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WELCOME TO THE ALBYN REVIEW 2013/2014



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WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THE READ!



ALBYN SCHOOL ENTRANCE



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FOR

ALBYN SCHOOL

THE BEST FOR

YOUR CHILDREN



> **SCHOOL
OVERVIEW** **05**

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EDITORIAL

THE ALBYN REVIEW ENDEAVOURS TO CAPTURE A FLAVOUR OF WHAT OUR PUPILS HAVE DONE WELL OVER THE LAST YEAR. While the School continues to achieve academic success, being ranked first in the city for its public examination results for a third year running, the Review focuses its attention on what pupils have been achieving outside the classroom.

Music and the performing arts have enriched school life for many pupils. An Evening with Gershwin and Porter was Mr Somerville's first show as Director of Music. The FP Centenary Hall was bursting with families who were wowed by the fast pace and jazz renditions. Later in the term and in the more formal setting of Queen's Cross Church, the Christmas Carol Service was the first time that our choirs have sung in four part harmony and it is a comparative rarity for a school in North-East Scotland to sing excerpts from Handel's Messiah that included solo arias and recitatives. Monday 24 March 2014 was our Shakespeare evening. This featured music and drama from every century since Shakespeare's birth including excerpts from many Shakespearian plays and sonnets.

This year we were pleased that many more Upper School pupils have joined co-curricular clubs and societies. These included new societies launched this year such as the Public Speaking Society and the Model United Nations Club. We have very large numbers of pupils who undertake the Duke of Edinburgh Award which gives them a whole host of experiences from outdoor survival to volunteering. In addition, our four school Clans have been involved in a variety of inter-clan sports, quizzes and charitable fundraising activities.

In sport, we introduced skiing into the PE curriculum this year. Pupils trained on a dry ski slope at Garthdee but and were quickly prepared for the real snow of the Scottish Schools Ski Championship in February. There were senior and junior ski trips to Europe and we hope to be sending a team to the independent schools championships later this year. Upper School girls started rowing alongside our boys and entered their first race with an all-girl team in March. Our pupils continue to go from strength to strength

in our main sports: Football, rowing, netball, hockey and athletics. Just before going to press, we learnt that Ollie Kinghorn and Lawrence Jennings have been selected for Scotland's junior rowing squad and pupils achieved gold medals at the UK National Schools' Regatta in Nottingham.

Next session will see further changes to the curriculum and School environment. We will be introducing Mandarin as a new subject for pupils from Lower 5 from August 2014 and extending the day for our Lower 7 pupils to prepare them for life in the Upper School. A nine lesson timetable in Upper School will allow our pupils more teaching time to prepare for their public examinations. In June, we will begin our Atrium Redevelopment project which will allow us to utilise our inside space more effectively. The project will see our current Lower Ground Atrium become an intimate rehearsal and performance space for music and drama. The ground floor will be created above the studio and become a library for our Lower School pupils. This will allow us to have more resources and allows multiple classes to access the library at one time. The top floor will feature a study area for our most senior pupils to research and revise. We are also creating a new fitness studio in the basement of No.23 Queen's Road.

There are many people who I would like to thank for the production of this magazine. I am grateful to our advertisers Archial Noss, Rathbones, Dandara and Aitken and Niven for their support and I thank Ledingham Chalmers for their sponsorship. I am very grateful to Ms Richardson

✓
I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO
TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY
TO THANK LEDINGHAM
CHALMERS FOR THEIR
VALUED SPONSORSHIP.

from the English department for helping edit the wealth of material sent to her and to Jan Paxton from UAC Studios for designing the magazine. Finally, I am particularly grateful to all the pupils who attended Magazine Club and helped source and write articles including; Rachel Garden, Isabelle Rainer, Eilidh Hughes, Bethan Walters, Melody Ama, Stephanie Walker and Emma McPherson.



MISS CHANTELE ROBSON
EDITOR

HEAD GIRL AND DEPUTY HEAD GIRL REPORT

When we were first told at the Dance that we
were Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl, we were ecstatic.

The thought of finally achieving what seemed impossible back in first year when looking up to Sophie Glenn the Head Girl at that time, was overwhelming. We have both been great friends since first year and it was clear that we would always make a strong team. This was first shown in fifth year where we were both chosen to be Deputy Clan Leaders for Forbes. The strong relationship that we formed helped us achieve our ambition to become the Heads of the school.

Throughout our time in Upper School, Albyn has changed a lot. Although it is hard for pupils to acclimatise to change at first, in the long run it is always better for the pupils and staff as it helps to create an improved learning environment. The clans in Albyn have seemed to thrive in the last few years, bringing about a stronger bond between the older and younger pupils. As well as this, the sixth years have had the opportunity to volunteer in a Lower or Upper School classroom. Helping the younger pupils has given the sixth years a chance to pass down knowledge from our past experiences and give them tips for the future; this has given us a sense of pride being able to help them with their education.

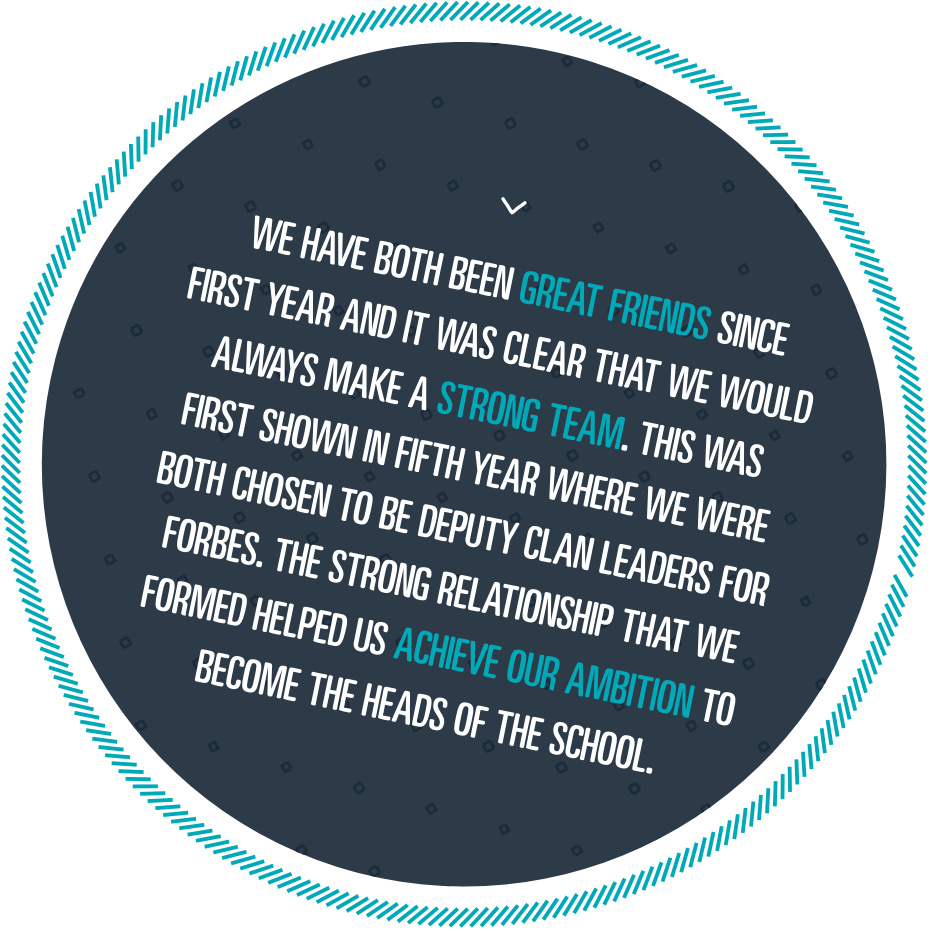
From the start of the year, we agreed as a sixth year, that part of our responsibility was to give back to the community. We wanted to do more direct charity work rather than just raising money. Many of the sixth years did a few sessions of carol singing at various local care homes. While it didn't take much time on our part, it was obvious that it meant a lot to the residents and that made us really appreciate how such a small act to us, can have a big effect on others.

The Silver Surfers programme has been a great success: we helped the elderly people with technology that could make their lives easier.

We have both had to support each other throughout the year, not only with our studies, but with all of our responsibilities. Knowing that the younger pupils looked up to us was daunting at first, but we soon got used to it and enjoyed being ambassadors for the school.

It has been a challenging year having to balance school work, applying for university and organising the Prefects, but we wouldn't change any of it. This year has been a great learning curve and we both feel that Albyn has prepared us for the rest of our lives.

HEAD GIRL, JILL R
& DEPUTY HEAD, FIONNA I



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FORBES. THE STRONG RELATIONSHIP THAT WE
FORMED HELPED US ACHIEVE OUR AMBITION TO
BECOME THE HEADS OF THE SCHOOL.



ROBERT ARTHUR "BOB" GILLIES, B.D., PH.D. (BORN 1951) IS THE CURRENT BISHOP OF ABERDEEN AND ORKNEY AND A PUBLISHED AUTHOR. HE VISITED ALBYN SCHOOL FOR AN ASSEMBLY AND TO MEET WITH THE HEAD BOY, HEAD GIRL ET AL. HE WROTE SUBSEQUENTLY "...THEY WERE TRULY A CREDIT TO YOUR SCHOOL AND IN BOTH THEIR AMBASSADORIAL ROLES AS WELL AS THROUGH WHO THEY ARE PERSONALLY AND WILL SERVE YOU WELL."



From left to right > Deputy Head Boy, Head Girl, Bishop Robert Gillies, Dr Long, Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl.

HEAD BOY & DEPUTY HEAD BOY REPORT

HEAD BOY

To be named Head Boy at the start of the school year was a massive achievement for me and I felt honoured to represent my school. The role has kept me very busy throughout the year, organising prefect duties, helping organise school events and putting forward ideas to help the school move in a positive direction. The role of Head Boy has been an excellent opportunity for me to excel as a person.

Working closely with Dr. Long and other members of the Senior Management Team has shown me the amount of effort and time that is required to run Albyn. I am grateful to all members of staff who have supported and guided me through this year as Head Boy.

At a personal level, I have learned the importance of good communication, working in a team to reach the most suitable outcome and being organised throughout the year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the prefects but especially to Jill, Matt and Fionna for all their support as they have made this year manageable but also very fun.

The amount of opportunities here at Albyn is almost endless and I could write this whole article about them. My advice to pupils of Albyn is to take as many opportunities as they can. My seven years here has been filled with happy memories but I know it is time for me to embark on a new chapter of my life. Again I would like to thank Dr. Long and all the teachers but mostly to my parents for sending me to Albyn in the first place! I can safely say no matter how much Albyn has changed since I first arrived, it will always have a family environment.

HEAD BOY, MAYON P

DEPUTY HEAD BOY

This year has been quite a challenge for me. After being selected to be Deputy Head Boy at the end of the previous year, I was surprised but very happy to be chosen. I feel that my role has been made easier this year when compared to other years as there has been the introduction of an addition; Head Boy and Deputy Head Boy. This has meant that the roles and responsibilities that are usually spilt between two, are now spilt between four. However this has not made the year easy for any of us as it is still a very demanding and challenging year, with the large amount of school work we have and the added pressure of applying to University. Some of the responsibilities we have had in addition to these are, organising events and partaking in school activities, which have allowed us to interact and get to know every member of the school very well. We have all gained great skills from being Heads or Deputies, which we will be beneficial moving forward in life. I am very grateful to have been given the opportunity of being the first Deputy-Head Boy and have thoroughly enjoyed working alongside my peers.

DEPUTY HEAD BOY, MATT C



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT
DEPUTY HEAD - FIONNA I > DEPUTY HEAD BOY - MATT C
HEAD BOY - MAYON P. > HEAD GIRL - JILL R



MATT C, DEPUTY HEAD BOY (LEFT) / MAYON P, HEAD BOY (RIGHT)

CLAN REPORT: DOUGLAS

THIS YEAR HAS BEEN A BUSY AND TOUGH YEAR for Clan Douglas. The competition from the other clans has been fierce! They have shown their competitive side at every event, but this did not deter us in the slightest!

At the beginning of the year the Clan Leaders and Deputies were selected by application and interview. Naomi Morrison (U6) was appointed Clan Leader, and Ollie Kinghorn and Erinn Prentice (both U5) were appointed as Deputies. From the very beginning we all knew that it was going to be a challenging year and we also knew that if we wanted to win the overall competition we would have to work hard...

...And work hard we did! Clan Douglas has had some great personal achievements throughout the session. Two of the Upper 6 girls achieved Full Colours for Hockey and Hamish Leeson (U5) achieved full Colours for Athletics. Jamie Wills (U6) achieved Headmasters Colours after being selected by the Scottish Independent School Football Association to play against England. Matt Carter (U6) was also appointed Deputy Head Boy at the beginning of the year and we have had many extra-curricular activities' captains throughout the year such as netball, athletics, debating and football. Two sixth year students have achieved the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award and the vast majority of fourth and fifth years have achieved their Bronze and Silver Awards.

The first clan event that we entered into was "Dancercise" in which we did a routine to a collaboration of three different songs. We combined different dance pieces from different students and made a final dance piece. The competition was tough and we came third. Douglas also came third in the Swimming Gala in which Joel Robertson (U3) beat one of the school records. Eilidh Hughes and Samuel Watson (both U6) came second in the Clan Debate, debating the controversial motion 'This house believes that schools should be judged solely on their exam results'. Well done Douglas!



Earlier this year, Clan Douglas chose to support The Archie Foundation. The Upper School has run various fundraising activities such as a "Cup Stacking Competition", "Guess the Celebrity Baby", "Easter Assault Course" and various bake sales. Currently, we have "Douglas the Dolphin" – a large sculpture – where Albyn students have been asked to submit a design for the dolphin and the best entries will be selected to paint the dolphin with the winning design. The sculpture will be on show at an exhibition over the summer and then be returned to the school to be displayed for years to come.

Although we still await the results of the clan points, we have yet to compete in Albyn's Sports Day, and it is clear that we have a good chance to do well!

I would like to take a chance to thanks Eilidh Hughes, Nilma Chowdhury and Kieran Thow – all from U6 – and of course Mr McCulloch (Head of Clan) for supporting Douglas and always being there whenever we needed them. I have thoroughly enjoyed being Clan Leader this year and I wish luck to the future Clan Leaders and Deputies next session.

NAOMI M, U6
DOUGLAS CLAN LEADER



CLAN REPORT: FORBES

IT HAS BEEN AN EXCITING YEAR taking over the role of Head of Clan Forbes. I had always wanted to play a bigger part in the pastoral care at Albyn but there was one thing I was dreading... having to speak at assemblies. I was so nervous about this that I made the topic of my assembly "Why I hate public speaking". I wanted the pupils to know that even though I was not particularly comfortable in front of a large group that I could persevere and make it to the end. Hopefully the pupils managed to take away my actual message of "We can all manage to get through difficult situations". That is my achievement of the year, now let's hear about the pupils!

Forbes performance in the first clan event of the year – Dancercise – earned them the (joint) first place trophy. The dance was choreographed by Fionna and Shona Ironside and was set to "Hawaiian Roller Coaster Ride" from the movie "Lilo and Stitch". The troupe performed with lots of energy and they were praised for their imaginative dance moves and floor movements. Everyone enjoyed taking part in the performance and managed not to moan during the gruelling rehearsal schedule!

