

# BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY SUMMER NEWS 2011



# Calendar dates 2011 - 2012

## Term 1

- Teachers Training Day - Monday 15 August 2011
- Term Starts - Tuesday 16 August 2011
- September Holiday - Friday 23 and Monday 26 September 2011
- Term Ends - Friday 7 October 2011
- October Holiday - Monday 10 to Friday 21 October 2011

## Term 2

- Term Starts - Monday 24 October 2011
- Term Ends - Friday 23 December 2011
- Christmas Holiday - Monday 26 December 2011 to Friday 6 January 2012

## Term 3

- Term Starts - Monday 9 January 2012
- Mid Term - Monday 13 February 2012
- Term Ends - Friday 30 March 2012
- Easter Holiday - Monday 2 April to Monday 16 April 2012 (Good Friday 6 April 2012)

## Term 4

- Term Starts - Tuesday 17 April 2012
- May Day Holiday - Monday 7 May 2012
- Term Ends - Friday 29 June 2012

## In-service days

- Monday 15 August 2011
- Monday 14 November 2011
- Tuesday 14 February 2012
- Wednesday 15 February 2012
- Tuesday 8 May 2012

## **Staff leaving Bridge of Don Academy at the end of this term**

Sadly we must say goodbye to a number of staff at the end of this term. Our probationer teachers in Art, Modern Studies, Mathematics and Biology have had a very good year and I wish we could keep them. The same goes for Mrs Hannah, who has been covering a maternity leave in History. Mrs Paterson, a well respected Pupil Support Assistant is changing career and we wish her well. Three of our younger teachers, Miss Clark, Miss Allan and Miss Thain are all taking career breaks and will be spending next session thousands of miles away from Aberdeen, learning about other countries and cultures. Miss Snape is moving to St Margaret's where she was a pupil. Finally, six of our best known and most experienced staff will retire, Mrs Roberts, our School Administrator; Mr Nicol, Design and Technology teacher; Mrs Bennett, MICAS teacher; Mrs Penhale, Support for Learning Teacher; Mrs Robinson, Head of Skye House and Mrs Ritchie, Depute Head Teacher. They will be missed by pupils and their colleagues and I thank them for helping to make our school a place where pupils can achieve so much.

# Our Values

We have made considerable progress this session with the work on our shared values, vision and aims. The use of the four capacities for our **aims** has been well-received, with many positive comments from staff and parents. At present, they look like this:

We want all of our young people to become  
Successful learners  
Confident individuals  
Effective contributors  
Responsible citizens

More work should be done, however, on our **values**.



Be honest  
respectful  
caring  
your best



Care about your self  
fellow pupils  
work  
school  
community

The above shows two different ways to express the school's values and have come from staff and pupil discussion. Which is best? Is there a better way to express our values in a simple way?

We are planning to have values assemblies next session and the Parent Council have given their views but if any parents wish to comment on this, their contributions will be most welcome. We hope to have made our decision by the October holiday.

Mr Willox has stated that our brains can only really cope with values up to three and he wonders whether we can reduce our values words accordingly?

## **First Aid and bottles of water**

First aid in Bridge of Don Academy is provided by our team of pupil support assistants.

The law does not allow them to give pupils any tablets. If there is a need to administer long term prescription medicine, special arrangements can be made.

Occasionally, there is a serious incident such as a bone fracture. The First Aiders can ensure that the patient is as comfortable as possible, but little else other than arrange for an ambulance call-out, accompany the pupil to A & E and arrange for parents/carers to be contacted.

The majority of requests for first aid are for minor ailments such as headaches and can be simply treated by offering a glass of water. Many pupils do not drink enough water and parents/carers can help by providing a bottle of water every day. Pupils are encouraged to drink water in most work areas and this has been shown to improve learning.

## **Activities Week**

We have had another action packed Activities Week this term with our junior pupils experiencing a wide range of residential and other trips as well as opportunities to try many new things. The residential trips have been to York, Edinburgh and Loch Eil in the West Highlands. Coaches have set off for diverse destinations including Alton Towers and Amazonia. At home, our young people have been able to try paintballing, mountain biking, extreme sports, cultural visits and a host of other activities.

It is good practice, however, to ask whether we are still providing the sort of experiences that our pupils want and that help in their development. They should tie in with our School Aims, that all of our young people become:

- Confident individuals
- Responsible citizens
- Effective contributors
- Successful learners

School staff are giving their views as to the future of Activities Week and pupils will be consulted, but we would also like to hear from parents. Do parents recognise the value of activities beyond the classroom? What type of activities should be provided? The Parent Council has discussed this and have shown strong support for the continuation of the traditional Activities Week, but we would like to hear from a wider cross-section of parents/carers. Please email views to [enquiries@bridgeofdon.aberdeen.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@bridgeofdon.aberdeen.sch.uk) or drop a note into the office.

The next few articles illustrate some of the wide range of activities and residential trips enjoyed by our pupils this year.

## Lets Get Crafty

Fourteen girls had a wonderful 2 days in a Maths room! Linda from Sweetlilyadams cup cakes taught them how to make edible decorations like dresses, shoes and handbags; hearts and roses. The girls piped loads of sweet icing onto cakes and decorated and boxed 4 scrumptious cup cakes.

In the afternoon the proprietor from Dabhands helped them to decorate ceramic money boxes, dishes for their pet dogs and cats to eat their meals and to make fridge magnets from clay.

The next day was even more exciting as 2 ladies from Hobbycraft came with beads, fancy paper and hundreds of decorations. The girls churned out masses of necklaces and bracelets and transformed plain photos into attractive scrapbook pages and cards for all occasions.





## Edinburgh Trip

During Activities week a group of 15 S1 and S2 pupils went to Edinburgh for a jam packed trip which included visits to the Zoo, the Edinburgh Dungeons, Camera Obscura, Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh Castle, an open top bus tour and some spooky ghost walks through the historic streets of the Old Town. We even found time to play a game of rounders in Princes Street Gardens. We were fortunate to witness a 21 gun salute and pipe band at the castle, celebrating the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Duke of Edinburgh.

For many it was a first visit to our capital city and the group behaved impeccably as we walked for miles, up and down the hills of Edinburgh, including climbing the 127 steps from Cockburn Street to the Royal Mile 3 times during the week.

A great time was had by all and we even survived the food in the hotel!





## Lets Picnic

Pupils made bread, orange and chocolate muffins and fruit salad then went to Duthie Park to eat their picnic and play traditional picnic games in the glorious sunshine.



## Have A Go

Pupils were involved in a 2 day activity which included horse riding and stable management, golf and tennis with professional coaches.



## Bake and Decorate

Pupils designed, made and decorated a large cake each, which included modelling of some sugarpaste. They also made a set of cup cakes and iced biscuits each.



