



BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

AUTUMN 2011



STAFF CHANGES

Farewells

There was an article in the summer issue of this magazine listing the staff who left us in the summer holiday. We must now add Mrs Phyllis Thomson, Technician to the Home Economics Department, to the list. Mrs Thomson leaves Bridge of Don Academy after many years of first class service. We wish her a long and healthy retirement. In addition, we have to say a sad farewell to Mrs Julie Bilsland, teacher of History and Modern Studies, who has become Principal Teacher of Humanities at Oldmachar Academy. Although only with us for a short time, Miss Heather Dickson, part time teacher of Music, has been offered a full time post in her home town of Edinburgh. Mrs Bilsland has been replaced by Mr McKee and Miss Dickson by Ms Stewart.

Welcome

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members of staff.

Ms Elaine Freeman	Teacher of Design & Technology
Mr Craig MacDonald	Teacher of Mathematics
Ms Claire Barrie	Teacher of Modern Studies
Ms Leanne Shaw	Teacher of Physical Education
Mr Damian Hardacre	Teacher of Chemistry
Mrs Kirsty Mackenzie	Teacher of Physics
Mr David Windmill	Teacher of Support for Learning
Mr David McKee	Teacher of History & Modern Studies
Ms Catherine Stewart	Teacher of Music
Mrs Alice Rochford	Technician

In addition, Mr Ross Paterson is now acting Head of Skye House.

BLOOD DONOR SESSION - THURSDAY, 12TH JANUARY 2012

You can drop in to give blood at these sessions in the school canteen between the following hours:

- 15:00 - 16:30
- 18:00 - 20:00

Bridge of Don Community Centre
Braehead Way
Bridge of Don
AB22 8RR





SQA EXAMINATION RESULTS 2011

I have written previously about concerns, shared by all other Aberdeen secondary schools, that our girls, on average, do not perform as well as other Scottish girls in examinations. Remember that, when talking about averages, some of our girls perform very well indeed.

We have put much thought into this since the 2010 results and I am pleased to report that the percentage of girls attaining five or more Credit grades this year has improved to 42%. There has been an increase in attainment each year since 2008. It is too early to say whether we have turned things around but this was a step in the right direction.

The test will be in S5 and S6, can the girls continue to match in other Scottish schools or will they slip back to being out-performed by the boys?

Whether girl or boy, we still have a significant number who would have been awarded better grades had they simply worked harder. Please, parents, support the teachers in this school who are trying very hard indeed to get pupils to realise how important it is to work **at home** as well as at school.

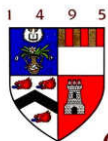
I was very pleased with our 2011 examination results. Twenty three of our S4 pupils got eight Credit grades, with many of them getting all grade 1s. Over a third of our S5 pupils were awarded three or more Highers. This included three pupils who achieved six Highers, mostly at grade A. Rebecca Strachan was awarded six Highers, **all** at grade A!

39% of our S6 pupils were awarded three or more Highers or Advanced Highers. Most achieved what they needed for their chosen university courses, this included Linda Francis Amu and Craig Webster, both of whom are now studying Medicine at Glasgow University.

One of our pupils, Amin Torabi, came to us in November 2009, in the middle of S4, from Iran. He had very little English and found himself in a very different culture. He has shown, however, what can be done through hard work. His results this year were an A at Advanced Higher Maths and Higher Physics and grade B at Higher Music, Higher Chemistry and Intermediate 2 English. These are results that anyone would be proud of.

The message is clear to all of our pupils sitting examinations this year. Work hard, work **at home** as well as at school and you will be successful.

J P Harland



**UNIVERSITY
OF ABERDEEN**

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Office of External Affairs
University Office
King's College
Aberdeen AB24 3FX
Scotland
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0) 1224 272090/91
Fax: +44 (0) 1224 272576
Email: sras@abdn.ac.uk
www.abdn.ac.uk/sras

University of Aberdeen Awards to former students of : BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

Gemma Louise Findlater, Degree Of Master Of Arts In History, Upper Second Class Honours, 05-Jul-2011

Kristen M Fraser, Degree Of Master Of Arts In Economics, Upper Second Class Honours, 04-Jul-2011

Ian Lewis Green, Degree Of Msci In Biomedical Science (Physiology) With Ind'L Placement, Upper Second Class Honours, 06-Jul-2011

Jane Catherine Hamilton, Degree Of Master Of Arts In Psychology, Upper Second Class Honours, 26-Nov-2010

Heather Hoy, Degree Of Bachelor Of Education (Primary), Upper Second Class Honours, 07-Jul-2011

Donald Macaskill, Degree Of Master Of Arts In Politics And International Relations, Upper Second Class Honours, 05-Jul-2011

Claire Elizabeth Milne, Degree Of Master Of Arts In History, First Class Honours, 03-Jul-2011

David Norcott, Degree Of Bachelor Of Laws (With Honours), Upper Second Class Honours, 04-Jul-2011

Kate Elizabeth Reid, Degree Of Bachelor Of Education (Primary), Lower Second Class Honours, 07-Jul-2011

David Alexander Sim, Degree Of Bachelor Of Music, Lower Second Class Honours, 07-Jul-2011

Aimee Wood, Degree Of Master Of Arts In Property, Lower Second Class Honours, 04-Jul-2011

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Undergraduate Admissions

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE: THE NEW S3

Our current S2 pupils are the pioneers for the new curriculum. They are now at the stage of thinking about transition from S2 into a new look S3. They have been given a presentation in assembly and have begun to discuss the move with their Heads of House in Personal and Social Education classes.

The key elements of change are that pupils will have **choice** to increase motivation and that there will be a focus on **subjects** to help prepare for exams in S4.

To ensure that pupils still receive a broad education and that they keep their options open, the following subjects will be studied by all:

English
Modern Languages
Mathematics
Core Physical Education
Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies
Personal and Social Education

They will also select six courses from a list of **Arts, Science, Social Studies, Health and Wellbeing** and **Technologies** subjects.

At the end of S3, each pupil will be given a profile which details his/her achievement in each of the curriculum areas.

Please note the following important dates:

S2 Parents' Information Evening	-	Wednesday 1 February 2012
S2 Reports Issued	-	Friday 17 February 2012
Careers Evening	-	Tuesday 21 February 2012
S2 Parents' Evening	-	Tuesday 28 February 2012
S2 Choices returned	-	Friday 9 March 2012

Pupils will need to discuss choices with parents/carers. The above evenings are good opportunities to discuss choices with school staff, particularly the Heads of House.

PARENT COUNCIL UPDATE – AUTUMN 2011

The Parent Council remains in a healthy state with 12-15 regular members. Following the AGM in September the office bearers for Session 2011/12 are as follows:

Chairperson	Shona Wildi
Vice Chairperson	Joanne Shewan
Secretary	Lorraine Kennedy
Treasurer	Ann Allan

Fundraising has never been a primary objective of the Parent Council at Bridge of Don Academy but over the past few years it has been getting more and more difficult to stretch the budget. Therefore the Parent Council has decided to set up an exciting new venture – 'the 100 Club'- as a way of raising money that can be used by the school to ensure that your children get all the resources they need to succeed. We hope you will sign up and show your support for the school.

If there are any questions or queries that you would like addressed by the Parent Council please either contact a member directly or e-mail parentcouncil@bridgeofdon.aberdeen.sch.uk. The Parent Council exists to represent ALL parents at Bridge of Don Academy and as such all comments are welcome. Better still, come along to a meeting and ask in person!



Bridge of Don Academy Parent Council

telephone: (01224) 707583

e-mail: parentcouncil@bridgeofdon.aberdeen.sch.uk

Chairperson: Shona Wildi

Vice Chairperson : Joanne Shewan

Dear Parent/Guardian,

November 2011

Parent Council 100 Club

I am writing to you on behalf of the school Parent Council to inform you about our intention to start a 100 Club from January 2012. The Parent Council has never been a fund raising body in the same way that previous PTAs were, however, given the severe financial cutbacks that are being imposed on education services, the time has come for us as parents to look at ways in which we can support the school and alleviate some of the financial pressure the staff find themselves operating under.

Aberdeen City Council allocates the Parent Council £700 each year to cover any running costs we may have and it is up to us as a group to decide how to spend this money. School staff are aware that we have this money and we receive bids from departments for pieces of equipment etc. £700 does not go very far. I have been on the Parent Council for 1 year and have been shocked at some of the things that staff have asked for; items and services that I assumed came from the main education budget e.g. the annual subscription for the MyMaths website, basic equipment for science experiments, materials for active learning, software such as photoshop, speakers, amplifiers & instruments for musicians and library books.

