St Ninian's High School in East Renfrewshire. A local derby against Park Mains was next on the cards, this was a competitive game but Park Mains pulled ahead in the last 8 minutes to win 86-63. The team bounced back well with a 73-53 win against St Thomas Aquinas with all players playing good minutes and contributing to the team ethos on and off the court. Our last Scottish cup game was a trip down the road to Johnstone where an under-strength team came up short 58-40.



Open Girls

The girls have experienced mixed success in the group stages of the Scottish Cup. A disappointing defeat to local rivals Park Mains High School was followed by victory against Hillhead High School. This win was enough to scrape through to the knock-out stages of the competition with a trip to Perth to face North Inch Community Campus in a last 16 tie.

S1/S2 Development Squads

With this new initiative offered by Active Schools, two squads of boys and girls were given the opportunity to participate in a development day which included competitive games. Each team involved on the day were coached by senior players and enjoyed a fantastic day of Basketball. The squads can look forward to more development days in the New Year.

Football

Gryffe continues to feature prominently in various competitions this season, hoping to experience more success in both Paisley & District league and cup competitions and Scottish Shield competitions with all boys teams entered into all of these competitions.

Senior Boys

The Under 18 season started with a Scottish Cup tie against a stuffy Jordanhill side. After a very positive start, the newly formed Gryffe squad dominated play and went 2-0 up thanks to two goals from captain Scott Ferguson. The longer the game proceeded, the more Jordanhill came into the game and eventually got a goal back with 15 mins to play. An equaliser 10 mins later and cautious last 5 minutes from both teams resulted in penalty kicks. With Gryffe missing two of their opening four penalties, Jordanhill progressed with a perfect record from the spot.

The change in format in the Paisley & District leagues resulted in Gryffe being drawn in one of the larger league sections of five schools with each team to play one another once. A number of postponements have halted the team's progression with only two games played. A heavy defeat against an impressive Notre Dame team and a battling defeat against last year's old foes Glenniffer.

Gryffe look to benefit from a number of games in the second half of the season where a new league is formed. This, coupled with a St Mirren Cup tie against St Andrews at the end of January will allow the squad the opportunity play more games.

Under 16 Boys

An exciting month of football lies ahead for the Under 16 team with important League and Scottish Shield fixtures still to play. With four points from two league games, Gryffe must secure a win against St. Andrews Academy or Castlehead HS to challenge for a top two finish within the group stage. After winning the Scottish Shield last year, the boys have made positive steps in an attempt to repeat the feat this season. This includes an emphatic 12-1 win against Lochgilphead HS to kick off the competition. After drawing Holyrood HS in the next round, the team face their biggest challenge of the season yet!

Under 15 Boys

The Under 15 Football Team is, as yet, undefeated in the league in session 2017/2018. We are top of our league section, which finishes on 18 December, and from there we will be put forward into the next 'Champions League' set up for January to April 2018.

Unfortunately, we were beaten 1-0 by Holyrood Secondary School in the Scottish Cup. This was hard to take as for the first time since starting two years ago we only had 11 fit players, due to illness and injuries, and one player got injured at the beginning of the second half. With a full team I am sure we would have progressed to the final stages of the competition, however, our aim is now to win the Paisley & District League, and try our best to retain the Under 15 St Mirren Cup.

We have set our ambitions high this season and, with a strong squad, hope to bring at least one trophy back to Gryffe High School. Anything less will be disappointing!!

Under 14 Boys

The management team of Mr Anderson & Mr Deans gained a vote of confidence from Mr O'Hare at the beginning of the season to go again with the group of boys that came so close to reaching finals last season. Promising this year to add some silverware to match the exciting brand of football that wowed crowds last season. The team is currently in the mix to progress from their league group in the first year of implementation of a new system, recording some big victories along the way. Rivalries were renewed with Gleniffer in the Renfrewshire 'Classico' after last season's epic encounters. Our first game with our rivals ended prematurely when a Gleniffer player unfortunately broke his wrist. The decision to reverse the fixture was not the best from the management team and saw the Gryffe boys enter a hostile atmosphere on the return leg and suffer their biggest defeat to date. However, the team showed tremendous character to bounce back from that bruising defeat to ensure a draw with St Andrews. In the Scottish Shield, following an automatic bye in the second round, the team came up against Gleniffer (again!). Determined to right a few wrongs, the boys took it to their Gleniffer counter parts in an exciting back and forth encounter that showcased some excellent football by both teams. Having taken the lead twice only to return level, Gleniffer countered our relentless attack and scored to end our hopes in this competition. The loss while disappointing, will hopefully prove beneficial to the team in the long term as we enter the St Mirren Cup determined to do well our second chance of cup glory. The treble may be gone, but the dream of the double lives on!