## Take it to the Max

Pupils had a great time climbing, skateboarding, BMX biking, Thai Kick boxing, skiing and snowboarding.



## Sports Galore

Sixty Pupils took part in Sports Galore throughout the week. Sports included Trampolining/ice skating/swimming and flumes/badminton/table tennis. The most challenging part of the week seemed to be the long walk to the leisure centre and back!



## Magic Murals Success!

Pupils and staff enjoyed having a very artistic week in the art department, creating a series of fantastic murals. Miss Nelson created a wonderful composition for the large main wall outside the department which incorporated not only Aberdeen architecture but also a harbour theme with boats and fish. Sections of Scottish literature were also added in amongst the wave patterns to link with the North East theme. Mrs Milne then added a huge Whale's tail and a tall ship to complete our biggest mural to date!



The scaling up and transferring of the design was a big team effort with staff working in teams with pupils to plan out the areas to paint and then delegating tasks to ensure that everyone was kept busy. A healthy eating mural



was created also for a smaller wall and pupils researched a mixture of fruit and vegetables to draw, paint and then print onto large plate images. A fun week was had by all and the area is looking fantastic and is a great

example of Curriculum for Excellence at work. Even the walls at the entrance to the department have had a spruce up and the feedback from visitors to the area have been very positive. The mural is not quite finished yet so keep checking it on the run up to the Summer Holidays as more details are added.





## Edinburgh Zoo Trip

In April, senior Biology pupils enjoyed a visit to Edinburgh Zoo. As well as taking part in a workshop they also had some free time to explore the areas of particular interest to them. Higher pupils looked at Primate Behaviour & Communication while Advanced Higher pupils found out about Adaptations. In both workshops the animals in the zoo were used to illustrate the theme - visiting the primate enclosures, meeting the cassowary and getting the chance to handle a corn snake and a hissing cockroach (not to everyone's liking!)

The visit was rounded off with a dash around the Zoo Gift Shop before heading home and a stop at the Gyle shopping centre for a bite to eat. The day was a great success and was enjoyed by everyone particularly as the sun shone the whole day!



## Bridge of Don STEM Club 2011

This term a group of highly enthusiastic P7 pupils from Balmedie Primary attended weekly sessions of the STEM club here at Bridge of Don Academy. The pupils were involved in a number of workshops across the Science, Technical and Maths departments. Activities included, flying rotocopters, hair raising experiences with the Van der Graaf Generator, the science behind making their very own ice cream (YUM!) and using invisible inks to write secret messages! Great fun was had by all pupils and staff involved. The last meeting this session will be on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June at the end of the 3 day P7 visit.





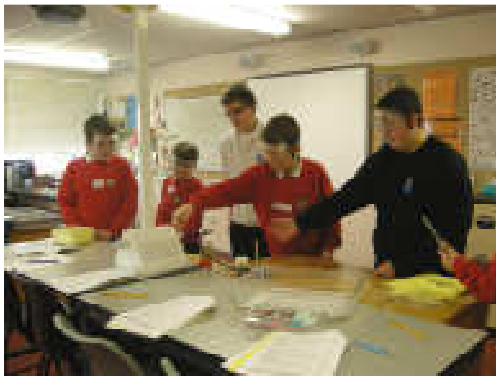
## Zoolab

In May, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Standard Grade Biology pupils had the opportunity to attend a Habitat and Adaptations workshop in school which was provided by a Stirling-based company, Zoolab. The workshop was designed to enhance the pupils' knowledge and included some hands-on experience with a range of different animals - hissing cockroaches, giant African land snails, corn snakes, tree frogs, scorpions and pet rats! The pupils were given background information on each of the animals that were presented and their adaptations which allow them to survive in a particular habitat. The afternoon was enjoyed by all even although not everyone was too enamoured by the cockroaches!



## P7 Science Visit

The Science Department welcomed the pupils from Scotstoun, Balmedie & Braehead primary schools when they visited us as part of the annual February P7 event. This allows them to experience working in a range of departments in the academy and helps to prepare them for their arrival next session. They had a great time trying different science experiments and had great support from some of our S3 & S4 pupils and our Researcher in Residence Nathan Skillen.



## Leavers' Lunch

The S6 Leavers marked their final day at Bridge of Don Academy's traditional 'Leavers' Lunch'. Pupils and teachers gathered at The Holiday Inn to make the most of the excellent facilities and lunch provided by our link company. It was a chance to reflect upon their journey through school, remembering the good, bad, funny and sentimental times. Pupils were encouraged by their Guidance teachers and Head Teacher Mr Harland to make the most of the opportunities ahead of them and to build upon their achievements in school. It was also a chance for the pupils to celebrate their success and to say a fond farewell to staff and classmates. The staff of Bridge of Don Academy would like to send their best wishes to all of our S6 leavers and wish them luck in their future courses and careers.



IONA PUPILS WITH MISS CROMAR



TÍREE PUPILS WITH MISS RITCHIE



SKYE PUPILS WITH MRS ROBINSON



ARRAN PUPILS WITH MRS NAPIER

## **S1 Leadership Event**

All S1 pupils not away on residential participated in a leadership event on Friday 10 June. They were divided into small groups and each assigned a leadership role. They were supported by a team of staff but expected to take responsibility for the project.

Their task was to produce a Bridge of Don calendar which reflected the central place of the school in the community and the diverse range of other organisations that contribute to it. Working mostly with computers and digital cameras, the groups worked hard to produce a distinctive design. They were asked to reflect on the leadership qualities and skills they had used throughout the day.

A winning design was chosen for each of our four Houses and the four chosen groups presented their design to an audience of S1 pupils at an assembly on 20 June 2011. The winners have had their calendar printed and this will be distributed throughout Bridge of Don. They will also receive a prize of an afternoon excursion.

The most important aspect of this is making our young people aware of the sort of skills they will need to develop their self confidence. Our Heads of House are building a leadership programme which will run from S1 all the way to S6. We are sure that Bridge of Don Academy pupils will benefit enormously from this and, as a consequence, they will be much more likely to go into the world and be a success.











## **Mock Election**



On May 5th, to coincide with the Scottish Elections, Bridge of Don Academy Pupils had the opportunity to vote in a mock election prepared by S1 and S2 classes as part of a unit on democracy. Classes represented different political parties and learned about the process of election campaigns as they produced materials and sought to persuade their peers to turn out to vote.

The Bridge of Don Academy result mirrored the result in the country with a win for the SNP. Labour came in second then the Conservative Party followed by the Liberal Democrats.

A very positive campaign was fought by all involved and the enthusiasm of the pupils was demonstrated in their willingness to work over lunchtimes to ensure the election was a success.

