

GALASHIELS ACADEMY



S6 BOOKLET
2006- 2007

FOREWORD

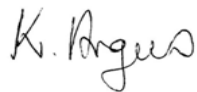
S6 is a particularly important year – both for the students who have stayed on until S6 and to the school in which they are the senior students.

S6 students are almost invariably those students who have decided that to continue to study is the way forward for them and they are, as a result of this decision, the students who will have a major impact on the attitudes to learning of pupils lower down the school.

The impact our sixth year students have on the school cannot be overestimated: they are an invaluable source of support to the new S1 pupils to the school; they are a support in classrooms and other areas of the school to the whole learning process and they support the staff in maintaining order throughout the school. There are no more valuable people in the school than our sixth year.

We want our sixth year students to leave Galashiels Academy as well-equipped for life ahead as them as they possibly can be and while we recognise that preparation for life includes many, many different things, we are also aware that fully utilising the study possibilities at the school will play a huge part in setting them all up for life and work. We therefore exhort our sixth year students to work as hard as they can in this, their final year at school, and make as much of the many possibilities that are open to them in this final year.

I want, personally, to thank all of our sixth year students for all the effort I know that they will put into making their school a better place for everybody and I hope for them all that they will make a success of this, their last year at school.



Kathleen Angus
Headteacher

S6 students will all move on to the next part of their lives at the end of 6th Year.

This means that parents and guardians of 6th year students have concerns and questions concerning a wide range of issues.

Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Catto or Mrs Brown about any worries you may have – we will attempt to answer your questions, and if we do not know the answer, we will refer you to the best person or agency for your specific concern.

Thank you all for your support!

S6 LEAVERS' CEREMONY THURSDAY 7 JUNE 2007

The S6 Leavers' Ceremony will take place in the School Hall on Thursday 7 June 2007.

The Head Team 2006-7 will organise the event, with the help of many members of 6th Year.

We urge you to ensure that you – and your son/daughter – note this date carefully. This is the last time your son/daughter will wear the Galashiels Academy school uniform and we can assure you that it will be an emotional and memorable event to mark the passing of these young adults into the next stage of their lives.

S6 PROCEDURES

Registration

All S6 students are expected to attend Registration, even if they do not have classes period one.

Request of Leave of Absence

S6 students must request Leave of Absence in advance in order to attend Open Days or other justifiable events. S6 students are actively encouraged to attend College and University Open Days and/or visits to individual Departments and have details of all the Open Days organised in 2006-7. However, students are asked to weigh up the consequences of missing classes too frequently.

Explanation of Absence

S6 students must sign a self-certification note following any absences, giving a detailed reason for their absence. A record of these notes is kept and if the self-certification system is abused, parents will be informed and thereafter a parental note will be required.

Change of Courses

S6 students are allowed to complete Change of Course forms. Parents will be informed of changes by telephone and/or letter if changes are made.

Day Trips

S6 students are allowed to sign their own consent forms for S6 day trips.

Signing in/out

S6 students must always complete and sign the Log in/out Register if they arrive late to school or leave school during the school day. Late slips must be completed and handed to Group Tutors.

Uniform

S6 students are expected to wear shirt/blouse and tie.

Timetable

We enclose an up-to-date timetable for your son/daughter.

IMPORTANT DATES 2006-7

Monday 4 September:	Higher Education Conference in Kelso
Thursday 7 September:	Prizegiving Ceremony
Wednesday 20 September:	UCAS Parents' Evening
Thursday 28 September:	Buddies' Disco
W/beg Mon 23 September:	Interim Reports issued followed by individual Student interviews
Thursday 7 December:	Parents' Evening
Mon 5 to Friday 23 Feb:	Prelims
W/ beg Mon 19 March	Final Report followed by student interviews
Wed 25 April	Parents' Evening Student Finance
Friday 4 May	Last Day Outing
Wednesday 9 May	S6 Study Leave/SQA exams
Thursday 7 June	Leavers' Ceremony

LAST DAY – FRIDAY 4 MAY 2007

Galashiels Academy will organise a final S6 trip on Friday 4 May 2007 – the last opportunity for our students to go on an excursion as a member of 6th Year.

In the past, there have been certain “last day” incidents which were to be regretted.

We are confident that this year's 6th Year students will continue the tradition, started in 2005-6, of having a fun day away from the Academy to mark the end of their 6 years at Galashiels Academy.

The Head Team 2006-7 will organise the event, which will be partly paid for by the students themselves, through fund-raising activities such as traybakes, and partly from the school fund itself.

We are very grateful for your support in ensuring that the students' Last Day is a fun-filled, memorable occasion which subsequent year groups will have to live up to!

S6 SOCIAL EDUCATION

The following topics will be covered in Social Education which will take place Period 6 on a Monday. Attendance at Social Education is compulsory.

CAREERS

UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

JOB APPLICATIONS

MOCK INTERVIEWS

VOLUNTEERING

CITIZENSHIP

STUDY SKILLS

SEXUAL HEALTH

ROAD SAFETY

PERSONAL SAFETY

We aim to tailor our Social Education programme as much as possible to the needs of the students, which means that all S6 students do not necessarily follow exactly the same Social Education programme.

We involve many outside facilitators in 6th Year Social Education in order to give our students as much contact with the “outside world” as possible. The aim is to increase the students’ self-confidence and sense of responsibility.

