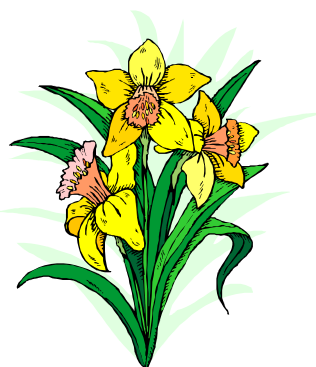


BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY



Mini festival for P6 and P7 pupils from Braehead Primary,
organised by our S6 pupils

SPRING 2012



OUR VALUES

We have spent many months discussing Bridge of Don Academy's core values and I would like to thank all pupils, parents and staff who have contributed to the debate.

We have now arrived at **The BoDA Bs** as our values and posters will be made to display these around the school.

Be honest
Be respectful
Be caring
Be your best.



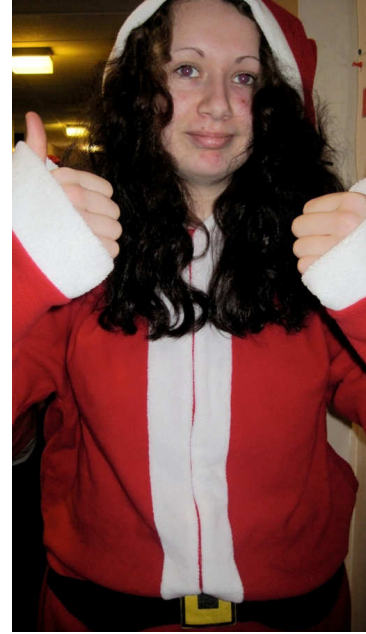
J P Harland



Pancake Challenge 2012 - 2nd Machar Brownies

DRESS AS YOU PLEASE DAY

Pupils and staff enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate Christmas and raise money for charity with a festive themed "Dress as you Please Day" on the last day of term. The money raised will be divided between the four nominated house charities.



SCHOOL CEILIDH

At the end of term last year the Bridge of Don PE Department hosted the annual school Ceilidh. In the morning the S1 and S2s put all their efforts into dancing to the sounds of the Gay Gordons, Dashing White Sergeant and a host of other Ceilidh classics. This was then followed by the S3 and S4s who again danced energetically to the sounds of Scottish country music. All pupils who participated in the Ceilidh in the morning demonstrated both stamina and enthusiasm, especially when it came to the Orcadian Strip the Willow, which lasted on its own for over 10 minutes.

The afternoon saw the turn of the Senior pupils to demonstrate their efforts in performing the entire range of dances from the Canadian Barn Dance to the Virginia Reel.

Well done to all pupils and staff who took part and made it another memorable Ceilidh. We look forward to the next one!!



CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE: PROGRESS REPORT



Our current S2 pupils are the first yeargroup to experience the new curriculum. In the Spring Term, they have been choosing subjects to study in S3. This is the first step in specialisation and it will provide opportunities to cover ground work which will aid progression into S4 courses leading to National examination. Compulsory subjects include English, Modern Languages, Mathematics, Physical Education, Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies and Personal and Social Education. We are even trying to provide an element of choice within these, for example in Modern Languages. All other subjects are options.

When our current S2 pupils choose again next year, this will be for the new National 4 and National 5 courses. National 4 is the replacement for Standard Grade General Level and National 5 the replacement for Standard Grade Credit Level. National 4 is assessed in school, but moderated by the Scottish Qualifications Authority. National 5 has an externally marked exam. S4 pupils will study six courses over the year. All secondary schools in the City will offer six courses in the S4 and this reflects the national situation where almost all local authorities have decided to offer either 5 or 6 courses in S4.

Another development is that Aberdeen City is looking at the configuration of school days and the school week in each secondary school. We have recently changed to a 27 period week with six periods on Mondays and Tuesdays and five periods for the remaining shorter days. This has been successful and is liked by pupils and staff. School days are calmer with fewer period changes and the shorter days allow for an impressive range of sporting, musical and other activities in the later part of the afternoon. Staff also use this time for working groups and professional development. We will argue the case for retaining this model and report back on the outcome.

Another article in this magazine outlines the need for changes to our House System, one of the reasons being the need to provide enhanced personal support to pupils as they progress through each stage of their school education. Time is needed for teaching staff to meet with pupils to provide this support and this must be considered when decisions are made about the configuration of school weeks.

The Department of Education, Culture and Sport have also been developing the idea of Aberdeen as a City Campus. Senior pupils in particular can opt for courses that may be difficult to provide in all schools at central locations. In future, the range of options will be broadened, with pupils able to access courses in different schools, at Aberdeen College, at the universities and from other providers. We already have some pupils accessing courses elsewhere and Oldmachar pupils come here for subjects such as Philosophy, Computing and Psychology. Any change to the configuration of school days/weeks must support the City Campus initiative.

MOBILE PHONES

Almost all of our pupils carry mobile phones. We recognise how important these have become, particularly as a means of communication and have changed the school rules to allow their use at morning interval and at lunchtime.

We insist however, that mobile phones are then switched off and stay in pockets or bags in classes and in movement between classes. Our purpose is to provide the very best learning and teaching for all our pupils and nothing should be allowed to spoil this in any way. Phones going off in class or receiving text messages and pupils sending or checking texts in class is simply not acceptable as each incident would disrupt the lesson. Beyond school, in a work situation, colleagues are asked to switch off phones before meetings, at conferences etc. and it is not acceptable for them to cause a disturbance. As well as create the optimum conditions for good learning and teaching, we are trying to help our young people develop the habits and skills that will help them to be successful in a work context.