## Extra Curricular Activities

ACTIVITY	TIME	YEAR GROUP	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	CONTACT
SOCCER ONE FOOTBALL	MONDAY 3.55 pm – 5.00 pm	S1 – S3 GIRLS		MR JAPPY
DEBATING CLUB	MONDAY 4.00 pm – 5.00 pm	S1 – S6	F12	MRS ANDERSON
JUNIOR SINGERS 	MONDAY 1.00 pm – 1.30 pm	S1 & S2		MISS PUCCI
PHOTOSHOP CLASSES	MONDAY 1.00 pm – 1.30 pm		NO ENTRY WITHOUT AN ART PASS	MISS SIMPSON
YOUNG ENGINEERS CLUB	MONDAY 3.35 pm – 5.35 pm	S5 & S6		MR NICKLAS
BASKETBALL	TUESDAY 3.55 pm – 5.05 pm	S1 – S6		MR JAPPY
ART CATCH UP CLASSES	WED, THURS 1.05 pm – 1.55 pm	S3-S6	NO ENTRY WITHOUT AN ART PASS	MRS MILNE
FRENCH CATCH-UP CLASSES	TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY 12.45 pm – 1.15 pm	S1 – S6	T3	MRS LEES
MATHS STUDY CLASSES	THURSDAY 1.00 pm – 1.30 pm		T5	MR WILLOX
PHYSICS CATCH UP	TUES & WED 1.25 pm – 1.55 pm			MR GISBEY
CONCERT BAND	TUESDAY Lunchtime		MUSIC 	MR KIDD
NETBALL	WEDNESDAY 2.55pm-3.55pm	S1		MISS SNAPE
BIOLOGY CATCH UP CLASS	WEDNESDAY 12.45 pm – 1.30 pm	S3 – S6	HOMEWORK AND PAST PAPERS	MRS McWILLIAM
ORCHESTRA 	WEDNESDAY 3.00-3.30 pm	S1 - S6	FOR ALL PUPILS RECEIVING INSTRUMENTAL TUITION	MISS PUCCI
DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME	AS ARRANGED WITH PARTICIPANTS	S3 – s6	BRONZE, SILVER AND GOLD AWARDS	COORDINATOR MR C WILDI CONTACT TEACHERS: MR HARLAND MR JAPPY MRS McWILLIAM

ACTIVITY	TIME	YEAR GROUP	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	CONTACT
STEM SCIENCE CLUB 	WEDNESDAY 3.45 pm - 5.00 pm	P7 - S6	A RANGE OF SCIENCE ACTIVITIES	MRS MCWILLIAM (BIOLOGY)
STRING GROUP	WEDNESDAY Lunchtime		MUSIC 	MR DAVIDSON
IT CLUB 	WEDNESDAY Lunchtime 1.25 pm - 1.50 pm	S1/S2	A RANGE OF ACTIVITIES ON OFFER FROM DESK TOP PUBLISHING TO INTERNET TO GAMES DESIGN AND MUCH MORE.  T4	MRS CRUICKSHANK
SENIOR CHOIR	WEDNESDAY LUNCH	S3 - S6		MISS PUCCI
BADMINTON	THURSDAY 2.55 pm - 3.55 pm	S1 - S6		MR KERR
FOOTBALL	THURSDAY 2.55 pm - 4 pm	S1 BOYS		MR JAPPY
HUMAN AND ANIMAL RIGHTS GROUP	FRIDAY 1.15 pm Except last Fri of each month	ALL YEAR GROUPS	HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP	MRS ANDERSON
SCIENCE BACCALAUREATE	AS ARRANGED BY PARTICIPANTS	S6		MRS G MCWILLIAM
YOUNG ENTERPRISE 	AS ARRANGED BY PARTICIPANTS	S5 & S6	COMPANIES MEET TO SHARE INFORMATION, PLAN ACTIVITIES AND MEET THE BUSINESS ADVISOR [MRS S SHAND].	LINK TEACHERS MRS G MCWILLIAM

## **Thomas Blake Glover**

Our school is a member of the Bridge of Don Community Partnership. This group has suggested reviving the Bridge of Don Gala and our Pancake Day was part of this. The idea behind it is to improve social cohesion in Bridge of Don, generate more community spirit and raise the profile of our area.

The big event is an actual gala on the weekend of 17 September. On that Saturday there will be a grand parade which starts in the Barracks and ends near the school in Westfield Park. This will include floats and street theatre and will end with a fireworks display.

Before that there will be Theatre Modo taster workshops in the school in the last week of term. All new S2, S3 and S4 pupils will access these.

After the summer holiday, Theatre Modo will be back in school working with junior Art and other classes for five weeks.

The themes will be Thomas Blake Glover, renewable energy and Scottish – Japanese cultural heritage.

There will also be workshops provided by the Japanese community, including martial arts, dress (Kimono fashion), crafts, music and food (a sushi chef). In addition, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (the main sponsors) will give workshops on renewable energy.

Our pupils will learn about Thomas Blake Glover, one of Bridge of Don's most famous sons. He played a key role in a difficult time in Japanese history and was one of the founders of the Mitsubishi Corporation of Japan.



## S3 Art & Design pupils visit the Art Gallery

At the end of May S3 Standard Grade Art & Design pupils made a visit to Aberdeen Art Gallery to view the sculptures and paintings on display. The aim was to develop in pupils a better understanding of how to evaluate pieces of art work using specific elements and vocabulary that will help them write essays which are sent to the exam board at the end of S4.

Gallery staff commented on how well behaved and interested all pupils were. School staff were delighted by the success of the trip which was a very enjoyable outing for all involved.



S3 Standard Grade Art & Design pupils outside the Art gallery.



Andrew and Reece said they had fun and really gained an insight into the world of Art. They wouldn't mind going again.  
Ellie and Dayna said the trip was really interesting and thoroughly enjoyed it.



Emily, Jasmin and Amy writing up their notes. Jack really appreciated this painting



## The Extreme Project ends on a High

At the end of March the Bridge of Don Academy pupil experience with the Extreme project ended. It culminated with pupils participating in an ensemble performance produced by The National Theatre of Scotland at Linksfield Academy Community Centre.



Karolina and Kieran put the audiences through their paces.

The building was reopened and areas redecorated to house the performances which took part in 12 areas.

Audiences were taken on a mind blowing journey, moving from area to area either on foot, in wheel chairs or in a van. The audience became part of the performance and experienced situations from an A and E emergency scene, to classroom riots, game shows, kidnaps and finally performed on stage as part of a pop band.



The game show



Make up girls showing the pop band members how to perform

As a member of the audience this exhausting experience was extremely well done and every pupil involved put their heart and soul into making the experience such a success. So much so that we have been informed that 'Nothing to See Here' the performance held at Linksfield Academy for the

Extreme project has been shortlisted for a Critics' Awards for Theatre in Scotland (CATS Award) under the Best Ensemble category.

Well done to all of our pupils who were involved.

