

Summer Magazine 2016

BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY



HEAD TEACHER'S MESSAGE

Here we are at the end of another fast paced and exciting session. There has been much to celebrate this year as you will see when reading through the magazine. Highlights have been the introduction of the chrome books which support learning in a number of ways. Chrome books are laptops which access the internet but have no hard drive and instead young people store their work in the cloud or use Google Classroom to send work to their teacher who can then give them individual feedback. Staff can book one of two trollies of 30 chrome books to be brought to their classroom and in addition seniors can use the chrome books during study to research or write up work to be handed in to teachers. The views of staff and young people have been overwhelmingly positive and we all feel this has been worthwhile investment of money we could not spend because of teacher shortages.

Other good news is that four teachers have agreed to be trained as Google trainers so that all teachers can develop their skills to use this technology to support learning in and out of school. We hope to organise an event for parents early next session because there is a facility through Google for you to know more about the homework that your children will be given. We hope this will be a hands on session with young people explaining and leading the sessions.

This year saw the first of our S3 leadership days take place building on the skills young people developed on our leadership days for S1 and S2. This was organised and supported by the PE and Wider Achievement department and in addition sessions with our new business partner Elevator were led by members of the senior leadership class of 2015 -16.

As you will know recruitment does continue to be an issue in Scottish education. In order to cope with this we have restructured some of the Broad General Education young people experience in S1 -3. Because we have not been able to recruit a full time teacher for computing or for Home Economics we have reduced ICT to S1 only and HE to S1 and S2 only, instead they will in S3 complete a leadership course designed to support

their development of personal and interpersonal skills. We are not trying to grow leaders for industry or business, although clearly these are skills needed in those areas, but, we are supporting young people to become leaders of their own lives. This course has been designed and planned to give young people an extended experience of working in teams to complete tasks and activities as well as spend time reflecting on their own strengths and areas for development. We are also pleased to announce the re-introduction of drama into the curriculum. All young people in S2 and S3 will have a period of drama each week. In the senior phase young people can also now choose to complete their studies by completing a National or Higher course in Drama.

We have a number of new teachers joining us or amending their contracts as a result of the changes in the curriculum and retirements and promotions. In January Mrs Lynda Blackwood left us to become Depute Head Teacher at Dyce Academy and in February Mrs Alison Smith went to Robert Gordon's College as head of their pupil support department. In June Mrs Laura Watson started her maternity leave and we also say goodbye at summer to Mrs Yasmin Clarke from the science faculty who is moving abroad. Mrs Elaine Milne and Mr Ian Duthie are moving on after their probation. Miss Hayley Barr is taking a career break to finish her Masters and travel. She will be back in August 2018. At summer Mrs Jenny Bowman retires after 13 years with us as our behaviour support teacher. Mrs Laura Fettes, Modern Languages will start her well-earned retirement after 31 years at Bridge of Don Academy. We wish all of these valued colleagues well with their new responsibilities and roles both personal and professional. I would also like to wish them well and thank them for their many years of service to the young people.

In January we also said farewell to Mrs Rosemary Fowlie who finished



her 23 year long career at Bridge of Don Academy in the role of School Administrator. We thank her for her years of loyal support of the school and its staff. Mrs Fowlie did not want a formal presentation but we did have a collection and a presentation at the end of school on her last day. In April Mrs Sarah Smith joined us in the office as our new School Administrator.

In February we were joined by Mr Derrick Ness who is a Design and Technology teacher and has taken over the leadership of the technologies faculty. In May we were joined by Mrs Rachel Cooper in the support for learning department and Mr Alan Dunnet who is teaching Computing Studies on a part time basis. In June Miss Stephanie James joined us in our Expressive Arts faculty as a teacher of Drama. After the summer we will be joined by Ms Alex Fuhrmann in biology and Ms Lauren Malone in PE. We will also welcome back Mr Colin Wallace and Mr Les Donald in PE. They have both been successful in securing full time permanent contracts. Mrs Rosa Alfonsin has also been successful in securing a full time contract to teach French and Spanish and her part time role will be filled by Ms Nicole Kennedy who will join us in August. Mr Allan Taylor will cover for Mrs Watson whilst she is on Maternity leave from Physics and Ms Lisa Maitland will be joining us to teach Chemistry – both will be starting in August.

We are very pleased to be starting the new session with a full complement of staff – giving the young people the best possible start to being and achieving their very best. Of course attainment and achievement is also down to the young people themselves – their attitude and effort plays a big part in their success. Evidence shows that those who believe they can improve do improve. A lot of research backs up the view that those who have a growth mind-set and are given the right kind of encouragement to keep trying even when they find something difficult make the most progress in their learning.

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2015/09/23/carol-dweck-revisits-the-growth-mindset.html>

KEY DATES SESSION 2016 – 2017

TERM 1

15 August 2016 – 7 October 2016

- In-service Day: Monday 15th August 2016
- Term Starts: Tuesday 16th August 2016
- Term Ends: Friday 7th October 2016
- October Holiday: Monday 10th – Friday 21st October 2016

School Dates

- 30 August Parent Council
- 9 September Interim Reports issued for all S4, S5, S6
- 27 September Parent Council

TERM 2

24 October 2016 – 23 December 2016

- Term Starts: Monday 24th October 2016
- In-Service Training (Closed to Pupils) Friday 18th November 2016
- Term Ends: Friday 23rd December 2016
- Christmas Holiday: Monday 26th December to Friday 6th January 2017

School Dates

- 25 October Parent Council
- 28 October S3 Interim Reports Issued
- 2 November S1 Parents Evening
- 4 November S4, S5, S6 Interim Report Issued
- 23 November Christmas Fayre
- 25 November S2 Interim Reports Issued
- 29 November Parent Council
- 6 December S2 Parents Evening
- 20 December S1 Interim Reports Issued
- 22 December Christmas Assemblies

TERM 3

9 January 2017 – 31 March 2017

- Term Starts: Monday 9th January 2017
- Mid Term Holiday: Monday 13th February 2017
- In-Service Training (Closed to pupils) Tuesday 14th to Wednesday 15th February 2017
- Term Ends: Friday 31st March
- Spring Holiday: Monday 3rd to Monday 17th April 2017

School Dates

- 10 January S4, S5, S6 Interim Reports Issued
- 23 January Senior Exams begin for S4, S5, S6
- 24 January Parent Council
- 27 January S3 Final Reports Issued
- 3 February Senior Exams End for S4, S5, S6
- 8 February S3 Parents Evening
- 21 February Careers & Course Choice Information Evening S2-S6
- 28 February S4, S5, S6 Reports Issued
- 1 March S4 Parents Evening
- 9 March S5/S6 Parents Evening
- 14 March Course Choice Deadline
- 28 March Parent Council
- 31 March Senior Ball