The movement between classes can also be compromised by mobile phone use. Our corridors are narrow and a pupil slowing or stopping to check/send texts would compromise safety. We also want the pupil to arrive promptly at his/her next class and not disrupt the beginning of the lesson by arriving late.

If a pupil is caught with a mobile phone in classes, teaching areas or corridors, they will have it removed and placed in the school office until the end of the school day if a first offender. If caught a second time, the phone will be kept in the Office until the end of week. If the mobile phone is needed to ensure a parent/carer can safely collect a son/daughter or for another reason related to safety, we ask that the parent/carer contacts the school and explains this to one of the Depute Head Teachers. The Office will then be informed and the phone will be released at the end of that school day.

Parents/carer can also come into school in person to discuss the need for their son/daughter to have their phone returned. In these circumstances we ask that parents/carer support the school and reinforce the message that phones should be switched off and left out of sight in classes and corridors. There will be no confiscation of phones if pupils abide by this simple and sensible rule. Essentially, it is about a young person not being selfish and showing respect for others.

Please note that in examinations there is a very strict policy regarding phones and other mobile devices. If a pupil carries a phone into an examination room, even if it is switched off and this comes to the attention of the invigilator, a report is made and the pupil will lose that examination. It could be that, for example if the pupil breached the regulations again, the pupil would lose all his/her examination results. This information is given to pupils in assemblies and in writing before exams. Posters reinforce the message. The Office staff will look after phones while pupils are in examinations.

This is a major issue. We understand that pupils will come home upset if their phone has been placed in the office but, as this article has shown, we are doing this for the very best of reasons and ask for the support of parents and carers.



OUR HOUSE SYSTEM



At present, all pupils belong to one of four houses, each with a Head of House. Personal support/guidance is provided within the House structure as well as many competitive Inter-House activities.

Two important considerations have arisen that have led us to restructure our House system.

- 1 In the new curriculum, the Curriculum for Excellence, all pupils are entitled to personal support beyond that which can be provided by the traditional Guidance system. Each Head of House will need a team of teachers to work with them to deliver this. We will be deciding on the best way forward in this area in the coming months.
- 2 Miss Ritchie, head of Tiree House, is now an Acting Depute Head Teacher here.

At the change of timetable in June, the school will have three new, larger Houses. Pupils and staff will be allocated to one of these. It would not be fair if the pupils associated with a particular House lost their identity and were simply distributed among the other three. The traditional guidance teacher support will be provided by the Head of House to all pupils in their House. We will use the summer term and next session to discuss the best model for providing additional personal support in the future. Note that, where possible, we will try to keep continuity in guidance support and all changes will be done as sensitively as possible. The changes will be discussed thoroughly with pupils in PSE classes.

The first step, however, is to decide on names for the three new, larger Houses. For reasons given above, we feel we should not disestablish one of the Houses and keep the old names of the others. Pupils will be asked for suggestions for House names in PSE classes. These will be collected and passed to the Heads of House and Senior Management Team. If you have any good ideas, these will be most welcome. Please send them to the school office. The email address is enquiries@bridgeofdon.aberdeen.sch.uk. We will then look at all suggestions from pupils, parents and staff and decide on the House names to be used from session 2012 -13.

Please return your suggestions by Monday 23 April 2012.

THE GLOBAL CLASSROOM

Our school, along with Oldmachar Academy, is now part of the Global Classroom partnership. This began in Shetland and has the ethos that pupils should learn locally but think globally. There are links with over 30 schools and the Global Classroom is one of the biggest and longest - established school partnerships in the world. Partner schools include:



Anderson High School, Lerwick, Shetland Islands



Bobergsgymnasiet, Ange, Sweden



Graf Friedrich Schule, Diepholz, Germany



Gymnazium Zlin, Zlin Czech Republic



South Peninsula High School, Cape Town, South Africa



Ridgewood High School, New Jersey, USA



Lake Ginnenderra College, Canberra, Australia



Shirley Boys' High School, Christchurch, New Zealand



Nara Women's University, Nara, Japan

THE LEARNING SCHOOL

This programme brings together a team of pupils from across the globe to research and identify key aspects of learning across the partnership of schools. The team contributes to and benefits from bringing together a repertoire of knowledge, experience and insight from school communities from four continents. Participants are hosted by the families of pupils of each of the partner schools, affording a truly international experience for all involved. The Learning School helps rethink the nature and purpose of education in a world where change may have more value than permanence. The research topic for this session is personalised learning.



The international students, Keiran on left

The team was with us from February 11th to February 24th. Members included senior pupils from Shetland, Sweden and Australia and one of our own pupils, Kieran Kelly, joined them. Their programme of study included research in Bridge of Don Academy (their base), the Sunnybank School for English as an additional language, Braehead School, Scotstown School and Balmedie School. At the end of their stay, Kieran left with the team to continue the research in the USA, New Zealand, Australia and South Africa. The final research material will be presented to the Scottish Government. We are proud to be a part of The Learning School and will encourage senior pupils to participate in the years to come.

EXTENDED EXCHANGE

This programme enables pupils to attend any of the Global Classroom partner schools as a foreign exchange student. It gives a deeper insight into the culture of the chosen country and its education system. It offers pupils an unparalleled international experience; after studying abroad they should return with increased self confidence, maturity and a better understanding of the world. It is challenging on a personal level but potentially a rewarding and life changing experience.

On 27 March a group leaves Aberdeen to travel to Ridgewood High, New York. They return in the Easter holiday. The group includes three of our senior pupils and Mrs McWilliam, Principal Teacher of Sciences, is one of the group leaders.