The short list is as follows -

BEST ENSEMBLE, sponsored by Equity:

**Age of Arousal**, Stellar Quines Theatre Company/Royal Lyceum Theatre Company

**Nothing to See Here**, National Theatre of Scotland/Aberdeen City Council

**The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart**, National Theatre of Scotland

**The Three Musketeers and the Princess of Spain**, Traverse Theatre Company/Belgrade Theatre, Coventry/English Touring Theatre



The pop band

## GCBA 2011

The Grampian Children's Book Awards 2011 took place on Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> of May at Aberdeen University. Miss Taylor's third year class took part in representing our school at the book awards. The following books were short listed: 'The Enemy' by Charlie Higson, 'Grass' by Cathy McPhail, 'Angel Cake' by Cathy Cassidy, 'Running Wild' by Michael Morpurgo, 'Wasted' by Nicola Morgan and The 'Graveyard' by Neil Gaimen.

Overall the atmosphere at the event was positive and it was an enjoyable trip for the whole class. The writers had interesting stories to tell us about what inspired them to write the books that were short listed. Throughout the event there were questions and competitions which made the event more fun and interesting. The winner was announced at the end of the ceremony which resulted in a tie between Charlie Higson and Cathy MacPhail.

'The Enemy' is a young adult horror written by Charlie Higson. The book takes place in London after a worldwide sickness has infected adults turning them into something akin to zombies. I believe that this book should be classed for young adults because of its gruesome scenes. Charlie Higson deserved to win because of his great use of description making the scenes very intense.

'Grass' by Cathy MacPhail is a fantastic novel about a young boy called Leo who witnesses a murder in a small village but he knows if word gets out he will get the blame. This novel is very realistic and most young adults can relate to what is happening in the novel. This novel stars Leo and his best friend Shaun. They both go into town one night to explore ruins when Leo stumbles upon a gun shack on the bottom floor of an old abandoned house. He remembers the words written on the wall at the station, "Sharkey is a grass". Leo did not want his name to be up there and he knew the gangs meant business. Cathy MacPhail is a very talented writer and her characters have a lot of depth.

Finally, the presenter of the ceremony announced the winners and the response from the crowd was ecstatic. Overall, the 2011 Grampian Children's Book Awards was a great experience for the teachers and pupils.



## **LIBRARY NEWS**

The Library now has a blog! Log on to

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ac/BODALibrary>

to check out the latest news and reviews. Pupils can add comments using their glow password so tell us what you think



## Easter Bunny Hunt 2011

Iona House held their traditional Easter Bunny Hunt in April just before the holidays. The event was enthusiastically organised by 1 Iona, who produced 28 artistic bunnies to hide all over the school. They also came up with their own cryptic clues to assist the bunny hunters. 5 Iona 1 helped to promote the event, using their creative talents to design an eye catching notice board display and entry form.

Register classes were then asked to work as a team, tracking down the wayward bunnies in classrooms and offices all over the school.

With more entrants than ever before, the competition was very close. However, the eventual winners were 6 Arran and 2 Arran 2, with both classes correctly locating all of the bunnies.

1 Iona would like to thank all of the teachers and pupils who took part. A big well done also goes to 5 Iona 1 and 1 Iona for organising such a fun and successful event.



## 5 Iona 1 Leavers' Trip

As five of the six members of 5 Iona 1 are leaving Bridge of Don Academy this summer, it seemed fitting to mark the occasion with a class outing. The girls (Nicola Beattie, Lauren Davie, Eloise Cook, Suna Qasim, Lauren Barron and Ashleigh Barron) joined their Guidance teacher on a trip to the beach and cinema, to celebrate their achievements in school and mark their last week. It was a chance to catch up and discuss future plans before the girls leave to undertake jobs and college courses this summer. Miss Cromar thanked the girls for their help in Iona House Activities this year and looks forward to hearing about their successes in the future





## S2 Music Competition

We held the annual S2 music competition on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June. Each class has been working on a piece of music for the last few months to perform in front of the rest of the year and two Judges.

This competition was a great success and the pupils loved performing and listening to other classes.

Our Judges this year were Miss Clark, Modern Languages teacher and Martin Walker, an ex pupil of Bridge of Don Academy who is now studying music at Aberdeen College.

### The entries were

2 Iona 1	-	Grenade
2 Tiree	-	Livin' on a Prayer
2 Arran 2	-	Just Can't get Enough
2 Skye 1	-	Queen Medley
2 Skye 2	-	Your Song
2 Arran 1	-	Bohemian Rhapsody
2 Iona 2	-	Forget You.

The results were **3<sup>rd</sup> - 2 Skye 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> - 2 Arran 1** and **1<sup>st</sup> - 2 Tiree**  
Well done to all involved.

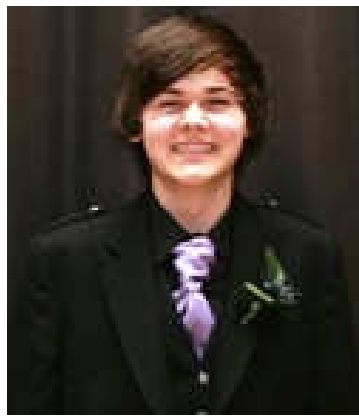
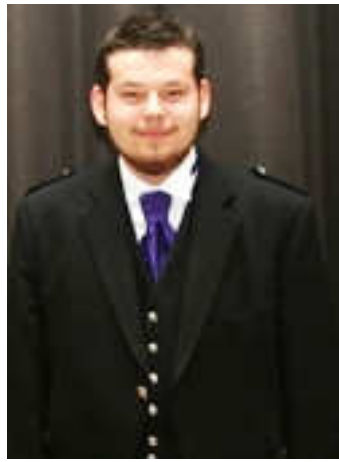


Picture of the winning Class

# Bridge of Don Academy Prom 2011 Hilton Treetops Hotel







## Tall Ships – July 2011

Shaunnay Walker 5A1 has been selected to sail the Lerwick to Stavanger leg of the Tall Ships Race this summer. She will form part of a team representing 'Ocean Youth Trust Scotland'. The races are designed to encourage international friendship and provide young people with the opportunity to sail. The races are held annually in European waters. To qualify for the race, 50% of the crew of each ship are aged between 16 and 25.



In preparation for the race, Shaunnay raised £135 from holding a 'Cupcakes Coffee Morning' for staff on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May. Shaunnay was assisted by pupils from her Hospitality Class. Thank you to all who supported Shaunnay (and the cupcakes were lovely!)