TERM 4

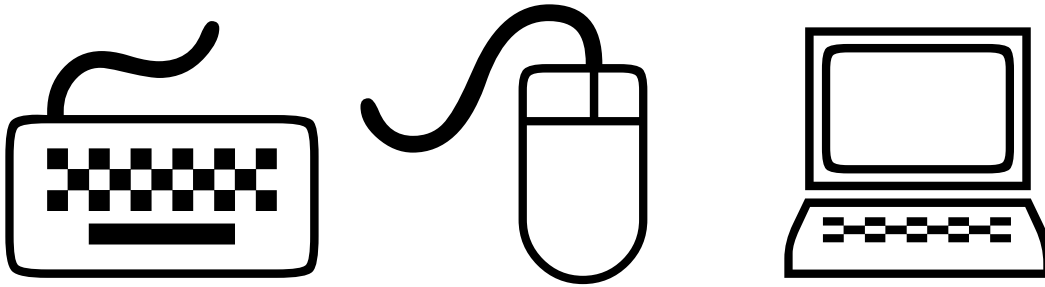
18 April 2017 – 30 June 2017

- Term Starts Tuesday 18th April 2017
- May Day Holiday Monday 1st May 2017
- In-service Training (closed to school) Tuesday 2nd May 2017
- Term Ends Friday 30th June

School Dates

- 22 – 23 April Duke of Edinburgh Weekend
- 25 April Parent Council
- 2 May SQA Exams Begin
- 17 May S2 Reports Issued
- 26 May S1 Reports Issued
- 30 May Parent Council
- 2 June SQA Exams finish
- 5 June Change of Timetable
- 14 June Awards Ceremony
- 20 June Parents information Evening for P7 parents/carers (New S1)
- 21 – 23 June P7 3 Day Visit
- 26 June June School Show

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL



To further improve communication between home and school and to save paper and so protect the environment we will be communicating with you only by email and text message from August. The only exception to this is school reports which will still come home in hard copy but we will send you an electronic alert to notify you when they are coming home via bagmail. The report dates for all year groups are in the important dates' section of this magazine. Most schools have moved in this direction because it is a more efficient way of ensuring that you get communications rather than relying on pupils delivering letters. You will be able to read and respond at a time convenient to you and your schedule.

We are also exploring the options for an electronic magazine for the future. There are a variety of packages which will not only streamline communications but also be more attractive and showcase the activities of our pupils in colour.

To make this work please ensure we have an up-to-date mobile phone number and an email address.

DOG FOULING ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

Hopefully by the time this magazine goes out we will have finally seen the proofs of the new signage for the school grounds to ensure that all members of the public are fully aware that the exercising of dogs on school grounds is not permitted.

This is a particular problem in the fine months of summer. Our pupils use the school grounds to relax and socialise at break and lunch. Even if local residents and members of the public clean up after their dogs there will still be residue from dog faeces and dog urine left behind.



This has the potential to cause illness and disease. Over the last two years we have spent money to make the grounds more comfortable and pleasant for the young people by installing benches which are well used. It is therefore very disappointing to see people exercising their dog on school grounds – letting them foul the grassy area where young people sit, socialise and play.

We have invested in the signage to ensure that everyone is aware of the rules and co-operates to ensure that our young people can use the school grounds with confidence that they are as safe and hygienic as we can make them.

LITTER

We have done a lot of work with first years this session to tackle the growing problem of litter in the community. We have had a number of complaints from members of the public about the litter left at lunchtime at the Braehead shops and on the path between the school and Asda. We invited a national theatre company to put on their interactive road show entitled “Bin It” to S1 pupils and following on from that all S1 pupils took part on a poster competition to design a poster for local shops to persuade all young people to use the bin for their lunch time litter. The poster competition was judged by Mr Steven Shaw, Aberdeen City Council Environmental Manager and his staff.



Those shortlisted from each of the registration classes were as follows:

1Crathes 1	1 Crathes 2	1 Drum	1 Fyvie
Logan Fisher Maya Topolewska Jamie Morgan David Jekowski Kirsty Marcelina Sikora	Vanessa Dobrzarska Bilal Sha Jihan Sasha Esslemont Rukhsaanah Newman Olivia Danabie	Brandin Kilpatrick Jason Boyd Jordan Bennett Rachel Wilson Andrew Girling	Kerem Ustem Shannon Lee Simone Zanda Deryn Florence Nathan Marhsall

On 24 June 2016 these same pupils - now proudly in S2 - took part in the 24 hour Glitter Pick. This was a project organised by Steven Shaw, Environmental Manager and his team from Aberdeen City Council to draw attention to the issue of litter in our area. In Aberdeen more than £2 million each year is spent on picking up litter and only about £150,000 on play equipment. His ambition is to flip this over. However this means we all have a part to play in educating and encouraging everyone to put their litter in the bin. Our pupils have certainly done their bit this term.

AWARDS CEREMONY – 16 JUNE 2016

Well done to the prize winners.



The awards ceremony took place at the Beach Ballroom on Thursday 16 June 2016. This is a truly glittering event which allows us to showcase and recognise the many achievements of our pupils. It is always well attended by parents and carers. This year we said farewell to Mrs Shona Wildi who has been a loyal and hardworking Chair of the Parent Council for 12 years.



GIRLS GET SET FINALE – 16 JUNE 2016

GE Oil & Gas launched the GirlsGetSET initiative in Aberdeen in June 2014. We were lucky enough to be one of three schools selected to take part in the project initially with some S1/2 girls. The girls took part in a launch day which involved them working in teams to develop and take part in engineering type problems. The day was a great success and many of our girls won different awards for their efforts.

GirlsGetSET is a five-year program designed to raise awareness of science, engineering and technology (SET) careers. With women making up just around 6% of the engineering workforce in the UK and with only 5.3% of females involved in SET-related roles, the initiative aims to contribute to closing the gender gap between students choosing SET subjects at secondary school and encourage our young people to consider a career in engineering in particular in the Oil and Gas sector.

Currently in school we have four groups of pupils that are taking part in project.