One of the highlights of my year was organising and attending the Clan Christmas parties. Forbes pupils had a blast dancing and playing party games. The highlight for them was undoubtedly the raffle.

Even though the U6 pupils like to project a level of maturity in and around the school, the level of excitement on their face when they won a yo-yo was priceless! It was lovely to see Forbes pupils from different year groups mixing together. This also gave our U6 buddies a chance to catch up with their U1 groups.

We had many teams trying out for the Clan Quiz. The group that made it to the final consisted of Mayon Patel, Matthew Macfarlane, Andrew Kelso, Kieran Watson, Morgan Thomas, Gemma Lane and Laura Gow. Although we did not take the top spot the team put in a good performance and managed to answer some questions on some obscure topics.

Forbes were very successful in the Swimming Gala. We had many pupils competing in the majority of the events. Hannah Jarret achieved overall winner for the L7 girls. Oli Nash was the overall winner for the U1 boys and Catherine Macfarlane was the overall winner for the U2 girls. Thomas Kinghorn claimed runner-up for the U2 boys. With such strong swimmers in the younger years I cannot wait for future Swimming Galas as the prospects for Forbes look promising!

Jill Russell and Rachel Garden delivered an impressive performance at the Clan Debate on the motion "This House believes the best way to judge a school is by its exam results". They spoke with confidence and made some very valid points against the motion. It was thoroughly enjoyable to watch.



We have many pupils in Forbes who undertake the Duke of Edinburgh award at Bronze, Silver and Gold level. A special mention goes to Mayon Patel, Fionna Ironside and Rachel Garden for achieving their Gold award this year, also earning them Headmaster's Colours for their volunteering.

This year Clan Forbes picked Sightsavers to support during their charity week. Each form class had to decide on an activity that they could run to try to raise funds. Activities ranged from "balancing a 20p on a lemon" to "guess the baby photo" and a treasure hunt. Not that it was a competition... but U2F managed to raise the most money – approximately a third of the total amount raised. This was due to their hard work, good organisational skills and their persuasive natures.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with all the great pupils in Forbes and I am looking forward to another busy year. I wish everyone a restful summer so that they are ready for the next round of hard work and clan competitions!

MISS C BLAIR,
HEAD OF CLAN FORBES



FORBES



CLAN REPORT: GORDON

of September. Our Leader and Deputies were selected by application and interviewed, which alone was not an easy decision with tough competition and passion perceived by many. Maxine Bell (U6) was appointed Clan Leader, and Dylan Tait and Sam Johnston (both U5) were appointed as deputies.

It has been great this year to celebrate our pupil's individual achievements within Gordon - Rebecca Kinghorn (U4) not only won the Scottish Schools Bouldering Championships but she has also been selected for the GB training squad. Gwen (U6) and Lydia Newman (U4) have been solid members of both the successful Senior Netball and Hockey teams. This year has seen a record number of pupils participating in co-curricular activities from Clan Gordon and it has been fantastic to see so many pupils being part of the wider community at Albyn.

We have done exceptionally well in the clan competitions this year. We started the year with Clan Dancercise. Our team of 1st-6th year practised the routine very hard and everyone showed great enthusiasm throughout the practices, right up until the final competition in which we placed joint first with Clan Forbes.

The next competition was the Clan Debate, in which Leo Mckeever and Sam Johnston gave their all and brought home another win for Clan Gordon.

Clan Gordon had several pupils competing in the clan swimming gala, which highlighted the motivated team spirit of the clan, where everyone wants to do their bit to win points. It is this team spirit which helped us to win the swimming gala, along with the other events this year.

In the clan quiz our teams tried their hardest but unfortunately it wasn't enough to beat the other clans and Gordon placed fourth in this event.

Clan Gordon chose to support Scottish Mountain Rescue in March this year. This year each clan organised and ran one charity event. Clan Gordon once again chose to continue with their Clan Book of Records and Bake Sale, in which we raised £340 to donate to a worthwhile cause. Without donations, Scottish Mountain Rescue would be unable to carry out the work they do. Clan Gordon was delighted to be able to make a contribution to help this charity continue with their work.

This year for the first time all four clans will also be coming together to complete the Warrack Sponsored Walk and Highland Games in June which is hoped to be a fantastic whole school event.

At present we are lying in third place however the gap is extremely small and with Sports day coming up there are still final points to compete for. I believe that with the right attitude, and the determination to win, Clan Gordon will be able to make a comeback and is still in with the chance for victory at the end of the school year.

CLAN LEADER
MAXINE B, U6



THIS YEAR HAS BEEN A COMPETITIVE YEAR for Clan Gordon. After finishing third behind Stuart and Douglas last year we opted for a new approach to sprint out of the starting blocks with a positive and determined attitude at the beginning of term. However, this vision was also viewed by the other three clans ensuring that as usual it was going to be a fun filled but extremely competitive year in which the bar would be raised. We began the year a little behind schedule as our Clan Leader and Deputies were not selected until the beginning

CLAN REPORT: STUART

STUART CLAN CAPTAIN REPORT

This academic year has been a huge success for Clan Stuart. Not only have we held a very successful charity event and performed well in many of the Clan events, but as individuals Stuart have excelled musically, academically and in sport. After a slightly shaky start to the year with a fourth place in the Dancercise competition, members of Stuart soon started earning Clan points. The next Clan event on the calendar was the Clan Quiz (a favourite for Stuart). After a record turnout for the first round our best team went forward to the final, after an excellent performance they won for the third year in a row. The Clan Debate was next, where Helen Wolfe and Eilidh Webster represented the Clan. After a great effort from the pair we unfortunately came fourth in that event. It was then the swimming gala where we had many excellent swimmers representing Stuart including our own Scottish champion, Eilidh Duthie. All swimmers taking part performed very well earning Stuart second place overall. Eilidh Duthie convincingly won the senior girls swimming championship in the individual event. These events have displayed the dedication of everyone in Stuart and all who participated in these events enjoyed doing so.

Within the Clan we have had many individual achievements throughout the year. As I mentioned Eilidh Duthie has been swimming for Scotland this year, receiving Headmasters colours. Duncan Depasquale earned a black belt in Karate, and Callum McKnight was the senior boys Badminton champion.

Junior colours and half colours were awarded to too many pupils to mention in hockey, netball and athletics, while many members of the Clan also achieved their Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh awards. Two members of sixth year (Ben Wrigton and Tharushi Dissanyake) achieved their Gold award, very impressive as this requires years of volunteering, physical activity and learning of new skills to complete.

Before Christmas Mr Blunsdon, Eilidh Webster, Katie Holroyd and I attended the opening of Instant Neighbour's Giving Tree appeal, as this was our chosen charity to support this year. We learned about the appeal and why it was important to the local community. We then presented an assembly about the appeal to the rest of the Clan and started working with the charities reps from each form class to organize food collection and a bake sale to raise funds. By the end of the event we had collected 4 large boxes of food donations, over 100 Christmas presents for local children and £193 for the appeal, a tremendous effort from the whole Clan.

I hope this year's hard work and dedication from all the members of the Clan will successfully translate into Clan points! I would like to say a special thanks to my two Deputy Clan Leaders Katie Holroyd and Eilidh Webster for their continued hard work over the year helping organise and run Clan events. I would also like to thank the Head of Clan, Mr Blunsdon, for working incredibly hard to organise everything for the Clan and for always being there to support me.

I thoroughly enjoyed being Clan Leader this year, it has been a great experience made better by an excellent Head of Clan and two great Deputies. I wish the best of luck to next year's Clan Leader and Deputies.

CLAN LEADER, KRIS A

HEAD OF STUART CLAN REPORT

During the past year Clan members have shown a remarkable commitment across a range of different activities. From the traditional inter-Clan events like dancercise, swimming and debating, to the newer ones like Clan quiz, pupils have given their time, sweat and brainpower. It is however the community spirit and sheer hard work that was shown towards our chosen charity Instant Neighbour that I have been most proud. To be invited to the launch of the Giving Tree appeal in December by Instant Neighbour was an honour (we were the only School at the launch). Our three representatives Kris Anderson (Clan Captain), Katie Holroyd and Eilidh Webster (Deputy Clan Captains) spoke to a range of business leaders as well as the Lord Provost, all of whom were impressed by their ability to talk knowledgeably and with grace to those present. The other area that always impresses me is the commitment shown by so many to Clan, School and outside activities. During our regular Clan assemblies I am often inundated by certificates and awards and it is a real pleasure to hand these out. I would like

to thank all the pupils who have held positions of responsibility within their form groups this year. In particular I would like to thank Katie and Eilidh as Clan Deputy Captains and Kris as Clan Captain, they have worked very hard over the year and I could not have wished for a better team.

HEAD OF CLAN,
MR J BLUNSON



CLAN LEADERS AT THE INSTANT NEIGHBOUR
GIVING TREE EVENT WITH LORD PROVOST,
COUNCILLOR GEORGE ADAM



THE FOUNDER'S DAY
CELEBRATIONS ARE
IMPORTANT AS IT MEANS
THE ENTIRE "ALBYN
SCHOOL FAMILY" WILL
BE CELEBRATING NOT
ONLY THE SCHOOL'S
PAST AND FOUNDER BUT
ALSO CELEBRATING THE
SCHOOL TODAY AND
ITS FUTURE.



PRESIDENT OF
THE FP CLUB



**FOUNDATION &
FORMER PUPILS**

17

Albyn School has evolved to become one of Scotland's leading independent, co-educational day schools. We want to help create confident, self-motivated young men and women who enjoy learning but who also exhibit a sense of tolerance and service so that they will make a positive contribution to the adult world that they will soon join.



THE ALBYN FOUNDATION AND FEES ASSISTANCE

THE ALBYN FOUNDATION is a charity that was set up principally to support the pupils of the School and in particular provide financial support for families who would otherwise be unable to send their children to the School. It also raises money to provide support to help pupils complete their education at the School should families encounter financial hardship and raises funds to provide equipment and resources for pupils.

In recent years we have restructured the levels of Fees Assistance and have been able to offer a number of free places to pupils entering Lower 1 and other years in the Lower school. These bursaries are always determined by pupils' performance in the entrance test and families' financial circumstances.

The Fees Assistance Scheme is designed to help able children by giving them the greatest

gift possible; a good education whatever their family's circumstances. By fundraising and through charitable donations, the Albyn Foundation has increased the number of bursaries available to fund places at Albyn School. We feel that this is the right thing to do because it benefits both the pupils concerned and the School community as a whole.

This year we were delighted that our commitment to broadening access to Albyn School was acknowledged by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) who affirmed our status as a recognised charity. As a charity, all fee income goes to meeting the direct costs and overheads associated with running the school effectively. This includes meeting the costs of loans for the construction work of the Lower School and Upper School.

PHILANTHROPY OR FEE RISES?

Some have asked why we do not increase school fees to reach these goals. In response we believe that our fees need to remain comparable with similar independent schools and to remain affordable. But like all other non-profit educational organisations, we depend on additional income streams to undertake the philanthropic goal of creating bursaries and enhancing resources for the children in our care.

We would like to do more for Albyn School and ensure our pupils benefit from the best educational facilities on offer; they deserve the best and it is with your help that we can make this happen. We trust present and past members of the wider community will respond positively when asked to support the Albyn Foundation.

PROJECTS AND PUPILS?

The building of the Lower School and atrium in 2007 served to accommodate the school's move to coeducation and the beginning of a new chapter in the school's history. More recent changes to the school's building have enriched the educational environment enabling new subjects to flourish such as Technology and adding languages such as Spanish and Mandarin to the curriculum. We have built new laboratories to support the growth in demand for science subjects and have found a new department base for the Mathematics and English departments in the Upper School.

However, we never stand still, over the summer we intend to redevelop the Atrium:

- On the lower ground floor of the atrium we are planning to build a multi-purpose performance and rehearsal studio for our music and drama pupils that can serve as a lecture theatre.
- The ground floor will become the home of the new Lower School library for pupils aged 5 to 12 – the Warrack Library. This new library will be bright, spacious and located at the heart of the Lower School.
- The top floor of the atrium with its glass roof and abundance of daylight will become the new study area for senior pupils. Here, those preparing for public examinations will find a quiet space for independent study and research.
- The existing Mackie Library will continue to be used as a library for Upper School pupils. It will be marginally re-configured to allow it to be more easily used as a meeting room and secondary lecture theatre.
- Finally, recognising that we now have an increasing number of pupils who are destined for high levels of sporting performance, we will be creating a new fitness suite for high intensity training in the PE and Games Department.

The project is scheduled to begin in July and will be completed during October 2014.

SUPPORT

IF YOU CAN HELP US PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR THE BURSARIES, BOOKS FOR THE WARRACK LIBRARY, FUND A LIGHTING AND SOUND SYSTEM FOR THE DRAMA THEATRE OR PROVIDE FITNESS EQUIPMENT FOR THE FITNESS STUDIO, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO MAKE CONTACT WITH ME AT ANY TIME. EVERY LITTLE HELPS!

CONTACT

Miss Francesca Milne
Head of Marketing
and Development
f.milne@albynschool.co.uk

BURSARY APPLICATIONS

To apply for fees assistance, applicants need to complete a fees assistance and application for entry form, which can be found on our school website. Pupils will be invited for a visit to the school and to spend the day in their current year group.

If a place is offered based on the entrance test, successful applicants seeking fees assistance will be ranked according to need, based on confirmation of the details submitted by parents/guardians on the fees assistance form.

Applicants will be ranked in order of those according to financial status i.e. the poorest, based solely on gross household per capita income (PCI). For example, a household of 2 parents and 2 children, with gross income of £60,000, the PCI would be £15,000.

The academic and financial scores are then combined to give a final ranking. Fees assistance awards are made from the top of the list, downwards, until the available places and/or finance is exhausted.

It is unlikely that a PCI of over £15,000 would render a pupil eligible for 100% fees assistance. PCI's of over £15,000 would be considered on a case by case basis and may be allocated a percentage of fees assistance.

Individual awards will be reviewed annually. Other than for this reason, fees assistance once granted will only be withdrawn if the contractual conditions and obligations of the award have been broken.



ALBYN SCHOOL

ALBYN SCHOOL PARENTS ASSOCIATION

ASPA

LAST YEAR'S TEA PARTY AT THE ROX HOTEL WAS A GREAT SUCCESS, SO MUCH SO THAT BY THE TIME YOU READ THIS THERE WILL HAVE BEEN ANOTHER THAT HOPEFULLY MET WITH SIMILAR APPROVAL. MY GRATEFUL THANKS GO TO LYNDSEY BELL FOR ORGANISING THESE EVENTS.



ASPA'S first event of the school year is usually the Fireworks Night and this year was no exception. Yet again the turn-out last November was in excess of 900 people. Again the weather was good to us, and the display continues to improve every year. The event raised £2300.

The Albyn Christmas Fair was also very well supported, with over £6000 raised, making it the most successful Christmas Fair ever. Belated thanks go to anyone who attended, donated or helped in any way, it all helps to make a very enjoyable day. The list of external crafters who attend is usually finalised months

in advance, which would indicate that they regard our fair as one which is worth attending.

Last year's tea party at the Rox Hotel was a great success, so much so that by the time you read this there will have been another that hopefully met with similar approval. My grateful thanks go to Lyndsey Bell for organising these events.