A copy of the full constitution of the 100 Club is on the school website but in short it will operate as follows:-

- **It will be open to all parents, guardians, staff, grandparents, members of the community and anyone who has a vested interest in the education of our pupils.**
- Each member will be allocated a unique number which will cost £2.00 per month
- Members can have as many numbers as they want.
- 75% of the income generated will be used to raise funds solely for use in the school to enhance and further the education of pupils. Departments will submit bids outlining their requests and the costs involved. Allocation of funding will be reported through the school newsletter.
- 25% of the income will be disbursed in cash prizes with 3 prizes each calendar month. Payment will be by cheque monthly and winners reported through the school newsletter.
- Participation shall be by subscription payable in advance by cheque (i.e. £24 per annum per number) or by monthly standing order mandate.
- Participation shall be for the minimum period of 12 months (Jan – Dec) but members may join during the year on payment of a pro-rata advance payment.
- The monthly draws will take place at the Parent Council meetings the dates of which are well publicised on the school calendar.
- All personal details will be held by the 100 club Administrator. The details shall be confidential and used solely in connection with the draw.

Obviously, the more people who join the 100 Club and the more numbers we can sell, the more money we can raise for our school. For example, if there are 300 members all contributing £2 a month then the prizes will be £90, £45 & £15. The 75% retained by the 100 Club will be £450. For the token sum of £2 per month, not only will members be eligible to win one or more of the 36 cash prizes per annum but more importantly they will be contributing to the enhancement of education available to all of our pupils.

If you still have doubts as to whether to join or not then ask yourself this – what does £2 a month buy me and will I miss it from my monthly budget?

If you wish to join the 100 Club, then please complete and return the tear off slip below to the school office by Friday 23 December.

If you have any queries then please e-mail me at PC 100 Club via the Parent Council link on the school website.

Yours sincerely,

Ann Allan
PC100 Club Administrator

BODA PC100 CLUB

- I wish to join the PC100 Club and would like numbers
 - I have sent the standing order form to my bank
 - I have instructed my bank via internet banking
 - I enclose a cheque for £.....

(Please delete as appropriate)

- Name to which number should be allocated , eg The Smith Family

.....

Contact name

Telephone number

Email

Please arrange to pay

**LLOYDS TSB Scotland plc
St Machar (873410) Branch
PO BOX 1000
BX1 1LT**

Sort Code

87-34-10

For the credit of

BODA PARENT COUNCIL

Account Number

88649860

The sum of

£

Commencing*

__	__	/	__	__	/	__	__	__	__
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*When inserting a starting date, please ensure that the money will be transferred in time for the draw

Frequency

Monthly

Date of last Payment

--

(or UFN - Until further notice -

perhaps work out the month /year your child will leave school)

Reference

.....(insert your name)

Account to be debited

.....

(i.e. the name(s) of the account holder(s))

Your Account Number

_____ Sort code ____-____-____

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THE NEW STUDENT COUNCIL

At the start of the new session, we relaunched the Bridge of Don Academy Student Council.

The process was a formal one, with nominations being gathered in from each year group S1-S5. The nomination form outlined the pupil's strengths and abilities and highlighted any current issues in the school community that they felt were important and needed attention. The pupils then asked two teachers to read and sign their nomination form.

Once all nominations had been received, the Hustings began – with a week of speeches at lunchtime where nominees put their views forward to pupils in their year group and outlined what they would do if elected.

The following week was election week and voting took place in RMPS. Pupils were asked to vote for two candidates and the ballot was carried out in secret at a polling booth at the front of the class. Pupils were discouraged from telling others how they were going to vote, or how they had voted, in order to avoid disagreements and to mirror what happens in a local or general election.

The winners in each year group were presented with their badges at year group assemblies and our first meeting took place on 30 September 2011.

At the meeting we discussed a number of issues – from the state of the toilets in school to the relationships with the shopkeepers in Braehead Way. It was a very positive meeting with pupils expressing the view that work needed to be done and that they were willing to do it.

All staff who were involved in the elections were very impressed at the level of commitment shown by the pupils during the election – not only by those who won. We have many pupils in the school who not only want to see changes for the better, but who want to be involved in making the changes – which is very encouraging.

Congratulations to those who were elected and many thanks to all the nominees – the results were close – so try again next year!

Bridge of Don Academy Student Council 2011/2012

S1	Scott Nichol Amber Thomson	S4	Holly Da Silva Andrew Walker
S2	Huda Affendi Bradley Mair	S5	Anthony Ede Jenna Shepherd
S3	Adam Affendi Eli Rorie	S6	Kelsey Collins (Head Girl) Laura Mitchell (Deputy Head Girl)

CALENDAR DATES 2011 - 2012

Term 2:	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)
Term 4:	Term Starts - Tuesday 17 April 2012 May Day Holiday - Monday 7 May 2012 Term Ends - Friday 29 June 2012
In-service days:	Tuesday 14 February 2012 Wednesday 15 February 2012 Tuesday 8 May 2012

Key Dates:	22 December 2011	Christmas Assemblies
	23 December 2011	Ceilidh
	13 January 2012	S4 reports issued
	17 January 2012	Parent Council
	1 February 2012	S2 Parents' information evening
	6 February 2012	S5/6 estimates begin/P7 visit
	7 & 8 February 2012	P7 visit
	9 February 2012	S4 Parents' evening
	17 February 2012	S2 reports issued/S5/6 estimates end
	21 February 2012	Careers evening
	28 February 2012	S2 Parents' evening
	6 March 2012	Pancake day
	8 March 2012	S4/S5 Parents' information evening
	9 March 2012	S2 Choices returned
	12 March 2012	S5/S6 Parents' evening
	16 March 2012	S5/S6 Choices returned
	20 March 2012	Parent Council
	26 March 2012	Swimming Gala
	24 April 2012	Parent Council
	25 April 2012	SQA exams start
	26 April 2012	PT Forum
	21 May 2012	Cross Country
	22 May 2012	Parent council
	25 May 2012	S1 Reports issued
	28 May 2012	Continental café
	w/c 4 June 2012	S3 Work experience/S1 & S2 Activities week
	8 June 2012	SQA exams end
	12 June 2012	New timetable starts/Parent council
	13 June 2012	Awards ceremony (new date)
	18 June 2012	P7 Visits 1
	19 June 2012	P7 Visits 2/P7 Parents information evening
	20 June 2012	P7 Visits 3
	27-29 June 2012	Performances of school show, 'Oliver!' (Arts Centre)



REDUCING THE RISK OF MEASLES IN YOUNG PEOPLE IN SCOTLAND

Background

Measles is re-emerging in Western Europe with a significant increase in reported cases. Health Protection Scotland (HPS) has recently undertaken an updated risk assessment for measles transmission in Scotland. The report concludes that

- the rate is not substantially higher than measles activity in recent years, and there have not been outbreaks or transmission of measles amongst young children
- there are children aged 11-17 years in Scotland who have not received either the first or second dose of MMR vaccine.
- as these individuals get older and especially after leaving school, travel and social mixing will increase. As a consequence, the probability of importation and onward transmission of the virus rises.

While this cohort are still in school there is an opportunity to maximise uptake of MMR1 and MMR2 at the teenage (school-leaving) booster session or appointment for tetanus, diphtheria and polio to ensure that unimmunised or partially immunised children are offered MMR.

There are no plans by NHS Scotland to undertake a National campaign, and health professionals are being asked to build upon existing opportunities to offer this vaccination to children and young people with no accompanying resources.

This makes delivery challenging, therefore the school nursing service seeks your assistance and support in highlighting that this vaccination will be offered to secondary school-aged children who have not yet received 2 doses of MMR vaccine.

The introduction of this additional immunisation programme is proposed to commence in spring 2012. Further details will follow once plans are in place.

For details of how this will be done for more information log onto www.scotland.gov.uk.





On Monday 31 October, S5 pupils attended the Safe Drive Stay Alive presentation at the Beach Ballroom. This is the seventh year the show has been presented, with the aim of reducing the number of fatalities and serious injuries caused by careless driving on Scotland's roads.