S1/S2

The youngsters from this group have taken part in an engineering project at the headquarters of GE Oil & Gas. During this day they again were given the opportunity to work with others, develop their communication and problem solving skills through completing a number of engineering tasks. The girls were enthusiastic and motivated and contributed well to the day. They represented Bridge of Don Academy in a very positive light. They also attended a day at the Montrose GE Oil & Gas base. Once again I commend them on their excellent behaviour and contribution to the day. Mrs Clarke, who accompanied them was impressed with their enthusiasm and the way in which they participated with the other schools. There will be 3 opportunities during session 2016-17 for new S1 and S2 pupils to get involved in. I would encourage as many of them as possible to take part in such an exciting project.

S3

S3 girls have been working on 3 projects throughout the year. The first project they completed was over an 8 week block. The girls worked in teams to solve an engineering problem led by our two mentors, Chris and Ross, from GE Oil & Gas. This project focused on the development of an environmentally friendly mobile phone charger. Our girls came up with some very innovative ideas and eventually had to present these to a team of 'Dragons'. A winning team was picked by the judges and the final idea was presented in the finale day on 16 June 2016. This is where the final judging of all three schools will take place.

The girls moved onto their second project which was centred on a water filtration system to make drinking water safe for people in another country. This project was very complex, however, the girls showed lots of enthusiasm and determination to complete the project to the best of their ability and in the end came up with some very advanced ideas.

The final project was developing an automated stock retrieval system. The girls brainstormed their ideas developing a product design. Some really interesting models and systems came from their ideas and they all built their models which were presented at the finals day. The mentors were certainly impressed with the hard work and effort the girls put in throughout.

S5

The girls followed a set project brief which was focused on designing, building and delivering a subsea Christmas tree system. As part of the project experience they were part of a services company providing a finished product with supporting documentation to GE Oil & Gas on competition day which also took place on 16 June 2016. The services companies had to pay close attention to budgeting, risk analysis, environmental concerns, health & safety, scheduling, project management, quality control, manufacturing planning and design engineering when delivering their product and service. The tree systems were put to the test by GE Oil & Gas on competition day and the girls presented their finished product to the rest of the GirlsGetSET teams. The girls met weekly on their own and with a mentor from GE Oil & Gas to help them complete the challenging project. The girls have shown commitment and dedication to the project and their final idea was fantastic. Well done girls!

Finale Day – 16 June 2016

The final day of the Girls Get Set Project took place on Thursday 16 June 2016 at GE Headquarters. All pupils that had previously taken part in any of the projects were invited to take part in the day. The day involved working in teams with girls from 2 other schools, Montrose and St Machar, to complete STEM activities. There were several projects that the S1-S3 girls had to work through for example:

- 1) 'Stack-up' – make the tallest model using coffee sticks. This activity had elements of communication problems during it to make the task more difficult.
- 2) 'Blind Square' – this really was a challenge of trust and leadership. Girls were blindfolded and led by one member to try and make a perfect square with rope. Not as easy as it sounds!

- 3) 'Flow Challenge' – working in teams they had to devise a system that would allow balls to flow through it at the slowest possible speed. The girls did a great job, however, a very frustrating task!

During this time the S5 girls were presenting to a team of industry experts on their Christmas tree design. I was privileged to be able to hear their presentation and I was incredibly proud of the way in which the girls presented. Their presentation was very professional and met the design brief they were given.

On completion of all the tasks and a lunch provided by GE Oil & Gas, the girls came together for the final presentations. The S1 and S2 girls were recognised for their participation in the projects throughout the year and there were many girls who won team awards for best teamwork, best leader, and best communicator. Bridge of Don Academy were selected as the overall winning school for the S3 project AND the winners of the S5 Girls Get Set project. This was an absolutely fantastic achievement for all the girls and the school. We got presented with two trophies which were built by GE out of Lego. The girls were all delighted with their win and so they should be!

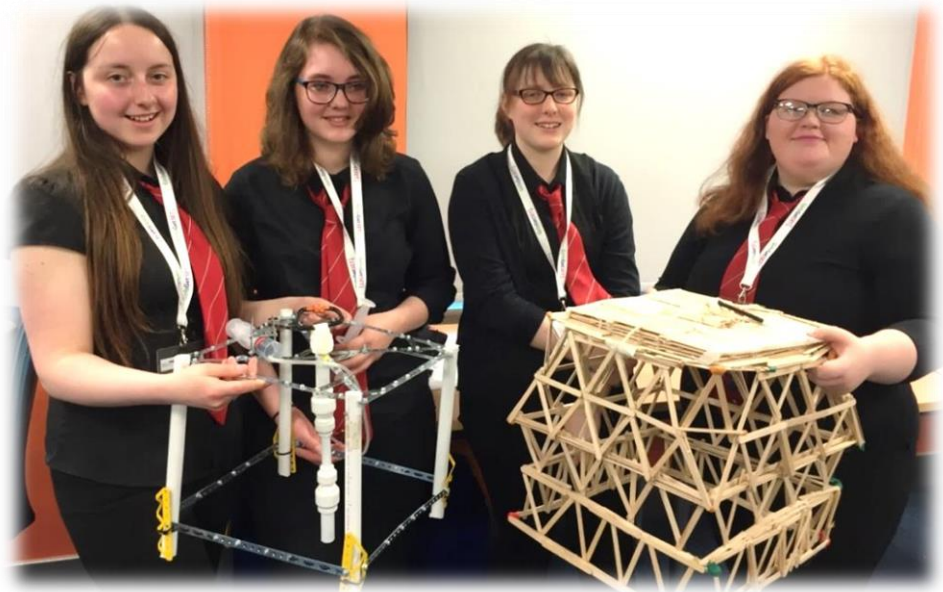


The trophies presented to the S3 and S5 winners.

I, personally, would like to thank all of the girls that took part in Girls Get Set. It really was a great project which helped develop their skills in communication, team working and problem solving. The project will be running again next year and I would encourage as many of the girls as possible to take part. The S5 project will also be running (the task is yet to be set) and would love to have another great group of girls taking part in this and representing Bridge of Don Academy.



The winning S5 team – Caitlin Nichol, Bethany Taylor, Amber Thomson, Lauren Breen



The girls with their winning design – the subsea Christmas tree and protection structure.

Mrs Cruickshank

S1 LEADERSHIP DAY – DESIGN AND MAKE A HEALTH BAR/BISCUIT





S2 LEADERSHIP DAY

Supported by Jamie Hutcheon of Cocoa Ooze all our S2 pupils worked in teams to design, make and market a box of chocolates. The purpose of the day was for them to develop their leadership and team working skills. Great fun was also had by all as they worked to a challenging timetable to come up with flavour combinations and make their chocolates, package them and prepare a pitch to the panel of judges.