Soon, somebody somewhere is going to ask me what the money that we have raised has been used for, and will be met with a slightly embarrassed cough and a red face.

The fact is that we have been approached

by the school with suggestions for different items that we could sponsor, but final details are yet to be forthcoming. We have been asked to contribute to the cost of the lighting for the studio that will be created as part of the Atrium Re-development project, and we feel that this would have the potential to benefit as wide a spectrum of the school as possible. However, we would welcome any other suggestions.

Looking ahead to the future, preparations for our family fun day at Milltimber on the 14th September are gaining momentum. The aim of this event is to provide an enjoyable day out for everyone connected with the school with hopefully something for all ages, which will also welcome new families into the Albyn community. Following various generous offers of sponsorship I am pleased to be able to say that Team Challenge, Transition Extreme and Segway Aberdeen are all willing to participate, and we have had various offers for visual events such as a karate demonstration and dancing displays, plus participation from the Grampian radio-controlled car club which has already become popular with members of the Upper School. At time of writing the Music Department are also making various plans, however I would still welcome any other suggestions. Tickets are already on sale, please contact your Class Rep for details.

In addition to organising events throughout the school year, ASPA also exists to promote co-operation between the school and parents throughout the year. Although individual issues should always be forwarded to the school in the first instance, I like to think that we act as a medium via which general issues can be raised and resolved to the extent that all parties gain a better understanding of the needs and constraints of others.

As a final word my thanks go to the members of the ASPA Committee for their continued support and interest.

MARK HINDLE, ASPA CHAIR

ALBYN SCHOOL FORMER PUPILS' CLUB



THE ALBYN SCHOOL FORMER PUPIL (FP) CLUB was established in 1906 with the aim of promoting an active link and developing the relationship between former pupils and the School. Every year senior pupils are invited to join the FP club where they can enjoy various social events and receive the annual FP newsletter.

This academic year has been very busy and positive for the Former Pupils' Club with new developments in technology and communication as well as new FP social events to look forward to.

Today, younger FPs stay connected to their former classmates through Facebook and technology. In order to support this, webALUMNUS, the Albyn School Former Pupil website was created by the School which will allow us to not only find out what other FPs and classmates are doing, but also browse galleries of old school photos, keep up-to-date with exclusive FP events, update our contact details and follow and support the progress of our school.

The School invited us to a Cheese and Mulled Wine evening in November which was held in the Mackie Library. Current Albyn School pupils kick started the night off with a selection of Christmas songs and there was a festive-themed buffet. The evening gave us the chance to connect and share stories with FPs of all generations as well as browse old school magazines, photographs and memorabilia. All the former pupils were very impressed not only with the School's current academic, sporting and arts achievements they heard about but also the development of the school buildings themselves.

We are also very excited about the upcoming, first ever Albyn School Founder's Day celebrations. In June, various events will be held across the weekend to celebrate the history and tradition of Albyn School as well as reconnect with the School today.

Current pupils will take part in the "Warrack Walk" from the School to Miltimber playing fields in honour of the School's Founding Headmistress, Harriet Warrack. The pupils will then participate in the "Clan Highland Games". The FP Club were glad to hear they are spectators and not the competitors! There will also be a ceilidh in the evening to celebrate Founder's Day and an open afternoon for Former Pupils. The Founder's Day Celebrations are important as it means the entire "Albyn School Family" will be celebrating not only the school's past and founder but also celebrating the School today and its future.

As FPs, we are extremely proud to have been at Albyn School and this pride extends to the School as it is today. When we are visiting the School, during our class reunions or at FP events, it is wonderful to see the FPs of the future as polite, enthusiastic, morally-aware young people. FPs of all ages will always be very much part of the Albyn Family and this sense of belonging is something they carry throughout their lives.

JILL CAMPBELL (NEE WINNING).

FP CLUB PRESIDENT.

I LIKE GETTING
READY FOR SCHOOL
IN THE MORNING
AND RUNNING INTO
THE PLAYGROUND
TO SEE MY FRIENDS.

I HAVE FUN AT
ALBYN SCHOOL AND
LEARN A LOT OF
NEW THINGS.

LS PUPIL



> LOWER
SCHOOL

23

MY SENSES

LOWER 1 POEMS

MY SENSES POEMS

LOWER 1 HAVE BEEN LEARNING ALL ABOUT THE SENSES, WE HAVE BEEN LEARNING ABOUT HOW OUR EYES WORK AND HELP US TO SEE. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN LEARNING ABOUT ANIMAL SENSES, WE ARE LOOKING TOWARDS LEARNING LOTS MORE ABOUT HOW WE HEAR, TASTE, SMELL AND FEEL.

I like the look of the lovely flower.
I like the sound of a car booming.

I like the smell of tomatoes and cheese.

I like the taste of birthday cake.

I like the feel of a soft bunny rabbit.
LUCAS M



I like the look of a tarantula putting raindrops on its web.

I like the sound of a cat purring.

I like the smell of flower petals flying in a garden.

I like the taste of pizza.

I like the feel of a snowman.
BAYLEE H



I like the look of trees in the forest.
I like the sound of the wind blowing in the air.

I like the smell of chocolate pieces – it smells nice.

I like the taste of chocolate with chocolate cheese.

I like feel of a soft bunny's paw.
MIKEL E

I like the look of my brother's girlfriend because her clothes are soft.

I like the sound of a car because they are noisy and steamy.

I like the smell of the sea because it smells like chlorine and I can swim in it.

I like the taste of pizza because it is yummy and unhealthy.

I like the feel of my mummy and daddy because they give me hugs.
EMILY F

I like the look of the soft unicorn.
I like the sound of the leopard purring.

I like the smell of fish and chips.

I like the taste of pepperoni pizza.

I like the feel of my mum's hair.

AMIE W



I like the look of a brick wall.

I like the sound of funky music.

I like the smell of fresh flowers.

I like the taste of salty popping popcorn because it pops.

I like the feel of soft sand because you can make a sandcastle.

DANIEL O



I like the look of a car.

I like the sound of a car horn beeping.

I like the smell of fresh flowers.

I like the taste of lasagne.

I like the feel of snow in winter.

HANA K



I like the look of a dog.

I like the sound of a car.

I like the smell of turkey.

I like the taste of pizza.

I like the feel of a Christmas tree.
LEWIS G

I like the look of snow because you can build a snowman.

I like the sound of a horn because it is loud.

I like the smell of burgers because the taste is yummy.

I like the taste of chocolate because it is yummy.

I like the feel of my pet cat because it is soft.

PENNY C



I like the look of "Les Miserables" because it is scary.

I like the sound of boom whacking in music.

I like the smell of chocolate with milk chocolate sauce.

I like the taste of pizza with pepperoni and cheese.

I like the feel of a soft baby chick getting born.

SARAH G



I like the look of pumpkin pieces because they are scary.

I like the sound of a bed-time story because it is dreamy.

I like the smell of a flower because it smells nice.

I like the taste of pizza because sometimes it has pepperoni.

I like the feel of my mum's hair because it is nice and soft.

JACK G



I like the look of a bunny in its cage.

I like the sound of a dog barking.

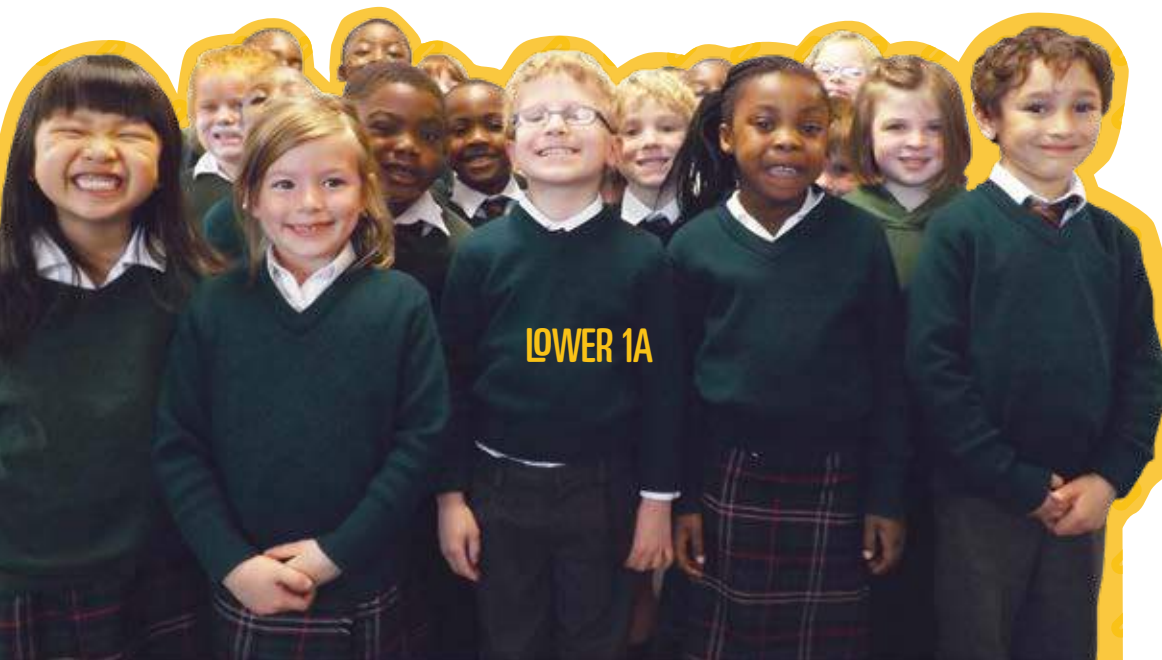
I like the smell of soup.

I like the taste of creamy chocolate sauce.

I like the feel of cat fur.

ELLE R

LOWER 1A





LOWER 1B

I like the look of a sunflower blooming.
I like the sound of a car honking.
I like the smell of a rose.
I like the taste of fish and chips.
I like the feel of a soft bunny paw.

MAX B



I like the look of a disco ball
because you can dance to it.
I like the sound of a dog because
they bark so much.
I like the smell of flowers because
they smell nice.
I like the taste of pizza because
it tastes nice.

I like the feel of a snowman
because it is cold.

SOPE A



I like the look of my new toy plane
because it can move fast.
I like the sound of a car honking
its horn.

I like the smell of a fresh bed.

I like the taste of pepperoni pizza
with hot sauce.

I like the feel of a soft pillow.

OSE O



I like the look of a whiteboard.
I like the sound of a cat meowing.
I like the smell of the flowers.

I like the taste of cookies.

I like the feel of sand castles.

TOBY O

I like the look of a rosy red rose.
I like the sound of amazing singing.
I like the smell of newly baked cakes.
I like the taste of a pepperoni pizza.
I like the feel of two teddies.

ANJOLA O



I like the look of red roses.
I like the sound of buzzing bees.
I like the smell of delicious
doughnuts.
I like the taste of super spicy pizza.
I like the feel of Lily's lovely hand.

LAURYN V



I like the look of a fluffy new
born chick.
I like the sound of funky ringtones.
I like the smell of flowers and smoke.
I like the taste of pepperoni pizza.
I like the feel of squishy play dough.

GRACE H



I like the look of a big barking dog.
I like the sound of funky phones.
I like the smell of flowers and smoke.
I like the taste of pepperoni pizza.
I like the feel of a cute cat.

SOFIA D



I like the look of a bird.
I like the smell of chicken.
I like the taste of apples.
I like the feel of Lielo and Beth,
I love them!

LILYY

I like the look of red roses.
I like the sound of dogs barking.
I like the smell of strawberries.
I like the taste of starburst.
I like the feel of my cuddly panda.

JESSICA S



I like the look of the purple and
pink flowers.
I like the sound of the rainbow radio.
I like the smell of rainbow roses.
I like the taste of cakey cake!
I like the feel of my partner's hand.

AYAH B



I like the look of pretty pink roses.
I like the sound of monkeys
munching.
I like the smell of sweet sweeties.
I like the taste of CRUNCHIE carrots!
I like the feel of a tiny leaf.

MORGAN S



I like the look of a bright shining sun.
I like the sound of the noisy
cold wind.
I like the smell of fresh smelly roses.
I like the taste of sweet tasty candy.
I like the feel of a smooth brick wall.

MARCUS C



I like the look of the sun shining.
I like the sound of the fast truck.
I like the smell of the grey smoke.
I like the taste of the fishy sardines.
I like the feel of the hard wall.

OWEN L

I like the look of rock stars rocking.
I like the sound of shooting stars.
I like the smell of crunchy croissants.
I like the taste of crunchy cake.
I like the feel of a rubby rubber.

DUNNI K



I like the look of red roses.
I like the sound of dogs barking.
I like the smell of cakes.
I like the taste of pepperoni pizza.
I like the feel of soapy soap.

KENO A



I like the look of kittens kissing.
I like the sound of birds
singing softly.
I like the smell of pretty pink roses.
I like the taste of sweet sweets.
I like the feel of cuddly koala bears.

GEORGIA C



I like the look of Nacho the nice
guinea pig.
I like the sound of sweet songs.
I like the smell of rainbow roses.
I like the taste of plain pizza.
I like the feel of Mum's hand.

GRACE B



I like the look of fierce fires.
I like the sound of motorbikes.
I like the smell of muffins rising.
I like the taste of newly grilled burgers.
I like the feel of diablo sticks.

ROHITH S

EXPLORING THE LIFE OF TADPOLES AND FROGS

LOWER 2A

Do frogs bite?
SCARLETT W

Do frogs change colour?
CONNOR H

DO FROGS HAVE TEETH?
DUNSIN K

I want to learn what to feed frogs!
ANDREAS M

HOW DO TADPOLES
TURN INTO FROGS AND
HOW DO YOU KNOW IF
THEY ARE A GIRL?

EMILY K

WHY ARE SOME FROGS
POISONOUS?

OLIVIA, J



EXCITING YEAR!

LOWER 2B

Lower 2 Beta have had a very **exciting year** so far! From turning the classroom into a chocolate factory, getting to have a look inside some huge trucks, holding a snake and looking after tadpoles in the classroom!

WRITING

We have been writing in many different styles. Newspaper reports, imaginative stories, poems, recipes and character profiles. Would you like to know the recipe for friendship or how to treat minibeasts?

A SELECTION OF POEMS ABOUT HOW TO TREAT OTHERS AND HOW TO TREAT SMALL BEINGS SUCH AS MINI BEASTS!

A recipe for friendship

A spoon of love.
A cup of kindness.
A jug of cheerfulness.
A spoon of trust.
A cup of smiles.
A bowl of laughter.
JACOB C

A recipe for friendship

16 bowls of harmony.
5 spoons of love.
3 handfuls of sharing.
2 sprinkles of kindness.
6 cups of laughter.
7 lumps of smiles.
NATE R

The minibeast code

Put them back where you found them.
Do not destroy their habitat.
Save them from the bath.
Do not disturb them.
ERICA B

The minibeast code

Do not drop litter on the ground.
Keep to marked paths and trails.
Look after their habitat.
Never handle animals if you don't know what they are!
Wash your hands after touching an insect.
SAMEERA A

MATHS

We have been magical mathematicians this year! We have been trying hard to become quicker at our mental maths.

TOPIC

We have had fun and learned a lot through various topics this year. Our Minibeasts topic has really come to life – watching our tadpoles grow and develop into frogs and our caterpillars turn into butterflies has given us first-hand experience of lifecycles.