Ridgewood High

A return party from Ridgewood High will be with us on Thursday 19th April for a conference before travelling on to Shetland.



Kirsty Deary, Ayofela Dare and Hannah Dawson

GLOBAL CLASSROOM CONFERENCE

The research completed by the Learning School Group will be presented at the annual Global Classroom Conference. This year the conference is being held in Cape Town, South Africa. It lasts ten days and involves meeting and working with pupils from around the globe. Kieran will represent Bridge of Don Academy at this conference and Mrs McWilliam is planning to attend.

SCOTTISH BACCALAUREATE PARTNERSHIP

As reported in the autumn edition of this newsletter our Science Baccalaureate pupils are working in partnership with Baccalaureate students from Oldmachar Academy and Anderson High School, Shetland.

The latest meeting was up in Shetland in January and it was another successful event in the programme. Our senior pupils were able to work with their peers in an action packed day of activities and meetings were arranged with officials to discuss wind farm technology and fish farming, two areas of research.

SHETLAND CONFERENCE

Our Science Baccalaureate pupils braved gale force winds and choppy seas to travel overnight with a group of Oldmachar Academy pupils to Anderson High School in Lerwick. There they took part in the second partnership conference between the three schools involving workshops and discussion groups. They also each gave a presentation on their individual Baccalaureate projects – a very worthwhile experience as they prepare for final assessment later this month – and had a short time to explore Lerwick before joining the ferry for the overnight sailing back to Aberdeen.

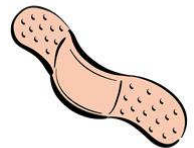


The Baccalaureate students

All in the programme are now looking forward to the 'showcase event' to be held in Oldmachar Academy in the summer term.

THE FIRST AID TEAM

It's a varied and challenging life being a First Aider at Bridge of Don Academy as one never knows what the ring of the First Aid phone will bring.



In the first 6 weeks of term we treated 212 first aid cases. Of these, 44 pupils were sent home. Some of these pupils were sent home shortly after arriving. Please, parents, if your son/daughter is unwell, do not send him/her to school.



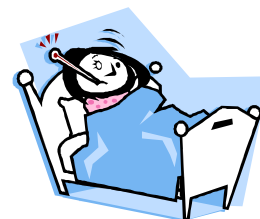
Parents, please encourage your children to eat breakfast. We see pupils who feel faint simply because they have not eaten anything.



We see many pupils with sore heads. Most are dehydrated and we can only medicate with a drink of water and send them back to class, as legislation does not allow First Aiders to medicate children, unless prearranged. Incidentally, of the 212 first aid cases, 50 were treated with a drink of water and back to class.

So remember - Water is important.

BYOB – Bring Your Own Bottle of Water!!





Arran House Charity Events



Kiera-Leanne Dressel and Alex Pearson, the House Captains for Arran House organised charity events which took place in December 2011. The House Charities selected this year were the Cyrenians and the Royal Aberdeen Childrens' Hospital.



We were delighted to fill **50 shoeboxes** for the Cyrenians' Christmas Campaign (Aberdeen homeless charity). We had outstanding individual contributions as well as groups of pupils who worked together in their register classes. The Cyrenians were really pleased as they collected a total of 100 shoeboxes last year, so our contribution made a significant input to their campaign. Thank you to everyone who supported this worthwhile campaign. We were pleased to support the Cyrenians as we have built up a relationship with their school liaison worker who visits S4 classes during PSE to raise awareness of the homeless charity.



Kiera-Leanne and Alex sorting through the shoeboxes, ready for collection.

During the last week of term we also raffled 2 teddies in aid of The Archie Foundation (The Royal Aberdeen Childrens' Hospital). There was also a festive theme in the school canteen during the last week of term and pupils could request songs of their choice. All 4 House Charities also ran a Dress as You Please Day on the last day of term (23rd December). A total of **£105** was raised for the Archie Foundation – thank you to everyone who supported us.



Congratulations to the 2 winners of the Teddies,
Jordan Laughlin 1 Iona and Greg Davie 2 Iona.



Buddies



To coincide with the National Anti-Bullying Week in November 2011, the Buddies ran a competition for S1 pupils who were encouraged to come up with an anti-bullying poem/poster. Congratulations to Rebecca Wilson 1A for her poster and to Holly Shum 1A for her poem. The girls were awarded £10 Gift Vouchers for New Look for winning the competition.



The Buddies presenting the winners with their Gift tokens



Rebecca and Holly with their winning entries/prizes

Thanks to everyone who contributed to make the competition a success.



S4 PEER LED REVISION IN MATHS, BY BRIAN WILLOX

The top set Maths class have been delivering revision lessons to each other over the last couple of weeks.

I asked the pupils to write down the one topic that they felt the least confident about. I collected in the paper and put them into groups (e.g. all the “Surds and Indices” pupils together). I then told them that they had to prepare and deliver a lesson on their bogey-topic to the rest of the class.



A lesson delivered by S4 pupils

The pupils were given 5 periods on the computers to research and prepare for their lesson. I was very impressed with their dedication and the maturity with which they approached the task. They all took the task very seriously and even helped other groups when they could.