HEAD TEAM

The Head Team comprises:

Head Girl Head Boy

2 Depute Head Girls

2 Depute Head Boys

The Head Team are elected in June by all members of S6 and by all members of staff.

The duties of the Head Team are as follows:

to provide strong leadership within 6th Year and throughout the whole school

to actively encourage all pupils to act responsibly and sensibly

to liaise with senior staff and bring to their attention any concerns/ suggestions from staff or students

to adopt a high profile in the school through attendance at assemblies, parents’ nights, dances etc

to deliver speeches as required (eg Leavers’ Ceremony)

-to represent the school as required (eg at conferences, School Board meetings)

to take part in a 6th Year Committee

to maintain a presence in supervision of junior pupils

to chair 1st and 2nd year pupil forums

to report any student who fails to meet their responsibilities

PREFECTS

There are 20 Prefects at Galashiels Academy, all from S6 only. Prefects are elected in August by all members of S6 and by all members of staff

The Prefect duties are as follows:

to provide a good example within 6th Year and throughout the whole school

to actively encourage all pupils to act responsibly and sensibly

to liaise with Mrs Catto, Mrs Brown and the Head Team and bring to their attention any concerns/suggestions

to adopt a high profile in the school through attendance at assemblies,, parents' evenings, dances et

to supervise junior pupils and break and lunchtime

CHAIRPERSONS

All Galashiels Academy students are members of a Committee. Each Committee elects a Chairperson who is responsible for taking forward the aims of that particular Committee. Chairpersons are elected in August/September.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

We strongly encourage S6 students to take advantage of the many projects they can become involved in (e.g. Hungry for Success, Borders Youth Ambassadors, Community Safety Forum etc).

Every S6 student has the opportunity to make their mark during 6th Year – please encourage the students to be very proactive

WORKING WITH OTHERS

Working with Others (WVO) is offered to S6 students only. Students can undertake WVO in various ways:

Departmental Administrative and Teaching Assistant

Science Technician Assistant

Library Assistant

Careers Assistant

Learning/Behaviour Support Assistant

Paired Reader (helping S1 pupils improve their reading skills)

The contribution in WVO of S6 students is undoubtedly beneficial to whichever Department or group of pupils are concerned.

The S6 students themselves will gain experience in working with others, whether with staff, pupils or outside agencies. The more the students give of their time and effort, the greater the benefits will be for their self-confidence.

COMMITTEES

Every S6 student is expected to join a Committee. This year the Committees are:

Events Committee

Charities Committee

Dance Committee

Year Book Committee

Press Committee

Eco Committee

Borders Youth Ambassadors Committee

Interhouse Committee

Leavers' Committee

Students make an invaluable contribution to the life of the school through their Committees – they also gain excellent experience in the skills of team-working, decision making and the organisation of events.

UCAS PROGRAMME

4th September 2006	Higher Education Convention Kelso
11th September 2006	Launch of UCAS programme – University of Edinburgh
18th September 2006	UCAS packs distributed: Programme B5 forms (referees) UCAS flow chart Personal Statement guidelines Parents' Evening invitation
20th September 2006	UCAS Parents' Evening – Heriot Watt University
6th October 2006	School deadline for Medicine, Dentistry, Vet Studies, Oxford, Cambridge
15th October 2006	UCAS deadline for Medicine, Dentistry, Vet Studies, Oxford, Cambridge
6th November 2006	School deadline for all applications
15th January 2007	UCAS deadline for all applications

The Galashiels Academy internal deadlines ensure efficient processing of students' applications. These deadlines **MUST** be observed.

www.ucas.com
www.planitplus.net
www.saas.gov.uk
www.careers-scotland.org.uk

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS EMPLOYMENT

Most colleges will accept applications at any time of the year – students should complete application forms from individual colleges on-line or on paper.

Many of our students will apply for University places through UCAS and also apply for College and/or employment.

Students interested in college and/or employment will be given assistance from our Careers Adviser, Alex Kepes, and from external agencies such as Borders Works in order to help them find the most appropriate job/course.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Whether applying for University, College or employment, students are strongly encouraged to gain relevant work experience. This can either be done through the school or in the students' own time, at weekends or during the holidays.

CAREERS SCOTLAND

Whatever route the student chooses to take, Alex Kepes, our Careers Adviser, is there to help. Mrs Kepes runs a self-referral appointments system in school every Tuesday and runs a drop-in session on a Thursday. We also encourage S6 students and their parents/guardians to visit the Careers Scotland office in Bridge Street opposite Farmfoods. Students can obtain advice, look at prospectuses, go on-line and phone Universities/colleges/employers.

BUDDIES

At Galashiels Academy, every first year pupil is paired up with a sixth year "Buddy".

We know how anxious first year pupils and their parents can be and the role of the sixth year Buddy is as follows:

- Be a friendly face in the corridors and the canteen
- Listen to the S1 Buddies' worries
- If appropriate, pass on concerns to Guidance teachers
- Meet with the S1 Buddies every Friday at break or lunchtime
- Attend a First Year Social Education class
- Organise and if possible attend the S1/S6 Buddies' Disco.

S6 Buddies will receive training in how to deal with their S1 Buddies during two training sessions in 6th Year Social Education.

A fantastic number of S6 students have volunteered to be a Buddy. We know that this means they will give willingly of their free time to help their young Buddies, and we are very grateful for this.

There is no doubt whatsoever that the S1 Buddies appreciate this support – and they may well confide worries and concerns to their S6 Buddies which they would not necessarily share with a member of staff.