SCIENCE

We have been little scientists this year and really enjoyed a workshop exploring magnets for our push and pull topic. We learned that:

> The world is the biggest magnet.

HARRY L

> Magnets repel and attract each other.

NATHAN M

> Magnets have two ends – north and south.

ALEX F



LOWER 3A&B

WORK FROM THE YEAR

Lower 3 pupils selected the work they were most proud of this year!



I AM A ROMAN GOD

Hello, my name is Dynamite. I am a God. I have TNT rocket boots and fire. I have a TNT shield and eyes. I have a red robe. I have TNT power and I can control explosives. My special symbol is a spear and TNT. I use it to make the sky fall. My temple is full of gold TNT. Inside there is a TNT port hole which leads you to fire and TNT land.

MAX M

"Hi dad," I yawned.

"Hi," my dad answered. Suddenly, a horse walked in the room and started talking, then it took me somewhere awkward where there was lots of mud. Soon I saw tarantula coming down the hill. I was worried so I jumped on the horse. It was impossible to get out. Suddenly, we vanished into MINECRAFT WORLD!!! On the other hand we were on survival so we started building a house of red stone block, glass, an iron door and we had a swimming pool. When we were done we saw a battle waiting for us. There were creepers, Endermen, Herobrine, spiders, and all the other mobs. It started raining. Herobrine dropped two enchanted bow and arrows and dropped two fully enchanted diamond armour. We put them on. We started to move forward. I crawled to the right. I attacked a creeper and I blew it up and blew up other ones and blew up the cave and killed everyone in the cave. We went back to the house and decorated it. I jumped on to the horse again and went to FOOTBALL WORLD and we started playing football. It was great!

RORY M

SHIPWRECKED

I, Regulus, have been shipwrecked on a barbarian land. This is an account of my journey. It began when an angel told me to take the bones of St. Andrew across the harsh sea from Achaia to the far West. I kept the bones safe by putting a small bit of my clothing on top. Finally I was shipwrecked in the heart of Scotland. When I finally reached I my destination, a small village, people thought that the bones were precious and they named the village St. Andrew's.

JESSICA F

MY PERFECT BUBBLE

My perfect bubble,
Floats through the sky,
As I watch it go by,
The tip of wind makes it curl
and swirl,
As it turns into a shimmering,
glimmering pearl.
The beautiful bubble that floats
through the sky,
Like an angel as you watch
her turning,
Into iridescent amazing
wonderful colours.
My bubble left me when it
floated in the sky.
My bubble left me when it
said "Good-bye"
But why would a beautiful
bubble leave my hand
And float to another land?

EGHONGHON O

STORMS

Storms, twirl and swirl,
It towers to the clouds.
AMAZING stratosphere,
Similar word to atmosphere,
meaning air around the world.
When a storm happens,
The air gushes with POWER!
SOPHIE G

WHY I LIKE THE WIND

On a May spring day,
That lovely breeze will stay.
I love going on July boat trips,
with the ripples, in the sea.
When the soft breeze you can't see
On an October Autumn day,
The leaves will rustle.
When I eat my hot waffle
On a freezing winter day
The weathervane will go faster.
JIGYA K

BIG DAY OF FIGHTING

Dear Diary,
Today I had huge fight against the Murmillo Gladiator, I am a Scissors Gladiator. Going in to battle I felt very nervous and very excited. I punched, hit, pushed, pulled him and hurt him. I got injured. I got a bruise, a twisted ankle and a bleeding hand. I won against him. I got the freedom there was a big feast held just for me. I was the only one who managed to beat him in his whole entire life so all my friends were happy!

I am so happy!

MANAL N



I am a goddess of Electricity. I have long, flowing, blonde hair and pool blue eyes. I have a wonderful white robe and a tiara of golden leaves. My Roman name is Liva and my Greek name is Lorna. My job is being a maid. I am very important because of the electricity I give. My symbol is a rattle snake twisted round my arm. My temple is made of yellow crystals. I became a goddess by showing Jupiter (the king of the Roman gods and goddesses) my powers and now I love my life! Tomorrow I get to make Thomas, the great and powerful god of food, a head god! Isn't that heart-pumping! By the way, I am not nasty! Oh! It's VII O'clock already! I'd better go now. Do you want to come with me?

"Guards, come here at once! We have a special visitor."

"Sorry, you will get used to it."

Clip Clop Clip Clop. Minutes later we got there and made Thomas a god and gave him the crown. The sight was amazing. It was getting late so we went back to my palace. We had a wonderful dinner and went to sleep. I hope you enjoyed my day!

AILSA Q

LIGHTNING

Lightening zooming fast
From the sky,
Yellow zigzags
"Shelter! Shelter!"
People say...
"Why is it so dangerous?
I can't sleep."
It's probably last on the chart
Of people's votes.
"Why is lightning
not called an electric drop?"
And why is the noise like swish?
RHYS C

Wednesday 5th March 74ad
Colosseum, Rome

DEAR DIARY,

Today was a very special day I was fighting for my freedom. I felt scared at first but then I felt strong and fearsome. I was battling with a tattooed gladiator with black armour in a huge arena. People were cheering from the seats or standing up. I saw blood pouring out of the tattooed gladiators shoulder after I slashed him with my gladius. The Emperor of Rome raised his hands to tell everyone that I won so I got the victory. I have my freedom!

JAKE B

DEAR DIARY,

Last night I couldn't get any sleep because I kept guessing what I was getting for my birthday. I thought it might be a hundred pounds or new clothes or a pass to a theme park. Then I heard a noise it was coming from my mummy's bedroom. I sneaked inside my mummy's bedroom it was her alarm for 7am OH NO!

If only I got some sleep. Then I realized she turned off the power in her room it was actually it was midnight! Wait a second.....
MIDNIGHT!

I need to get to sleep! I drank all of my hot chocolate, cuddled my teddy, blew out my candle and went to sleep.

MY BIRTHDAY! YIPEE !

Today the first thing I did was rush down stairs and smell candles, juicy cakes and party poppers. I felt enthusiastic.

I heard my dog barking my brother shouting; my mummy trying to keep them quiet. I ran into the living room, it was crowded with gifts. I ripped open one. It was a phone! Then I ripped open another then there was one left. It was small but I ripped it open. It was dusty. I coughed and the dust came off it. It was four tickets to a roman fight.

WOW!

Today I got up then did my hair in a bun. I did my make-up and got dressed into my dress I got for my birthday. It was a nice white one with a red bow at the back. It had no straps and I got nice red high heels and a nice red blazer. We had arrived early so we got to have something to eat at the coliseum.

It was big with about a thousand seats.

Then I was astonished that we were at the front row, but there was just one problem. I could smell blood.....

ROMAN BLOOD!

And I could hear fans shouting and screaming with belief. Also I could taste fog. When the battle started I was scared that the fighters were going to hurt me.

But I decided to not worry. It was a close battle and the scissors almost won but the emperor put his thumb up so the fighters got a wooden sword. That means they get their freedom.

KELLY C

Thursday 6th March 238AD
Amphitheatre, Thysdrus

DEAR DIARY,

Today was a very exciting day because the gladiators were going to be fighting in the new amphitheatre! I went outside. The air was fresh, it was very noisy. I looked over at the big amphitheatre. People had already started to go in! I was too excited to eat because my favourite gladiator was going to be there. He was my favourite because he is strong. He has the courage to go out there and fight, he's skilled and also very smart. I took one more sniff of the hot morning air and then I ran inside to get ready to go!

The events were amazing! There were twelve gladiators. The crowd was wild with excitement. My favourite gladiator was in battle number five and felt so scared because he was up against a really strong enemy. My body got cold in spite of the heat. My heart began pumping faster than ever that day. They came in with their swords held high! The music was loud, the crowds were cheering like mad! The referee approached them. He put the stick between them and suddenly he raised it and the two began to fight. At the beginning the two were crazy but as it got closer to the end they got more and more tired. Now the fight was over and the referee put his stick between the two gladiators once again. The emperor raised his hand for the freedom of Rome. I feel very happy for them because of the way they won their freedom. I really think that it was worth it. The fight was so encapsulating that I could not think to the next fight!

JULIA F

AT THE SEASIDE WITH LOWER 4A

Going to the sea side
Yippee! Yippee!
Stinky seaweed
Beautiful shells
Delicious picnic
Sand castles
Salty sea water
Ice-cream van
Barking dogs
Sea is cold
Sun bathing
Waves crashing
Seagulls squawking
People body boarding
Fish jumping
Boats sailing
Tasty fish and chips
Sun burnt nose
Time to go
Boo hoo!
TIEGAN R

Donkey rides
Sailing boats
Cargo ships
The restaurant rules
Cafe cool
Fish n chips
Sand dunes
Big castles
Sandy shells
Cleaning them
Such fun
Getting dark
Time to go
Feeling tired
ISLA P

Hurray I'm going to the
Beach today
And I'm going to...
Ride on a donkey
Have some ice cream
Build a sandcastle
Go surfing
Sun bathing
Hunting shells
Swim in the cold sea
Paddling too
Bucket and spades
Eating fish and chips
Yippee that's all for today!
LUCY W

★
The sound of seagulls
The smell of salt
Picnics to eat.
Sunburnt nose and toes.
If you find a crab
Don't make it mad.
Time to go
Very sad
KIERA R

I go to the sea shore,
I get on my swimsuit,
And I get swimming,
After that I have my picnic,
And then I get sand castle
building,
I've found dune!
But I leave it alone,
Then I built a sand village,
My mum shouts,
Time to go home!
What a tiring day.
LEWIS C

★
Great!
We are off to the beach
Fun!
Collecting shells
Building castles
Yummy picnic
Playing football
Had a good day
Good bye I say
RORY L

My feet sinking in gritty sand
As me my sister walk hand and hand.
Seagulls screeching as loud as they can
Mixed with the tune from the ice cream van
I sun bathed in the hot sun.
But now it's time to go home, I better run!
EVA S

★
I wonder into the car,
It's not like I'm going far
I can't keep still,
The beach gives me a thrill.
As soon as I'm at the Seaside
I try to hide
For the seaside Rascal is coming my way,
I have to run to the bay.
YUANNE D





ROBERT THE BRUCE AND THE SPIDER

LOWER 4B

Special being the King
Poor Robert the Bruce
Incredible
Did not give up
Exciting
Robert the Bruce and the Spider
CONOR S

Super amazing spider
Perfect web he made
Inventing spider it can be
Determined Spider that he was
Eventually spun his web
Right beside Robert the Bruce
ELLA I

Strong and patient
Poor Robert the Bruce what shall we do
In a cave all alone
Determined and brave
Epic King
Robert the Bruce is his name
JENNA D

Surprising spider
Poor Robert the Bruce
Incredible Scotland
Do not give up
Exciting story
Robert the Bruce
JOANNA S

Spider was trying a lot
Poor Robert in a cave
Independent Spider
Disheartened poor Robert
Excellent battle 7th time Robert won
Robert got victory, Scotland won
RICARDO B

Surprising spider told Robert to try one more time
Pleasing spider was a wonderful guy
Incredible spider got Robert to try
Everlasting spider did not give up
Robert the Bruce was a magnificent man
YAVI P



BULLYING

LOWER 5A PROJECT

SAY NO TO BULLIES



LEENA S

WHATEVER BULLIES SAY
DON'T LISTEN!



KEIRA W

LOWER 5A BULLYING PROJECT
A SELECTION OF POEMS
AND DRAWINGS FROM
THE CLASSROOM.

Bold and nasty, black in the heart.
Unbelievable and rude, all those cruel words.
Lost and lonely, scared inside.
Liers and cheats, robbers for gold.
Irritating and horrid, always trying to hurt.
Evil and scary, wanting more power.
Show-offs and boastful, ruining our land.

SIMIA

Bold and mean, annoying to people.
Unfriendly and worthless, useless to adults.
Lonely and lost, without any friends.
Liars and cheats, hurting the relatives.
Irritating and jokers, disrespectful to all.
Evil and horrid, upsetting their victims.
Strong-minded and boastful, spoiling the world.

DYLAN D

DON'T BE A BULLY!



BRUTAL AND CUNNING,
OBSERVING THEIR PLANS.

UNRELIABLE AND SARCASTIC,
PLOTING THEIR DESTRUCTION.

LAME YET THREATENING, FRIGHTENING CHILDREN.

LOST AND HOSTILE, SELECTING UNLUCKY VICTIMS.

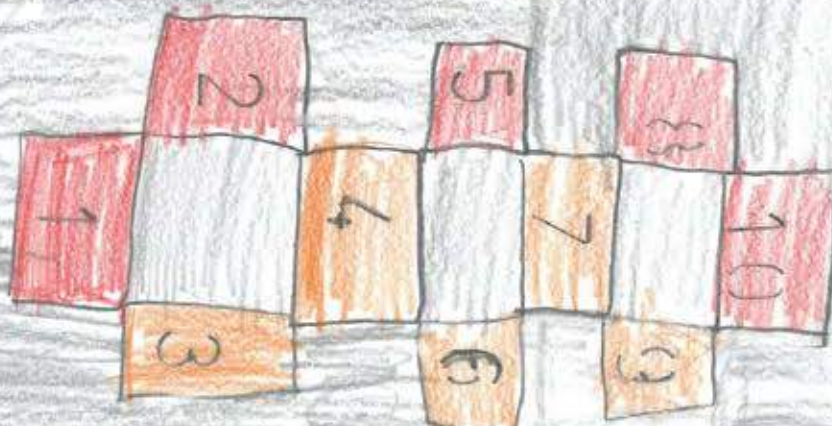
IMPARTIAL YET INTERESTED, CREATING NOISE AROUND.

EVIL AND FORCEFUL, PROJECTING EVERY YELL.

SELFISH AND PERSUASIVE,
DESTROYING OTHER LIVES.

EVIE L

Evie



CREATIVE WRITING

Lower 5B learn

about the Vikings

STOWAWAY

Olaf lay hidden under straw in the prow of the longship. A stowaway, he was determined to be with his brothers, Harald and Erik. They were members of a Viking raiding party sailing up an estuary to attack an Anglo-Saxon settlement.

Olaf heard the sail flapping in the wind and icy waves splashing against the longship's prow. He was cold and hungry.

Suddenly the boat beached on a gravel shore. Olaf pushed away the straw and peered between water barrels. He watched the raiders take up their shields, swords and huge battle axes. With a yell they leapt ashore and headed for the settlement.

The boy stood and watched as people fled in terror. Soon two huts were ablaze. Everywhere he saw fighting. Screams filled the air.

Olaf leapt ashore. As he did, a girl came out of a hut. She ran towards him, weeping. Olaf felt fear run through his body. What was he to do now?

Olaf wasn't sure what to say but after a while he asked "So what's wrong?" The girl replied "I don't know where my Mum and Dad have gone. They gave me a big row last night for not finishing my chores. Then my little sister got upset with all the shouting so I got sent to my room." "Here", Olaf said, handing her his hankie. I'll help you find them".

So they looked, and they looked until finally they got hungry and tired so they found a spot in a forest they saw nearby. They had a drink from the river, made a fire then cooked some fish for luncheon. For pudding they had an apple each.

After that they were completely stuffed.

Meanwhile Olaf was making a hut with sticks; Freya was still sitting on a log thinking about her family. Suddenly she heard a sound, a howling wolf by the sounds of it. Freya stood up not knowing what to do. She said "I know that howl, it's Brutus, my Dad's wolf!"