The topics and groups were:

Sketching the Graph of Quadratic functions – Campbell Tough, Rheanne McIntosh, Ciaran Collie

Trigonometric Equations – Katy Edgely, Joyce Shum, Sallie Rzpeka, Ellen Evans

The Geometry of the Circle – Cameron Taylor, Josh Cheyne, Michael Coupar

The Equation of a Linear Function – Amy Gregor, Reece Hutcheon, Beth Gibson, Simon Esson

Surds and Indices – Kimberley Lamb, Daniel Bain, Peter Fairhurst, Lucy McMillan

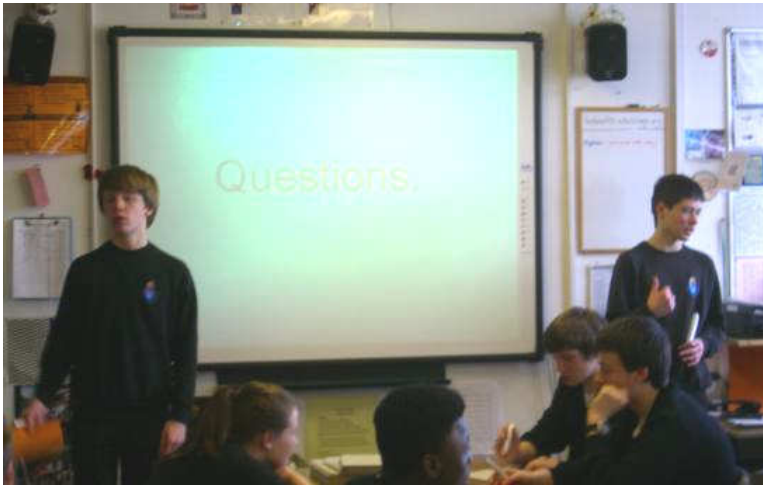
Functions and Formulae – Grant Christie, Liane Wood, Adib Al-Mamun, Scott Esson

Trigonometric Graphs – Fergus Jessiman, Ben Ewen, Jasmine Regmi, Matthew Gibson

Hyperbolic Functions – Tim Ovall, Scott Guy, Ola Akisanya



S4 pupils helping each other



Another confident delivery

I was very impressed with their preparation and presentation skills. They employed a wide range of activities in their lessons (such as group work, 'create-a-question', simultaneous response with the mini-boards) and we even had a Harry Potter themed lesson.

Other than a bit of initial nerves at the prospect of having to teach Maths to their peers, all the groups did very well and coped with the questions and queries that arose. Well done class 4B1!

MSPS' VISIT TO BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY!

The Standard Grade Modern Studies classes have recently been studying the "Living in a Democracy" syllabus area, focusing on representation. Three of the classes were fortunate enough to receive a visit from local Members of the Scottish Parliament. Brian Adam MSP for Aberdeen Donside visited 4D, Mark McDonald MSP for North East Scotland visited 4E and Alison McInnes MSP for North East Scotland came to speak to 3D.

The pupils asked them a range of questions regarding possible Scottish independence, what it is like to be an MSP and what happens behind the doors of the Scottish Parliament. All three MSPs were very impressed with their knowledge and even said that our pupils were sharper and more insightful than many other politicians and journalists they have met!

The visits have helped to increase pupils knowledge and understanding of the role of an MSP and the Scottish Parliament and one thing is for sure, the debate on Independence has now started and in the coming months in Modern Studies we plan to debate this subject more to find out what could happen if Scotland's historic ties to the United Kingdom come to an end.



Alison McInnes MSP with class 3D

PUPIL COUNCIL GET INTO ACTION!

During elections of Pupil Council representatives, it was clear to many candidates that there were areas of the school that needed improvement. Pupils had pointed out that the doors to the toilets outside the art department needed decorating to cover up graffiti. Soon after the first meeting the representatives put out a call for volunteers to help with some painting. Miss Simpson agreed to allow pupils to borrow brushes, and use some paint left over from the mural work and the painting has just begun! The first phase is now complete and the doors have been painted sunshine yellow and baby blue and in the coming weeks there will be more added to the design with bright shapes and patterns. There has been great feedback from pupils and staff and the group have had a great time.



Pupils painting the Art Department toilet



BODA ART DEPARTMENT MAKES AN ART EXCHANGE WITH A SCHOOL IN USA

Pupils in the art department from S1 – S6 enjoyed taking part in a fun art exchange in February. Miss Simpson knew of a school teacher called Miss Holt in Indiana, USA who wanted to work on a portraiture project with another school in the UK. Pupils in Miss Holt's class drew a self portrait and sent it to BODA along with a photograph of themselves. Miss Simpson then asked her classes to draw a portrait



of the pupil in the photograph to then post back to the exchange school. The twist...the class they were exchanging with were 4 year olds!!!! Great discussion was had in the department about child development and how it can be traced through art from an early age and our own insecurities about ability when it comes to drawing. Pupils were very motivated in creating a portrait of someone much younger than themselves and some even asked to complete more than one drawing. The portraits will now be sent back to Indiana where the school will be displaying the work as part of their annual art exhibition and we eagerly await feedback from Miss Holt on what her pupils and their parents think of our artwork.



Two of the American four year olds

MATHS EVENT DAY, BY BRIAN WILLOX

On the 16th February at the Alex Collie Centre we held our fourth annual Maths event Day for all of the primary 7 pupils in the Associated School Group (ASG). We had just under a hundred primary pupils from Braehead, Balmedie and Scotstown Primary Schools with 15 Bridge of Don Academy students there to help out.

The day was split into four parts. To begin with we put the P7s into groups, with a mix from each school, to play Mathsopoly (a game developed in BoDA to improve Numeracy skills). The pupils were very quiet at first but soon started chatting to each other and to the academy students. This was a nice “ice-breaker” and the P7s seemed to enjoy trying to win as much cash as possible.



