

# THE GORDON SCHOOLS' PRIZE-GIVING

## Talented Kai is top of the class

By Pat Scott  
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ABERDEEN University and a career in medicine beckons for The Gordon Schools' top student.

Sixth year pupil Kai Ewers (18) from Inch was presented with the dux award at last week's prize-giving ceremony.

Kai, who scored five straight A grades in his Highers last year, won the advanced Higher prizes for biology, chemistry and physics as well as a music prize.

His summer job will involve teaching piano.

The teenager, who describes himself as a people person, said: "I have always had a love and passion for the sciences."

Runner-up to the dux was Kira Gordon, who heads to Heriot-Watt university in September to study French and Spanish as she hopes to become an interpreter.

Over the summer Kira will be able to use her language skills with guests at the Castle Hotel where she is working. Class prize winners at The Gordon Schools included:

Year 3: most improved in English - Cerys Anderson; chemical perspicacity - Laura Brown;

Year 4: music and physics - Theo Brill; biology - Jenny Coutts; metalworking - Liam Ellis; maths - Caitlin Gabriel; chemistry - Darach Gardner; hospitality - Emma Garioch; engineering science - Katie Grant; lifeskills maths - Blair Harper; geography and modern studies - Fiona Hutcheon; computing - Nicole McFadyen; English, history, German - Rachel McGregor; graphic communication - Alice Radford; art - Freya Rose; drama - Anna Rudeck; music - Arwen Scott; Spanish and biology - Skye Thain; French - Amy Wilson; most improved in English and people and society - Dorothy Wilson.

Year 5: English, maths, French, chemistry - Emma Barclay; economics and art - Jesse Deadman; administration - Mia Fisher; history - Megan Humphries; biology and chemistry - Duncan McKen; drama - Sophie Orr; engineering science - Euan Pakeman; modern studies - Sarah Rodwell; modern

languages - Daniel Sorley; business management and art and design - Rebecca Tucker.

Year 6: RMPS - Stephanie Acutt; art portfolio - Megan Anderson; physics - Georgina Andrew; German - Talita Coulsen; hospitality - Lucy Cruickshank; Spanish - Emma Duffus; music, biology, chemistry, physics - Kai Ewers; English - Lauren Gabriel; German - Kira Gordon; maths - Laura Grant; history - Matilda Haley; geography - Erin Jay; modern studies - Abby Lochhead; metalworking - Jack MacLean; administration - Niamh Mariner; effort - Tom McGowan; graphic communication - Magnus McIntosh; geography - Leanne Shand; business management - Lily Sierakowski; photography - Andrew Waterhouse; creativity and presence in performance - Clyde Williamson; physics - Lee Scott.

Sports prizes: PE - Logan Shand and Emma Barclay; sport - Kyle Gordon; sportsmanship - Nicola Grant; hockey - Laura Grant; rugby - April McKenzie and John Rodwell; football - Gregor Whyte;



Gordon schools rector Phil Gaiter with dux Kai Ewers and runner-up Kira Gordon.  
Pictures: Eric Cormack. Image No.044356

volleyball - Kira Gordon, Laura Grant, Innes Parkin; athletics - Emma Barclay.

General awards: debating and public speaking - Theo Brill and Magnus McIntosh; bronze Duke of Edinburgh - Isla Burnish, Bella Chambers, Megan Humphries, Amelie Mackrory-Bowden, Sophie Orr; maths challenge - Imogen Baugh-Clark, John Cruickshank, Cameron Cruickshank; enterprise in maths - Clara Pretterebner; musical excellence - Kai Ewers; citizenship - Sophie Gunn; achievement and public service - Lucas McIntosh; reading volunteers - Stephanie Acutt, Talita Coulsen, Emma Duffus, Ellen Forsyth,

Lauren Gabriel, Libby Gerrie, Samantha Gray, Matilda Haley, Erin Jay, Lizzie McIlwraith, Beth Murray, Madeline Rust, Hannah Wylie; service to the school - Beth Dunsire; personal achievement - Tegan Davidson; outstanding effort - Jane Rennie; endeavour - Lauren Gabriel; personal achievement - Marc Taylor; Don Smith award - Kym-Louise Anderson; most committed students - Beth Dunsire, Kira Gordon, Erin Jay, Magnus McIntosh; leadership - Kira Gordon, Laura Grant, Erin Jay, Magnus McIntosh; merit student of the year - Rebecca Muiry, dux of the school - Kai Ewers; runner-up - Kira Gordon.



## A credit to their generation



A FORMER teacher at The Gordon Schools who directed many productions returned to the stage as guest speaker at its annual prize-giving ceremony.

Carol Ford taught drama before leaving to join the ministry. Now retired, she has returned to live in Huntly and is currently locum minister at Strathbogie Drumblade Church.

Ms Ford also addressed the merit certificate ceremonies and urged the pupils to share their stories and learn from and with each other, through the good times and the tough times.

Laurence Findlay, Aberdeenshire Council's director of education and children's services also attended.

Rector Phil Gaiter reflected on how different the prize-giving would have been 100 years ago as the Great War ended.

He said: "We must always know that the footprint we leave on our school is built on the rich history and traditions of those who have given so much for our community. We must always ask the question, is what we are doing today going to leave The Gordon Schools a better place?"

Mr Gaiter acknowledged the role the community played to support positive progress – local businesses and organisations have opened their doors and shared their expertise to allow pupils to demonstrate their talents and develop skills for learning, life and work in a wide variety of contexts.

He said: "In what are challenging times globally, I'm very pleased to report that our school con-



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Phil Gaiter

tinues to look outwards internationally.

"Pupils and colleagues have completed the final year of the Erasmus project based around sustainability and have made great progress in reducing plastic

waste and promoting a very strong message about environmental stewardship.

"Our pupils have welcomed many young visitors from Europe and further afield in their classes. We look outwards to learn and contribute to a whole that is so much bigger than ourselves, but yet still will ultimately affect how we live in the future."

Mr Gaiter congratulated the award-winners but said there could be many barriers to learning, health and happiness.

"For some pupils, simply getting up and out of the house for school each day is the achievement.

"Having one friend to speak with, feeling safe and loved is the achievement. We must look after each and every person in our community and recognise that there can be many hidden barriers to learning, health and happiness. If we aim high and use our vision of 'Together Growing Succeeding' to inspire us, then please forgive us if we miss occasionally, so long as our intentions are good and we then learn from our experiences.

"All of our achievements, great and small, are part of a bigger team effort, together we all lay the foundations and opportunities for growth and success."