The winners from each of the four registration classes presented their chocolates for tasting and delivered their pitch to Jamie Hutcheon ably assisted by Mrs McWilliam Head Teacher and Mrs Thomson Principal Teacher of HE and Health and Wellbeing.

2 Fyvie 1

Eve Brown
Rebekah Mckessick
Alex Iliescu
Daniel Breen

2 Fyvie 2

Morgan Jones
Jadon Robb
Ellis Cadger
Cheyanne Taylor

2 Crathes

Sadie Leith
Isaac MacConnell
Erin Ferguson
Grant Cormack

2 Drum

Lewis Reid
Amy Gibb
Kyle Abernethy
Kiera Stark

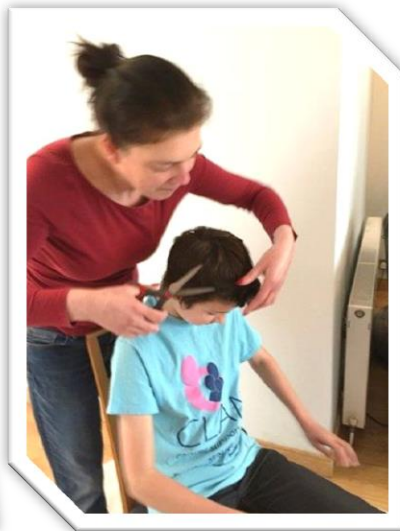
The decision on the winner was unanimous. This team worked well together and had really good ideas. A £5 gift voucher for WH Smith was awarded to the team who were from 2 Crathes – Sadie Leith, Isaac MacConnell, Erin Ferguson and Grant Cormack.





HEAD SHAVE FOR CHARITY – AND A FRIEND

On Saturday 26 March 2016 Callum Chalmers in 1C1 had his head shaved and raised £1,666.94 which he divided between Clan and his best friend Jack Cooper. Jack had just been diagnosed with a serious condition and Callum, when asked why he did this, when his class were already supporting Jack, said *"I wanted to do something on my own for him."*



ACTIVITIES WEEK - EDINBURGH TRIP!

Monday 30th of May

On Monday the 30th of May, 17 pupils and 3 staff departed from Bridge of Don Academy to go on an exciting week in Edinburgh. After making sure all were aboard the bus and strapped in, we departed on time!

After a brief stop, which tested our timekeeping skills, we carried on traveling to Edinburgh. Once we got there we dropped our bags off at The SYHA.

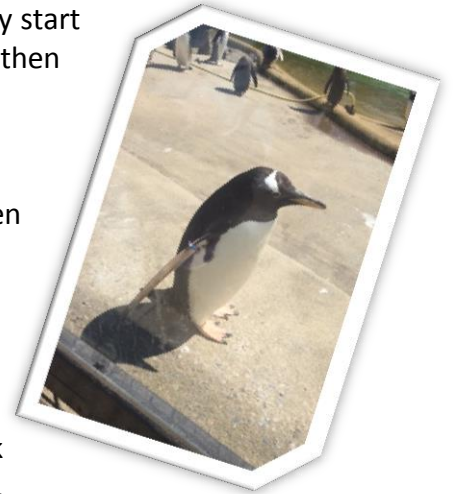
After we arrived we then went out to lunch for a Subway or a Baked Potato at the Royal Mile. After lunch we visited Optical Illusion venue Camera Obscura. It was good, but slightly mindboggling as there was a Mirror Maze, a spinning tunnel and 6 floors of different types of illusions, including Miss Davidson's head served up on a table! By the time we got back we had little time to think as we were heading straight out again after dinner to do the Auld Reekie Ghost Tour. This terrifying tour brought us through some of the most haunted vaults underneath the city and our tour guide made sure we were sufficiently scared, telling us chilling stories about those that inhabited the grim chambers, Miss O'Reilly certainly didn't look comfortable throughout! A few brave people, including Zoe Strachan and Taylor Crockford even stepped into the most



haunted part of one vault. We walked around Edinburgh with the tour guide and talked about the history of the streets and the vaults of Edinburgh, we learnt that the vaults used to be a market and then it became a prison, there was a room in the vaults where apparently when a woman enters the room, they start to cry. It was at this point after exploring Edinburgh at night we then went to Starbucks for a very welcome warming hot chocolate.

Tuesday 31st of May

On Tuesday we had an early start with breakfast at 8.00, we then met at reception at 9:40 to walk to Edinburgh Castle. We got a guided tour and some of us even got to see the Scottish Crown Jewels! Enjoying the stunning view and weather we had a cooling ice-cream before taking the bus to Edinburgh Zoo. At 2:00 we were lucky enough to get a Panda Viewing and caught a glimpse of the elusive pair! After a very tiring day we went back to the hostel for a nourishing meal and rested up for the next day.



Wednesday 1st of June

We had another early start with breakfast at 8.00, we again met in reception at 9:30 and walked the short distance to the Edinburgh Dungeons for 10:00. At the dungeons we got to learn about Burke and Hare and what they got up to. We even saw Mrs. Watson in the docks accused of robbery, even more shocking was her admission of guilt! There was also an interesting trial of Jordan 'Shirley' Bennett to be entertained by. After a hearty meal at Pizza Hut we visited the Museum. We scurried off to see if we could find the answers to a very competitive treasure hunt! We returned to have our last meal in

the hostel before hurrying out the door again to visit the Royal Observatory for Stargazing. We saw the giant dome and got to handle parts of an asteroid!!