## Bethany Cheyne becomes Lord Lieutenant Cadet to the Provost

Bethany Cheyne, 6T2, was nominated and subsequently honoured with the award of Lord Lieutenant Cadet to the Provost. She was nominated by her C.O. at Bridge of Don Sea Cadets for using leadership and transitional skills that she had gained through cadets for working as a volunteer with the Brownies. Also at Inspire Aberdeen where she supports adults who have learning difficulties in gaining confidence and skills for the workplace. Her time in Bridge of Don Academy has helped her in many ways in the cadets, for example whilst aboard T.S. Royalist she was able to communicate in French to the harbour master to gain a berth in St Malo as the captain did not speak the language.

We are proud of Bethany and feel that her achievements outwith the school should be recognised as well as those gained while at school. This, indeed, is an expectation for all pupils in the Curriculum for Excellence.

## Scottish Rowing Champion

Congratulations to Erin Wyness (3Arran2) for her recent success in the Scottish Rowing Championships. Erin was part of the Aberdeen schools team that won a gold medal.



On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June Erin was part of the runner up team for women's under 16s coxed fours (with times of 2 minutes 1 second for the 500 metres, 4min 6sec for the 1000m, 6min 21sec for the 1500m and 8min 31sec for the 2000m).

Also, the next day Erin was part of the **GOLD** medal winning team in the women's under 15s coxed fours, with a winning time of 4 minutes 21 seconds for the 1500 metres.

Erin also represented Aberdeen at the British National Schools Regatta in Nottingham. Here,

Erin and her team mates finished 6<sup>th</sup> out of 18 schools in the time trials and then managed to row their way all the way to the semi-finals.

Well done Erin! We'll be keeping an eye for you at future Olympic games.

## Balmedie P7s Learn the Odds

As part of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) club, the primary 7 pupils from Balmedie came up to do some maths work on *probability*. This area of mathematics is becoming increasingly relevant in our lives and in business and industry – how to measure the likelihood, or chance, of something happening in the future.

To illustrate the calculations involved, the P7s were asked to look at the first four cards dealt out in a hand of poker. They then had to decide what it was possible to get with that hand, calculate the probability for each outcome and decide what was probable.



They all coped very well with the notation and calculations involved and, fortunately, all came to the sensible conclusion – gambling is a mug's game!

## Maths Games with the Primary 7s

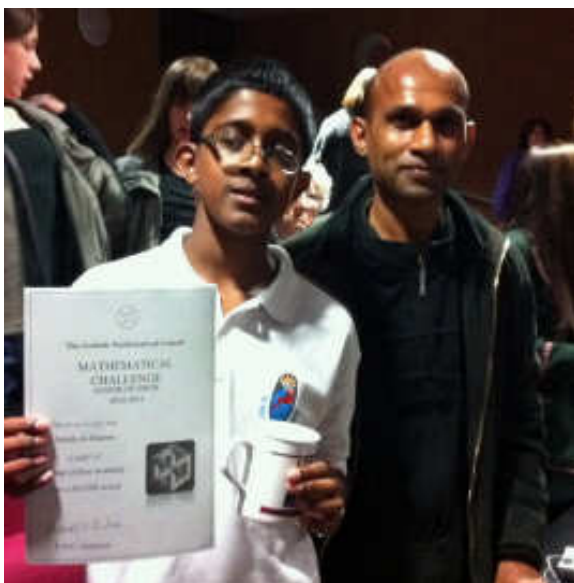
Throughout June the Maths Department went out to visit each of our associated primary schools (Balmedie, Braehead and Scotstown). We took along some BoDA pupils to help out and sit and play the Mathlett™ games with the primary 7 pupils.



The games are designed to improve pupils' maths skills with negative numbers, addition, subtraction, fractions and percentages.

The primary 7 pupils did really well, as did our academy helpers.

# Mathematical Challenge



Congratulations to Sabith Al-Mamun (S2) for achieving a silver award in the Mathematical Challenge competition.

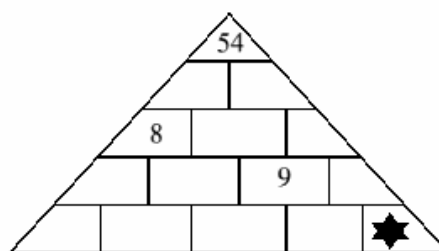
Mathematical Challenge is a problem solving competition for individual pupils in Scottish secondary schools and upper primary schools. It has been running since 1976 under the aegis of the [Scottish Mathematical Council](#). The aim is to promote mathematics as a source of interest and pleasurable achievement.

The competition is divided into four divisions: Primary (P7), Junior (S1 and S2), Middle (S3 and S4), and Senior (S5 and S6). Problems are sent out to Secondary schools twice a year and three times a year to Primary schools. Entries

are returned by the school to the local organiser for marking, and marks are returned via the school. Marks are given for explanations of answers rather than for simply getting the correct answer. Here is a taster of some of the problems that Sabith had to deal with:

**J1.** A lottery win is shared between three people. Allan gets 20 percent more than Jane, and 25 percent more than Charlie. Jane's share is £3,600. How much money does Charlie receive?

**J2.** In each region of the triangle shown there is a whole number, three of which are given. Each number is the sum of the two numbers immediately below it and all numbers are different. Find out which number must be in the region marked with the star and explain why.



**J3.** Amanda, Brian and Claire enter the school talent contest. They each perform in one of three rooms in the morning and in a different one of the three rooms in the afternoon.

We know that

- Amanda's act is maths magic,
- one pupil moves from the hall to the gym,
- Claire is in the drama studio after lunch,
- Brian's morning room is taken by the singer in the afternoon,
- one pupil's act is juggling.

Find out where each person performs in the morning and in the afternoon, and what their act is.

**Justify your answer.**

For more, see <http://www.wpr3.co.uk/MC/index.html>.



## Enterprising Maths Challenge

This year, Bridge of Don Academy was represented at the North-East Enterprising Maths Challenge by Ciaran Collie, Kimberley Lamb, Matthew Steer and Michael Brownie. Many schools from across Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire attended the event at the Thistle Hotel in Altens.

The competition is an annual event, open to the most able S2 and S3 pupils. It involves a number of rounds, including quizzes, the Swiss round (a selection of competitive games) and making (a poster after researching the subject matter – this year it was " $\pi$ ").



Bridge of Don Academy's team came first in the Swiss round and came in third in the overall competition.

| Well done to Ciaran Collie, Kimberley Lamb, Matthew Steer and Michael Brownie (and Miss Anderson – the team coach).

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# Accord Card Scheme Briefing Paper

## Internet Top-Ups

### 1. Introduction

Over the last few months, the Accord card scheme has been developing an internet top-up facility. Following a successful test at Bucksburn Academy, we are ready to start rolling this out. This new facility will allow cardholders to securely and conveniently put money on their Accord card via the Aberdeen City Council web site for use at the school's catering facilities.

### 2. Top-up

To make a payment the cardholder simply has to go to the Aberdeen City Council website (Pay it section) and enter the Accord card number they wish to top-up and the name of the school the cardholder is attending. Each night the payments will be transferred to the Accord Office to be verified and then forwarded to each school.