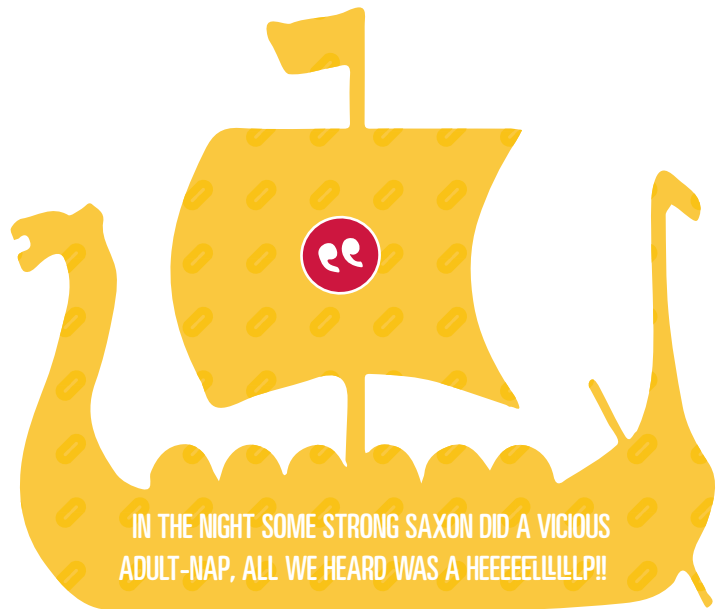
They both followed the sound of howling, it led them to the boom bang battlefield...

She saw her Father lying on the ground with her Mother, her sister (Hooligan) and Brutus. Olaf's heart sank. "It... it couldn't be," Freya sobbed. She knew her Father was as strong as an ox.

She ran up to her Mother. "Wh, what happened?" Freya asked in a very shaky, upset voice. Her Mother replied "In the night some strong Saxon did a vicious adult-nap, all we heard was a HEEEEELLLLLLP!! Then we knew it was your father so we followed the footprints to the battlefield," she paused "We found your Father lying on the ground."

She burst into tears, hugged Olaf then called the nurse.

"Please come as quickly as you can, we need first aid, urgently!" "I might be a bit late but I will try my best to be on time."



However, the nurse was very quick indeed, she came about five minutes after the call. She took his pulse. Then she wrapped some bandages on his wounds.

Meanwhile it reached night time the nurse was still mopping blood off his face. They took him home, then they all went to bed.

Olaf walked up to the spare room, had some milk then drifted off to sleep, but not long after Freya woke him up at midnight. She couldn't get to sleep. "Sorry to wake you, but I just can't stop worrying about my Dad." "It's okay, you know me and your Mum are here for you. Here, you can sleep with me. We will check his heartbeat in the morning." "Night night." "Night night."

They both woke up in the morning, went into Freya's Dad's room. But to their shock and utter dismay...he wasn't there.

They suddenly heard a strange noise, it sounded like pans. Both of them ran downstairs and awaiting them was...Freya's Dad!

They ran up to each other then had a huge hug! The whole room was filled to the top with joy.

Olaf married Freya.

CHARLOTTE M

STOWAWAY

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Suddenly the boat beached on a gravel shore. Olaf pushed away the straw and peered between water barrels. He watched the raiders take up their shields, swords and huge battle axes. With a yell they leapt ashore and headed for the settlement.

The boy stood and watched as people fled in terror. Soon two huts were ablaze. Everywhere he saw fighting. Screams filled the air.

Olaf leapt ashore. As he did, a girl came out of a hut. She ran towards him, weeping. Olaf felt fear run through his body. What was he to do now?

He saw the girl staring at him, her big blue eyes gleaming as her tears fell down her cheeks. "What's wrong?" asked Olaf. "My house was burned with my family in it," answered the girl with a weepy voice. "Well, come with me," said Olaf, "We'll swim to this island. Can you see it?" "Yes," replied the girl.

As they got off the massive longship, Olaf and the girl saw fish, big fish. They got into the freezing water and swam to the island. Then, Olaf looked backwards and saw a sharp fin about a few meters away from Olaf and the girl! "Swim as fast as you can!" Olaf shouted. Without saying anything, they swam very quickly and arrived at the island. They quickly ran on the burning sand and lay down on it, they stared up at the bright sun.

"Oh, by the way my name is Olaf," exclaimed Olaf. "And mine is Linda," said the girl, shyly.

Soon, when it was the night, they had built a shed with wood and found some wood to make fire. At last they were together. Although, they still had the trouble of finding a place to live. Then, they sat down in front of the fire and started talking...

The golden sun rose up in the sky. It was time to wake up. Having decided they liked each other, Linda and Olaf had finally found a place to live. "We're getting on like a house on fire" thought Olaf.

And they lived together for the rest of their life.

DAPHNE A

WOLVES AT LARGE

Frule and her sister Ingrid took milk and meat to their sick grandmother who lived in the forest. While they were there a storm blew up. Rain lashed against the wooden house. "Listen to the thunder! See the lightning!" the girl's grandmother told them about the god Thor who rode through the sky in his chariot drawn by goats. He made the thunder. He created lightning. As the girls listened to the tale they heard another sound. It was the howling of wolves deep in the forest. Frule and Ingrid left for home. It was a long trek through the dark forest. Thunder boomed, rain lashed and the wind blew. Lightning lit up the rough track through the forest. And then, as the girls stopped to rest beneath a massive tree they heard once again the howling of the wolves. The wolves seemed to be coming closer, closer. The howling made their hearts beat faster. The girls were still a long way from home. Could they reach home safely?

Frule and Ingrid ran as fast as they could but a wolf came up in front of them and the wolves surrounded them. As the pack moved in Frule jumped on one and shouted, "Run, Ingrid run!" and Ingrid ran all the way home.

The next morning Ingrid was walking through the forest when a ragged and bloody Frule came up to her. "Frule your alive!" shouted Ingrid "But how did you survive?" "well, when I jumped on the wolf and you ran away, I ran into the forest and hid in a hole, the wolves came right above me and they didn't see me, they were as blind as bats and in the hole I found a battle-axe, somebody must have dropped it. Anyway, I took the battle-axe and chased all the wolves away..." she stared in fear behind Ingrid's back... the wolf slammed down and Ingrid was knocked unconscious... she woke up in a magical place. "Am...am I in Valhalla?" "Of course you are" answered a guard "Is there any way back to real life?" "Only if you sneak into Thor's chariot in a storm and jump off!" 5 days later... BOOM! CRASH! WOOSH! The storm was very wild and Frule and her grandma were outside watching the lightning when suddenly an object fell down beside them "Grandma, it's Ingrid!" "We must take her inside." 5 days later..."where am I?" "You're at home" said Frule as Ingrid woke, "Oh I must tell you all of what I've done..."

FINLAY C



WHAT IS WHITE?

What is white? White is bright,
That's right.

What is white? White is see-through,
That's new.

What is white? White is beautiful,
That's usual

What is white? White is cool,
White rule.

What is white? White is bright,
That's right.

DANIEL S

WHAT IS GREEN?

What is green? The colour of our school clothes.
That hopefully don't have any holes

What is green? The colour of grass.
Eaten by an ass.

What is green? The colour of a mint ice cream
The taste of it might make you beam

What is green? The colour of mushy peas
They look like bogies when you sneeze

What is green? The colour of trees.
With fully blossomed leaves

What is green? The colour of brussels sprouts
Hopefully you don't have any in your house

TONI S

WHAT IS PINK

Pink is the colour of love,

Pink is the colour of lipstick,

Pink is the colour of my summer dream,

Pink is the colour of all things beautiful,

Pink is the colour of flowers,

Pink is the colour of lilies,

Pink is the colour of hope,

Pink is the colour of morning sky,

Pink is the colour of flamencos,

Pink is the colour of cherry blossom

And that's what I think about Pink.

LILY M

A STUDY OF COLOUR

LOWER
6A

WHAT IS RED?

What is red? Strawberries are red
Lying in their leafy bed

And red is love

Carried by a peaceful dove

What is red? Blood is red

Flowing around your body and in your head

And red is fire

Like a Phoenix risen from the dead

What is red? some Parrots are red

They're birds are need fed

And postboxes are red

"Happy birthday" the letter said

What is red? London buses are red

And the driver could be called Fred

And red pencils are red

But they don't use lead

LOUISA T

WHAT IS RED?

What is red? Roses are red

Sleeping in it's flower bed

What is red? Blood is red

Floating around our body's

What is red? Red is red

The colour of love

What is red?

The wall is red

Not moving around

What is red?

My jacket is red

Keeping me warm all the time

What is red?

My bed is red

Keeping me cosy when I sleep

What is red?

Burning fire is red

Making the house all warm.

AARON B

WHAT IS CREAM?

What is cream? Clouds are cream

Just floating along like in a dream

What is cream? Daisies are cream

Swaying by the stream

What is cream? White Chocolate is cream

It tastes good enough for a queen

What is cream? Wedding dresses are cream

You travel to the venue in a limousine

What is cream? Meringues are cream

I like mine with strawberries and whipped cream

What is cream? Swans are cream

With their beautiful feathers that they
keep very clean

What is cream? iPads are cream

It has a very good touchscreen

STEPHANIE W

WHAT IS GREEN

What is green? The leaves
On the trees newly spring in autumn

What is green? A green bean
Just after harvest

What is green? Most frogs
Are green but not when they've been in a bog

What is green? Grass
It looks pretty clean

What is green? My favourite colour

HARRIS M

WHAT IS GREEN

What is green? The grass is green
And it's a lovely scene.

What is green? Leaves are green
As they fall, that's the last time they are seen.

What is green? Beans can be green
Making people healthy and lean.

Green is great
It's an easy colour to create.

MICHAEL D

WHAT IS BLUE

What is blue? The sea is blue
Sometimes it is green and grey too

What is blue? Cows aren't blue
But annoyingly they still moo

What is blue? Frogs are blue
But they would rather not be kept in a zoo

What is blue? Flowers are blue
But not all flowers are the same hue

OLIVER W

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF LOWER 6B

Hello, welcome to Lower 6 Beta! We would love to show you what we do each day.

Lower 6B is always busy working hard, trying to get their challenging jobs done well and to earn clan points. Class captains help to keep the class organised and make sure that Lower 6B are a great team getting everything done together. We have lots of fun in Lower 6B!



“This year we have been to lots of interesting places. I really enjoyed Peterhead Power Station to learn about how power is made.

I also liked Barmy Britain and the Pantomime trips to the theatre. My favourite project was the Rainforest and doing a wall display about Temperate or Tropical Rainforests.”

CAMERON D

“In Lower 6 we started Games. We have done running out at the railway line which I enjoy. I also got to try skiing for the first time down at Garthdee. I want to do more lessons! I enjoyed going on the Victorian Walk and looking at all the buildings in our local area.”

MATTHEW R

“In Lower 6 we have achieved many goals and got better at things we weren't so good at. We have made new friends throughout the year.”

SARAH H

“Each day in L6B we do so many different things which will help us in the future.

We do lots of subjects in class including Maths, French, Language, and Science, as well as doing some activities out with the class like PE, Music and Art.

Lower 6B got into a regular pattern knowing what to do and when to do it with help from Mrs Fuery to guide us through the day.”

NATALLIA M

GHOST STORY

EXCERPTS BY LOWER 7A

...My heart was pounding and pounding and I was sweating from the tension. It stood there breathing loudly and then it started to move towards the box. But then I pulled the string for the trip wire... MURRAY A

...you can have a really big dream or passion that you won't know about until the right moment in your life. Although I am known as Silvia Ann Jones, I will always really be Anna, the girl with the unknown dream! EMMY C

...“Ahhhhhhhhh” screeched Kevin like a little girl. He then ran all the way back to the house. He shut the double doors behind him and locked them. “Uncle Tomas, I... I... I think I’ve seen a ghost!” BEN C

...he had one large scar running down the left of his face, and eyes that could stare down a snake... he was stuffed with cheap junk food, yet the worst was his moustache, coloured in black, grey and brown strands that did not suit him in the slightest... SEAN D

...Bill could hear the curtains being shut; he could hear water being poured and he could hear the heart monitor working in the corner. Bill could sense someone in the room; it was like he knew the person in the room... EDEN G

...It was a dark night in Aberdeen and the rain pelted down like a hail of bullets. The wind made the window panes in the Roberts Manor rattle like the bones of an ancient skeleton... JAMES L

...It was a damp, cold, night. Sid was sitting by the fire watching through the window at clouds passing in front of the moon, when he heard a strange sound outside. It was a whispering sound he could only just hear... OSCAR L

...The bang made Cindy's heart skip a beat and sent a shiver down her spine. Had it taken away George's life? Cindy did not know what to do. She clung to her bedcover and dared not to move... LARAH M

...As Jennifer approached the desk she passed an old antique looking table. On it stood a vase of blue flowers with a peculiar smell. She walked onwards... FIONA C

...The chapel was dark but with rays of moonlight illuminating the stained glass windows. Frantically they searched every crevice in the chapel for a place to hide from this terrible man... ROBBIE S

‘... Aaaaargh! A scream of pain was let out by the worker on machine NO. 147. All 750 pairs of eyes stared at the body of Steve McCallock. His hands were covered in thick, red blood...’ DANIEL S

...I stopped, paused and waved her over to play the game. Mary rolled the dice first. I felt a shiver down my spine and a cold breeze around my neck... JOET

...The wind howled louder and louder every second. It was so strong it shattered Toby's window into pieces. A sudden chill covered the warm air in the spacious room. Toby shivered, as the hairs on his body stood on end, like dominoes in reverse; one by one they shot up and stood still. The lighting struck again, and this time, this time, it sounded as if it was right next to his ear, deafening him... TESSA Y

...When half of Arthur's army was gone ghost kings tried to capture Arthur's land, only Genghis Khan was near. His whole army came and when he got back to his kingdom it was in ruins. Overrun by the evil red hyenas... SAMUEL M

...A faint light shone right into my eyes, I saw a slim figure up ahead; I ran for help but it turned out to be my best friend from school. I saw my friend Ryan sitting on a rusty bench. “Hey, Ryan!” I shouted... JEREMY W

... Jack bolted upright in his bed. A noise. He looked at the window, watching. But nothing. Jack slowly lowered himself down onto his bed, to go back to sleep. He went to glance at the Russian doll. His eyes widened and the hairs on the back of his neck stood up... LUCY M

... “Help!” screamed the doctor, “Help!” - A little girl has had a reaction and she might die. “We can save her- bring me the pill!” “Which one?” asked the nurse. “It does not matter”... OLIVER W

... I breathed deeply under the bed covers hearing my every heartbeat. The bed cover was ripped off sharply and blazing balls of fire glared at me in the eye. I scrunched my eyes closed and screamed... LISA M

...Something or somebody was in the house. Tom could hear his dog whining, barking and snarling downstairs. Charlie's heart was beating like a boxer hitting a punch bag. Then again Tom could hear something downstairs, but this time it wasn't his dog... EDWARD F

...Her mouth turned to a wide grin, too wide - it was cut, up her face to her ears. Blood trickled and dripped on the floor. It was real but she was just a ghost. Her eyes seemed to sink into her head and she was left with two gaping black holes... LILY L

...A strange light glowed above the old organ. That was when Thomas saw it, the keys on the organ were being played, but no one was there. Invisible fingers danced on black and white steps... MATTHEW M



WW2 EVACUEES

LOWER 7B



8 LOXLEY ROAD
WALES
WA18 3BG
16.06.39

Dear Mum and Dad,

I want to start by saying I love you very much. The journey on the way here was amazing furthermore interesting. Wonderfully I was on the train looking out of the window, and saw a horse, it wasn't just any horse, it was a horse with long luscious hair. I wanted to take it home, anyway the journey was amazing.