Thursday 2nd of June

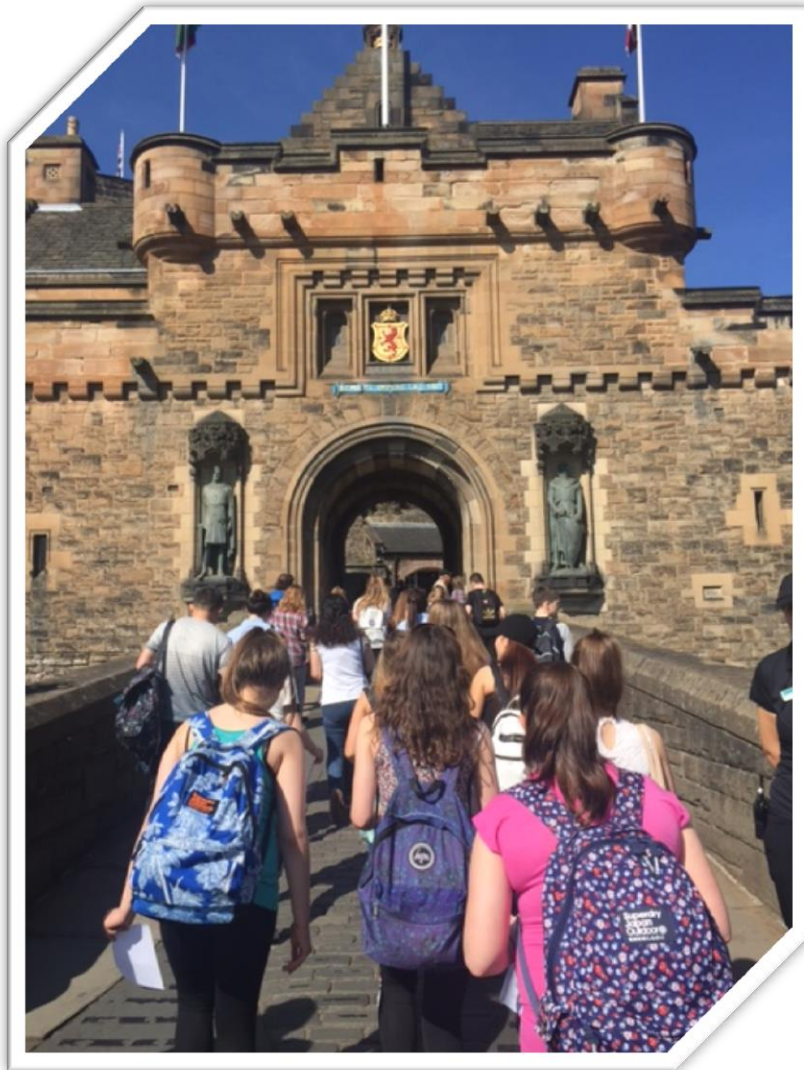
On Thursday we got to have a later start to the day so we had to be down for breakfast for 8:30, so we got a bit of a lie in. After breakfast we got an hour in our rooms. After some social time we walked to Dynamic Earth where we learnt about the world and what it would be like in the future, it was really interesting to learn about climate change, volcanoes, stars and we even got to see a real iceberg.

We then walked down to McDonalds and took our food to the park and just had a relaxing time, everybody was very hungry after going to dynamic earth so the park was a welcome hour where we got to eat ice-cream and enjoy the beautiful Edinburgh sun. After the hour had finished we split into two groups to go shopping in order to spend the money we had been saving all week. We went to Primark, H&M, Topshop, Superdrug, War Hammer and more. After a great day about learning about the world and then shopping we went to the Filling Station for dinner. The meals were delicious and everybody seemed to be enjoying themselves. That night we had a quiz in the hostel where the aptly named Terrifying Dungeons were victorious.

Friday 3rd of June

On Friday we got to have a later start to the day as well, we had to be downstairs for Breakfast for 8:30. Whilst waiting for the bus to arrive we sat in the reception and talked about the highlights and the things we enjoyed about our week in Edinburgh. Once the bus came we travelled to Dundee for 12:00 so we could go to the Olympia Center which had amazing water slides and diving boards. After our swimming, we boarded the bus and arrived back in Aberdeen, tired, but still buzzing from our trip to the Capital. Big thanks to the teachers who came with us, especially Mrs. Watson who organised it all!

By Eve Riley, Erin Ferguson and Helene Fernando



TENNIS AT WESTBURN – ACTIVITIES WEEK

In anticipation of watching this year's Wimbledon, a group of S1 and S2 pupils brushed up on their tennis skills at Westburn Park. All pupils and two members of staff (Miss Walkden and Miss Davidson from History and Chemistry departments respectively) took part in developing the basic skills needed to play a competitive game of tennis. We received lessons from the Head Coach on how to rally and control the ball on the court, and undertook drills to improve our co-ordination. We played matches and discovered the fun as well as the demands of being a tennis player!



ACTIVITIES WEEK - FOOTBALL CRAZY!

A Dons in the Community coach was welcomed at BODA to train our pupils. They had a fun warm up session including 'Body parts touch down', 'Give the dog a bone' and much more. Our pupils enjoyed learning new skills and perfecting ones they already knew. There were lots of competition and friendly banter between the group who worked extremely hard and thoroughly enjoyed the day. The coach scored our pupils performance during matches at the end of the session and gave the winner a trophy, well done Ellis Cadger!!



VISIT FROM CATHY MACPHAIL

"I will start reading some of your books. You inspired me and made me want to read your books. The presentation was brilliant. Thank you for coming to visit us."

"I think you were very interesting and I liked how you include your audience in your talk. I am someone who doesn't enjoy reading, but hearing about your books and movie intrigued me"



These are only a couple of the many positive comments we received from S1 pupils after a February visit from the award-winning author Cathy MacPhail. Cathy talked about her latest book *Devil You Know* (which was again shortlisted for the Grampian Children's Book Award) and gave a reading from it. She also talked about one of her earlier books, *Another Me*, which has been made in to a film. We were shown the trailer for *Another*

Me which was absolutely thrilling! Cathy then finished with a session on how she got her ideas, asking pupils to come up with their own suggestions, which were varied and fantastic. It was a great afternoon thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

WORLD BOOK DAY BOOK QUIZ

Following on from the success of our previous quiz, we decided to hold another using the WBD resources. This time round it was a House quiz so pupils were competing to win House Points as well as prizes. We had a really good turnout (at least 2 teams per House) and after a closely fought contest Crathes were declared worthy winners.



GRAMPIAN CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD

An S2 class has been participating in the Grampian Children's Book Award: reading the shortlisted books, taking part in the competitions and attending the Award Ceremony at Aberdeen University on the 11th May. The Ceremony was hosted by Barry Hutchison and two of the shortlisted authors, Virginia Bergin and Cathy MacPhail, were present. It



was an interesting afternoon with pupils having the opportunity to hear these authors talk about their books, ask questions and finally discover which book had won the Award for 2016. It turned out to be *Smart* by Kim Slater which coincidentally was the Bridge of Don Academy favourite too.



Mrs Garden & Mrs Marshall

BODA INTERNATIONAL ART EXCHANGE 5TH ANNIVERSARY!