Once the payment is received at the school, it will be loaded to the card the next time it is presented to a card reader at a till or the card reader in the Accord Administrator's office.

### 3. Advantages

By using this method of payment, the cardholder will not have to queue at a load terminal or have to wait to see the Accord Administrator to have their cheque loaded.

By promoting the usage of the internet top-up facility, we are anticipating a reduction of the value of cash brought to the school therefore reducing the time the catering staff spends counting and banking the money from the load terminals. Furthermore, this is a quick and easy way for cardholders/parents/guardians to ensure there are sufficient funds available to be used at the school and that the money is not spent outwith school.

### 4. Roll-out

An initial roll-out to ensure there are no hidden 'bugs' commenced at Bucksburn Academy on 7<sup>th</sup> March and we will let you know when it can be implemented at all schools.

We are working with colleagues in catering to have a "stand alone" till in the dining area for cardholders to use to load their payment in the morning or at break time.

It is also possible for the card to be left with the Accord Administrator in the morning and come and collect it at break time or lunchtime. This will help reduce any delays in the queues at lunchtime as the payment takes approximately 3 seconds to load.

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## French Cafe



Another successful continental café was held on June 3<sup>rd</sup> where S2 pupils sampled food from France, Spain and Germany and also tried out their French phrases on one another and some impressed staff.



## S2 Masterchef

The Maths and Home Economics departments have been working together on a project called Masterchef. Pupils were given a design brief to plan and prepare a 3 course meal for 5 people with an overall budget of £25.

Through this project the pupils have gained experience using their mathematical skills in working with ratio, proportion, working within a budget, improving their ability to interpret information and strengthen problem solving.

In the Home Economics department each register class prepared one of their group's meal, developing team work and strengthening practical skills. From the six register classes the two best were selected to go head to head in a Masterchef final.

The winning classes were 2 Arran1 and 2 Tiree. Martin Young and Chef Graham from **Mains of Scotstown** judged the competition to award the new **Masterchef trophy**.

### 2 Arran 1's menu was:

Cream of Corn Soup,  
Haddock Mornay with Potato Wedges  
and Mixed Vegetables,  
Spiced Glazed Pineapple with Cinnamon  
Fromage Frais

### 2Tiree's menu was:

Crab Cakes,  
Sweet and Sour Chicken with Rice,  
Mango and Passion Fruit Pavlova.



In the final, judged by the **Mains of Scotstown**, the winning class was 2 Tiree 1. The class received a new Masterchef trophy donated by **Mains of Scotstown** which will be competed for annually. **Mains of Scotstown** are also going to add one of the winning dishes to their menu with information about the competition and pupils will go, as a class, for a meal to **Mains of Scotstown** in recognition of their achievement.

# Sporting Events

## Lead 2014 Conference

Eight pupils from S4-S6 participated in a Lead 2014 conference held at Robert Gordon's University. The day-long conference was led by RGU students who delivered workshops on event management to inspire our pupils to subsequently organise and deliver Commonwealth Games themed sports festivals within their own school community. All pupils were given the opportunity to develop and enhance their own leadership skills as well as working effectively with pupils from other secondary schools across the North of Scotland. The next stage is for the pupils to organise and run their own Commonwealth Games sporting festival. This will take place in the new term and we look forward to seeing the planned event in action.



From left to right: Alannah Barclay; Philip Dyce, Kiera Haggart, Kendall Deans  
Gavin Chandler, Lewis Dyce, Stuart McIntosh  
Not in photo – Louise Chisolm

## Inter-house Cross Country Competition

An afternoon of fierce competition took place in May with all S1-S3 pupils competing to gain valuable points for their respective house groups. The weather held up for the most of the race which saw some very impressive performances from many pupils. Each race was fiercely contested and in some events only fractions of seconds came between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places.



The individual race results were:

S1 Girls

1<sup>st</sup> – Carly Main 5:47:50  
 2<sup>nd</sup> – Shelly Cunningham 5:47:75  
 3<sup>rd</sup> – Lois Greenhowe 6:21:21

S2 Girls

1<sup>st</sup> – Ellie Smith 5:31:06  
 2<sup>nd</sup> – Carla Yule 6:05:31  
 3<sup>rd</sup> – Kiera Emslie 6:30:20

S3 Girls

1<sup>st</sup> – Demi Tower 6:12:06  
 2<sup>nd</sup> – Georgina McAllister 6:14:81  
 3<sup>rd</sup> – Kayleigh Gillies 6:16:53

S1 Boys

1<sup>st</sup> – Aaron Bonner 4:51:72  
 2<sup>nd</sup> – Andrew Neil 4:56:56  
 3<sup>rd</sup> – Murray Allan 5:00:78

S2 Boys

1<sup>st</sup> – Matthew Steer 4:40:00  
 2<sup>nd</sup> – Michael Bonner 4:59:90  
 3<sup>rd</sup> – Cameron Laird 5:03:19

S3 Boys

1<sup>st</sup> – Campbell Tough 4:36:44  
 2<sup>nd</sup> – Reece Hutcheon 4:51:34  
 3<sup>rd</sup> – Cameron Taylor 4:57:30

And finally, the overall scores were:

Joint 1<sup>st</sup> – Arran and Iona  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Tیره  
 4<sup>th</sup> Place – Skye

Well done to ALL pupils who took part and applied themselves to the best of their efforts!!!!

## Aberdeen Secondary Schools Golf League

This year's Bridge of Don Academy golf team had a mixture of successes in the various competitions. In the Secondary School's league the team finished a respectful fourth in their group. The team played very good golf resulting in wins over Albyn and Hazlehead Academy. In the other games against St Machar, Cults and Robert Gordons the boys were narrowly defeated with some games coming down to the final hole of the game.

After displaying his talents in each game and playing off a handicap of 3 for most of the competition, Chris Lamb was selected to represent the Aberdeen City Schools Golf Team in the Scottish Schools Championships at Murrishall in Perthshire. Chris did well and finished in 10<sup>th</sup> place overall.

Chris, along with Ryan Grieve and Kyle Robertson represented the school in the Aberdeen Schools Championships at Murcar Links Golf Club. All boys played well with Chris, now playing off 0.6, emerging as the overall winner of the Paul Lawrie Aberdeen Schools' Scratch Trophy. In very wet, testing conditions, one-handicapper, Christopher spread-eagled the field with a level par 71. In his round, Chris had four birdies - at the fourth, ninth, eleventh and twelfth. Just to prove he is human, he had a double bogey six at the fifteenth and single shots dropped at the sixth and fourteenth. Well done to Chris in his success and also to all the other boys who represented Bridge of Don Academy.