The second event of the day saw the P7s being introduced to mathematical perfection: **The Golden Ratio**. Each pupil was given a photo of a famous person and had to calculate how well *proportioned* their face was (for example: “head height” divided by “head width”). I think some just enjoyed scribbling on their celebrity but it certainly got them thinking about, and practicing, calculating ratios.

It was a lovely day outside so during lunch the P7s went outside to the skate park. They were mixing well by this point and everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves, running about non-stop.



After lunch we decided to measure just how perfect we are. Using a variety of equipment (height measurers, callipers and tape measures) we took various measurements of our physicality. We then calculated our ratios for the corresponding measurements, calculated an average and compared ourselves to the **Golden Ratio**. We had a few pupils who were very close to the desired result.



We then told them about how the **Golden Ratio** has been used in architecture and art and how it can be observed in nature – a truly natural and mathematical wonder.

To finish off the day the pupils estimated answers to questions from a game called “Size Matters”. Everyone seemed to enjoy the day. It was good to meet all the P7s and for them to meet each other (their future S1 friends).

Thanks to Mrs Benzie and Mr Cooper and all the BoDA student helpers.



MATHS MASTERCLASSES, BY BRIAN WILLOX

The Royal Institution Mathematics Masterclasses are organised by TechFest-Setpoint at Aberdeen University and sponsored by Chevron. The series of events are open to S2 pupils across the north-east of Scotland. We had three pupils who went along to the workshops on Saturday mornings.



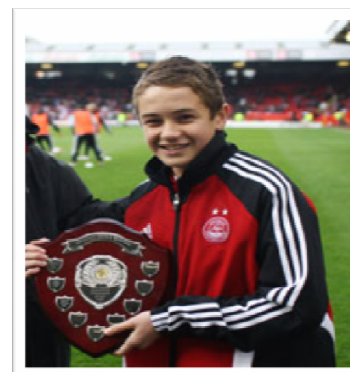
The eight workshops are run by lecturers from Aberdeen University and Robert Gordon's University and included "Road Accidents and Mathematics", "How To Win A Million Dollars", "Fish, Flies and a Fig Tree", "Combinatorics" and "Codes and Cyphers". The final lecture, "Numbers, Numbers, Numbers" was presented by Professor Adam McBride from Strathclyde University and was also attended by parents and teachers.

Our three stars, Dave Irvine, Bradley Mair and Feranmi Thomas were presented with their certificates by Professor McBride.

RISING FOOTBALL STAR

Congratulations go to Scott Wright in S3 who was awarded the John Delday Outstanding Achievement Award through Aberdeen Football Clubs Youth Academy. Scott was presented with this award for his footballing creativity, touch and technique over the season whilst playing for the Aberdeen Under-14's team.

He is a talented young player who is progressing well and hopefully he will continue to shine as part of the A.F.C. Youth Academy.



NETBALL NEWS

The netball has had a very successful year so far.

We now have an S1 and S2 netball team, with about 20 girls turning up to training every Thursday. There are a few S4 players but, we need more for a senior team so if any S4-S6 pupils would like to join please see Miss Shaw.



S1 Team

The S1 team took part in the S1 Aberdeen Schools Tournament for the Denise Thompson Cup on Tuesday 21st February. Sadly our girls were defeated by Cults and St Margarets but, drew with Robert Gordon and Albyn. The girls definitely had the better attack over Albyn but sadly could not score the winning goal. Cults won the tournament, with Mackie coming 2nd place.

Bridge of Don was praised for their efforts during the tournament and other schools commented that 'it was great to see Bridge of Don back playing netball'.

Well done to all the girls for taking part. Keep up the good work!

S2 Team

The S2 girls have been playing in the Secondary Schools Scottish Schools Cup. They have been doing extremely well and will be playing in the Bronze semi final against Carnoustie High School on Thursday 8th March at Carnoustie.

Well done to all the girls for getting this far! The girls also have a tournament on Tuesday 6th March for the S2 Aberdeen Schools Cup. Good luck girls!

If anyone would like to join the netball club come along on a Thursday 3-4pm in the games hall.

Miss Shaw

SCOTTISH SCHOOLS SWIMMING TIMETRIALS

During November Bridge of Don Academy had 5 swimmers competing for a place in this year's Scottish Schools Swimming championships. The pupils were:

Findlay Deans 1T
Lauren McIssac 3A1
Caroline McIntosh 1S
Ellie Smith 3A1
Campbell Tough 4A2



All swimmers swam very well in their respective heats, especially as some of them were competing within an older age group. From these heats Findlay Deans was successful in attaining a qualification time in the boys 15-16 200m backstroke for the Scottish Schools Championships. Findlay represented

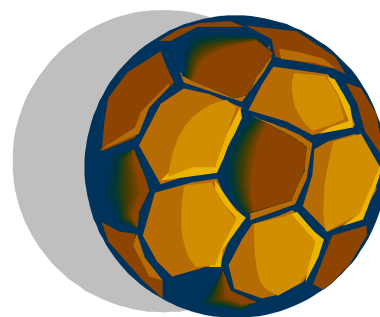
Bridge of Don in January at the competition which was held at the Dollan Baths in East Kilbride. Findlay did very well considering he was competing against swimmers almost 3-4 years older than himself and finished 10th overall. All pupils who swam in these competitions were a credit to themselves and to Bridge of Don Academy. We look forward to seeing the progress these talented swimmers make over the next year and hopefully we will see them compete in further Scottish Schools competitions.

S1 HOUSE FOOTBALL

For the last month, Bridge of Don Academy's budding SPL stars have been in action in the House Football Competition. While the games have been fiercely competitive, the skill and more importantly the sportsmanship on display has been first class. Each team has been a credit to themselves and the school.