This year pupils in the Art and Design department took part in our 5th Annual International Art Exchange project. The department is twinned with a Pre School at the First United Methodist Church in Noblesville, Indiana, USA. What started as a simple exchange of artwork between Mrs Redpath's S1 classes here at BODA and Miss Holt's Pre-kindergarten class, has grown to an average of 125 pieces of work being sent over to our link school in Indiana and countless thank you letters and small gifts being sent back from both parents and pupils in the US. Each year the Art and Design Department here at BODA excitedly awaits portraits completed by the 4-5 year olds to arrive with photographs of their smiling faces. Pupils then draw the young children in the photographs and include personalised messages on the back. The artwork is then returned to Indiana for a big art exhibition which is held in the pre-school and is opened to parents and the general public. BODA pupils have had their work viewed by over 400 visitors to an art exhibition this year and the number is set to grow as Miss Holt is looking to acquire space in a local gallery in Indiana for next year. The project has been highlighted in their local paper and we look to further promote the project next year here in Aberdeen as the link becomes ever stronger with both schools. Pupils here in BODA have learned a lot about child development within Art through discussing the artwork that is exchanged and we certainly see it as a highlight of our year.

Mrs Redpath



DONNIE THE DOLPHIN RETURNS TO BODA!

In 2014 Aberdeen was taken over by 50 dolphin sculptures and the summer was spent dolphin hunting to track down and photograph each one. The large sculptures were then auctioned off and raised over half a million pounds for local charities! The Art and Design department here at BODA took part in the Wild Dolphin project and S1 pupils designed and painted their very own 1 metre long dolphin sculpture. He was named Donnie and we focused on one of the BODA Bs - BE CARING in creating the design to highlight the danger of fishing nets to local dolphins.



After the project was complete, Donnie then went on a tour of our link schools during 2015, spending time in Balmedie, Scotstown and Braehead Primary Schools. Pupils enjoyed his visits and were sad to see him go, however he may make a return to the schools for a visit in the future. Donnie has now been repainted white, in preparation for the new S1 classes who start here at BODA after the summer holidays. What will the theme be for Donnie's new decoration..... you will have to wait and see!

Mrs Redpath

ART & DESIGN DEPARTMENT JOINS TWITTER AND NEW BLOG

Follow us on Twitter @BODArtandDesign to get updates on homework, links to fantastic Art and Design websites and more. Our blog is getting a redesign for the start of the new session in August and will feature not only homework support and deadlines but also images of pupil work and links to local exhibitions etc. The blog can be found at www.bodart.edublogs.org

Mrs Redpath



LUNCHTIME PHOTOSHOP CLUB UPGRADE

Due to the upgrade of the school server Mrs Redpath is happy to announce that the weekly Photoshop club will restart in August with the full Adobe Photoshop CC software 2015. Until now pupils have worked with Adobe Photoshop Elements 9 and although this has allowed them to gain experience in using the tools to digitally manipulate photographs, but also allowed them to gain confidence through experimenting with layers and filters. Having the full package will now enable pupils to utilise YouTube tutorials, current magazine publications books to create a wider range of high quality work. Adobe Lightroom and Adobe Illustrator have also been installed on the computers and will allow development of skills for pupils as they move through senior years in the school. Keep an eye out for displays in both the area outside Art and Design and Technology for examples of pupil creations using the package.

Mrs Redpath



ARRRGH! MONSTERS

Mrs Redpath's S1 classes have been enjoying creating a range of clay monsters who have invaded the Art & Design department. Pupils were given the task to create an original creature which had to include at least 2 eyes and an open mouth with tongue. Beyond this, they could let their imaginations run wild and boy did they! We have monsters with 3



heads, long tails, fangs and wings amongst other more cute and furry looking monsters. Even our PSAs, Miss Allan and Mrs Adamson joined in the fun and struggled to create a 3D monster from their own drawings. They motivated the pupils in classes by showing that they found it tricky to create legs and teeth and hair for their monsters but they never gave up! They made it a little competition to see who would create the more detailed final piece and gain the higher grade. Miss Allan came out on top with more refined detail and a wider range of texture used. This was a great learning experience for the pupils to see that it takes focus to create high quality clay work and you don't have to be scared of creating art when you are a grown up!

Mrs Redpath



MODERN LANGUAGES – CONTINENTAL CAFE

Here are pictures of our 2016 Continental Café. We raised nearly £90 for CLAN and Colitis Aberdeen. Well done S2 and staff.



Mrs Fettes' last café. They would not have been feasible without her.

Merci beaucoup Madame

GOODBYE FROM MRS FETTES

FROM CHALK TO SMARTBOARD

When I first started at Bridge of Don Academy in February 1985, female teachers had to wear a skirt or a dress. Trousers were not allowed so I now wear trousers because I can. Back then we had ordinary blackboards and used chalk, graphically stimulating only when we used coloured chinks. The next stage was using whiteboards with coloured marker pens. My clothes did not get so dirty because of the chalk but my hands were always blue because of the pens. Eventually smartboards were installed with many different extras at the teacher's disposal, though not used by me. T2 (my classroom) has gremlins so the smartboard can be temperamental or maybe it was just my negative, anti-technology vibes. However, I like my smartboard, even though I have only used it as a board - lots of colour at least.



(pictured above Mrs Fettes and Mrs Robinson)

I have been in a classroom on every floor of BODA from F19 (now part of the base), F18 (nice views of the sea), G15 (my dungeon) and finally to T2 (a tea-shop in Melbourne). I like being on the top floor and have felt it was a kind of promotion being up high, even though my ceiling has fallen down twice and two pigeons came in the window recently!!

Over my 31 years at BODA there have been lots of changes. At first languages were not compulsory in S4, S5 and S6 but we had a high uptake by senior pupils. Then we had Languages for all with French or German being compulsory in S3 and S4. We had big classes and these were difficult and challenging times!

However, right from the start of my time at BODA, the pupils have been amazing, challenging, lovely and frustrating all at the same time. Life working at BODA is never dull. I have great memories of individual pupils, events and particular classes which I will always treasure. Enjoy the summer holidays and good luck for the future!

Bonne chance!

Mrs L Fettes

MUSIC NEWS!

SCHOOL CHOIR ATTEND THE WRI IN BRIDGE OF DON!

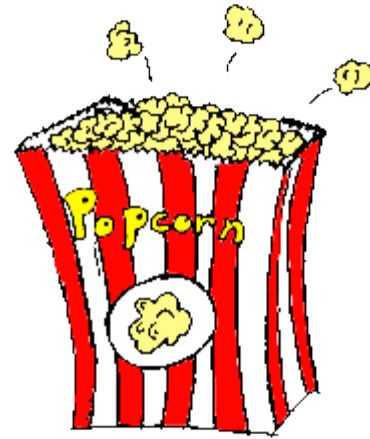


Pictured below: the talented young people who performed at the Music Concerts held on 21 and 22 March 2016.