During 2010, 305 serious injuries were sustained in road traffic collision across Grampian and 37 people were killed on the roads in the area last year. A quarter of those were in the 17-25 age group.

The importance of safe driving is promoted through the presentation of an emotive and graphic film, re-enacting an actual road traffic accident. Pupils heard from members of Grampian Police Traffic Division, Grampian Fire & Rescue, the Scottish Ambulance Service and medical staff at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, all of whom have had to either attend a fatal road traffic collision, or cope with the serious and sickening injuries in the hospital.

A motorcyclist left paralysed from the chest down spoke about the impact a road traffic collision has had on him. This was followed by an emotional presentation from Dave Trigger, a local driving instructor, who lost his daughter in 2008 after her car hit a deer and went off the road, killing her instantly.

We lost one of our own pupils a few years ago after a car lost control one evening in the countryside. The impact of this on our pupils at the time was deeply profound. Unfortunately, many young drivers still forget about the messages as time goes by, and it is only the news of serious injury or death to someone close to them that brings things back into focus.

We would hope that none of our pupils forget about what they heard this week and ensure that once they have passed their tests, they always drive safely.



IONA HOUSE CHARITY EVENTS

This term Iona House hosted their charity events. The house decided to raise money for "Cornerstone" a local charity which provides help for children and adults with disabilities and also support for their families. The charity was chosen as the pupils felt it was important to assist a charity based in Aberdeen so that the money would benefit our local community. Moreover, families within the school have accessed support from the charity, therefore it is nice to recognise the work "Cornerstone" does through raising funds.

6 Iona were in charge of organising the events and decided to focus on three: a staff afternoon tea, a staff/pupil football tournament and lunchtime face painting. They were helped by 1 Iona, who promoted the events by making posters and invites.

For the staff tea a selection of tasty cakes and biscuits were cooked up by pupils and teachers for staff to enjoy including Lemon Drizzle Cake, Chocolate Brownies, Carrot Cake Muffins and Malteser Traybake. Eunice Owusu Afriyie (5I2), Shaun Nicol (6I), Natalie Milne (6I) and Hannah Dawson (6I) all showed off their culinary talents and their efforts were very well received by the staff. Miss Ritchie, Miss Freudenthal and Miss Cromar also contributed a tasty selection of home baking.



In the football tournament, pupils were invited to submit teams to play in the league. Five teams entered with pupils from S1 to S5 taking part. The teams competed to score the most goals in order to qualify for the final against the teachers. The eventual winners were the S3 team who scored an impressive 20 goals. They went on to play the teachers in the last week of term. The game was well played with both teams keen to win. The staff eventually landed a 10-4 victory.



Andrew Macpherson (6I) acted as referee for the games.



Finally, Natalie Milne (6I) and Kelsey Collins (6I) hosted a face painting event in the canteen during lunchtime on the last day of term. Pupils made a 50p donation in exchange for a small flower, star, heart or flag motif. The painting proved so popular that several other sixth years from Iona, Tiree, Arran and Skye were called on to assist with the painting.

In total, over £190 was raised for the charity. Well done to 6 Iona who organised three fantastic events. We would also like to say a big thank you to all the pupils and staff who supported us. Your time and generosity was much appreciated. 6 Iona will deliver the cheque to "Cornerstone" later this term. Tiree, Skye and Arran House will also be hosting events in the next few months, more details of which will follow in later newsletters.

PLAN SPONSORSHIP IN HAITI

For the last few years Iona House have been sponsoring a child in Haiti through the charity PLAN. PLAN work with children, their families and their local community to improve the quality of life they experience, by increasing their access to facilities such as education and medical care. Last term, 2 Iona spent some time researching life in Haiti, to gain a better understanding of a day in the life of our sponsor child and how his community was affected by the earthquake. 2 Iona have now completed individual letters to our sponsor child, introducing themselves and their lives and asking questions about his. The class are looking forward to receiving a reply next term.



BAG2SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

Early this term the Head Boy, Head Girl and House Captains organised a Bag2School collection. Their aim was to raise money for school funds by collecting old and unwanted clothing, textiles and shoes. These were collected and sold on to Bag2School, who recycle and reuse the products, giving new life to our unwanted goods. The event was advertised in assemblies, on posters around the school and bulletin notices. Their efforts paid off and over 500 kilos of textiles was collected. House Points were awarded according to the number of bags donated and were allocated as follows: Iona - 40 points, Arran - 30 points, Tiree - 20 points and Skye - 10 points.



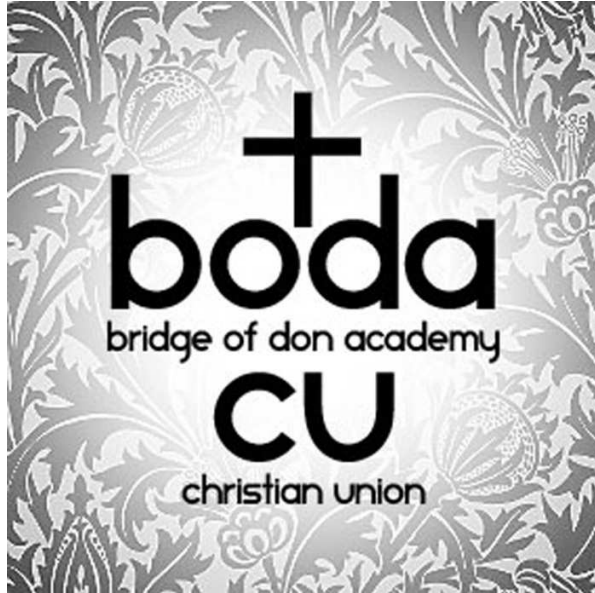
We would like to say a BIG thank you to all of the staff, parents and pupils who took the time to clear out their wardrobes and donate goods. Your time and effort was sincerely appreciated. As a result, together we raised £285 towards school funds. Everyone involved should feel very proud of their efforts and success.

CORNERSTONE

Hannah Dawson and Natalie Milne (6I) visited Cornerstone in October to deliver a donation to the charity on behalf of Iona House. 6 Iona hosted a number of events last term, including a staff tea, football tournament and face painting. In total they raised £162 for the charity. They also made the press, with coverage of the story appearing in the Evening Express and the Press and Journal. Well done to everyone who took part.



CU NEWSLETTER



On 26th August Bridge of Don Academy launched their first Christian Union. This has been a great success.

What is it all about?

The Bridge of Don Academy Christian Union is a place for people who want to learn more about Christianity (God, the Bible and how it is still relevant to our lives today.)

What happens at CU?

Our aim is to have speakers along from the various churches in and around the Bridge of Don area. For example Bridge of Don Baptist, St. Columbus Church of Scotland and The Kings Community Church. We have speakers talk on a vast variety of subjects, from drugs to the question of whether God is angry, to what Christians think of abortion and sex.

It's a great opportunity for Christians and non-Christians to come along once a week to learn more about what Christianity really means. If you have any questions please come and speak to either Andrew Douglas or Eunice Owusu-Afriyie both of whom would love to answer any questions you have about CU. We also have a Facebook page that you can check out for more details.

WHEN: Every Friday at 1.30pm

WHERE: F11

YORK TRIP

During Activities Week a group of 25 pupils and 3 staff enjoyed a very busy and enjoyable trip to York.

Leaving school bright [most of us!] and early Monday morning we arrived in York in time for a fun evening of bowling & quasar before 3 days of serious sightseeing!

We saw York Minster [stunning!] and had a trip down the river, went on a ghost walk [scary] and to the dungeons [even scarier!].



We visited York Castle Museum and the old prison [where Dick Turpin spent his last days before execution], took part in a bridge building workshop at the National Rail Museum and managed to squeeze in a trip to the cinema!



Souvenir/gift shopping in the Shambles was a must and then we rounded off the week with a day of thrills at Flamingoland Park & Zoo.

