

GRYFFE HIGH SCHOOL



CARING LEARNING ACHIEVING

Sports

Mid-Season Report

Pupils have already competed in various competitions this session within Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Football, Hockey, Netball, Rowing, Rugby and Tennis.

Page 9 gives detail of pupils who were nominated by parents and coaches for their sporting achievements out with school between August and December 2015. They will receive Achievements Certificates and House points for their successes.

As a school we encourage other parents and coaches to nominate pupils for Achievements Certificates for their outstanding achievements out with school.

Here's how the season's are going so far . . .

Athletics

Gryffe athletes continue to experience success at both county and national level through competing in Renfrewshire Schools Athletics Championships and 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 29 Gryffe pupils competed:

- Andrew Devine (S2 Boys) – **3rd place in county**
- Alisha Sivell (S2 Girls) – **COUNTY CHAMPION!!!**
- S1 Boys Team (Jude Jackson, Seamus Mowbray, Fraser McDermid, Jamie Love, Daniel Hatfield and Calum Farmer) – **2nd place team trophy**
- S1 Girls Team (Mhairi Reed, Rachel Bell, Innes Durrant, Eilidh Campbell, Morven Sanderson and Eva Sweeney) – **2nd place team trophy**
- S2 Boys Team (Andrew Devine, Cameron Hunter, Eoghan Small, Hamish McLaren, Craig Roos, Andrew Howieson and Matthew Cliff) – **COUNTY CHAMPIONS!!!**
- S2 Girls Team (Alisha Sivell, Emily Svensson, Hannah Brummit, Rachel Adams, Sarah Razzaq, Carly Richardson and Eilidh McManus) – **COUNTY CHAMPIONS!!!**

At the Scottish Schools Road Relay Championships, four athletes competed against the best other athletes across the country and managed to experience success at this top level:

- Andrew MacAngus (S3/S4 Boys) – **2nd place in county**
- S5/S6 Girls Team (Kerry MacAngus – 4th individual, Rebecca Craig – 8th, Rona Tytler – 28th) – **3rd place team trophy**

The athletes now look forward to more championships in 2016 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

Our Badminton players have opportunity to compete in the Renfrewshire Active Schools Badminton events. So far, the S3 and S4 qualifying round for both boys and girls has taken place in October with 6 boys and 6 girls competing from Gryffe against the ten other secondary schools in Renfrewshire. We await results for those who have qualified for end of season finals. Competitions for other age groups also to take place in 2016.

Basketball

This season, we are competing at all levels of school Basketball for both boys and girls. Our Senior/Open Boys and Girls teams have been competing in both Scottish Schools Cup and Renfrewshire and East Schools Basketball Association (RESBA) league and cup competitions. In addition, our Junior Boys and Girls teams (S1-S3) and S1 Boys and Girls teams are competing in RESBA league and cup competitions also.

Senior/Open Boys

The reigning national champions have become a young squad of players with regular starters from last season's successful team having left school. Despite their young age, our players have had an excellent start to the season qualifying for the last 16 of the Scottish Cup in January despite a first loss in two years against Stewarton Academy. Another four impressive wins was already enough to ensure qualification before this defeat and the boys also remain undefeated in the RESBA league. With 7 league games still to play, a RESBA Cup quarter against St Ninian's HS and a last 16 tie away to Portobello HS in defence of the Scottish Cup, there's plenty to look forward to in 2016 for the boys.

Senior/Open Girls

The girls have had a busy start to the season having played four Scottish Cup games to qualify for the last 16 of the national competition. Following two early wins to secure one of three qualifying spots, the girls then competed against St Maurice's HS and Park Mains HS to test themselves against the best in the country. A good performance in the former and win in the latter of these games – the first win against Park Mains HS in a number of years – means the girls are high in confidence going into 2016. The girls also sit top of the RESBA league going into the New Year and have a semi-final tie at Paisley Grammar to look forward to in the RESBA cup.

Junior Boys

The junior basketball team end the first half of their season undefeated with a record of played 1 won 1. A change to the fixture deadlines has seen lots of games organised for post Christmas so the boys will have plenty of game time in the new year. especially the local "derby" v Park Mains. The boys have shown commitment to the cause by attending weekly training sessions on Thursday nights in great numbers. A special mention to Calum Ferguson, our S6, who has been taking these training sessions.

Junior Girls

The S1-3 girls basketball teams have started the year with great enthusiasm and commitment to training. The girls train every Thursday after school under the capable guidance of some players from the school's Scottish Cup winning senior boys team. The girls have not had the opportunity to play any games this season so far. However, Junior Girls team have a few fixtures in the new term. Keep an eye on the newsletter and school Twitter for updates on how the teams are getting on!