ACTIVITIES WEEK - BIG NIGHT IN AT THE MOVIES, CAKE AND COMMERCIALS & CODONAS AMUSEMENT ARCADE

This year's Activities Week has been a time of great variety, of pupils trying new things and developing their skills. The week started well for fifteen pupils who successfully negotiated the public transport system to arrive at a special showing of Kung Fu Panda 3 at the Vue cinema. They had the opportunity to gorge on cinema treats such as fresh popcorn, tubs of ice cream or the ever popular Mega Slush although most showed remarkable restraint and selected the Kid's box. The film went down brilliantly with many positive life lessons being shared afterwards.



A lunch at Cosmo allowed the pupils to delight their tastebuds and to take themselves on a culinary tour of the world, a few brave souls even tried the freshly prepared whole squid! Back in school the next day they had a restful day watching classic films such as Cheaper by the dozen and more recent releases like The Minions Movie while indulging in different varieties of popcorn before being treated to an overflowing buffet lunch of all the classic party foods as well as fresh hot Domino's pizza. Midweek a fresh group of eager pupils doffed their school uniforms and donned aprons as they had their attempt at becoming the latest master baker. They started by creating their own double layer cake before decorating it with a bewildering array of different flavours, colours and icings. Some took their skills further by requesting piping bags to carefully and artistically create a culinary masterpiece in butter icing. They even managed to squeeze in time to create batches of cookies for themselves. By the time Friday arrived, the pupils were far more subdued, worn out perhaps by the constant entertainment they were experiencing and yet when taken to Codona's Amusement Park not even the torrential rain that soaked them during the first round of golf could dampen their spirits as they went on as many of the amazing rides as their nerves could handle. Mr Duthie and Mr Paterson diligently tried to keep the pride of the staff up yet even they couldn't match the exuberance of the pupils as they went on the Looping star for the fifth time or the Log Flume yet again! A number of pupils even challenged their own fears by attempting Vertigo, the aerial assault course. All of the pupils should be commended though as even with such excitement staff from other schools noted how well behaved and mannered they were. All in all it was a week full of fun and exciting opportunities that most pupils took full advantage of.

ACTIVITIES WEEK – LONDON TRIP

During Activities Week, a group of 32 pupils traveled to London for a packed week of sightseeing. As well as visiting the usual tourist attractions (including the Natural History Museum, London Eye, Tower of London, London Zoo and the Emirates Cable Car at the o2), the group also took a guided tour inside the Houses of Parliament. A short walk ensured that there was the opportunity to get as close to Downing Street, Horse Guards Parade, Trafalgar Square and Buckingham Palace as possible for those all-important “selfies”. For pupils looking for presents and souvenirs there were plenty on offer when we visited Camden Market and Covent Garden. A midweek trip to Thorpe Park added yet more excitement to the week whilst the Charlie and the Chocolate Factory musical provided a relaxing end to a busy week.



Here is a selection of the photos from our week in The Capital.



LONDON ZOO



LONDON ZOO



NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM



NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM



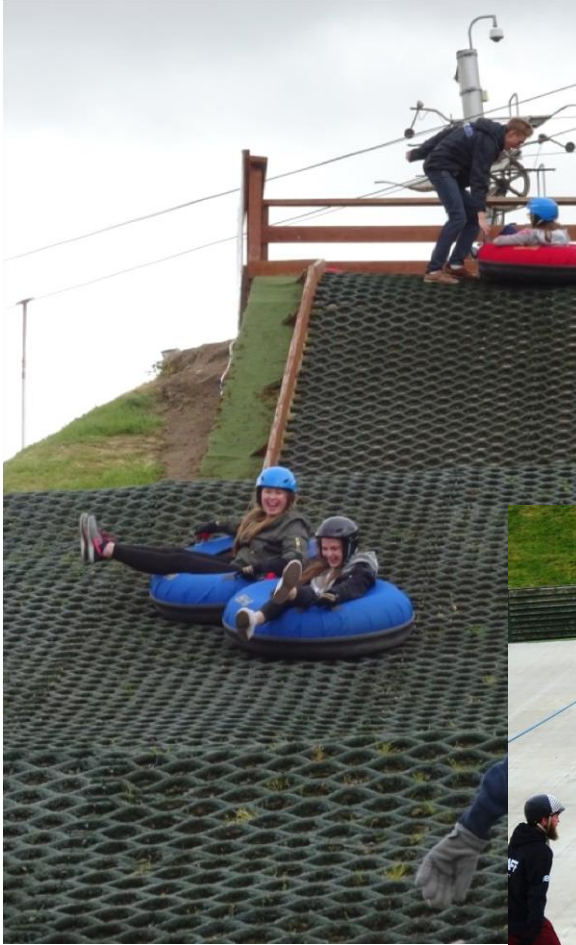
LONDON EYE



THE O2



ACTIVITIES WEEK - TAKE IT TO THE MAX!



ACTIVITIES WEEK - TAKE IT TO THE MAX CONTINUED!



S2 'MAINS OF SCOTSTOWN' MASTERCHEF COMPETITION

Pupils are given a design brief and work in groups to plan and prepare a 3 course meal for four people. Through this project pupils gain experience in meal planning using a wide variety of ingredients, skills and working with others.

Each register class in S2 prepares a 3 course meal and two classes are selected to go head to head in the Masterchef final. The classes in the final this year were 2X1 and 2Y2.



2X1



2Y2

2X1's menu was:

- *Chicken kebabs with tomato salad and corn on the cob.*
- *Baked salmon on a bed of couscous with avocado mango salad and roasted vine tomatoes.*
- *Plum crumble with custard.*

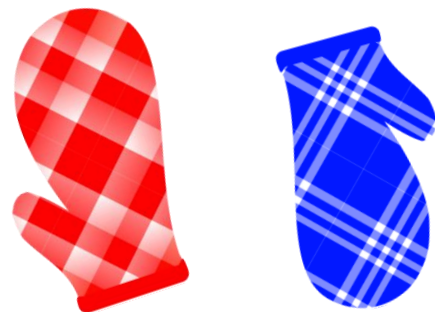
2Y2's menu was:

- *Honey-soy chicken kebabs.*
- *Chicken Fajitas with guacamole and salsa.*
- *James's sticky toffee pudding*

In a very closely fought competition due to the high standard of work Mrs Cowie (Cook-in-charge) and Mr Haggarty awarded the Masterchef trophy for 2016 to 2X1. Well done to both classes for their positive attitude and good team work.