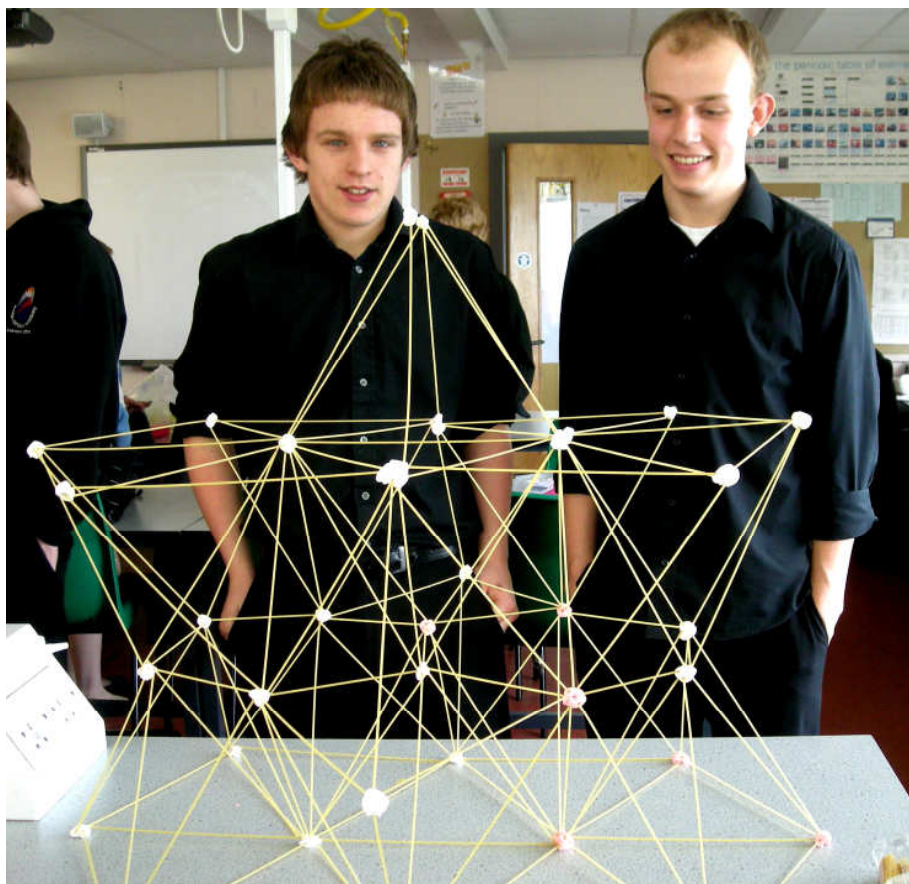
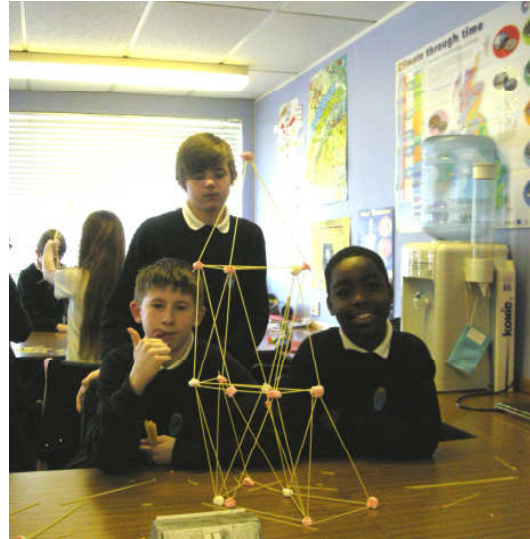
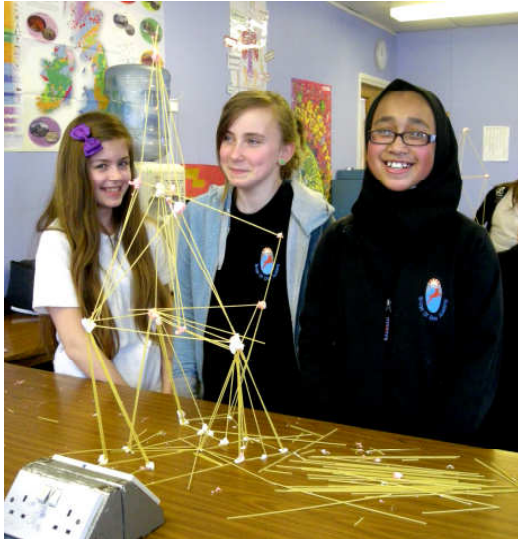


With excellent weather it was a great week for both pupils and staff.



NATIONAL SCIENCE & ENGINEERING WEEK

As in previous years S1 & S2 classes took part in various Science challenges for NSEW, designing and making paper boats to carry the maximum number of marbles [and stay afloat!] or building the tallest tower that would stand unsupported using spaghetti and marshmallows. Some classes also took part in a Science quiz and some of the seniors couldn't resist the marshmallow challenge!



UNIFORM CLASS TREAT - 4 ARRAN 1

At the end of the school year, the uniform totals are compared between all the classes to award a top class for uniform from S1/S2 and S3/S4.

As mentioned in the summer newsletter, **2 Skye** were the top class for uniform in the **S1/S2** category, and were treated to lunch at Pizza Hut, Aberdeen Beach.

Congratulations also goes to **4 Arran 1** who were the top class for uniform in the **S3/S4** category. On Tuesday 23 August, the whole class were treated to a 2 course lunch at the Mains of Scotstown.

The class treats were both a great success, and were enjoyed by all. We would encourage all pupils to strive for consistent high standards in wearing school uniform.

Who knows who will be the top uniform classes in 2012?!

BRIDGE OF DON PUPIL MEETS HANNAH MILEY

Erin McIsaac of class 2 Arran attended a swim clinic with Hannah Miley on 5 October 2011 at Robert Gordon's University pool. Hannah, who is a student at Robert Gordon's University, is the reigning European 400m [individual medley](#) champion in both long course and short course formats. She represented Scotland at the [2010 Commonwealth Games](#), winning a gold medal in the 400m individual medley.

Erin was one of only three young people from the 12 -15 year age group chosen from Bridge of Don Amateur Swimming Club to work with Hannah. Hannah and her coach gave the young people taking part in the clinic tips and advice on how to be better swimmers. Erin liked the question and answer session best and commented that Hannah was down to earth and just like a "normal person". She also got some good tips – particularly about how to do tumble turning really fast.

Erin hopes to be able to be picked to swim for COAST – City of Aberdeen Swim team – and compete in City and National events.



WATER - YOUR ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT FOR LEARNING

Water is essential for life. Two thirds of our bodies are made up of water, so if we do not keep topping up our bodies with fluid they become dehydrated.



Do you know the effects of dehydration on your body? Ever felt tired, had a sore head, been unable to concentrate, felt dizzy, become short tempered? All these are the short term effects of dehydration.

The simple remedy for these symptoms is to drink water.



If the statistics are to be believed 80% of us are dehydrated at any time! This could be affecting our health now and in the future. Water helps our bodies fight infection, as when we are hydrated it flushes out the toxins and can assist with prevention of urine infections and kidney stones. It helps clear the airways and is good for allergies, colds, our skin and cold sores.

Your brain is 85% water. If you are dehydrated your brain is one of the first things to show effects; you get a sore head, your brain's energy levels fall, so maths skills decrease, so does your short term memory. Then your body slows down, because our muscles are 75% water and blood 83% water. This means our blood gets thicker and our heart muscles have to work harder. You begin to feel tired or lazy.

If we all keep drinking water throughout the day we should feel less tired, be able to concentrate better, find learning easier, have more energy and our health should improve. Stay hydratedBring a bottle of water to school or buy one at school

Be water aware - BYOB – Bring your Own Bottle

www.goodtoknow.co.uk

TESCO COMPUTERS FOR SCHOOLS

Thank you to all who contributed to the Tesco voucher scheme. We collected 12,654 vouchers which was just enough to acquire a new RM computer. This was delivered in September and it is now up and running for pupils to use in the Library, both during class time and during Library Cub.



THE SCOTTISH SAMURAI PARADE

Thomas Blake Glover played an important part in the history of Japan in the 19th Century. He lived in Bridge of Don and it is important that we remember his achievements.

It was decided to do this by staging the Scottish Samurai parade. Theatre Modo, a group with a first class reputation for managing such events, began to work with our school. Over 300 of our pupils, many staff and the Parent Council became involved.



The necessary circus skills, costume design, the making of props, the theatrical performance of the groups in the parade and the music were all built into the curriculum for younger pupils. An example was the S1 Drama unit, where teachers from the English, Literature and Media Studies Faculty worked with the pupils and Theatre Modo staff. The senior Media Studies class used the event as a theme for their qualification. Older pupils (and staff!) signed up for roles as fire performers and stilt walkers and were trained after school finished for the day.

All went well. The school buzzed with activity and excitement in the build up to the parade.