Finally I was chosen by an old couple, who were called Katie and Bill. They were a little bit late on coming to get someone (or more), although that was ok because if they were first then they wouldn't have chosen me.

I am so glad that I am not where the air raid's are because I am safe and happy here, not that I am away from you, just because I am safe. I want you two to come and stay with me. Nervously I asked Katie and Bill if there had been any air raids and they told me that there was only one through the whole entire time they had lived there (32 years).

I enjoy working on the farm. It is very peaceful. It is quite scary to see cows dying or getting killed for food. I often thought it would be quite boring, but I am actually enjoying it, in addition I met their neighbours, and they have a child my age and is very kind and during the day, when I am not working, I go out to play with him. He is very cheerful.

It is so good and relaxing not having to get up in the middle of the night to go to the air raid shelter. I wonder how long I will be staying here for? Are you both ok? I miss you both so much. STAY SAFE!

Lots of love,
AMY W



WALES
WA20 5AR
03.04.41

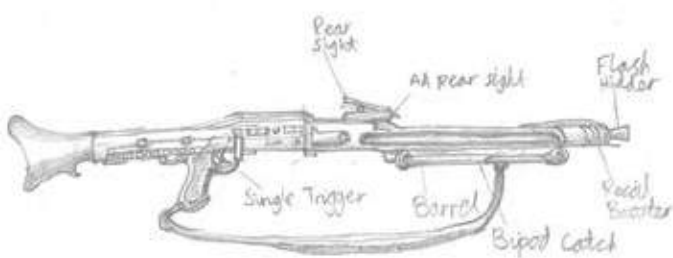
Dear Mum and Dad,

I just got into my new home. The journey was long, tiring and hot, but when we got to Wales we sat in a stuffy town hall and I waited for absolutely ages! Finally a nice farmer called Bob came and picked me! We had a long walk into the countryside I had never seen anything like it, big green fields, lovely animals and amazing different flowers.

When we got to the farmhouse which was really nice. I went up to my room and unpacked, my room was small with a comfy bed in the corner and a wardrobe opposite the bed with an amazing view of the countryside. Once I was unpacked I went downstairs and had lunch, it was sandwiches with ham and cheese in them. After lunch Bob asked me if I would like to help feed the animals so we went out and went to the wooden hut where the chickens were kept and we scattered seeds on the ground. Slowly one by one four plump-looking chickens came out of the hut and started pecking on the seeds. After that we went and fed the pigs, we put a mixture of vegetables and meat into a trough for them to eat. Then we went and milked the cows which was quite difficult.

I really miss you and I wish you were here it is amazing! Hope I see you soon and I will send another letter in a few weeks.

Best Wishes,
FINLAY J



By Endi S



By Gabe K

LITERACY WEEK

In February 2014 a 'Poetry Week' was held in the Lower School as part of Literacy Week. Pupils took part in various events and activities.

These included sharing a favourite poem with the class, researching a famous poet or playing rhyming games. Every class in the Lower School was visited by Kenneth Steven, who is a published author and poet. Kenneth gave readings to the L1-3 and spent time doing workshops with the L4-7 classes. Kenneth's visit proved a HUGE inspiration and consequently every child in the Lower School wrote their own poem. These poems were collated into a Poetry Anthology, which we had professionally bound and printed. Copies were sold for charity and this led to £2020 being raised for the Chernobyl Children's Lifeline.
Lauren Brookes (Literacy Coordinator for the Lower School)

A real poet called Kenneth Steven came to visit our class. We looked around the school and playground for tripits, which are three words that in an abstract or very obvious way describe a noun. For example: marshmallow, clouds floating. It was great fun! We especially liked loud, clanky, footsteps and teddy bear, soft moss. Kenneth the real poet helped us look at nouns, adjectives, verbs and adverbs in an unusual and different way. LOWER 4A

We each shared our favourite poem with the class. Some were funny and others were more serious. Examples are: Words, A Red Red Rose, Nicknames and Paris. We were also set a homework task that involved creating a poetry poster. The poster had to include a copy of a poem, which we annotated with comments about the literacy techniques used by the poet. We also commented on the content and how this related to World War 2, which is our current topic. LOWER 7B

It was a great privilege to come to the Albyn School in early February of 2014 to work for three intensive days as poet in residence. I had been asked to provide workshops and readings for a wide range of pupil groups, and I much enjoyed getting to know staff and youngsters alike. I hope that the challenges I offered with poetry were exciting and enjoyable; I hope that I introduced them to new poets and new ways of thinking about our wonderful language. I want to thank everyone for making me feel so welcome over those three days; it was only sad how quickly they passed! KENNETH STEVEN

We chose to write poems about our hobbies as the members of our class have so many different ones. We tried to use rhyming, alliteration or similes in our poems. LOWER 6A

We wrote poems about the senses - seeing, smelling, feeling, hearing and tasting.
LOWER 1

LOWER 6/7 MATHS DAY

AROUND THE BEGINNING OF THE SECOND TERM, a while back by now, there was a large event that included the Lower 6's, 7's and the maths department. We were to have a fun day trying to solve quick fire maths question, before changing stations and starting something totally new. There was lots of events in total, like maps and quizzes, using tools like protractors and compasses and it was a really fun day, testing all our skills we had learned in Lower School so far. It was a while since the day, so I may get some of the details wrong!

In the first period of the morning, we were selected into groups and put into stations. My group was first put into the arithmetic test in Mrs Wisely's room. We were given a limited amount of time to write down as many answers as we could to the sums that lay before us. We got three or four attempts each, and each individual had improved their score by the end. Soon the time was up, and we moved onto our next station.

We went through numerous challenges, code cracking, weighing and quizzes, maps and angles and pentominoes. Of course, we didn't have unlimited time on the problems, and none of us got through all the questions. By break time, we wanted another chance, but unfortunately time was up for the mini quizzes. But the most fun event was yet to come.

After break, we grabbed our pencils and were guided to the new school block, where the maths department is situated and filed, with our group, to our tables. We were all excited wondering what was to come next, and when we were calmed down they handed out various utensils and stationeries. It was to our wonder that they handed out all odds and ends, rubber bands, paper clips, paper, cello-tape, scissors and weights. The teachers told us that using what lay in front of us, we had to build a tower of paper.

Cautiously, we all started making plans to our model, but soon got into the swing of things. There were all types, wide and thin, tall and small, plans and designs. It was really quite fun, with all different methods really proving themselves. Soon it was time to be measured, as the tallest would win, if they could hold the weights. One group just beat the other and there was a mix of disappointment, excitement and pride in the air.

I had really enjoyed our day, and thought it was well planned out by all the lower school teachers, and the maths department. My favourite event, probably like everyone else's, was the paper tower.

A month or so later, Mr Williams from the Upper School came in to our class room carrying an Easter egg. The winner from my class was Robbie Shaw, so well done to him and his group.

SEAN D, L7

QUOTE

It was to our wonder that they handed out all odds and ends, rubber bands, paper clips, paper, cello-tape, scissors and weights.

SEAN D



NORMANDY TRIP

LOWER 7



LOWER 7 VISITED NORMANDY AS PART OF THEIR PROJECT ON WW2

DAY 1

I am pleased to report a very successful first day. Everything went to plan and we had a nice visit to Kelvingrove. Everyone ate a good meal tonight and then went back to their rooms to complete diaries and do a quiz... Winners to be announced tomorrow!

It is now 9.45pm and all quiet in the Albyn rooms. We decided to get an early night, since we will be up at 5.30am tomorrow!

DAY 2

Today we went to the airport in Glasgow to fly to Paris. It was a special and exciting day for many of us, especially for Larah, who had never been on a plane before. 'I felt very excited but also scared about going on the plane for the very first time. Emmy, Tessa, Lisa, Miss Forbes and all of the class and teachers helped me feel very safe, I can't wait to go on another plane again.'

We all had to wake up early, 5.30am to be more precise, and everyone was quite tired.

When we got to the airport, we had to go through security. Most people were fine but some of the bags were checked. Then we had to

quickly go into pairs and find some breakfast for us to eat before we boarded the plane. Soon we were off and up in mid-air. I thought it was like a roller coaster. After about an hour we were about to land and it was quite a bumpy ride down but it was so much fun. We are all really enjoying our trip so far and can't wait for the next activity.

LARAH M AND TESSA Y

After arriving at our hotel in North Normandy, we got allocated our rooms and started to unpack. After unpacking we went to dinner at 7.30pm. For dinner we all got served a portion of quiche which we had the responsibility of serving out ourselves. Later we got served a plate of beef and carrots with a bowl of pasta. All of the food was very good and everyone enjoyed it. When we'd finished we all got to have some vanilla and chocolate ice cream in tubs.

When everybody finished we got the option of going to the beach or staying inside. Everybody chose to go to the beach and some people played a ball game with Mr Macklin. After an hour or so we all went up to our rooms and got ready for bed.

We all went to bed quite tired but happy because we had had a good day. Everyone slept well.

LISA M AND EMMY C

DAY 3

At Allamanche beach it was quite hot. There were the Allamanche ruins which were slimy and had rivers running under it. We took some pictures of them as they were used in the Second World War. The ruins smelt really bad and you could see most of the way through it but it was too dark to tell where the end was. Seen as it was Fadia's birthday, we ate some of her cake.

JILL B

In the afternoon we went to Pointe du Hoc. We saw the craters of the bombs and a memorial. We also saw the remains of the German defenses. The Americans saw this as a key strategic point as a gunner could kill both on Utah and Omaha Beaches.

We had fun running down the craters and looking on the small passageways in the ruins. There were little rooms as well which we looked at. We also looked at the very nice view out into the English Channel. The memorial was dedicated to the American rangers that tried and succeeded to capture the point by climbing up the cliff face. When we looked at the cliff face it was extremely big. We all thoroughly enjoyed looking round Pointe du Hoc.

ROBBIE S AND PRATIK D



DAY 4

On 28 May, our third day into the trip, we went to the 360 degree cinema.

We had lunch outside, sitting on the grass eating our prepared sandwiches. After lunch, we went through to the cinema. There were nine screens; we stood up waiting for the twenty minute production to start. We waited for a few minutes, and soon the drums started to beat. President Roosevelt voice overpowered the talk. The music fitted very well, at stages of death, soft orchestra played, but in victory there were trumpets beating to the army and the crowd. It went through different stages; the beginning was Normandy invasions all through to the liberation.

It was not all about Normandy, there was stories of the Allies and the Axis. The war was bloody, but it finished with all the amazing things that came out of the struggle.

After the show, we had the chance to go to the gift shop. There were many nice souvenirs to purchase. After everyone was gathered, we went back to the bus and onto our next activity.

DAY 5

On 29 May L7 went to Festyland and had a great time.

Everyone split up into three groups, each group had two teachers in case people didn't want to go onto the ride.

First we ate our sandwiches and ready salted crisps for lunch.

Then the action began!

In the park there were two extremely scary rides; the Eretic; the Eretic is a ride where everybody sits in a circle and it swings up and down and spins while doing it (it went to a 125 degree angle.) The second really scary ride was called Le Grand Tournai, it was so much fun!

In total our group went on 9 different rides, including a 40 minute movie about a magical pirate!

Then we ate ice creams and bought some lollipops and other souvenirs.

We spent the whole afternoon there!

We all had an amazing time in Festyland.

LUCY M AND FIONA C

LAST DAY

This morning we went to the Pegasus bridge memorial museum. First we round the museum in our pairs and saw a lot of things like the weapons and what the 6th airborne division wore. Afterwards a guide came to talk to us a bit more about the 6th airborne division's missions in Normandy.

Then we saw a documentary about how the 6th airborne had to do to protect the eastern flank of Normandy. Then we went to see the original Pegasus bridge and we talked about the precision of the glider's pilot because he landed exactly 47m away from the bridge which was a perfect landing.

After that the guide took us to the replica of one the gliders that landed near the bridge the pilot even asked to be buried near the replica and we saw his grave near the glider. Then we went to look around the museum, outside the museum we could see replicas of tanks, trucks and guns

We should always remember what happened on Pegasus bridge because the 6th airborne division lost around 4500 men defending the eastern front from the panzer division.

FINLAY J, THOMAS G AND ZE-HUNG L

ALLTNACRICHE TRIP

The pupils took part in a range of
outdoor activities at Alltnacriche

CONSERVATION

One of the activities we did when we were at Alltnacriche was conservation. It was part of the John Muir award that we were undertaking. For conservation we had to clear weeds from around small trees and then feed them with plant food. After we had done that we did things like building dams in the burn, measuring trees and naming trees, some of the trees names included Bob, Destiny, Mississippi, Boberella, Kettle Mchistle and lots more!

ZOE D

SURVIVAL SKILLS

In survival skills you learn how to make a fire and cook bread. You spark some char cloth with flint and steel and blow on the char cloth to start a flame. Then after your fire burns gently you add more thick wood to the fire to make it last longer and burn bigger. Then you get flour and spices and fillings and put it in a pan to cook on the fire. Pine cones make it burn for longer and larch needles make a massive flame come up. You need papyry birch bark and then thick stuff and then pile on logs. The bread was sweet and savoury the chocolate chips being most popular!

NATHAN R AND ALAN F

GORGE WALKING AT ALLTNACRICHE!

When we were at Alltnacriche one of our favourite activities was gorge walking because it was so fun and exciting! We had to climb up waterfalls, rocks and more. In the orange group while we were walking in the gorge there was a riddle that we were all trying to solve. The activity was quite long which was good because you never wanted it too end! At the end of the gorge there was like a small pool and only one person went in it!

CAMERON D, MAURIZIO D, FINN L,
ROSS F AND MATTHEW R

CANOEING

We went in a mini bus for around 20 minutes to Loch Morlich.

There was a nice lady who gave us paddles, wetsuits and wet shoes. We then went onto the sandy beach and learnt how to paddle and steer. Then we got into pairs or threes then went into a canoe and went on the loch.

Once we had got the hang of steering we canoed up a small river where there was lots of branches which had fallen down, there were also tree roots that scratched the bottom of the boat.

It was tricky at first but after we knew what to do it started to get really fun.

At the end we were told to run into the water as fast as we could, there was a 30 foot drop and you ended up floating!

We played a game which involved holding all the canoes together in a raft then we had to run between all the boats.

We loved canoeing but our feet were really cold!

AARUSHI S, MARTHA S, MAIRI M, AMY I,
BRODIE J, SARAH H AND HOLLY M, L6

QUOTE

It was tricky at first but
after we knew what to do it
started to get really fun.

AARUSHI S, MARTHA S,
MAIRI M, AMY I, BRODIE J,
SARAH H AND HOLLY M

EVENING ACTIVITIES AT ALLTNACRICHE

When we were at Alltnacriche we had a variety of evening activities. The first night we did nukamball, a game similar to volley ball and the following night we did the egg drop challenge -you are probably wondering what it is! The egg drop challenge started by having an auction, where we could buy things to make a safety jacket for our egg! Many eggs splatted but other remained intact.

