

Galashiels Academy
Staff Information Sheet
Week beginning Monday 27th March 2006

Diary Dates

Wednesday 26 th April	SQA Assembly
Thursday 27 th April	S4 Leavers' Ceremony
Friday 28 th April	S5 Leavers' Ceremony
Tuesday 2 nd May	INSET: Brian Boyd
Wednesday 3 rd May	S4 Study Leave
Thursday 4 th May	PTs' Meeting

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

Congratulations to senior students Alison McQuillin and Katy Jenkins who have been selected by the Rotary Club of Galashiels to attend the RYLA intensive training programme from 22 - 29 July 2006. The programme will take place at the Ardeonaig Outdoor Centre by Killin in Perthshire and will involve students from all over Scotland.

The aims of the RYLA programme are to help these young people develop leadership skills, increase self-confidence and gain exposure to a variety of issues and people.

Thanks to the Rotary Club of Galashiels, Galashiels Academy is able to send two students every year to attend this exceptional event. Participants from previous years have returned from the event extremely impressed by what students gain from the programme.

We look forward to hearing about Alison and Katy's adventures after the summer holiday!

We would like to extend our grateful thanks to the Rotary Club of Galashiels for offering this invaluable experience to these young people.

Dance Festival

Last week 115 pupils at Galashiels Academy participated in the Dance Festival. The school has been taking part in the dance festival for over twenty years. Eight secondary schools take part in the festival which is held in the Volunteer Hall. Galashiels Academy won the junior Scottish country-dance cup and the Scottish creative cup. The second years 'A' set of Jessica Leaver, Emma Davidson, Jessica Elliot, Anne Duncan, Mairi Gillies, Louise Cormie, Gillian Sandie and Lisa Kimbs were the cup winners. The creative dances were not competitive but all dances were given an excellent comment.

Mrs Christie of the PE Department who organised the festival said 'The new Hip Hop group performed well'. Everyone enjoyed themselves and it was worthwhile after all the hard work they put in. One of the dancers, Jenny Craig, who did a duo dance with Kerry Duncan said, 'it was a great experience and I really enjoyed myself!'

An evening performance of a selection of the dances will be held at the Volunteer Hall on Monday 27th March at 7pm. The dance which Galashiels Academy will present then is called 'Black or White' and the theme centres around racism.

Lisa Flemming-Scott

Class Act

In Standard Grade History pupils learn about what kind of learner they are because we all learn in different ways and have preferred learning styles. Pupils complete an online questionnaire which tells them what kind of learner they are. Everyone learns in different ways and the good news is that there are 8 different intelligences - Kinaesthetic, Logical, Intrapersonal, Visual/Spatial, Linguistic, Interpersonal, Musical and Naturalistic. Once they

have completed the questionnaire and discovered what type of learner they are, the pupils are given a colour print out detailing how they as individuals learn best and the best ways to revise.

At the moment pupils are working on Mary, Queen of Scots and they are completing a Think, Pair and Share task which involves working in pairs. Pupils have an option of which task they will carry out depending on which kind of learner they are. For example, they may choose to prepare a speech to Mary's court highlighting the dangers facing Mary which is for Interpersonal learners. If they are Kinaesthetic learners they can choose to create and deliver a PowerPoint presentation that explains the problems and dangers facing Mary. Linguistic learners go for writing a letter to Mary warning her of the problems she might face when she rules Scotland and what might happen if she is not careful.