On Saturday 17th September, thousands of people were treated to a truly memorable event. The parade was on a grand scale and involved ourselves, pupils from Oldmachar Academy and other Bridge of Don organisations such as the Scouts. Spectators commented that our community had never before seen anything on that scale or as spectacular. It climaxed with a performance from the groups of fire breathers and a massive fireworks display, all choreographed to an appropriate soundtrack. After they had taken their bow, my group of pupils said "wow, can we do it again next year?" One boy who had been uncertain at the start told me that it had been the best thing in his life.

J P Harland

SCOTTISH SAMURAI PARADE

1859, Japan, Nagasaki, Thomas Blake Glover arrives, a young man in his 20s from Bridge of Don. The next 60 years would see him become a national hero, a highly respected merchant and a key influence in the modernising of Japan.

Section 1: Glover the Trader

Recently opened to the West, Nagasaki was Glover's first taste of Japan and gave him a chance to set up a career as a successful trader in this busy port where the traditional and the modern mixed, Samurai and Geisha, traders and merchants. It was from here Glover helped the Satsuma 19 escape to the West. The opera, Madame Butterfly, is said to be inspired by his love life. Traditions, trade and military pressures mixed at this time with explosive consequences.



Section 2: Glover the Revolutionary

The Japan of the 1860s that Thomas Glover found himself in was ruled by the military ruler, the Shogun. With Glover's help rebellion was fermented, the Shogun was overthrown and the Emperor re-instated. Battling Samurai clans, the drums of war, civil unrest, the capture of the Shogun and social change; it was these events that initiated the Meiji era and the beginning of modern Japan.



Section 3: Glover the Industrialist

Ironclad ships, steam trains and mining. Mitsubishi, shipyards and business. The foundations of modern Japan were laid in the latter part of Glover's life. With fire, steam and cogs, Japan became a powerhouse of the modern world. Glover was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun for his role in reinstating the Emperor and in modernising Japan.



THEATRE MODO – S1 AND S2 PUPILS GET CREATIVE!

Pupils in the Art department enjoyed an opportunity to make props and costumes for the parade at the end of the Theatre Modo Project. S1 and S2 pupils created large storyboards which were displayed at the Gordon Barracks before the parade and made hats, swords, flags and lanterns which were used by both Oldmachar and Bridge of Don performers in the parade itself. The Art department had never been so busy, messy and fun and we greatly enjoyed seeing so many pupils involved in such a great project.



FLAG MAKING

For the Samurai parade some S2 classes gained the experience of designing and making a flag for the stilt walkers. The luminous coloured fabrics used and the creative designs produced by the pupils produced a colourful effect on the night.



THE SCOTTISH SAMURAI PARADE

DVDs of the parade, produced by Bridge of Don Academy pupils, are available for sale to pupils at a cost of £1.50.

KIMONO DRESS UP

S4/5/6 pupils enjoyed a taste of Japan when given an opportunity to learn about different Kimono designs and the rituals involved in wearing one. Belts are wrapped around the waist and tied very tightly which made breathing, walking and sitting a little difficult. Some S5 pupils volunteered to try it out and had a lot of fun 'shuffling' about to show off their new look. Pupils and staff learned a lot about the history of the garment and were treated to a wonderful traditional Japanese dance performance afterwards.



Miss Simpson



SUSHI COOKING

Chef Kumiko spent the morning in school demonstrating to S3 –S6 pupils the art of making Sushi. The pupils then had great fun making Sushi of their choice from the wide variety of ingredients provided by Kumiko, They all thoroughly enjoyed making them but some were not quite so keen on the flavour!



ROYAL SCOTTISH NATIONAL ORCHESTRA

The RSNO (Royal Scottish National Orchestra) were performing an educational concert in Aberdeen for all those studying Standard Grade music.

The 4th year music class went to the Music hall with pupils from all around the North East of Scotland.

One of our 4th year pupils – Joyce Shum – was invited to play Beethoven's 5th Symphony with the orchestra.

This was a fantastic experience for Joyce and she played exceptionally well.



MUSIC CONCERT

The music concert will be on the 23rd and 24th January in St Columba's Church.

The Senior Choir sang at Asda Garthdee on Sunday morning, 27th November for Marie Curie cancer.



GLOBAL CLASSROOM

My name is Kieran Kelly. I am in 6th year and soon I will be travelling the world thanks to a unique opportunity provided by the organisation Learning Schools. It is a global exchange programme that arranges for international students to take part in a research project in different schools spanning 4 continents. During this project I will develop useful study & research skills highly valued by universities and employers as well as having an amazing life experience.

I leave Aberdeen in February to go to America where I will visit New Jersey, New York and Los Angeles. After a month in America I will travel to Christchurch, New Zealand for 6 weeks, then Canberra, Australia for a month and finally I will finish off my trip in Cape Town, South Africa returning home on the 10th July!



S3 CAREERS EVENT

Our third year pupils were lucky enough to take part in a "Skills Development Scotland" Careers Event at the AECC in November. The event was designed to raise pupils' awareness of the different careers available to them, helping them to start to plan for their future. A wide variety of sectors were represented at the event, including the armed forces, the oil industry, catering and medicine. The event was very interactive. Pupils were encouraged to take part in activities and gain hands on experience. Amongst other opportunities, they were invited to make and sample hand made chocolates at the hospitality stand, take a tour of an ambulance and have their blood pressure checked by a paramedic in the medicine zone and test their mechanical and wiring skills using the equipment provided at the engineering display. Many pupils also enjoyed the opportunity to be put through their paces by the armed forces, completing an army strength and endurance test under timed conditions. The braver pupils even volunteered to take part in a blind-folded taste test, to see if they had the refined palate required to be a chef, sampling everything from red chilli to brussel sprouts! For those interested in working with animals, there was even a conservation stand where pupils were given the chance to hold and tend to live chicks. The pupils found the experience really engaging and came away with lots of free merchandise and information on career opportunities. We look forward to going back again next year!



BRITISH ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS

During the summer holidays Erin Wyness, S4, competed in the British Rowing Championships at Holme Pierrepont in Nottingham. Erin and her other three team-mates, put in a great performance to take silver in the Women's Junior Coxed fours. Erin is currently training for a number of events next year including team selection for the GB 16's squad in France. Other competitions on her calendar are The Ghent Regatta in Belgium next March and the Indoor Rowing Championships in Edinburgh. Erin is a talented rower and we wish her the best of luck in her future competitions.

GOLF

Chris Lamb, S6 has enjoyed a rather successful summer on the golf course. Since the summer newsletter he has continued with his winning performance and has won the Paul Lawrie Matchplay, Paul Lawrie Strokeplay, Paul Lawrie Order of Merit, North East Order of Merit and 7 Junior open titles. His dedication and determination on the practice range has been reflected in his performances and he has now achieved a handicap of 1.

Just recently he was part of a group of 12 young golfers who travelled to Houston, Texas as part of the Grampian Houston Golf Programme. During his time in Houston Chris received expert coaching from elite golf coaches at some of the best facilities in Texas. Chris's talents are continuing to develop and we may even see him follow in the footsteps of Richie Ramsey and turn professional at some point in the future. Well done and good luck for future competitions.



Chris Lamb with Paul Lawrie and the Matchplay trophy.

FOOTBALL

The 2011-12 football season got underway with both the U-13 and Senior Teams participating in various league and cup matches. The Seniors got off to a flying start with a 3-0 win over Dyce Academy in the President's Trophy. They then went on to beat Mintlaw Academy 8-3 which saw them top of their group table. With confidence at an all time high the Seniors faced Aberdeen Grammar in a match which could have seen Bridge of Don qualify for a semi-final place. Unfortunately the fairytale ended and Grammar came away with the 3 points after a 9-3 win over Bridge of Don. There was still a glimmer of hope and this was in the form of the last group game against St. Machar. The winner of this game would be rewarded with a semi-final place against Cults Academy. A tough, physical game was contested with Bridge of Don playing with only 11 players on the field and no subs. After going 2-0 down Bridge of Don came back to 2-1 but St Machar scored a third with 15 minutes to go. The final 10 minutes saw Bridge of Don come back to 3-2 with all players determined to score 2 goals in 10 minutes. The final result saw the game remain at 3-2 to St Machar but the performance and attitude of all players representing Bridge of Don Academy has to be thoroughly praised.