A favourite activity of a lot of people was nightline, where we were blindfolded and went in a conga through the forest and were expected to go through wheelie bins and tyres and over cattle bridges-all whilst blindfolded!

We finished off our night time activities by having a campfire and singing along!

Each night we also took part in feet off the floor where we would learn about the bible and our subject for feet off the floor was team work! We would end the night by singing you are a star, you can make a difference and build up!

Night time activities ended the day in a great way!

NATALLIA M, JESSICA C, GRACE D,
LYNDSAY C



QUOTE

We finished off our night time activities by having a campfire and singing along!

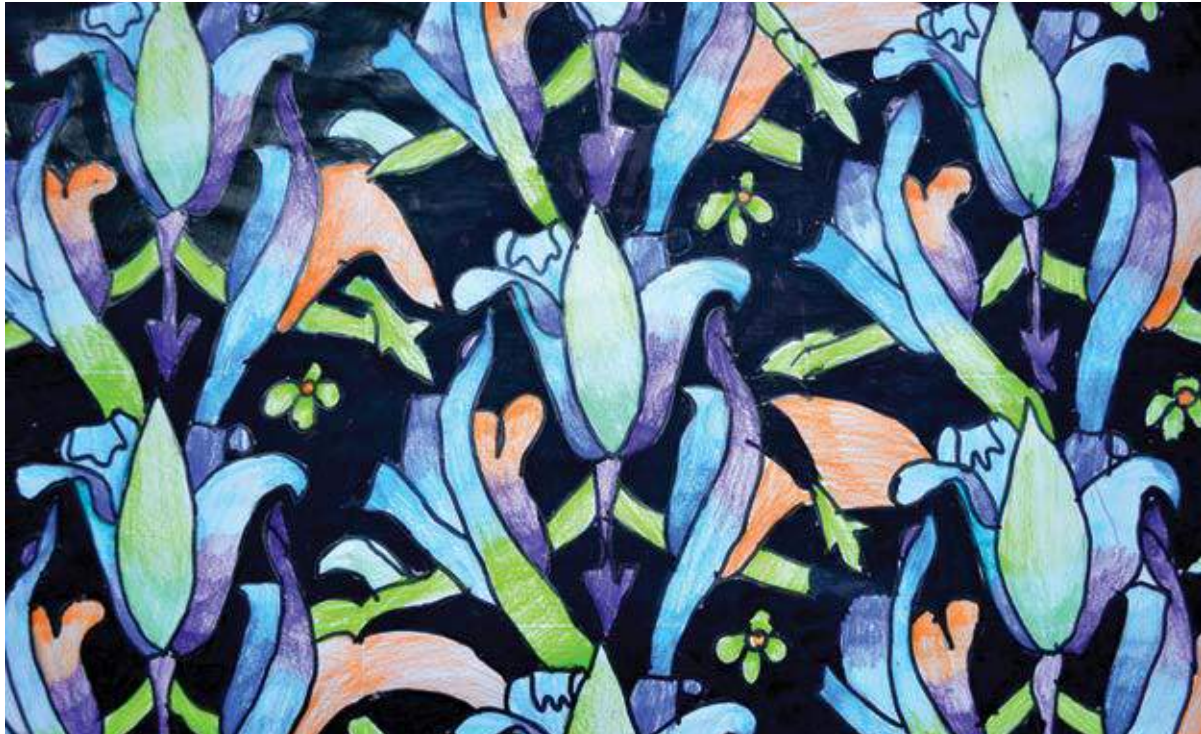
NATALLIA M, JESSICA C,
GRACE D, LYNDSEY C



LOWER SCHOOL ART



JENNIFER M / L6A ▲ ▼ AMY I / L6B

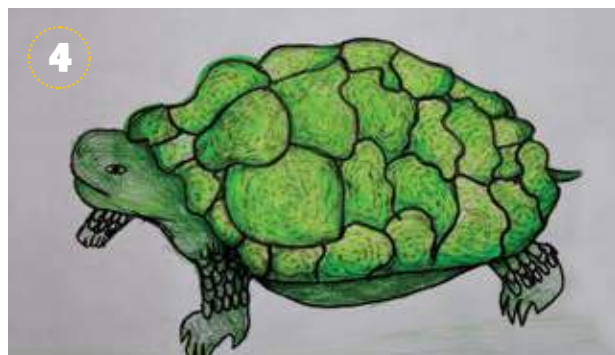


DRAWINGS BY...

1: LILY M / L6A. 2: LOUISAT / L6A

3: MAURIZIO D / L6

4: AMY I / L6B. 5: ZOE D / L6B



MY TIME IN UPPER
SCHOOL HAS
ALLOWED ME TO
GET INVOLVED IN SO
MANY ACTIVITIES AND
CLUBS THAT I HOPE
I CAN CONTINUE
WITH WHEN I
LEAVE SCHOOL.



US PUPIL



>

UPPER
SCHOOL

49

ENGLISH

INDIA SPACE MISSION

**AFTER RELEASING A SPACECRAFT INTO SPACE
WITH THE INTENT OF REACHING MARS,**

THE INDIA SPACE AGENCY HAS BEEN SUBJECT TO CRITICISM FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE.
THE THREE HUNDRED DAY JOURNEY TO THE RED PLANET WILL REPRESENT
SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS FOR INDIA'S SPACE AGENCY, HOWEVER MANY PEOPLE
HAVE ASKED WHETHER INDIA SHOULD BE SPENDING MILLIONS,
WHILE MILLIONS OF THEIR OWN CITIZENS STARVE.

THE MISSION will cost India around \$73 million, a relatively cheap cost when compared to other space missions; NASA created the famous space shuttle Endeavour for around \$1.7 billion. When this is taken into account, India does seem to have been very effective in their production of their spacecraft. A journalist from the BBC commented on India's space projects: "I came away impressed by how India's space programme uses its tiny resources to do innovative and original science."

However, the cost of a spacecraft, even when kept at a minimum, is still very significant.

A top government official replied to the financial concerns: "We have heard these arguments since the 1960s, about India being a poor country not needing or affording a space programme... India is today too big to just be living on the fringes of high technology."

Representatives from India have assured that the money for the project will be returned to the Indian people indirectly, as international businesses and governments invest in India's quickly advancing technology. The money that is earned by the government will reach the poorest of people through government aid and assistance, so they say.

It could be argued however, that the money will remain with the wealthy, with those who could afford to invest in the space programme initially. While they may put this money into smaller businesses,

it is difficult to imagine how the extreme poor benefit. Those with no access to food, water and shelter, let alone the more wealthy local businesses. The hope that the money will trickle down the economy isn't unbelievable but is perhaps very unrealistic.

However, BBC reports have shown that corruption by local officials have often left families without the necessary means to live. This highlights the flaws in the promises made by those supporting the space programme. In fact, economist-activist Jean Dreze believes the project "seems to be part of the Indian's elite's delusional quest for superpower status."

For instance, the Indian government set up a network of food warehouses throughout the country to reach people in need but many flaws were found in the system. Arti Tivari, a worker from a nutrition centre said the programme needs to be "implemented properly and for people to do their jobs properly" which the BBC described as "a polite way of saying that graft and corruption still infect the system."

The chair of the Indian Space Research Organisation, K Radhakrishnan, spoke about this issue: "The answer then, now and in the future, will be: "It is for finding solutions to the problems of man and society."

ISABELLE R, U6

WATCHING THE SUN GO DOWN

I THINK WHEN GOD CREATED THE WORLD, the most beautiful thing He made was our African sunset. Sitting on the top of the hill above the village, I can see all the flaming colours of the sky, from the setting sun through the oranges, scarlets and violets through to deep blue where the stars peep out twinkling in the darkness. The crickets are chirruping around me from the long grasses, and the small breeze is pleasantly cool on my hot face. The horizon stretches away the very edge on the world, and below it, the great expanse of open plains. It is dark now, but I know that beneath me lies the vast area of fertile grassland, covered in fresh green stalks rippling gently in the evening's breeze. Maybe a few deer gather by a waterhole, somewhere down there, or a small bird, a kingfisher perhaps, flutters from grass to grass. In the darkness I can just make out the winding river, like a thin snake threading its way across the great plains.

We had known they were coming. We had heard rumours from the other villages. There were people from the north who were coming to burn our villages. They came this evening.

We went out in the early evening to draw water from the river, when the sun is low and the air is cool. The river is always the same, smooth and wide. There are tall reeds on the other side down nearly as far as the water's edge, but on our side it is completely open. There are always lots of other girls down there getting water at this time. The air was filled with chattering and laughter and the sound of water splashing. My little sister Chikondi looked round, grinning her cheeky smile, as we drew the water. I smiled back.

It was as we were turning round to go back up the bank, I suddenly glimpsed something on the other side. Between the reeds I was sure I had seen something move just a moment before. A person's face, hard and grim. I froze, staring. Chikondi must have noticed because she peered at me anxiously. "Dalitso?" she asked tentatively. "Let's go," I said firmly and turned around, "Mother will wonder where we've got to".

Lifting the jar of water on my head I strode away back to the path. Chikondi copied and trotted after me trying to keep up. "Dalitso?" she said again, "what's happening?" How could I explain? I didn't even know if I was right. Maybe I wasn't. Most likely I wasn't. Still, I needed to get home and tell Father and Mother to be sure.

When we entered the village I knew something was wrong. There were voices coming from every direction, distressed, urgent voices. I could smell burning. Still balancing the jar on my head with one hand, the other reached down to grasp Chikondi's small one. "What do we do?" Chikondi asked quietly, terrified. "Let's find the family." I thought of Mother and Father, and baby Mwana. We made our way through the village surrounded by people fighting and mother's screams as babies were torn from them, still tightly holding each other's hand.

Back at the house Father was standing outside. He turned, eyes full of anguish, and noticed Chikondi and me. "Girls!" he cried with relief and fear in his voice. My father. My strong, brave father; village chieftain. I had never seen him like this before. "Listen," he said more quietly, stepping forward and taking our thin hands in his own broad ones. "See that mountain over there?" He pointed. "Go there and hide in the caves. I'll come for you..." His voice trailed off. He glanced away at the chaos around us. "Go now," he looked back to us, and spoke faster, "I'll probably see you again soon." "Probably? Father? Don't make us leave you." "Don't worry about me! I'm the village chief!" He smiled, but his eyes were worried. He hugged us, enfolding us in the safety of his arms for just a moment. "I love you both so much." Released, we stared, stupefied a moment, then turned and ran. This time we didn't balance any jars on our heads. We fled as they crashed to the ground.

We had left the village some time ago when I noticed a figure to the left of us not all that far away, jogging in our direction. I immediately pulled Chikondi down with me into the long grass and we waited, petrified.

Then he was close enough that I recognised him from the village. "Mphatso!" I cried. Standing back up I greeted him, but my heart was pounding. Why was he running away? "What are you doing here?" I asked. "Going to tell the next village before they arrive." At our blank faces he added, "haven't you heard?" and his voice was full of pity. "Our... village is destroyed." "No!" I said more defiantly than I meant, "Where's everyone? Mother? Father?" Mphatso hesitated. A moment passed, and when he spoke, he didn't meet our eyes. "They took him...and..." his voice trailed off, but I understood the unfinished sentence. "Dalitso..." Chikondi spoke in almost a whisper. I didn't need to explain, but I felt the tears well up in my eyes, and as Mphatso continued on his way, Chikondi and I hugged each other tightly and wept.

So now we are on the hill he told us to go to. I decided to stay here until tomorrow, since it was late. Tomorrow we will have to flee... who knows where? We can't stay here forever. I can hear Chikondi's measured breathing beside me as she sleeps. Somehow, I have to look after her and keep her safe.

At least we are safe here on the hill tonight. Tomorrow will come, but tomorrow is another day, and we will have to meet whatever dangers we face then.

And here on the hill, the beautiful sunset is fading.

RACHEL G, U6

✓
I can see all the flaming colours of the sky, from the setting sun through the oranges, scarlets and violets through to deep blue where the stars peep out twinkling in the darkness.



IN MEMORY OF PRIVATE NORMAN HENRY
GORDON HIGHLANDERS
DIED ON THE 23RD OF APRIL 1943, AGED 24 YEARS

THE COST

Now a grain of sand in a foreign land
A life once lost another to give
For he would die so I might live.
So I'll dance, and live
And laugh, and live.
I'll hope to feel romance, and live.
I'll sing, and live
And shout, and live
I'll search my future out, and live.
I'll cry and live
I'll scream, and live
I'll hope and live
And dream, and live
I'll think, and live
And ask, and live
And always try to give, and live.
And one day I may learn to live
With grief, injustice, pain and waste
And find it in me to forgive.
And if from hate I am set free
With honour I'll have lived for thee.



I'll not forget nor dim with time
The gift you gave to me and mine
And I shall tell who follow me
That they must also live for thee.
I'm just a boy with burdened chest
Who grieves a man in peaceful rest
Who cannot change the path of time
His chance has gone and now 'tis mine.
But though death's door it has no key
A part of you shall live through me.
So I'll dance, and live
And laugh, and live.
I'll hope to feel romance and live.
I'll sing, and live
And shout, and live
I'll search my future out, and live.
I'll listen, learn and teach and live
And I shall tell them to forgive
And try to justify the cost
By living life for those we lost.
MORGAN S, U5

LIVING THE DREAM

JOHN GRIMACED, pulling his hands up towards his wind-chilled rubicund cheeks in disbelief. He had been trying so hard to be quiet, if it were not for the howl of the wind; the clang of his dropped net needle on a rusty drum would surely have given him away. He was tired. His hands were sore and numb with cold and overwork and he was in no mood for ridicule, especially the kind disguised as friendly banter. He just couldn't be bothered with them today; he couldn't bear to listen to even one 'mair blah' about the fish they'd landed or what they'd grossed. Grown men these were, with businesses, factories; some with fleets of vessels, yet they took up their shore leave standing at the dyke of an old smoke house putting, in their opinion, the world to rights. The locals called it 'Parliament' and mocked them. In many ways they weren't far wrong for it was a closed house, an assembly of the chosen few, yet a few whose opinions, beliefs and actions would often affect the many. The outside world they may have been perceived as well rounded labourers, uneducated, simple men with Sunday suits, but John knew better. They were powerful. The outside world had no say here; the wheels of change turning only with their blessing. It was at these moments John questioned why he could not part with this place, why he would rather work in guarded silence in the full force of the North wind than seek shelter in a harbour yard but, as usual it was a momentary waiver and he quickly straightened his weary back. He stood, determined, defiant; delinquent and their rule and exclusion.

The 'fish hoose' as the locals knew it, stood high on the edge of the sand dunes facing north towards uninterrupted views of an ever changing seascape. It was a meeting place for 'fisher folk.' A place of work and ancient skills; a place where old grudges were revisited; fond memories recalled and where folk would gather waiting for the news of those new to the world and those tragically lost to it. To her west, the river mouth raged towards the sea forcing its fresh waters through the salty waves, rising from them clouds of grey spume, like a cauldron, its ingredients at war.

