



## Morgan Academy F.P. Association



A very warm welcome to the new look Morgan Matters.

### 150 Years of History

All started by one man, Mr. John Morgan.

The Morgan is an imposing landmark building of tremendous architectural significance, designed in 1862 by the Edinburgh architects John Dick Peddie and Charles Kinnear. It opened in 1868 as the Morgan Hospital, a charitable institution providing accommodation and education for “sons of tradesmen and persons of the working class generally whose parents stand in the need of assistance”. Its benefactor was John Morgan, the son of a Dundee maltman, who emigrated to India at the age of 20 where, with his brother, he became a wealthy indigo farmer. After a lengthy retirement in Edinburgh, he died, aged 90, in 1850. His will was very confusing and was contested so it was not until 1861 that the House of Lords determined that Morgan’s wish had been to bequeath the bulk of his fortune (£73 500) to establish a residential institution in Dundee for the education of boys, similar in character to George Heriot’s in Edinburgh.

The Governors were determined to have a monumental building. The setting chosen sits high above the city, commanding the north east quarter of Dundee and its style is an impressive form of baronial architecture, derived from French chateaux and Flemish guild halls. It is one of Peddie and Kinnear’s finest buildings and it is of international significance, being only comparable in design to Edinburgh’s Fettes College, which was designed by David Bryce and also built in the 1860s. (Source – Morgan Academy F.P. Website)

For more information go to [www.morganacademyfp.com](http://www.morganacademyfp.com)

**2018 is the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this much-loved and historic building.  
Let's make it one to remember!**





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### Chairman's Chunter



Many FP's have asked over the last few years, why was Glamis House killed off. From what I've gathered it seems to have been simply serendipity (on the face of it at least).

Each house had a Lead Teacher allocated. It doesn't take a skilled mathematician to work out that it's cheaper to run 3 houses than 4 and the fact that the school, at the time were discussing streamlining, savings and consolidation going forward. Glamis House didn't have a House Leader due to her impending retirement. It therefore made it an easy decision to avoid the hassle of standing someone down! Full marks for a seemingly pragmatic management decision, but do you ask all the Glamis FP's to lay aside their hopes for continuity? One of the great things that Morgan Academy has a part of its legacy to pupils and teachers is a history and to truncate that history by changing the parameters of competition and rivalry (albeit artificial and relatively benign) has been a horrible happening.

For those pupils who never knew a 4 house system I am sorry for you. What you never had you never miss, but I for one will always be glad I experienced a House system which had a good spread and which meant 25% more when you were part of the Top House. Unfortunately I was only part of a Star Winning House once in my school career. I wonder what would have been decided if Airle had been the house to find itself short of a teacher at a critical time? Hopefully you can't smell the sour grapes from where you are reading this, but it's a question I'd like someone to answer, at some future point.

How lucky are we to have a School with a History longer than some Dundee Schools have existed (before their demise!) Menzieshill, Logie, Linlathen, St Saviours to name but a few. Treasure the thought, celebrate the achievements of the many thousands of pupils who have passed through its corridors and make sure you take part in next year's

#### **150th Anniversary Celebrations!**

Buy event tickets, by a copy of the History of Morgan Academy, donate to the FP School Fund, there are many ways to underpin the School's reputation and give a solid base for today's pupils to become part of all our collective memories.

Hail the Morgan indeed.

Rodger Brunton (Glamis) 1963-68



### Treasurer's "Tails"

(usually at the end !)



At its meeting on 24 April 2017, your Committee agreed a donation of £3,000 to the School Fund, comprised as follows:

	£
P.E "t" shirts	100
Highland Show	300
DOE - equipment & training	500
N4 pupil timetable support	150
Positive behaviour rewards	450
Prize Giving	1,000
Senior leadership course subsidy	500
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Total	£3,000
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We were conscious that the Association's entire income from subscriptions and bank interest will be around £1,000 this year, meaning £2,000 of the amount donated to the school has come from reserves. In coming to the decision to make the donation, we took on board pleadings from the Head Teacher and other school representatives that budgets are now so restricted, without our help, certain projects within the school simply would not be happening. However, all concerned realise making donations out of reserves must to be a short-term situation.

Although the Association has around 300 members, in round numbers, 200 of them are life members, so not paying annual subscriptions. Because of that situation, at the AGM on 20 June 2017, it was agreed, **that although the status of existing life members will not change at all**, no new life members will be admitted. Basically, without new money coming in year by year, the Association must either reduce drastically the money it gives to the school, or its reserves will be depleted quite quickly.

Also, with the wonderful benefit of hindsight, when the concept of life members was introduced years ago, a workable definition of that category of members wasn't framed formally. At the time, it was felt appropriate that if someone had been paying £5 for 20 years, they had earned the right to be a life member of the Association. However, now the annual subscription is £10, that raises the question does someone qualify to become a life member after only 10 years, and if the annual subscription needs to go up to £20 in the future, does someone qualify after only 5 years? It was agreed at the AGM the only fair way forward, is not to admit any new life members, and to look to all members (**other than existing life members**) to pay the annual subscription fixed at the relevant time.

Andy Joss ( Glamis 1954 – 1967)





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### Down Memory Lane

Many thanks to Hugh for his "Vignettes" Many more at <http://mcgrory.ca/Vignettes3.html>



Hugh McGrory

1948 – 1955



You may remember that in June 1955 there was excitement in the air in Dundee. The young Queen and Prince Philip were coming to town...

It was announced that the whole school was going to be given a couple of hours off to see the royal party pass by, and that we would exit the school, by class, at a certain time and march up to the Kingsway so that we could line up along the verge and wave.