In the Senior Scottish Shield, Bridge of Don were narrowly beaten by Gordon's School, Huntly, 2-0. Again the performance and attitude of all players when playing was very good and they represented Bridge of Don in a very fair and sporting manner.

The U-13's began their campaign with a cup game against Hazlehead Academy. With no prior training and playing as a team for the first time all boys showed determination and commitment on the pitch. The game ended 6-4 to Hazlehead but all the Bridge of Don players were a credit to the school and displayed some very good talents on the pitch. Later games have seen the team concentrate on league fixtures and as it stands they have won 1 and lost 3. There are still 8 games left and as the team continues to develop we should start to see some very exciting performances on the football pitch.

ABERDEEN SECONDARY SCHOOLS U-15 SELECT

Congratulations to Matthew Steer who after attending 2 trials for the Aberdeen Schools U-15 Select Team was selected to be part of the final squad of 18. Matthew is a promising player who has already played a full 90 minutes with the U-15's in a game against local rivals Aberdeenshire. Aberdeen won the game 4-2 and they will now play against Dundee U-15 Select later in November. Well done on your achievement Matthew.

NETBALL

The S1 - S6 Netball runs on a Thursday after school 3pm - 4pm in the games hall. Anyone is welcome to join. The netball team have matches coming up in January against other Aberdeen City Schools. Please see Miss Shaw for more details.



S2 Scottish Schools Cup:

The S2 girls have been performing extremely well this year and have been entered into the Scottish Schools Cup. They will play their first set of matches this month with games against Gordonstoun, Albyn Academy, Robert Gordon and Mackie Academy. The first match was on Thursday 17th November against Albyn Academy. Good Luck girls!



PUPIL WINS 3RD PRIZE IN ART COMPETITION!



Before the Summer Mrs Milne and Miss Simpson entered two classes into an art competition run by JCI Aberdeen in connection with UNICEF which focused on highlighting Children's Rights. Pupils tackled tough subjects such as "Right to an education" and "Freedom of belief" and all those involved spent extra time during lunches to complete their artwork. Many schools across Aberdeen entered and we were thrilled to discover that Taylor Forman (now in S2) was successful in winning 3rd prize in the competition. As a result she was to have her artwork on show in the Aberdeen

Art Gallery in the city centre for a week in August. As well as this she received a book token, a photography lesson with a professional photographer and the art department were given £200. We would like to thank JCI Aberdeen for a fantastic project and it has given us a lot of areas to explore within the department for this year.

S2 MATHS MASTERCLASSES

Five S2 pupils: Dave Irvine, Jordan Young De Sa, Bradley Mair, Ross Fraser and Feranmi Thomas are to attend a group of masterclasses over forthcoming weekends hosted by Aberdeen University and designed by Setpoint Techfest. This event is geared towards the top young mathematicians in the north-east of Scotland. The masterclasses will cover a range of practical maths topics such as codes and ciphers, the mathematics behind road traffic accidents and a lesson on "How to win a million dollars". Classes have presentations over the next four months from a mixture of University lecturers and special guest speakers. We wish these pupils the best of luck in this new endeavour."



THE BALMEDIE WALK 2011

The school planned the 2011 sponsored walk on Thursday 22 September. Bridge of Don Academy does not shy away from a challenge and our traditional walk, from the school down to Donmouth, along the beach to Balmedie and back along the beach is over 20 kilometres.



This is a whole school event and takes a massive amount of organisation. A committee of staff led by Mrs Gillian Forbes did much of the ground work but all staff were involved, with many devoting hours of work to their tasks.

There was great anticipation and anxiety about the weather. Would the event have to be called off? On the morning, however, the sun shone and it was a perfect early autumn day.

Many of the pupils dressed up and two memorable themes were Super Mario and his friends and Where's Wally? As the whole school walked onto the beach, it was great fun to spot Wally's red and white striped jumper and black specs in various places in the crowd.

A group of fit pupils and staff took part in The Great Balmedie Run. Some ran one way and most ran both ways – a considerable achievement.

The atmosphere was great. Pupils had brought guitars and played and sang as they walked. A team of staff provided hot soup to go with the picnic at Balmedie and the weather stayed fine to the very end.





£8107.85 was raised for school funds, which will allow us to support a whole range of extra curricular activities and much more that adds to the quality of experience of our young people. Many thanks to all sponsors, to the pupils who collected so much and walked so far and to the staff who put so much energy into this big event.



MOROCCO TRIP

This summer 14 of our senior pupils went on an expedition nothing like the school trips that they went on in S1 and S2. Morocco was the setting, giving the pupils the chance to immerse themselves in Moroccan culture and learn skills to help prepare them for the remainder of higher education and future employment.



We began our African adventure at the village Arround following a scenic drive from Marrakesh airport; where we not only experienced breathtaking views but also an insight into the startling difference between Moroccan and UK roads! They must make their cars with better suspension than we have at home. We soon reached our home for the night; a gîte in Arround which had limited facilities, but everyone threw themselves into this new style of living (I believe some were using it as practice for T in the Park!). After spending the day acclimatising in Arround we completed our first physical challenge; an 8 hour trek in the Atlas mountain range toward our next home, the Mount Toubkhal refuge. This trek tested both the physical and emotional skills of the group, but the many opportunities to have a breather gave everyone the chance to soak in the beautiful mountain scenery.

After 48 hours of getting used to the altitude around the Toubkhal refuge, the scenery was the last thing on our minds as we attached our head torches ahead of a 5am ascent to the summit. This early start was necessary to allow us to escape the afternoon heat and forecasted storm, but it didn't go down well with many of the group! However these moans were soon forgotten as everyone worked hard to encourage and support each member of the group up to the top of the mountain. And the view was worth the effort!



The second part of the expedition had the group offering their time to community projects in Arround. With considerable effort and commitment, renovations were made to a vital informal road that crossed a river and a mountainside football pitch received much needed improvements. For each activity, students took it in turns to take on the role of leader with some discovering a previously unknown confidence in giving instructions and adapting to regular challenges. In addition to these projects, our students met with local families, visited hospitals and schools, provided first aid treatments to a newly born baby and a farmer, showed local children the Scottish way to play football and even attended a local wedding. After tidying the gîte we headed back towards our final location of our visit; the Moroccan capital Marrakesh.



Our short stay in the capital had us sweltering in +40°C heat, where bottles of water and ice cream intake intensified. Despite the heat, our visits to the local souk market had our group keep their cool when experiencing the art of Moroccan haggling. These bargaining skills and patience ensured plenty of gifts were bought for home and several marriage proposals were turned down!

Our students thoroughly enjoyed the trip, with everyone having their own favourite experiences and memories. Throughout they learned valuable transferable skills in leadership, communication and teamwork, in addition to having the chance to reflect daily within the group on personal targets and successes. The school looks forward to organising similar trips in the future.

As part of the fundraising for our Morocco Expedition the group organised a £50 Game. The winner of the £50 Game was Alison Johnston who correctly guessed the last three numbers on the serial code as being 544.

Well Done Alison!!

ASDAN ACTIVITIES

The ASDAN classes have recently undertaken two very different types of fieldwork. The first type was part of the Sport and Leisure Module and they had to visit a theme park. Both the S3 and S4 classes attended a special event at Codona's in September and, whilst having lots of fun, learnt a lot about what goes on at a theme park and about the different rides. The classes created a Powerpoint presentation each based on the day.



The S3 class also recently undertook field work on Scotstown Moor accompanied by a City Ranger, Simon Whitworth, as part of the Environment Module. During their walk around they learnt about the different flora and fauna found there and about the different uses the moor has had. The going underfoot was quite boggy in places which led to a welly incident... The class are currently writing up their findings as a report.



The S4 class, along with Theatre Modo, created amazing Kabuki masks to be displayed as part of the Bridge of Don Gala. They worked over a period of weeks with Fergus to create a selection of stunning masks that brought up the rear of the procession adorning the golf buggy.

Four S4 pupils have completed their Bronze Awards and a huge congratulation goes out to Jack Mackintosh-Gair who is the first pupil in the school to complete Silver Challenge.



