



Glenalmond College

let your story begin

Glenalmond College: academically outstanding.

And the winner is.....Glenalmond!

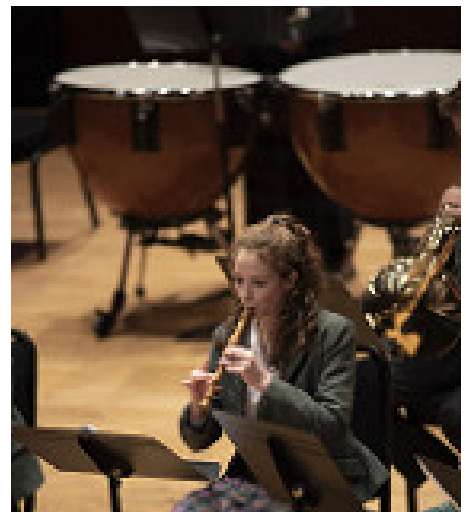
After the awe inspiring Gala Concert, it is no surprise that Glenalmond swept the board at Perform in Perth, beating all our local competitors in multiple competitions over two weeks. Over half our entries were awarded first place and a staggering 86% of our entries achieved either first or second prize. Glenalmond also had four representatives in the Premier Prize, the play off to find the outstanding musician in the Festival; Conrad Ihering was awarded overall outstanding string player, Alex Wallace overall outstanding pianist, Ellie Ridley overall outstanding woodwind player and Niall Dundee won overall outstanding singer.

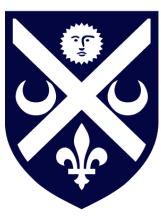


Ellie Ridley also carried off the Premier Prize itself for the top musician in the Festival for her performances on treble recorder. Meredith Kiemer, on the violin, won the Lara Trophy, the play off for the winners of the Advanced Classes. As you can imagine, Assembly afterwards was jubilant as Dr Ridley and the Warden handed over the silverware and pupils returned to their seats, juggling their trophies, quachs and rose bowls!

Just what sort of a thing is a piece of music anyway?:

The William Bright Society has continued its busy and stimulating schedule this term. Already, pupils have had two Thinking Skills sessions, tackling such issues as the nature of truth, perceptions of art, and more. There are four of these per term, which take place by year group; Third Form will be introduced to theirs next term. We have also had a wide variety of WBS Lectures. Dr Lisa Jones from St Andrews University posed the question "what sort of thing is a piece of music or work of literature?" Using the examples of Swan Lake, James Joyce's Ulysses, Beethoven's 5th Symphony, the Mona Lisa, and David, she had us wondering whether works of art actually are anything at all. She introduced the concept of ontology, and explained the merits and problems of such theories as the mental objects theory (is Beethoven's 5th a real, but abstract, thing? Does it only exist





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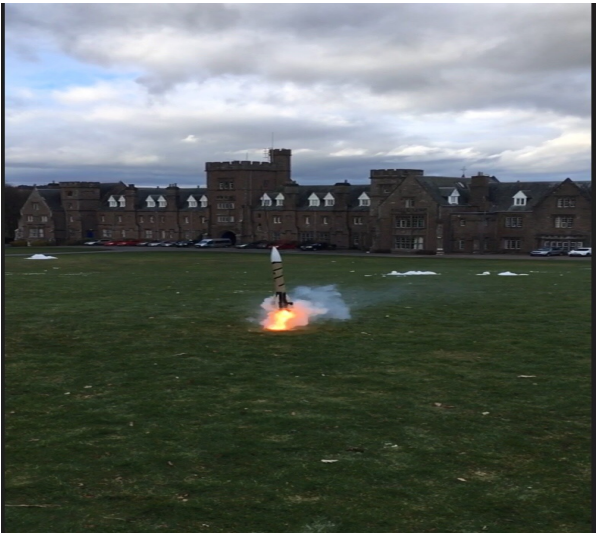
while the author is alive because the original is created in his or her head before being committed to paper?), and the type-token theory (is each performance a token version of the primary type?). Are works of art merely discovered by artists rather than created? As with most philosophical questions, the answer is far from clear, if it exists at all, but the process of arguing is what is so rewarding. Pupils young and old impressed Dr Jones when they asked and answered some very demanding questions: and seeing pupils engage with really challenging topics is one of the most enjoyable features of the WBS.

Speakers at the other lectures this term were Lt Col D G Forbes RM, CO 45 Cdo, Dr Francesca lezzi, who demonstrated the connection between mathematical symmetry and folk dancing, and Dr Erin Robbins on the psychology of intelligence. These were very popular, provoking stimulating and engaging questions from pupils. If you are interested in coming along to any of these lectures, visitors are very welcome.

Rockets, chocolate and 'banter'- Engineering Club is happy and thriving.

We are delighted to bring you a special report from our Engineering Club correspondent!

'Usually someone brings biscuits or chocolate and there is always a good amount of banter. Engineering Club is for enthusiasts who like to explore and play with equipment. In this academic year we have developed photographic images, from homemade pinhole cameras, using household ingredients; we have made compressed air cars; we have explored surface tension shapes using 3D frames; we have played in interference patterns illuminated by monochromatic light; we have tried to make Prince Rupert Drops (but had trouble reaching the required temperature even using multiple Bunsen burners); and have fired a rocket made from a poster tube over 400ft using chemical explosives. We have looked at lenses and curved mirrors, and we used the telescope to draw the features of the Moon. The reason we do this? Mainly, it is because we can and people like us need to do stuff like this but it is also accredited as an activity for the Duke of Edinburgh Award and Ellie Marsh and Ben Chichos received a CREST Silver Award last year for their research on Spiral Pumps. The Engineering Club also entered a UK Rocket



Competition, and made the most beautiful rocket, only to have the rocket ensnared up a Douglas Fir, where it remains today (our own version of the Whomping Willow).