Under 13 Boys

The Under 13 squad have had a mixed season so far. After a closely contested opening game of the season, Gryffe lost to St Benedict's despite a very good performance. The boys were able to show their character and bounced back from this defeat to gain a valuable 3 points against Inverclyde Academy.

With a very strong Notre Dame team unbeaten in the group, the boys gave their best efforts to break this run. Another closely contested game ended with Notre Dame gaining 3 points with a narrow 2-1 victory. Gryffe once again showed their ability to bounce back in the next league game, securing another 3 points away to Inverclyde Academy. In the final league game of this phase of the season, the boys needed to beat St Benedict's to have a chance of finishing in the qualification places for the top leagues after Christmas, however a late St Benedict's equaliser meant an agonising finish for the boys. They will however look to perform strongly in the second half of the season.

Unfortunately, the Scottish Cup dream ended for the boys with a heavy defeat against a very impressive John Paul Academy team. Despite battling well throughout the match, the boys ran out of steam and were unable to make progress in the cup. On the bright side, the boys have managed to reach the quarter finals of the St Mirren cup and will face Williamwood High School for a place in the semi-finals.

Representative Football Squads

Harris Cunningham and Fraser Taylor were selected to represent Paisley & District Schools Football Association in the prestigious Scottish Schools Under 15 National Trophy this season. Fraser has started all three group stage fixtures as he's helped the squad to a record of two wins and 1 defeat to qualify for the quarter finals after Christmas. Unfortunately for Harris, he has been unlucky with injuries preventing him from being with the squad for any of the three fixtures, however he remains a key part of the squad and will look forward to his debut in the quarter finals.

Innes Durrant has also been selected to represent West Region Under 15 squad this season. Innes' debut was delayed due to a fixture cancellation in November but looks forward to more opportunities in the latter half of the season.



Hockey

Hockey has continued to be a popular sport within Gryffe, resulting in the school fielding three teams to compete in the Renfrewshire Hockey League. In the Junior league, Gryffe 1 and Gryffe 2 are placed 3rd and 5th respectively, both teams with games in hand still to be played. The senior team are considerably younger this year and go into the Christmas break joint 3rd place with Glennifer HS. This year has also seen the revival of an S1-S2 Indoor Championship, in which the pupils enjoyed a competitive night at the Lagoon, placing 3rd overall.

Netball

It has been a busy first half of the season for our netballers, with 4 teams competing in the first round of the Scottish Cup and 6 teams across S1-6 competing within the Renfrewshire Cup.



All Scottish teams have now completed their gruelling first round match schedule, with some teams even having to play twice a week! The girls will now progress to the knockout round of the competition in the following sections:

- S1 – Silver (Away to Nicholson Institute)
- S2 – Silver (Away to Firhill)
- S3 – Silver (TBC)
- Open – Bronze (Home to Holyrood RC)

In the Renfrewshire Cup, teams experienced mixed success. Our S1 and S3 will progress to the 'cup' section after round 1 with S2 & Open teams progressing to the Quaich competition. Special mention to our player of the tournament at Open level, who was chosen by her opposition on the night: Rachel Thomson!

Rowing

10 rowers have competed in our Indoor Rowing League this year, completing rows on a weekly basis and submitting their best monthly score to the Scottish rowing national competition. Rowers have competed across 4 rounds, showing real improvements in technique across the months of competition, which was evident in their improved scores. Rowers who competed and improved across all 4 rounds are awarded an individual gold award, with those completing 3 out of the 4, a silver and any who competed in 2 rounds receiving a bronze award. Four pupils were successful in achieving individual bronze awards - Peter Boyd, Dylan Galloway, Luke Cree and Archie Sinclair.

All pupils represented the school in the final round, the Scottish Schools Indoor Rowing Championships! They thoroughly enjoyed the experience, especially the S1 Relay and are eager to participate again next session. The pupils will now have the opportunity to put their skills to the test on the water in the summer months!

Skiing/Boarding

Four pupils represented the school in Scottish Schools Snowsport Association Skiing and Boarding Championships. Ella Brawley, Lara Cabrera Myram, Alasdair Campbell and Deacon Stirrat all competed in the event with Lara finishing 2nd in the boarders event.

Swimming

Paige Galbraith competed in this year's Renfrewshire Area Swimming Heats at On-x, Linwood achieving a podium finish as she earned bronze medal in both 100m freestyle race.

Tennis

Our boys and girls team continue to compete in the Scottish School team competitions. Our boys team started the season well in an evenly matched tie at home to Bearsden Academy. Despite how evenly matched things were, our boys managed to record a 5-1 victory. The team of Luke Goulding, Jamie Love, Stuart Smith and Daniel Wishart continued their progress in another closely contested fixture away to Jordanhill School. Eventually coming out on top as 4-2 winners, the boys can now look forward to a last 16 tie after Christmas.

