

## Penicuik High School Parliament Presentation

Invited by Jeremy Purvis MSP, Penicuik High School joined the Penicuik for Africa Convention to provide an informative and entertaining evening in the Garden Lobby of the Scottish Parliament. The evening was set up to exhibit the achievements of both groups in front of invited guests, including former First Minister Jack McConnell and Robin Harper MSP. As guests were welcomed into the hall to visit exhibitions from the school, they were treated to music from Penicuik High School's own Record Label 'Burntout Records', with performances from Gillian Rhodes, Regeneration and Folk Resolution. During this time, guests had the opportunity to see for themselves exactly what each of the different Joint Projects had achieved so far. The Joint Projects are a number of links between school departments in both Thyolo and Penicuik High Schools. On display at the Scottish Parliament were examples of each group's work, and how they had contributed to the partnership agreement. The John Muir Trust, whose aim is to investigate the local environment around the school, exhibited pictures and details of their achievements along with other joint project groups. The Malawi Writers Group, who aims to create a book and CD of their writing pieces, compiled along with the works of Thyolo Secondary School, also displayed their writing and artwork. These exhibitions were joined by stalls from Burntout Records and the Cultural Exchange Art Project, displaying their achievements, examples of their work, and plans for future ventures.

After guests spent time learning about each of the enterprise groups and meeting the students involved with each group, the evening was then formally introduced by Jeremy Purvis MSP. This was followed by presentations from Jo Vallis of the Penicuik for Africa Convention, followed by Michael Dickson, senior student at Penicuik High School, who then proceeded to describe the continuing partnership with Thyolo secondary school. During this presentation, Michael outlined the aims of each of the joint projects and the future aims of the partnership. Within the next year, the partnership group aims to host a student and staff exchange between Thyolo SS and Penicuik HS, allowing the partnership to develop further, giving the schools an opportunity to fully engage in cultural exchange. They also aim to continue their joint projects between both schools, as well as set up new projects and cultural investigations. Between presentations, Dance 4 Malawi gave dances to entertain the guests, exhibiting unique dances reflecting Scottish and Malawian cultures. To end the evening, Jack McConnell and Jeremy Purvis thanked guests for their attendance and praised the excellent work and ethos that had been achieved, and that continues to reflect the work of both the Penicuik for Africa Convention and Penicuik High School.