Chris Lamb, Ryan Grieve and Jake Mitchell will represent Bridge of Don Academy in the forthcoming Aberdeen Schools Team Challenge at Peterculter Golf Club in August. Good luck to all 3 boys in this event.



From Left to right: Ryan Grieve, Jake Mitchell, Eric Buchan, Richard Mackie  
Kyle Robertson and Chris Lamb

## **S1 Netball**

Netball club has been a huge success this year with over 20 girls attending every week. The girls have oozed enthusiasm and have been a pleasure to coach. They have all developed and improved their skills over the year and the 1st years had the opportunity to showcase them at their first tournament against Harlaw in May. The girls played extremely well and after a close start, they ended with an excellent game winning 10 - 3. I hope the girls will continue to attend netball club and enjoy many more years of playing as a great team.



## **Albyn/ Robert Gordons Invitational Athletics Competition**

A number of pupils from S1 – S3 recently represented Bridge of Don Academy in the above athletics competition held at Aberdeen Sports Village. The weather was lovely on the day and all the pupils involved performed very well in their chosen events. Four pupils have been selected to represent South Grampian at Grangemouth so we wish them all the best for this. These pupils are Matthew Steer, Ben Leslie, Campbell Tough and Arik Jaskiewicz.





## **GB Open Water Swim Team**

Congratulations to Stuart McIntosh who was selected for the British Open water swim team training camp in France. Stuart had previously come 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 800m and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 1500m Front Crawl events at the Scottish Nationals earlier in the year. Stuart has achieved a lot of success throughout the season which saw him being selected for the Scottish Senior Bronze squad, winning the North District Championships at 200m Breaststroke and 200m Individual Medley events as well as qualifying for 8 swim events at the British Nationals. We wish Stuart the best of luck in all his training and future competitions, whether it is in a swimming pool or in a lake.



## Our pupils meet the Queen

Trudging slowly along a seemingly never-ending road through the wind and rain with heavy rucksacks on our backs wasn't how we usually spent our Saturdays. However, since we had all opted to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, that's exactly what our group of seven (Lizzy Simpson, Karla Mennie, Megan Riddell, Jasmine Kennedy, Jenna Shepherd, Kirsty Munro and myself) was doing.

The task we faced was to spend the entire weekend outdoors, and due to the lack of phone signal, cut off from civilisation. We had to walk for six hours on Saturday, camp for one night and then walk a further six hours on Sunday. We had planned our own route, and we were walking from Ballater to a campsite beside Loch Muick, which is on the Balmoral Estate, and walking up to Balmoral Castle on the second day. Balmoral Castle is where the Queen and the royal family spend their holidays.



Saturday was proving to be tough, and whenever we stopped to have a break, without fail; it would inexplicably begin to rain. Our rucksacks felt ridiculously heavy and everybody was wetting tires. As we were begrudgingly walking along, we spotted a shiny black Land Rover in the distance, driving along the road towards us. We could see that the driver was wearing a headscarf and we jokingly said how funny it would be if it were to be the Queen. As the car drew nearer, we stepped to one side of the road to allow it to pass. We were all peering through the windscreen with curiosity to see who could be driving so slowly down the otherwise empty track road. The car drew up beside us and came to a stop. The window was wound down, and inside was the Queen with one of her bodyguards! She had a conversation with us for a few minutes, politely asking us where we were going and how we were. She guessed straight away that we would be on our Duke of Edinburgh expedition. We answered her questions in stunned unison, as if we were primary school children saying 'good morning' to their teacher. Later, we wondered if we should have given a bow or curtsy but our rucksacks were so heavy we would have toppled over onto the Land Rover! We thought she looked really well for her age and didn't sound quite so posh as she does when you hear her on TV.

After this chance encounter with arguably the most famous person in the country, we had an extra spring in our step for the rest of the weekend, and one thing's for sure; we won't be forgetting our Duke of Edinburgh expedition weekend in a hurry.....

Megan Allan, 5 Skye

## Question Time in the Town House

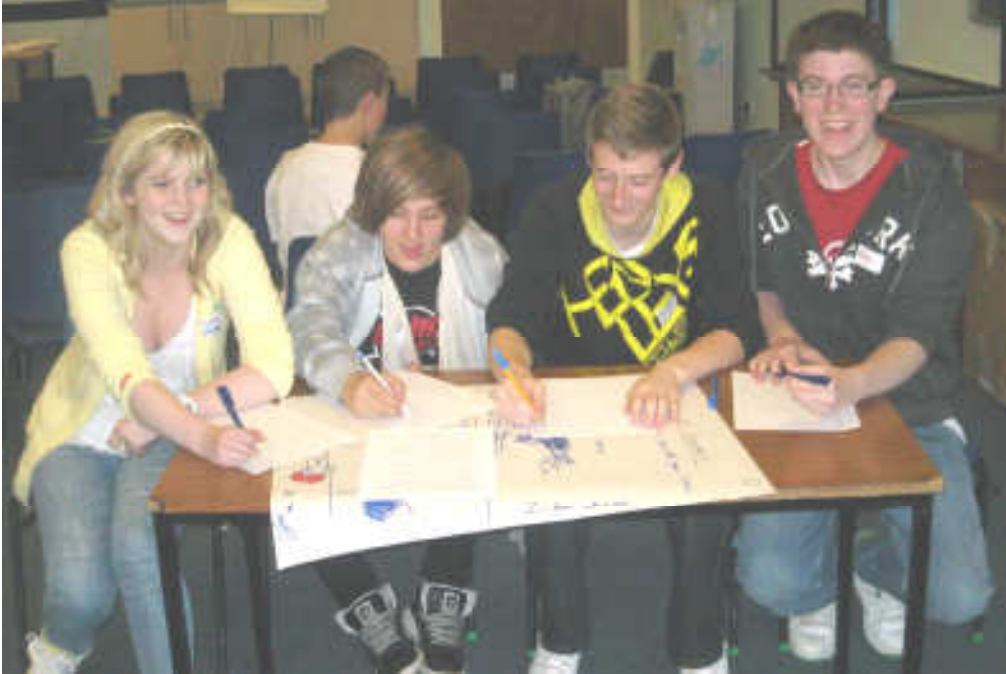
Five S4 pupils attended Question Time in the Town House. The first half of Question Time was looking at food labelling; what exactly are you eating? The second half was a free for all with questions ranging from enlarging the European Union to genetically modified food. The MEPs present were introduced by the Lord Provost of Aberdeen. The two MEPs were Ian Hudghton (SNP) and Struan Stevenson (CON).



The pupils - Matthew Gibson, Ciaran Collie, Ben Ewen, Erin Wyness and Amy Gregor

## S5 Induction

We had a very successful induction programme for all our pupils returning to school for a fifth year and are grateful for the training provided by staff from the Community Learning Department, Active Schools and the Mathematics Department.