The results have been as follows:

| | | | | |
|---------|---|---|---|---------|
| 1 SKYE | 5 | v | 4 | 1ARRAN |
| 1 IONA | 3 | v | 4 | 1 TIREE |
| 1 IONA | 0 | v | 3 | 1 ARRAN |
| 1 SKYE | 1 | v | 2 | 1 TIREE |
| 1 TIREE | 0 | v | 4 | 1 ARRAN |
| 1 SKYE | 4 | v | 6 | 1 IONA |



That means we have a final between 1 Arran and 1 Tiree. A report on the final will appear in the next newsletter.

Well done to everyone for taking part and here's hoping there will be more House events to report on in the coming weeks.

Mr McKee

ABERDEEN SCHOOLS GIANT HEPTATHLON

In February 14 pupils from S2 were selected to represent Bridge of Don Academy in the annual giant heptathlon athletics competition which took place indoors at the Aberdeen Sports Village. The competition is a team event where 7 boys and 7 girls compete as teams against others schools in the city. Prizes are awarded for the best competitor in each event, and for the best team as a whole. This year the overall team competition was particularly tough, with the boys team finishing in 10th position and the girls a very respectable 5th position out of 12 teams in total.

A special well done goes to Lois Owusu-Afriyie who achieved two prizes for best competitor on the day, one for her performance in the Shot Putt and the other for Long Jump.



All of the pupils should be proud of they way they conducted themselves and performed throughout the day. Well done!

MUSIC CONCERT

This year's music concert was very successful. It took place in St Columba's Church for two nights.

There was a wide range of performances on both nights including solos from Lizzy Simpson, Shannon Petrie, Amin Torabi on his Santur and Nicole Allan on her Euphonium.

The Junior and Senior choir sang a selection of songs with a joint number at the end. The school orchestra also performed a variety of pieces. One of the highlights was the Advanced Higher class performing Songbird and River Deep Mountain High.



"River Deep and Mountain High" sung by Rebecca Morrice
Mark Leith accompanies on guitar

The money raised from the concert has gone towards new instruments and equipment for the music department. A donation was also given to the Church. Well done and thank you to all those involved.

Mrs Forbes

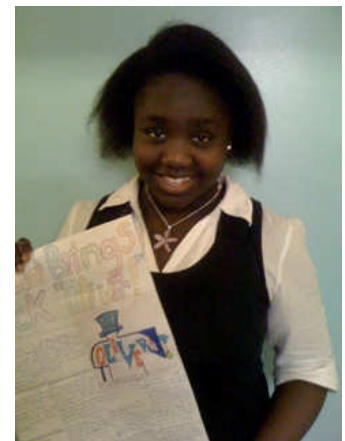


The Senior Choir performing at the concert

"OLIVER!" COMPETITION

As part of their study of media in S2 English, Miss Cromar's class were set the challenge of writing a newspaper article promoting Bridge of Don Academy's forthcoming production of "Oliver!" The pupils were charged with selecting and ordering the relevant information for inclusion in the article. They were also judged on their use of the language techniques they had been learning, including their use of alliteration, humour, word choice, headlines, bi-lines and sub-headings.

The standard was very high and the judges were impressed by the quality of the articles produced by the class. After deliberation, Lois Owusu-Afriyie was selected as the winner due to her successful structure and word choice. Lois's article is printed in full below. Well done Lois and to all of the pupils in 2E2 for their hard work.



Lois with her article

BODA BRINGS BACK "OLIVER!"

Consider Yourself One of the Family

Bridge of Don Academy's school show promises to be their best yet! The popular academy has not produced a show in a few years but that definitely won't be stopping them! They are coming back with a deafening bang to wow us once again. The aspiring actors and actresses will be taking on the well known musical "Oliver!" at the Arts Centre this June. The song and dance extravaganza is set to rival the standards of any prestigious theatre production.

Oompapa, Oompapa, That's How it Goes

"Oliver Twist" was originally a novel written by Charles Dickens in 1838. The novel was then adapted into a famous musical and was first performed by the amazingly talented performers in London's renowned West End. It was later adapted into a much loved musical film in 1968.

The musical is about an orphan called Oliver Twist who rises from poverty to fortune. The thrilling tale follows Oliver as he meets the Artful Dodger when he runs away to London and his many adventures along the way (which include meeting the pickpockets and rising from a dire, miserable existence).

Consider Yourself, Well In

There was a lot of competition for the lead roles in this fantastic musical but those who triumphed in the end were truly impressive. The lead roles of Nancy and Oliver went to the talented performers Jemma Kinnaird and Joel Simpson. The other main parts of Fagin and the Artful Dodger went to Josef Boon and Shelley Cunningham.

Throughout the whole audition process, the pupils tried their hardest and strived to be positive. All of their hard work paid off when they were informed of the cast line up. All of the pupils who made the cut were overjoyed and after the gruelling process of the auditions, both staff and pupils were delighted because, with the auditions over, the rehearsals could finally begin!

I'm Reviewing the Situation

This show stopping musical will be directed by the very experienced Mr Haggarty. The show's Musical Director is Mrs Forbes, the talented musician and teacher. Miss Ritchie will be choreographing all the fantastic numbers in the show.

Mr Haggarty also runs a drama group for teenagers called "Acorn". Mrs Forbes is an experienced Musical Director, who has been involved in several spectacular productions in the past including many shows for "Attic Theatre Company". Miss Ritchie is a former PE teacher who specialises in gymnastics and dance. She has also performed in several shows in the past, including a lead role in a production of "Me and my Girl" last year, where she starred as Sally.