S1 Boys

The S1 Basketball team hosted their first league fixture on Friday the 11th December. This was the boys first time playing as a team and they took a game to gel together. They were up against some tough competition in the experienced Williamwood and St Ninian's teams. They unfortunately lost both their game but their 2nd game was a vast improvement and finished 15-12 to Williamwood. They are next heading to St Benedict's for a friendly which will give them time to develop as a team before further fixtures after the holidays. For those interested there is a open training every Thursday after school till 5pm, everyone is welcome.

S1 Girls

The S1's can look forward to an authority wide competition in January to showcase their skills from their weekly Thursday training sessions.

Football

Gryffe continues to feature prominently in various competitions this season, following the first ever trophy being won by the Senior Boys in last season's Paisley & District St Mirren Cup competition. All boys team began the season looking forward to Scottish Shield competitions as well as P&D league and cup competitions. The girls football section also began the season looking forward to a return to the Active Schools Girls leagues.

Senior Boys

The Under 18 team have had a fairly successful first half of the session. We sit top of our league section having played 5 games – winning 4 and drawing 3 – 3 with Gleniffer High School in the other. The league looks like being a head to head with Gleniffer in order to see who qualifies for the league final play-offs.... although we will still need to win our remaining games!

Within the Scottish Cup we had a home game against Clydebank High School, and unfortunately got beat 8 – 6. Quite an incredible score for an under 18 game and we will do our utmost to ensure we never let 8 goals by us again in any competitive game.

Within the Paisley and District St Mirren Cup, as the holders, we will be starting our defence of the trophy with an away game against either St Columba's or Mearns Castle – to be played by Friday 15 January. Hopefully we are looking for a 'good run' in this competition with the aim of reaching the final stages.

Under 16 Boys

We began the season with a strong squad of 18 players, a determined coach and hopeful attitude. Looking back on the previous few seasons with the team, it's clear to see that we had been very unlucky with results in the league and draws in the cups. This year was no different as we came up against the biggest school in Europe, Holyrood. This was the first round of the Scottish Cup and although we had this in our heads we went out with the correct attitude and put 9 past them and eventually won the game 9-2.



This theme of scoring a lot of goals continued into the league with a 4-0 win against Inverclyde in the first game and many other high scoring games to follow it. Our Scottish cup run ended however when we came up against a well known St. Ninian's side and suffered only our second loss of the season so far. We finished 2015 top of our league and hope to stay there for the remainder of the season.

Under 15 Boys

The Under 15 boys Football teams season has taken off and with it the results have been flying in. These results have been a mixed bag of closely fought games to high tempered battles to the very last minute of the game. The season started off with a 2-2 draw away to Renfrew High which felt like a defeat due to Gryffe's dominance of the game. That was followed by a thrilling 7-7 home draw against St Columbus which was hotly contested game. The latest game to be played was in the Scottish Cup Round 1 where Gryffe went away to play Lenzie Academy. This game finished in a 6-1 defeat however this score is a misrepresentation of a very tight game in which both teams displayed some great football. Following this we went to the On-X to play Linwood in a thrilling 5-4 win for Gryffe.



Our latest game was against Renfrew at home and after being up 2-1 at halftime we conceded two goals in the last ten minutes to lose 3-2. All players have done exceptionally well but one pupil who has lead his team on and off the pitch is our captain Matthew McCaw who has shown great character on top of his superb football ability. Gryffe are currently sitting 2nd in the league.

Under 14 Boys

The boys are already caught up in a chase for the Paisley & District league play-offs following victory over last season's winners Notre Dame HS. A loss to Park Mains takes away from an otherwise perfect record but if the boys keep to form they could have a play-off final to chase for in the latter stages of the season. A spirited performance against SFA Performance School Holyrood Secondary saw a Scottish Cup campaign ended with a 4-1 defeat – no disgrace against some of the best players in the country.

Under 13 Boys

The under 13's football league is coming close to reaching its halfway point; Gryffe are currently second in the league but could potentially go top if we win all of our games in hand. Despite being second in the league we remain undefeated in all competitions and hope to continue this current form and finish as league winners. We are also still in the running for the Scottish Cup and fully believe we have what it takes to go all the way if we continue working together.

The team will also be competing in the positive coaching 7 aside tournament after Christmas and we hope to achieve well in this tournament too.