ACTIVITIES WEEK - LET'S BAKE AND PICNIC ACTIVITY

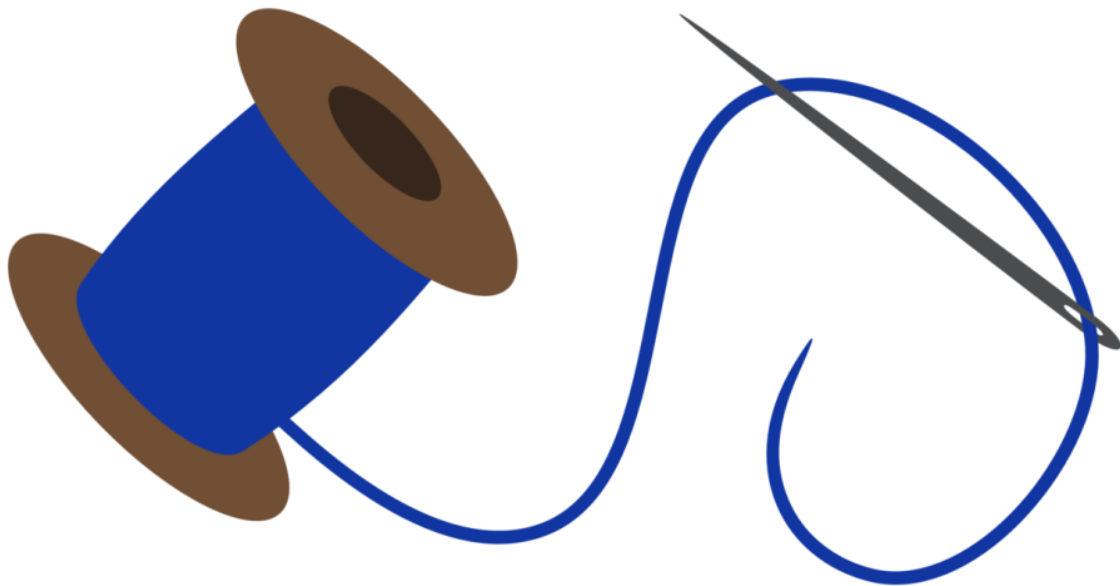
Pupils prepared a wide variety of foods: - bread, pizza, iced biscuits, decorated sponges, fruit slurp, fruit skewers, savoury Catherine wheels, cheese cake and sweet potato and parsnip crisp.



ACTIVITIES WEEK - CUT AND SEW



Pupils made their own apron.



BASKETBALL NEWS



Isaac Rorie 2 Fyvie 1, Robert Jones 2 Fyvie 1, Alex Iliescu 2 Fyvie 1, Jack Lambley 2 Drum

It has been another busy year for the basketball teams at the school. Our U14 boys took part in the North East Scotland Regional Development league as part of a joint team with Alford. The boys played extremely well and got the opportunity to develop their skills through playing in a tough league. The team won the league after finishing the season undefeated. Our S1/2 team took part in the Aberdeen youth games and gained valuable game time and experience.

A number of our players also took part in Easter camp run by the Grampian flyers and had the opportunity to work with coaches from across Europe as well as Scotland National Team coaches.

Our ASG primary training continues to go from strength to strength. This year we entered two teams in the NESCOL primary 6/7 tournament. BOD 1 finished in first place and BOD 2 finished sixth in what was a great day out.

PE NEWS – FINLAY DEANS IN ACTION!

Finlay Deans has had quite a year in the pool. In the UK School games he came 4th in the 200m and 100m backstroke and was part of the 4x200m relay where they broke the Scottish record. In the Scottish Shortcourse Open Championships he became the 200m backstroke Junior Champion.



In 2016 Finlay has represented Scotland in the Luxemburg Euro meet where he was a finalist in again the 200m and 100m backstroke. In this year's Scottish National age groups he competed in the U17 age category and he came 2nd in the 50m backstroke, 3rd in the 200m and 4th in the 100m. In all of these finals he was the youngest swimmer in the pool.

The biggest achievement for Finlay was swimming in the British Olympic Trials in the 100m and 200m backstroke where he achieved a personal best for the 100m. Although he missed out on qualifying it was a great achievement to swim in the trials.



PE NEWS - U14 FOOTBALL TEAM

This year's U14 football team finished with a semi-final clash against St Ambrose High School, Coatbridge. BODA made it through to this fixture after winning 4-1 against Glenrothes High School. The players all put in their best performances of the season and played to a high standard of school football. James Johnson was exceptional in goals and made numerous fantastic saves to keep BODA in the game. After going 1-0 down we responded quickly with a great goal from Josh Yeats. Unfortunately the game ended 3-1 to St Ambrose but the effort and conduct from all BODA players was fantastic. A big thank you has to go to Bradley Phillips who has been assisting in running the team this year. He has been encouraging, motivating and has supported the players in all of their matches.

We look forward to the season ahead in 2016-17.



PE NEWS - ASSFA U18 SELECT SQUAD

Congratulations to Keller Emslie and Euan Johnson (both S6) who were part of the winning U18 Aberdeen Schools Select who won the Senior Select National Trophy. The team played West Lothian in the final at Station Park, Forfar and won 4-1. This was the first time the Aberdeen Senior Select had won the trophy in 20 years. A civic reception was held for the team at the Town House. Keller Emslie was in attendance but unfortunately Euan Johnson could not attend.



PE NEWS - GOLF TEAM

This year's golf team consisted of (from left to right) Owen Walker S2, James Johnson S2, Paul Kane S3, Ross Kane S6, Max Hepburn S6 and Jon Hepburn S1. The team played their first game against Robert Gordon's College in harsh conditions on a wet and windy Balnagask course. They played well but were unfortunate to lose out to Robert Gordon's College. In the second match versus Aberdeen Grammar they played in a warmer and sunnier match at Hazlehead Golf Course. The team won their fixture but were very unlucky not to make it into the final this year.



S1/S2 FUTSAL PLATE WINNERS



Well done to (left to right) Jordan Bennett, Reece McKerron, Matthew McLaren, Gavin Troup, Aiden-Jay Leonard and Josh Gerrard in winning the S1/2 Aberdeen Schools Futsal Plate competition.

NORTHSOUND 1 SUPERHEROES CASH4KIDS DAY

This year the school saw the PE Department transform into Superheroes in aid of raising money for the Northsound 1 Superhero Cash4kids appeal. This saw PE lessons being taught by Mr Incredible, Batman, Superman and Jessie. A huge thank you to all the pupils and staff who donated as the total sum raised was £189.00.



Bridge of Don Academy's own superheroes:
Mr Donald, Mr Jappy, Miss Barr and Mr Wallace

Happy Holidays!