So, overall this anticipated musical is going to be very professional with the combined experience of all three talented teachers.

Who Will Buy?

Tickets will be available soon from Bridge of Don Academy. These sought after tickets will be available for only £10 for adults. Concession and children's tickets will be selling for the bargain price of only £7!

It is great value for money because many of the pupils involved are members of dancing and acting groups out with school. However, for others this will be their first big performance.

The greatly anticipated musical will be held on the 27th, 28th and 29th of June at the Aberdeen Arts Centre.



Please Sir, Can We Have Some More?

Additional pupils and staff will be needed to help with make-up, costumes and backstage as the show approaches. Organisers would also greatly appreciate help from staff and pupils in the next few months to drive ticket sales and promote the show.

The rehearsals have been going fantastically! Mr Haggarty said: “rehearsals are going well and I’m looking forward to seeing it all come together. Mrs Forbes added: “I’m looking forward to our first night in the Arts Centre as this is when the adrenaline really starts!”

Finally, after all that, is this show going to be one to remember? Will it live up to expectations? Well, only you can judge, so please do come along, even if you gotta pick a pocket or two!

By Lois Owusu – Afriyie (2lona/2E2)

PANCAKE CHALLENGE 2012



On 21st February (Shrove Tuesday) Home Economics pupils were involved in a Pancake challenge to make pancakes along with the chefs from ‘The Mains of Scotstown.’ Some of these were distributed to community groups, including 2nd Machar Brownies and the Cyrenians.

The total amount of pancakes made on the day was 1160.



Pupils making the pancakes

S2 'MAINS OF SCOTSTOWN' MASTERCHEF COMPETITION

For the second year the Maths and Home Economics departments have been working together on a Masterchef competition. 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 they have gained skills in menu planning and working with others.



2X2



2Y1

Each register class prepared one of their group's meals 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 classes in the final were 2X2 and 2Y1 judged by Martin Young and Chef Barry from ***Mains of Scotstown*** to award the ***Masterchef trophy for 2012***.

2X2's menu was:

Caprese Salad with grilled peppers,
Philly stuffed chicken with parma ham,
served with egg fried rice,
Chocolate and Vanilla Marbled cake
with sliced strawberries



2X2's attractive dishes

2Y1's menu was:

Chicken Liver Pate with crustini and cucumber,
Prawns in Provencale sauce with rice,
Apple and Blackberry Pudding



2Y1's tasty dishes



Martin Young, Managing Director of the
Mains of Scotstown, handing over the cup to
Lois

Two pupils from each class were picked due
to their skills and organisation during the final
to cook the winning menu at the Mains of
Scotstown. These pupils are: Hannah
Andison, Chloe Walker, Anna Main and
Connor Tough,



Our skillful young chefs

MOBILE APPS PROJECT

The S3 Computing classes have been taking part in a project building mobile phone applications that is sponsored by the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the British Computer Society. Here they are proudly showing off their virtual pets!



BIOLOGY CHRISTMAS LECTURE

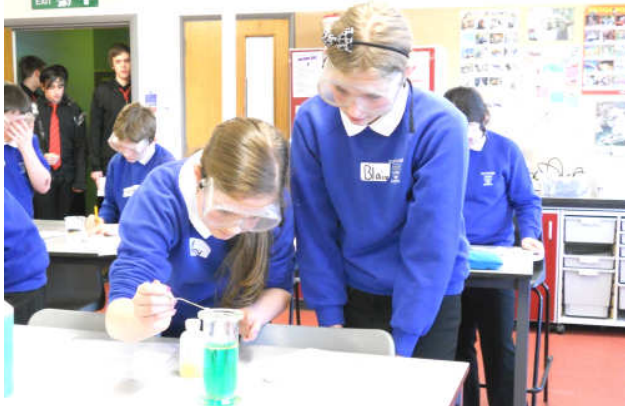
Higher and Advanced Higher Biology pupils attended the annual Christmas lecture at Foresterhill Medical School in December. They heard a fascinating lecture on 'Creation: how life began in the solar system, and how we are going to do it again' which explored the origins of life and the possibility of scientists creating artificial life in the future.



YOUNG ENTERPRISE

Our three companies, Donside Preserves, Enigma and Paradigm, have had a very busy and successful year developing & promoting their products locally. As well as the two Christmas Fairs at Westhill and Belmont St, Aberdeen they have been active at other Christmas Fairs and Parents' Nights and held a lunchtime event in the dining hall. Having recently been presented for the University of Strathclyde Young Enterprise exam they are now busy writing their business reports and completing end of year accounts.





P7 VISIT

P7 pupils from Scotstown, Balmedie & Braehead primary schools visited us in February and spent time in the Science Department. This allowed them to try different science experiments demonstrated by staff and some of the senior pupils also worked with them as part of the Science Ambassadors scheme.



SPORTS LEADERS LEAD MINI COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Five S6 pupils organised and ran a very eventful and entertaining mini Commonwealth Games festival for 40 Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils from Braehead Primary School. The theme was to organise and run a sporting event in the spirit of the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games. The P6s and P7s were organised into 4 teams with each team representing a Commonwealth country – Scotland, Australia, South Africa and Jamaica.

After a warm up which was led by each senior pupil, the enthusiastic young athletes then proceeded to compete and demonstrate their skills in the activities of Basketball, Hockey, Rowing and Athletics. After some very competitive and fiercely contested challenges the Scottish team emerged victorious with a narrow victory over Australia. Jamaica finished just behind in third place with South Africa putting in a good performance to finish in fourth.

Credit has to go to all the S6 pupils who were excellent role models for their teams as well as fantastic ambassadors for the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games. Well done!!