INTERNATIONAL DANCE COMPETITION

Carly Main (2A) and Melissa McLaren (2I) recently took part in an International Dancing Competition in Paris. Both girls are members of Aberdeen Academy of Performing Arts and take part in the weekly Musical Theatre classes offered there. In October they were given the chance to travel to Paris for five days with their group to take part in a competition, competing against teams from England and America. The girls performed a variety of solo and group dances, including a "Wicked" melody which gave them the opportunity to show off their singing, dancing and acting skills. They also performed other routines including a "Pirates of the Caribbean" dance and a "Nightmare before Christmas" routine. Before leaving, the girls visited Disneyland, where their group took part in a street parade and attended a Mickey Mouse Halloween Party. Finally Melissa and Carly were given the opportunity to learn Bollywood dancing, courtesy of instructors who had flown in especially from India for the occasion. Both girls had a fantastic time on the trip and appreciate that it was a once in a lifetime experience. Bridge of Don Academy would like to congratulate Carly, Melissa and their teams and instructors upon their achievement. Well done girls!





S6 HALLOWEEN PARTY



The Halloween Party was offered this year to S6's as a thank you for the work they do for the school – whether with prefect duties, peer helping, MICAS buddies or helping with parents' evenings. It was held in school – in the Drama Studio and Canteen and took the form of a traditional party with food and silly games.

"I Want My Mummy" was a particular favourite with teams dressing up a selected member of the team as a Mummy using toilet roll, selotape and pens. "Sounds Spooky" also went down well, with pupils having to provide the sound effects to accompany a grizzly tale.

The best costume award went to Jemma Kinnaird who was dressed as Magenta from the Rocky Horror Picture Show. However, all the pupils made a tremendous effort with their costumes and staff were impressed with their creativity!

Best pumpkin award went to Rebecca Lawrie and Kieran Kelly - a joint effort.

The staff who attended enjoyed the evening too - we all had good fun – which was the whole point. In fact the only complaint was that we could have gone on for at least another hour.

Thanks to all who took part so enthusiastically and of course to staff who made such an effort to ensure the party was a success.



**HAPPY
HALLOWEEN**



S3 GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK



Making the most of the last few weeks of warmer weather, S3 Geography classes have been carrying out fieldwork to investigate the settlement of Bridge of Don. They researched the land use, traffic, pedestrians and environmental quality of four different areas. They were able to practise some of the fieldwork gathering techniques that they will need to know for their Standard Grade exam such as drawing fieldsketches, carrying out surveys and carrying out questionnaires. Back in class, the pupils processed their data to produce displays and presented their findings to the rest of the class so that comparisons of the different areas could be made.



RSGS WORLD MAP

The Geography Department has organised for the school to take advantage of the RSGS (Royal Scottish Geographical Society) 'World at your Feet' programme. Schools across Scotland have been offered the opportunity to have an 8m x 6m world map painted in their school grounds. The map will provide a valuable outdoor teaching resource which can be used in many different ways by many different subjects. To raise money for the paint, S1 and S2 pupils were able to take part in a 'Geography in the News Quiz' before the October holidays. They contributed 50p each to take part and the winners received Praise Awards and book tokens. Taylor Forman (S2), Lauren Murray, Lauren Barratt and Emma Guyan (S1) all won Praise Awards. Carly Stott and Louise Davidson (S2) also received £5 book tokens for winning the quiz. After a few cancelled attempts, we finally got a spell of dry weather and the map was painted at the end of October.



RESEARCHER IN RESIDENCE

This scheme links schools with postgraduate students and has been particularly beneficial for senior pupils at BODA. Unfortunately 2011 is the last year of the scheme as funding will no longer be available but our researcher, ex-pupil Nathan Skillen [now a PhD student at RGU], has agreed to continue the link on a voluntary basis which is great news! He has already had several meetings with Advanced Higher and Baccalaureate students to help them as they choose their projects. We are delighted that pupils will continue to benefit from his valuable input as well as gaining an insight into postgraduate research.



S6 SCIENCE AMBASSADOR AWARD SCHEME

Aberdeen City recently launched this new scheme linking senior pupils with local primary schools. They could be involved in leading science debates, planning experimental work or helping at a science club as they work towards a bronze, silver or gold award. The scheme allows them to use their science expertise and develop their leadership skills, at the same time encouraging primary school pupils to explore and enjoy a range of science activities.



Five of our senior pupils applied and have been accepted onto the scheme: Bruce Davidson, Shima Pasdar, Kieran Kelly, Kyle le Huray, Ayofela Dare.

SCIENCE POSTER COMPETITION.

Aberdeen University Natural History Centre ran an 'Extreme Marine' competition last term. Pupils were asked to create a poster highlighting some aspect of marine conservation and this was researched in science lessons and completed by pupils in their own time.

Several colourful & informative posters were produced on a range of topics such as the effects of global warming and pollution on the marine environment. Entries were judged in school by the Science Department staff and twelve posters selected to go forward to the University.



Congratulations to Natalia Zajdel, our school winner, and Kirsty Pratt whose entry gained a University Commendation. Both have been awarded certificates and a small prize. Well done girls!

YOUNG ENTERPRISE

Three groups of senior pupils have formed companies as part of the Young Enterprise scheme. This aims to help students develop the skills & attitudes needed to run a successful business – skills that will be useful throughout their lives, whatever their career path. Our companies are Enigma, Paradigm and Donside Preserves. Company members have been busy ordering products and preparing for the Christmas Fairs:



MY WEEK

A typical week for me would be get up every morning and go to school, but that is the easiest part. On Mondays, I have to stay at school and wait for my siblings' swimming to end because right after their lesson, it's my swimming training from 5.30 pm – 7.00 pm. So before then I have some free time. I normally pull out some homework or revision to complete in that 1 hour and a half. The time passes quickly though.

On Tuesdays, I have basketball from 5.00 pm till 7.00 pm so the minute I get home I dump my bags and get changed. I head to the table for my supper that has been well-prepared. By that time it's quite late and I finish off my day by having a shower and doing my homework.

On Wednesdays, I have my paper job to do: I have to deliver 250 papers. This takes me a while but I have to spread it over 2 days as I have swimming from 6.30 pm till 8.00 pm.

On Thursdays, I have my swimming training before school. After school I finish the rest of my papers, which normally takes a few hours but not too long, so finally I have a little free time. I finish my homework and sit snugly in front of the TV.

On Fridays I have to rush home for land training at 4.30 pm. Right afterwards, I have my swimming.

On Saturdays, I work as a volunteering coach helper at the swimming pool at 8.30 am. Then later on I may have been asked to go to something for school, swimming, or friends but it's most likely I'll have a swimming competition.

On Sundays, I normally sleep in and finish my homework. Sometimes extra activities come up that need to be done before my basketball at 2.00 pm till 4.00 pm. I have a little bit of time which I usually use to catch up with chums or do something with my sister, Aislinn, before I have to go to my swimming at 6.00 pm. That is my typical week.



Keira Emslie

TRADING STANDARDS



Natalie Milne (6I) and Jayde Laughlin (5I) took part in a series of test purchasing schemes alongside Trading Standards officers last term. Bridge of Don Academy has a long history of working alongside Trading Standards to prevent underage sales of products from computer games to cigarettes, with several senior pupils assisting over the years. The girls worked well alongside the officers and received high praise for their maturity and commitment. Both girls received gift vouchers from the officers in return for their hard work and time. The scheme will continue to run next year. As Natalie and Jayde will both be over the 16.5 year age limit by this point, new recruits will be needed. If you are between 16 and 16.5 and are interested in taking part, please see Miss Cromar. The experience could be useful for pupils interested in working in the public sector or keen to join the police force upon leaving school. It is also a valuable addition to any CV. The Trading Standards officers involved have asked us to pass on their thanks to Jayde and Natalie for giving up their time to help.

cracking down on
under-age sales



Well done girls!

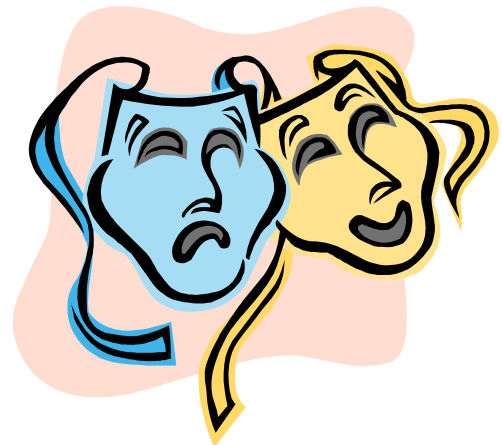
SUMMER SHOW

Bridge of Don Academy will be putting on a school show next summer – the first one for many years.