And so it came to pass; the school assembled and marched northward – Ian Stevenson and I marched south...

We had decided that we could live without seeing the royal pair, since we had an urgent need to play a few games of snooker in our favourite haunt, the Maryfield Snooker Hall at the foot of Mains Loan.

It seems however that Liz and Philip hadn't wanted to miss us, since half-way down Forfar Road we see the royal limo coming up the hill, and the royal couple giving us the royal wave.

The next day when asked "howcum" we missed the Queen, we said "Oh we saw her earlier!".



Murray Hackney



I was one of the boys who went all the way from the primary annexe to 6th year, so a fair chunk of my life was spent at The Morgan. Never a sporty type, I considered footie, rugby and cricket perfect ways to get hurt, so became clever at avoiding them. I notice now that most of my sporty friends have limps and various arthritic problems, which I seem to have avoided. Coincidence...? Strangely though, I enjoyed physical training (PE) in the hall, (you remember Mr. Sorbie?) and could scoot up the 30 foot ropes no bother. Letting go up there would spoil your day if not kill you! Then there were the wall bars, beams, and other things designed to maim you.

I don't think I'm making this up, but I also seem to remember an occasional game of thugball. No rules, both teams just had to get the ball to the other end of the hall by whatever means. Any injuries resulting from that game drew nothing but ribald insults.





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### School Report Card

I have over my first year used a recurring message for both staff and pupils. It started with my first assembly, and I refer to the song "Proud". The words challenge us to "*step out of the ordinary*". I would argue in schools that is our main goal, to empower every young person to achieve all they individually can be to take their place in society. We promote tolerance, acceptance of each other's differences, talents and personalities and learn to work alongside one another for the benefit of all. For me that is what Morgan Academy is all about; building a community. Academic success is fundamental to any school and our pupil examination results last year were a good news story. We excelled in pupils gaining qualifications in English and Maths and against the Dundee and National average in pass rates. We have had senior pupils successfully complete the Scottish Baccalaureate at the highest level under the guidance of Margo Lindsay and Mike Mulholland. Once again, their support and management in the school was highly commended by the SQA. Our debating club, re- energised by the support of Diane Anderson, performed exceptionally well reaching the Second round of Donald Dewar National Debating competition. In March, a small group of S3 pupils, supported by Lisa Devlin were invested as Anne Frank Ambassadors. As ambassadors, they are charged with keeping Anne's story alive and to share their experiences with others, particularly junior school and feeder primary pupils. They are now preparing to visit the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam later this year. We have successfully established links with two schools in Florida, alongside Grove Academy. Truly demonstrating a pioneering spirit! This will involve pupils in Maths and Biology initially with the potential to develop projects in many subjects. The focus being to involve pupils with employers and raise awareness of the potential job market in Dundee and around the world. Our pioneering spirit continues as we lead another initiative in Dundee under the guidance of Mike Mulholland. *Show My Homework* – launched to pupils and parents this session is an App. for phones which aims to help us; increase homework completion and quality through use of technology, and increase parental support, engagement and communication. The impact has been very positive and we will continue to develop and monitor progress. Many pupils are engaged with the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels. Pupils challenge themselves through learning new skills, volunteering and completing an expedition. They have to work together to succeed and are heavily supported by a team of committed staff superbly led by Piers Bowser. Thanks must go to the Morgan FP Association who gave financial support to the D of E Award Scheme Our senior prefect team and the Interact group have been such an excellent example of pupil leadership. The latter supported by Ian Ross and Tim Baker from Rotary took part in working at Octoberfest, and raised over £3000 for their chosen charity Cystic Fibrosis through the excellent organisation of a Christmas jumper wearing day, a lip sync battle on Red Nose Day and a bingo night. One of our Interact group Samantha Wilson was nominated by Rotary for Dundee's Youth Community Spirit award. The senior prefects managed to organise in addition to their studies and a successful Halloween disco, Christmas Ceilidh and Burns night all enjoyed by many. Helen Gray, Head Teacher





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### Music Department

Jamie White and Nathan Edward-Inatimi competed in the Dundee Rotary Young Musician of the Year and Dundee Schools Musician of the Year final with amazing performances. Rachael Adam and Rachel Millar competed in both the Rotary and Dundee School Vocalist of the year finals. With Rachael Adam named Dundee Schools Vocalist of the year. Our musicians, as a whole, continued their success over the past few years with involvement in various competitions, workshops with the Scottish ensemble the Dundee Band & Orchestra and the Dundee Music Theatre.

### Sporting News

Sporting achievement has been excellent this year with success in netball, football, rugby, Dundee Schools Cross Country, Dundee Cyclathon and Road relay race. We have had a great response to introduction of a P.E. uniform, a T shirt and black bottoms. The T shirt has the school badge on the front and can be personalised on the back. Kim Thomson has led this and as well as pupils looking great, it has helped create an ethos of identity to the school. Again, thanks to the MAFPA for their financial support.

*As we move into the new session, we say goodbye to colleagues and welcome new ones. This year we wish Margo Lindsay PT Biology, Doreen Wilson PT Support for Learning and Piers Bowser PT Guidance a long, healthy and happy retirement! Helen Gray.*

Meet the School Captains for 2017-2018

Ross Bell and Casey Morrison



### Morgan FP membership

It's easy to join the FP Association. £10 a year is all it takes. Why not set up a standing order? Application form on the website <http://www.morganacademyfp.com/>



If you have any items for the newsletter please email them to me, Fiona Joss,  
(Glamis 1972 – 1978) at [fiona-joss@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:fiona-joss@hotmail.co.uk)

