

## **School of Ambition – Dance Company Update**

- At the start of the 2008-9 session Claire Hughes left to return to university and at that time we set up a Dance Committee with staff representation. Sarah M<sup>c</sup>Dowell, Sharlene Muir, Lynne Tracey, Paul Huish and Rhian Reynolds are the staff representatives on the committee.
- More importantly we tried to let students take on leadership roles and initially Kirsty Gibson (S6), Sarah Hamilton (S6), Billie Morton (S4) and Natalie Tait (S4) took the lead. We met a few times last session to discuss forthcoming dance opportunities and to organise events.
- The first event that various groups (S6, Int. 2, S3/4, S1/2 and Boys) took part in was the East Lothian Council Dance Festival which was organised by Paul Huish and hosted at DGS.
- All Dance groups performed at the school Christmas show.
- The boys and Natalie and Billie performed at an event at Dynamic Earth.
- There were also performances and a discussion session with the HMIE inspectors.
- A dance artist came into school and did a workshop with a mixed group of pupils and Sarah M<sup>c</sup>Dowell then took the group of dancers up to a workshop at the Brunton Theatre after school followed by attendance at an evening performance.
- Billie and Natalie organised and successfully ran an entire dance show on their own at the end of term.
- The S3/4 group performed at this year's Awards ceremony.
- Up and coming events include a workshop and performance opportunity in October at the Brunton Theatre which Rhian is organising.
- Currently we have 11 girls in the Intermediate 2 Dance class which is taught by Rhian Reynolds.
- There are various extra-curricular sessions taking place at lunchtimes and after school with a number of staff involved (Sarah M<sup>c</sup>Dowell, Sharlene Muir, Lynne Tracey, Rhian Reynolds and Susan Wood).
- There is still a strong emphasis on pupils leading sessions and steering the dance at Dunbar Grammar.