Lewis Dyce, Kiera Haggart, Kendall Deans, Philip Dyce, Alannah Barclay.



MADAGASCAR BURNS SUPPER

On Monday 30th of January 2012, the Madagascar Expedition Team organised a Burns Supper in order to raise monies for their upcoming expedition in June 2013.

The event was organised and run by the 15 pupils, who will travel to Madagascar in June 2013 to embark on a 16 day expedition. The Expedition will see our pupils; participate in relief work in an orphanage in Antananarivo - Madagascar's capital city, volunteer on a project within one of the National Parks and a complete a challenging trek through the stunning rainforests.



The Burns Supper was attended by almost 100 people and without a doubt was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. The event raised a fantastic £786.

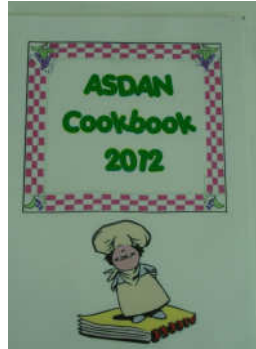
Thank you to everyone who supported the pupils with this event and please keep your eyes peeled for information regarding our next fundraising event.

Miss Ritchie

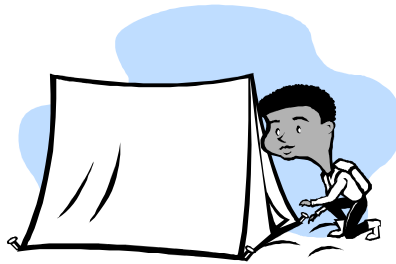


ASDAN

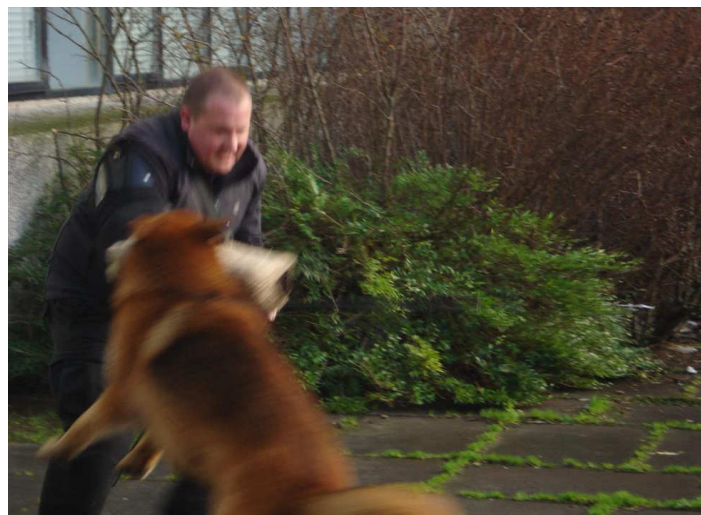
The S4 ASDAN class has been very busy recently producing a Cookbook of staff and pupils' favourite recipes. In total over 40 recipes were donated (thank you everyone) and it is safe to say that BoDA has a very sweet tooth! This Cookbook is available to buy at the bargain price of £2.00. Orders to Mrs A Smith in F20 please.



The S3 ASDAN class are currently preparing for an overnight camp as part of the Health and Survival module. So its tents, sleeping bags and thermals at the ready...



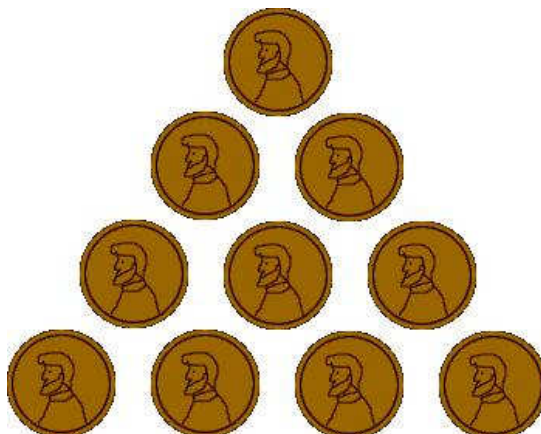
Both ASDAN classes were lucky to have the opportunity to meet with Scott Allan a police dog handler at the end of last year. On a very windy, cold day we watched as 3 dogs were put through their paces and then there was a detailed question and answer session.



Police Dog attacking a handler on command

PUZZLES

- Can you move just THREE pennies and flip this triangle upside down?



- 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 6x6 puzzle, fill in with numbers 1-6.

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.

| | | | | | |
|-----|-----|------|------|-------|---|
| 8 + | 5 - | | 48 × | | |
| | 3 ÷ | | | 360 × | |
| 3 - | | 4 - | | | |
| | 1 - | 1 - | | 12 × | |
| 3 ÷ | | 72 × | | | 5 |
| | 7 + | | | 3 ÷ | |

- Use four 9's in a math equation that equals 100.

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

SOLUTIONS TO THE AUTUMN NEWSLETTER PUZZLES

- 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 **2025**.

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 1 | ⁹⁺ 5 | 4 | ¹⁻ 3 | 2 |
| ^{2÷} 4 | ^{6×} 3 | 1 | 2 | ²⁻ 5 |
| 2 | ⁸⁺ 1 | ^{30×} 5 | ^{20×} 4 | 3 |
| 3 | 4 | 2 | 5 | ¹ 1 |
| ^{10×} | 2 | 3 | ⁵⁺ 1 | 4 |

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

Answer: There are 3 more of them (1990 – 1987 = 3 i.e. they are amounts of dollars not the years of production).