This will take place in the Arts Centre in Aberdeen and will be in the last week of the summer term.

We would like to have as many pupils from all years to get involved. Rehearsals will be in the Drama studio on Thursdays after school.

This is a fantastic opportunity for the pupils at Bridge of Don as they will be part of a professional theatre experience.



OUR BRIDGE OF DON/SHETLAND PARTNERSHIP

Our school, along with Oldmachar Academy, has joined with Shetland in a learning partnership.



The first stage of this has been to bring together the 28 Scottish Baccalaureate students from the Bridge of Don academies and Anderson High, Shetland.



The Baccalaureate is the highest level qualification available in the Scottish schools. It is available in Science and in Languages. Bridge of Don Academy was one of the first schools in the country to present students for the Science Baccalaureate and this is now our third year with pupils registered. We have been pioneers and the Science staff have invested much personal time into this new programme but, when we see the benefits for the students, it has all been worthwhile.

Of the 28 students, 27 are scientists and only 1 is a linguist. We are hoping to bring on more languages pupils in the next few years.

The partnership was launched here in Bridge of Don Academy at the whole day conference on Wednesday 28th September. The students from the three schools listened to speakers and then spent the day getting to know each other in a series of group activities led by our Science teachers and, more informally, over refreshment breaks and lunch. Many of the activities were designed to give the students the opportunity to make the partnership their own and determine our next steps.

By the next day a Wikispace had been set up and the students were beginning to communicate with each other. They can now share ideas, request help and discuss problems as they progress through this demanding qualification.



One key aspect is the global classroom and international links. Shetland has developed strong links with schools in countries all over the world and certainly does not feel as isolated as it did at one time. Shetlanders can complete their school education in Japan, European countries, the USA, Australia, South Africa and elsewhere. They can use I.C.T. to communicate with individuals and whole classes in many global locations.











We want to develop similar links and want our pupils to look outward from Aberdeen and think of the many opportunities there are in the global economy. This is only the first step but already one of our sixth year students, Kieran Kelly, has signed up to complete his education in New York, California, Australia and South Africa. He will sit his SQA exams in Canberra at exactly the same time as candidates in Scotland but with, of course, a nine hour difference. He writes about this in a separate article in this newsletter.







In the Spring Term, our students will go up to Shetland for the second conference and will get the opportunity to experience some of the culture and sights of the islands. In the Summer Term, everyone will come together with invited guests for a showcase event at Oldmachar Academy. An evaluation of the year will help the three partners decide how to build on progress made in 2011-12.






TABLE OF ACTIVITIES

A full list of extra-curricular activities can be found in the following table:

ACTIVITY	TIME	YEAR GROUP	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	CONTACT
FOOTBALL U13s	MONDAY 3.55 PM – 5.00 PM	S1	GAMES HALL 	MR JAPPY
INDOOR ROWING	THURSDAY 1.20 – 1.50 PM	S1 – S6	ACTIVITIES ROOM	MR JAPPY
DEBATING CLUB	MONDAY 4.00 PM – 5.00 PM	S1 – S6	F12	MRS ANDERSON
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 McDONALD
ART CATCH UP CLASSES	TUES, 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	TUESDAY & THURSDAY 1.00 PM – 1.30 PM		F9	MR WILLOX
PHYSICS CATCH UP	TUES & WED 1.25 PM – 1.55 PM			MR GISBEY
JUNIOR CHOIR	TUESDAY Lunchtime		MUSIC 	MRS FORBES/ MISS STEWART
NETBALL	THURSDAY 3.00 PM - 4.00 PM	S1	GAMES HALL	MISS SHAW
CHEERLEADING	WEDNESDAY Lunchtime		GAMES HALL	MISS SHAW
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	MRS FORBES

ACTIVITY	TIME	YEAR GROUP	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	CONTACT
COMPUTING CATCH UP CLASS 	WEDNESDAY 1.15 PM – 1.55 PM	S3 - S6	F7/F9	MR WELSH/ MRS BLACKWOOD
STEM SCIENCE CLUB 	WEDNESDAY 3.45 PM – 5.00 PM	P7 – S6	A RANGE OF SCIENCE ACTIVITIES	MRS MCWILLIAM (BIOLOGY)
CEILIDH BAND	WEDNESDAY 1.30 PM		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	TUESDAY 1.30 PM	S3 - S6		MRS FORBES
BADMINTON	WEDNESDAY 3.00 PM – 4.00 PM	S1 - S6	GAMES HALL	MR KERR
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL	FRIDAY 1.15 PM	ALL YEAR GROUPS	HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP	MRS ANDERSON
SCIENCE BACCALAUREATE	AS ARRANGED BY PARTICIPANTS	S6		MRS G MCWILIAM
TABLE TENNIS	WEDNESDAY 1.20 – 1.50 PM	S1 – S6	ACTIVITIES ROOM	MR JAPPY/ MR KERR

ACTIVITY	TIME	YEAR GROUP	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	CONTACT
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 MCWILIAM
DANCE & ZUMBA	WEDNESDAY 3.00 – 4.00 PM		ACTIVITIES ROOM	MISS SHAW
BUDDIES 	BUDDIES MEET REGULARLY IN T1	S5 & S6	BUDDIES PROMOTE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR AMONGST YOUNGER PUPILS IN AND AROUND THE SCHOOL IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS SUCH AS THE LIBRARY AND CANTEEN	MRS NAPIER

SOLUTIONS FOR THE PREVIOUS NEWSLETTER'S 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?
Answer: They are brother and sister.
- 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 2 9 7 5.

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.

60× 5	4	4− 1	2− 2	2− 3
9+ 2	3	5	4	1
1	2	12+ 3	5	4
4	4− 1	2÷ 2	4+ 3	3− 5
3 3	5	4	1	2

PUZZLES FOR THE AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2011

- This number has four digits.
It is a square number. The thousands digit is the same as the tens digit. If you added the tens digit to the thousands digit you would get four. The sum of the hundreds digit and the units digit is five. The difference between the units digit and the thousands digit is three.
The number is _____.

2. 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.

1	9 +		1 -	
2 ÷	6 ×			2 -
	8 +	30 ×	20 ×	
				1
10 ×			5 +	

- Why are 1990 American dollars worth more than 1987 American dollars?

Solutions will be posted on <http://bodmaths.edublogs.org> from the 30th January 2012 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.

Disruption to pupil's education due to severe weather.

Severe weather warning



In the event of severe weather causing disruption to school, information will be available on the following:

- ❖ BBC Radio Scotland Local News 93.10 FM from 6.50 a.m. (also NECR and Northsound).
- ❖ On the School's Information Line tel. 08700541999 **PIN: 011020**
- ❖ On the School's Website: www.bridgeofdon.aberdeen.sch.uk
- ❖ On the City's website: www.aberdeencity.gov.uk
- ❖ Contact the school: Tel: 01224 707583, email: enquiries@bridgeofdon.aberdeen.sch.uk



Severe Weather

Arrangements for sending pupils home early.

Pupil: _____ **Class:** _____
Pupil: _____ **Class:** _____
Pupil: _____ **Class:** _____

If there is a need to send home our son/daughter, these are the arrangements I/we have made for emergency supervision:

I/We have recently changed our contact details as follows:

Any other information you would like us to know if we have to send your son/daughter home early:

Parent/Carer Name: _____

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

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30th September 2011

Dear Mr J. Harland,

ORIGINAL 106 FM – VITAL SNOW AND WEATHER TEXT SERVICE

For the 4th year running, Original 106 will not only be bringing you news of the school closures on the radio, but again will operate our popular, and innovative Snow Text Service!

The Snow Text Service provides a text message to parents and guardians of North East school pupils with notification of full/partial school closures and affected school transport arrangements in the city and shire.

Text messages sent to users of this service will only cost the same as a standard text message, Original 106 operate this service in association with Raring 2 Go magazine on a not-for-profit basis.

After such a great response and support in previous years, we would be grateful if you could communicate the availability of this service to your staff members, PTA groups, parents of pupils and anyone else who would benefit.

All details about how to register can now be found on the Original 106 website; www.originalfm.com

Thank you for taking time to consider our request, and if you have any questions or queries, please don't hesitate to get in touch with either myself directly or our Programme Controller Neil Weightman on 01224 294860 or via our website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Adam Findlay", written over a few horizontal lines.

Adam Findlay

Proprietor of Original 106