Girls Section

Miss Still & Mr Deans have been delighted with the response from girls in Gryffe since taking over the responsibility of girls football in the school. A dedicated group of girls from all year groups and abilities have taken up the challenge of becoming the next Alex Morgan or Steph Houghton and, despite the Scottish weather, train on a weekly basis. The girls showcased their talents at the first authority-wide tournament. The girls represented the school with pride and were all fantastic. They managed some victories in what was a competitive tournament, which is a great start to the girl's football season. A special mention must go to the S1-3 girls who were especially good when stepping up age ranges and competing with older girls as part of Gryffe's senior team. With more authority-wide tournaments and some friendlies in the works post Christmas, the girls will have plenty of football to play, let's hope the weather improves!!

Hockey

This year so far, the Gryffe High School Hockey Club has taken on lots of new members, most of them in the Junior School. During the recent Active Schools league tournaments, both teams have won most of their matches and at one tournament we were completely undefeated, both Junior and Senior teams. Overall it has been an extremely good year so far for the club and we look forward to next season. With one match cancelled because of the rain, we have an extra match to win in the new year!

Netball

It has been a busy season so far for the Gryffe High School netball teams, with each age group represented in both the Scottish cup and Renfrewshire competitions.

S1 Teams

The S1 players have battled it out against a variety of teams from across the west of Scotland and have experienced mixed success. The A team triumphed against Castlehead, however failed to overcome tough competition from Notre Dame and St Andrews. The B team have experienced success against a number of teams from Renfrewshire, however were unlucky and narrowly missed out by just 2 goals when they travelled to St Thomas Aquinas, Glasgow, in the Scottish cup. Both teams have shown great enthusiasm when on court and are continuing to improve as the season progresses.

S2 Teams

Our S2 squads have also been busy. They have had to not only compete against various schools from across the West of Scotland, but having to battle it out against each other in the Scottish Cup. In what was a hotly contested match, the B team quickly took the lead but couldn't hold off a fast finish from the A team who managed to clinch victory by only 1 goal! What a match!

S3 Team

Likewise our S3 squads have shown grit and determination when on court and proven themselves to be formidable opponents. They were unfortunate to lose against Castlehead and St Andrews, but were able to see off competition from Johnstone High to emerge victorious.

Open Team

Our Open squad combines players from S4 and S5 and they again have been playing well. They were unfortunate to face a very good Notre Dame side in their first match of the season, but were able to learn from the experience and take this into their next match against Johnstone. Some super shooting saw Gryffe quickly take the lead, however a fight back from Johnstone in the last quarter saw the game finish a draw! Unlucky girls!

Rowing

Molly Barry (S2) has been crowned Scottish Champion at the recent Indoor Rowing Championships! In her quest to become champion, she battled it out against 47 other S2 girls from schools all around Scotland in a 3 minute time trial. Molly overcame nerves and timed her race perfectly to bypass her opponents in the final few seconds and clinch victory with a staggering distance of 801m!! Molly has been training very hard at her local club, Castle Semple, and I am sure this will be the first of many titles to her name. Congratulations Molly!!

Caroline Courtney (S5) was completing in the S5 Girls event, showing her stamina over a 2000m course. Caroline's event was highly competitive, with 30 girls battling it out to be victorious. She demonstrated great endurance to set a time of 7 minutes and 59 seconds, securing her the bronze medal! Well Done Caroline!!

Gryffe were also represented in the S6 Girls event, with Katie Bogan battling it out against 10 other girls to be crowned champion. Katie narrowly missed out on a medal, finishing in 4th place, a matter of seconds behind the 3rd placed competitor.

It's great to see the girls' hard work paying off! If their success has inspired you to get involved then look out for information on rowing 'come and try' sessions in the New Year!

Rugby

S3/4	Greenock 1	Birkmyre 1	Paisley 1	G'nock 2	Bish 1	G'nock 3	Bmyre 2	Paisley 2	Bish 2	G'nock 4	Total
1 Clydeview	16	7	8	3	3						37
2 Inverclyde	20	16	10	3	3						52
3 Notre Dame	6	1	0	2	3						12
4 St Columbas	0	1	1	0	0						2
5 St Stephens	7	0	0	0	0						7
6 Port Glasgow	0	0	0	0	0						0
7 Johnston	0	0	0	0	0						0
8 Park Mains	0	0	0	0	0						0
9 Castlehead	0	0	0	0	0						0
10 Paisley Gra	0	0	0	0	0						0
11 Gryffe	0	0	15	14	14						43
12 Dunoon Gra	0	0	0	0	0						0

Tennis

The Boys Tennis team began this season's Scottish Schools Tennis competition at home to Bearsden Academy in December. A tight encounter in all ties eventually finished in Gryffe's favour with a 4-2 victory and all four players – Michael Rooney, Daniel Wishart, Jonathan Lee and Iain Dobson – all contributing points to the win. The boys now look forward to an away tie to George Heriot's in 2016.