The pupils took part in 'Bully Busting' training to develop strategies enabling them support younger pupils in the school and to help enforce our zero tolerance policy to any form of bullying. They also participated in a leadership challenge which involved them working in teams to organise an event that would require individuals taking on different responsibilities in addition to developing their team building skills. Pupils also undertook a financial awareness course to help them manage a budget and prepare them for independent living in the future. The final part of the programme involved prefect training where pupils had to think about strategies to deal with a variety of problems and situations that senior pupils face whilst fulfilling their roles as prefects.

Throughout the induction activities, the pupils were constantly reminded about the high expectations we have of them and the important responsibilities of senior pupils as our role models in the school. The feed back from the trainers and providers was excellent and I am confident that we will have a very successful year ahead with our new fifth year pupils.

J Ritchie

# Puzzles

- There is a doctor in Glasgow and a lawyer in London. The lawyer is the brother of the doctor. However, the doctor is not the brother of the lawyer. Why is this?
- This number has four digits. It is an odd number and is divisible by five and seven. The thousands digit is three less than the units digit. If you added the hundreds digit to the tens digit you would get sixteen. The number is \_ \_ \_ \_.

### 3. KenKen Puzzle

How to Play: Like Sudoku, even though difficulty may vary from puzzle to puzzle, the rules for playing KenKen are fairly simple:

*For this 5x5 puzzle, fill in with numbers 1-5.*

Do not repeat a number in any row or column.

*The numbers in each heavily outlined set of squares, called cages, must combine (in any order) to produce the target number in the top corner of the cage using the mathematical operation indicated.*

Cages with just one box should be filled in with the target number in the top corner.

*A number can be repeated within a cage as long as it is not in the same row or column.*

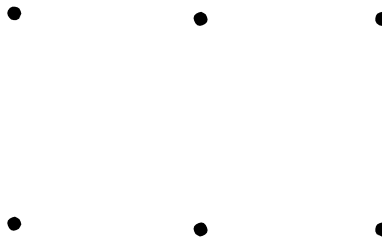
<b>60 ×</b>		<b>4 −</b>	<b>2 −</b>	<b>2 −</b>
<b>9 +</b>				
		<b>12 +</b>		
	<b>4 −</b>	<b>2 ÷</b>	<b>4 +</b>	<b>3 −</b>
<b>3</b> <b>3</b>				

Solutions will be posted on <http://bodmaths.edublogs.org> from the 27<sup>th</sup> June and will be published in the next Bridge of Don Academy newsletter. In the meantime, if you want solutions checked send them in via "pupil express" to be checked by a member of the Maths department.

## Puzzles

### Puzzle 1:

You must draw four straight lines only that pass through all nine of the dots shown. Once you start, you are not allowed to lift your pencil from the paper. If you double back on yourself then that will count as an extra line.



### Puzzle 2:

There is four errors in this sentence. What are they?

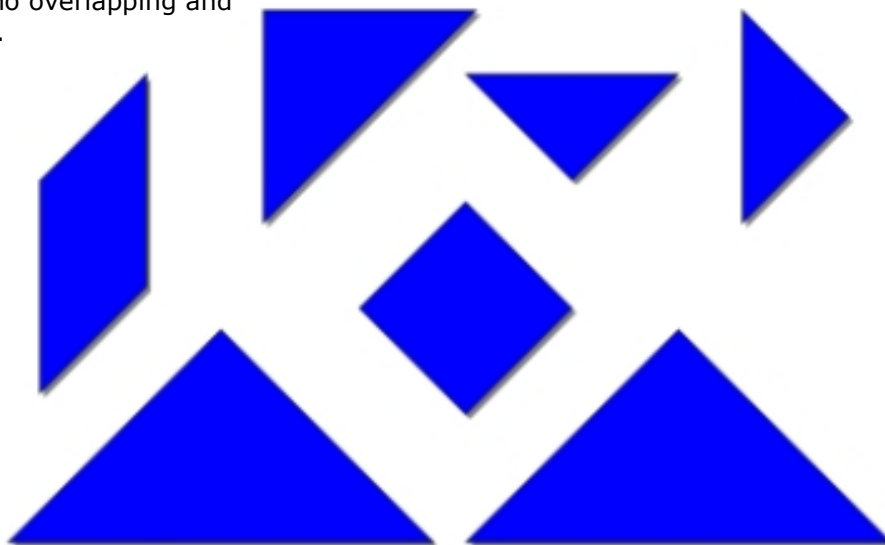


### Puzzle 3:

This number has three digits. It is an odd number. It is divisible by five. The hundreds digit is three less than the units digit. If you subtract five the new number is divisible by three. If you add five and then divide by ten you get an odd number. The number is \_\_\_\_ \_ .

### Puzzle 4:

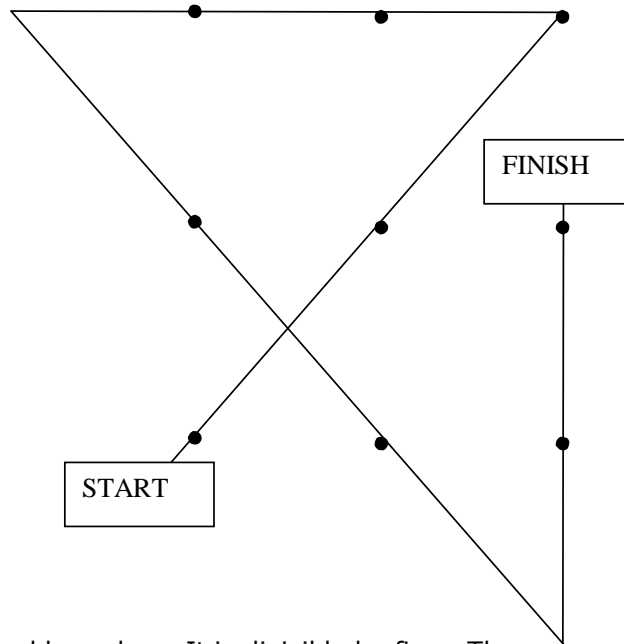
Rearrange these seven pieces to make a square (no overlapping and no gaps allowed).



Solutions will be posted on <http://bodmaths.edublogs.org> from the 22<sup>nd</sup> April and will be published in the next Bridge of Don Academy newsletter.

SOLUTIONS:

1.



**Puzzle 2:**

There is four errors in this sentence.  
"is" should be "are".  
"errors" should be "errors".  
"sentence" should be "sentence".  
"four" should be "three".

**Puzzle 3:**

This number has three digits. It is an odd number. It is divisible by five. The hundreds digit is three less than the units digit. If you subtract five the new number is divisible by three. If you add five and then divide by ten you get an odd number.

The number is **245**.

**Puzzle 4:**

Rearrange these seven pieces to make a square (no overlapping and no gaps allowed).