Further individual achievements - that we are aware of!

S1	Beth Moglia David Sommerville	Represented West of Scotland Playing Squash at Junior Open Tournament Won Gold in Hibariken Judo Competition; Won Bronze in Grand Prix Judo Competition
S2	Molly Barry Andrew Devine Logan McBride Alex Quinn Alisha Sivell Ruth Stewart	Scottish Indoor Rowing Champion Kilbarchan AAC - Gold Medal at Scottish Cross-Country in Falkirk Professional Trampolining; Scottish Nationals - 2nd in Scotland Gold in the Hibariken Open Judo Championships; Won silver medal in the Scottish Judo Age Band Championships Cumbernauld 3K run 1 st in age group; Team Bronze in Renfrewshire Cross Country Relays; Gold in West District Cross Country Relays Member of winning team in the District Swimming Gala
S3	Michael Irvine Christopher Feeney Ruadhri McDougall John Meehan	Selected for under 16's Scotland Basketball Squad Selected for under 16's Scotland Basketball Squad Squash - Scottish National Champion; Portuguese Squash Junior Open Tournament Squash for Scotland Travelling to Denmark for Squash
S4	Michael Cairns Arron Chambers Evan Chambers Emma Hancock Callan Low Andrew MacAngus Scott David Ritchie Blair Robertson Alix Stewart Connor Thomson James Toal	Bronze medallist for Scottish Schools Indoor Sprint Hurdles Ice Hockey - Reached the Final of the Scottish Cup Ice Hockey - Reached the Final of the Scottish Cup Basketball Scotland's International Training Camp in Gerona Selected for under 16's Scotland Basketball Squad Competed in UK Track and Field Championships Rugby - Won Plate Final Skiing - 1st in U16 Scottish Male; Skiing - 2nd Scottish Dry slope Champions Basketball Scotland's International Training Camp in Gerona Runner up in Double and last 16 in Singles in the Nike Junior National Tennis Championships; Got to last 16 in Tennis Scotland Player Development Tournament; Under 14's Doubles winner and under 14 Singles Quarter Finalist in the Road to Wimbledon Championships Kilbarchan AAC - Multiple National Medals; Rugby - Won Scottish Plate
S5	Caroline Courtney Kerry MacAngus Rebecca Telford	Bronze Medal for Scottish Indoor Rowing Champion Ship Competed in UK Track and Field Championships Ran first 10K of Great Scottish Run (raised £300 for Breast cancer care); Selected for Renfrewshire District Netball Trials U17 squad
S6	Alasdair Maciver Alastair Mathieson Ewan McKerral Ellie O'Donnell	Karate - Black Belt Basketball - Scottish Cup West of Scotland Cross Country Champion; 2nd in Scottish 1500m; Steeplechase; Multiple National and International Medals Scottish International Rider; Representing Scotland in the Scottish International Working Hunter Pony Team; Scottish Horse Show and qualified for Horse of the Year Show; Represented Scotland in the International Working Hunter Team

Sports Star of the Month

S5 pupils Clare Dewar and Rebecca Telford have been selected as Gryffe's Young Ambassadors for Sport. As part of their role they have decided to start a new initiative called 'Sports Star of the Month'.

Each month, Clare and Rebecca are hoping to find someone in the school who deserves extra recognition for the work they do either participating or delivering sport across the school and beyond.

"We as Young Ambassadors along with the PE department appreciate what these pupils do to promote and participate in sport and want to recognise it in the hope they continue throughout the school year."

- Clare and Rebecca

NOVEMBER

Calum Ferguson 6Mt has become the first winner of this title. Calum has been nominated by Mrs Costello in Science who says she has been "overwhelmed with all the good work he is doing within Basketball."

Calum has had success at both national and regional levels for basketball with the school team and also with local St Mirren Basketball team. He also volunteers at an inclusive basketball club in which he works with children with additional support needs so that they can enjoy the sport he loves. In addition, he has just become qualified as a Wheelchair Basketball coach.



Finally, Calum has also taken charge of the junior basketball teams and leads a training session every Thursday after school without fail.

DECEMBER

S2 pupil, Alisha Sivell, was nominated for her recent success in the UK Cross Country Challenge Series at Liverpool's Sefton Park.

Alisha competed against some of the top athletes from all over the UK and managed to put in a blistering performance earning her 2nd place in the under 13 girls race against over 120 other competitors in a time of 11 minutes and 22 seconds!

This is just one of many recent medals and fantastic times from Alisha at a number of competitions across the country. She is definitely one to watch in the coming years!



Well Done Alisha in winning Sports Star of the Month!