The river bank was edged with success, each house built in a turn grander, bigger than the last with every new brick and wall of glass the show of wealth grew evermore obscene. To the east a very different view; village life, modest little fishermen's cottages clustered at the shoreline's

edge, huddled round the tiny harbour as if each offered comfort and shelter to the other, their reliance, equal. Although there were now fisher folk scattered throughout the old and the new town, most still resided on the side of the tracks on which they were born. Some of John's pals had managed to leave Buchanhaven and her creel boats behind for life on the trawlers. Some owned and skippered their own boats but most, like John would end their lives where they have begun. In John's case he hoped it would be in the cottage where he was born and had raised his own family; across from his beloved harbour just metres from the water's edge.

Although Mary knew that deep down John was happy, and after thirty years of marriage she knew him well, she still sensed that little bit of discontent. Over the years he had often told her that he wished he could have given them a grander life, influenced she supposed by the brags of the 'Parliament crowd,' but she never wished for any more than she had and she told him so. Their house was comfortable and their lifestyle pleasant. They had seen both their boys graduate and, although they loved the sea, their father did all he could to keep them from it. He swam with them, played by its shoreline, fished from the harbour pier with lines but he never once took them out past her mouth. "I'm feart" he would tell Mary, "feart shi grabs 'em lik' shi grabbit mi in thi canna shak her icy grip." He always felt he had little to offer them – an old wooden creeler and a few lobster pots. To be honest Mary never argued with him about that, she would have hated him to think she believed her boys above the fishing, she just never wanted them to follow in their father's footsteps as it was such a hard and tiresome life. If she did ever envy the trawler men's wives it was never for long, as John was in his own bed every night and had been there to see his children grow. To her that was far more precious than any riches. Mary only wished he knew that, and could embrace how fortunate they had all been, but for John, surrounded by the success of others, it was hard.

Sunday was now the only day that Mary would accompany him along the shore and she would walk with him to the drying poles behind the 'fish hoose' where John would check the mackerel nets and creels. This was a special place for them both; a place where they have played as children, shared their first kiss, where John, both proposed

to Mary and received word of his first born son. They would talk about their week, about along ad about their future. Sometimes they would just sit in blissful silence and admire the view; the rolling dunes with their golden hair, emerald seas and scarlet flame tipped skies. But not today. Their peace was shattered by the familiar boom of boastful voices. "At's Peter," John whispered, recognising the voice of his childhood pal. Peter had little time for John these days, success had gone to his head, and now he was building two new boats, there would be no end to his immodesty.

John began to tentatively rise and Mary stopped him, pressing her finger to his lips and cocking her head closer to the cornerstone so that she could listen.

"Aye Pete, yiv deen weel fir yersel; a twinty fiter, a forty, in noo twa new it sixty!" said one.

"Aye, 'ere's nar berrermint ti 'at," returned another.

John listened and dipped his chin onto his chest releasing, as he did a solemn sigh. He could hear other grunting their agreement and as they settled themselves an older man spoke, his voice strong but worn, "tell mi noo Peter, fit's next, fit's i' dream?"

"Weel at's easy" he replied "a ll rin 'ees ships intae i' grun, in th'll niver see lan 'till the'r sinkin' wi fish 'een an 'eer or twa, a'll be made; mi pooches ful', mi wife cont'nt in mi bairns skweeled. 'sine a'll buy a hoosie at Buchanhaven's shore, in a creel boatie thit a kin run fin a pleases mi, 'en at nicht a'll sit back at i' water's edge in jist think o'er mi success."

Mary slipped one hand into John's open fit and pinched him, with the other she lifted his chin from his chest, turned his head and looked at him, a knocking look, one of love and of pride. After a minute or two John rose from his seat, his back never straighter, and with Mary on his arm, he smiled, then turned the corner of the 'fish hoose,' marching confidently through the throng.

"Och it's yersel John," cried Peter, "hoo ye dein 'ese days?"

With a gentle squeeze of Mary's hand, John turned and softly said, "Och a'm living' i' dream Pete, jist livin' i' dream."

MORGAN S, U5

CHALK AND CHEESE

A creative writing piece for

Intermediate 2 English

"THANKS, MR CAVENDISH, WE'LL BE IN TOUCH."

Forcing a weak smile, Tom Cavendish, shook the interviewer's hand and turned to leave. His head dropped down and his shoulders sank. How many times had he heard those words and seen that look? He had lost count; enough times to know that once again this would result in yet another rejection. Slowly, he made his way to the bus stop.

Tom had always been a quiet, reserved boy. At school, he had never got involved in the wilder aspects of teenage life: the underage drinking, drug taking and petty crime that seemed to feature in the lives of so many of his classmates.

Tom had no idea how realistic or exaggerated the stories he had heard about the other kids' antics were and he hadn't much cared either. He was always perfectly content to keep himself to himself, staying out of trouble, and diligently getting on with his studies. His teachers, who all liked him, said he was capable, dependable and assiduous but every single school report he ever received contained the phrase, 'Tom lacks confidence'. And it was this innate lack of confidence that was preventing Tom from being successful at job interviews now.

At the bus stop, Tom shivered as the chilly air cut through the thin fabric of his cheap suit. Despondently, he stared blankly into the gutter as he scuffed his foot along the kerb's edge. His phone vibrated in his pocket - two unread texts. From his mother: "How did the interview go? I've got a great surprise for you! Love you lots, Mum. X" From his cousin, Ricky: "Hey, rn8, I'm driving up to see my folks this w'end. It would be wicked to catch up with U if U R around?" Tom closed his eyes and sighed. His mum might call a visit from Ricky "a great surprise" but to him it would be nothing short of torture.

Twenty-two years earlier, Mrs Cavendish and her sister, who were very close, had been delighted to find themselves expecting babies at the same time and had further congratulated themselves on both producing sons within a couple of weeks of one another. They had imagined their boys growing up closely, the very best of chums, and more like brothers than cousins but it had not turned out like that because Ricky and Tom got along well enough but they were as alike as chalk and cheese.

No one ever had, or ever would, accuse Ricky of lacking confidence. He was a loud, cheerful and mischievous boy. "Must try harder" was the phrase appearing time and time again on Ricky's school reports. Other than the P.E. staff, most of the teachers at their school had, at some point, suggested that Ricky should try to be more like his clever, quiet cousin but school didn't interest Ricky. Football was his only passion and he was good at it - very good indeed.



Tom stared out of the bus window. It had started to rain. He watched the water travel jerkily sideways across the glass as the bus carried him through the drab, grey streets towards home.

"It's not fair!" thought Tom.

He had done everything he was supposed to do. He had worked hard, done well at school, gone to university – the first member of his family ever to do so – and he had attained a good, solid, 2:1 degree. He had done all the things people had told him would set him up for life and enable him to be successful yet all he had to show for it was a mammoth student debt and a string of unsuccessful job interviews.

His stop. Tom climbed down off the bus and made for the little house that had always been his home. It was still raining and impertinent droplets of water trickled down his neck and rudely found their way inside his shirt. He quickened his pace. As he turned into his road, he squinted through the drizzle... was that what he thought it was?

Boldly parked, right outside his house, was a brand new, beautiful, black sports car. A Porsche – Ricky's Porsche, no doubt.

Despite the lack of academic interest he'd shown at school, Ricky had done extremely well. When he was just 16 years old, a talent scout had spotted him and a London Premier League football club had signed him almost immediately. Tricky Ricky they called him now. Off the pitch, Ricky often appeared in gossip magazines, looking slick, flanked by beautiful actresses and models or advertising luxury goods in what were very lucrative sponsorship deals.

Crumpling his used bus ticket, and with narrowed eyes trained on the car, Tom recalled their schooldays and bitterly thought, "Oh, yes, Ricky should clearly try to be MUCH more like me!"

It was too much: the interview, the texts, the bus, the rain, the car – the utter unfairness of it all. Almost at his door now, hot frustrated tears sprang from Tom's eyes but the rain would disguise the crying. He fumbled for the keys in his pocket. As his fingers closed around the sharp, serrated metal, a sudden, unexpected and wicked impulse overtook him.



No one would see.

Moving towards the kerb edge of the pavement he dragged his house key right along the full length of the Porsche. Glancing down he saw the long, ugly, jagged, silver scar his gouging had left and, repulsed at himself, felt bile rise sharply in his throat. Quickly swallowing it down, he went inside.

'Did you see, love, did you?' Mrs Cavendish trilled excitedly. "Can you believe it; me winning a Porsche! ME! A PORSCHE!" "It's yours, of course, what would I do with such a car and maybe it's a sign that your luck is finally turning? I hope so; nobody's more deserving than you! How did you get on today? By the way, Ricky is coming up tomorrow. It'll be so nice to show him the car, won't it?"

JASPER G, U4



ENGLISH

A GIRL WITH A BOOK

After a fifteen year old girl was shot on her school bus by a
member of the Taliban in October 2012, the whole
world stood up in outrage.

PEOPLE NEVER THOUGHT that the Taliban, well known for their merciless oppression, would ever cross the line of shooting a child. Malala's only crime was fighting for the right to an education through various interviews, speeches and a blog on the BBC Urdu website. Her terrible ordeal has highlighted the plight of many children who lack access to one of the most basic rights in our world: the right to learn.

There was hope that the worldwide support of Malala would silence the Taliban so that no other child would be attacked however, little progress has been made.

Pakistan has been labelled as a place of conflict by the media for many years. Often linked with its war torn neighbour, Afghanistan, Pakistan has become a country known primarily for the terrible conflict caused by the terrorist organisation, the Taliban.

However, rising from the reports of the terror facing the Pakistani people every day, there have been many stories of brave people who have faced the adversity with true courage and bravery, risking everything in the process.

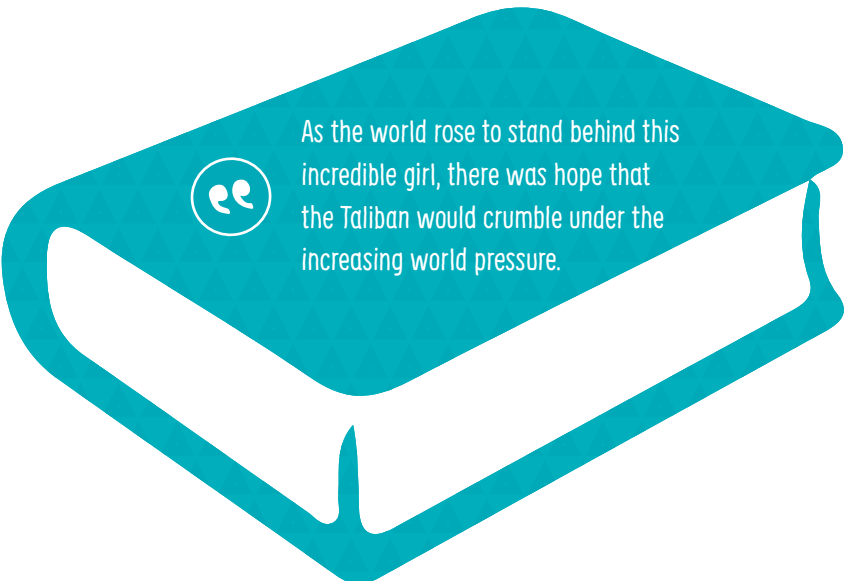
Malala Yousafzai was one of these individuals. After being told by the Taliban government that girls of her age were no longer permitted to attend school, Malala began to campaign for the right to an education for all. Her actions consequently left her critically injured after she was shot on her way to school by a Taliban member. Within hours of the shooting, her story was broadcast across the globe and Malala quickly became a hero to thousands of people. By the time Malala gained full consciousness after the attack, she had become the face of the campaign for girls' education. Within days, Malala had been described as a symbol of hope, resistance, struggle, bravery and courage by thousands of supporters.

Instead of considering the people in Pakistan as faceless, unknown victims, the world finally saw, heard and understood that even the most innocent people are forced to risk their lives for something we all take for granted: the right to an education. Many people try not to think about these poor victims and how hard they are fighting for a seemingly hopeless cause. However, when faced with a picture of a young girl in hospital clinging to life, they have no other choice but to face up to the fact that there are people out there who need their help.

As the world rose to stand behind this incredible girl, there was hope that the Taliban would crumble under the increasing world pressure. However, they do not seem likely to cease their current practices nor do they seem likely to step back and reconsider their violent beliefs. While Malala's story, and the support behind her, has not forced the Taliban to change, it has brought to light the millions of uneducated children who have no voice. Children who live in life-threatening environments cannot fight the oppression, hopelessly outgunned by their persecutors. There is no other option but to keep their heads down and try to survive.

However, upon hearing about Malala's bravery, millions of children in the world have been encouraged to reconsider their situation. Having previously considered themselves to be a lost cause, they can have a little more hope; they have not been forgotten.

When interviewed by a reporter, a Pakistani girl of similar age to Malala described the effect that her bravery has had on thousands: "she gave us an example...so we follow."



As the world rose to stand behind this incredible girl, there was hope that the Taliban would crumble under the increasing world pressure.

QUOTE

To all the girls who have
faced injustice and been
silenced. Together we
will be heard.

MALALA YOUSAFZAI

By raising these situations out of the shadows, thousands, perhaps millions will be inspired to join the fight for the education they deserve and the freedom to live their lives however they desire. This should force the Taliban to reassess their views of the people they are oppressing. They can see how many have joined Malala in standing up for equal rights and they are forced to recognise the power of the people of Pakistan. If one girl can stand up for what she believes and bring the world to attention, then how will the world react when more join her?

Despite the publicity of the terror in Pakistan, the conflict continues to this day. The news from Pakistan is an endless stream of suicide bombings, terrible oppression and continual violation of basic human rights. However, Malala remains a beacon of hope.

The UN secretary-general, Ban-Ki Moon, commented that "the extremists showed what they fear most – a girl with a book." The Taliban are most afraid of their victims' determination and potential when they have access to something as simple as an education. The Taliban are afraid of children who are capable of learning how to overcome the oppression, demonstrating just how unstable their control really is.

One girl can turn the world against them, and this one girl represents millions more.



BY

ISABELLE R

U6

THE LUNGS OF OUR LAND

I WAS PLANTED, and grew from a meagre seed. My roots germinated and sprouted over the years to anchor my system to the ground, to gather water and nutrients to transfer to all parts of my body. I had no parents to guide me towards the sunlight or to fend off other competition around me. Yet here I am, stretching my limbs out and bursting into an endless system of individual veins. Every precious drop and mere glimmer of sunlight reached the point of all my branches. Within my core, I am layered with rings upon rings. Each ring is a circuit where growth is the continuous race. These signify my lifetime, my existence on this earth. My trunk grows strong and steady, supporting my healthy network of busy branches. My leaves danced according to the season and although they left my structure, they always returned, sparkling and superior. From bare, to budding, to emerald, to ruby, to bronze, to bare. They bounded in the whipping of the wind and graciously winked to me.

My surrounding economy and I are grouped as a community. We all share the same oxygen, water and of course nature. The elm tree a few doors down is home to a mischievous fox who skulks slyly between trees daring itself to snap its next victim. His ginger fur twinkles in the moonlight like a miraculous copper. Behind me, Mrs Evergreen has nesting in the heights of her branches, a precious perch of blue birds. Mrs Evergreen's foliage protects the tender new-borns, giving the family their privacy. Their perfect pitch harmonies are drifted all through the day and night, which provides a blissful melody for all to enjoy. Right next to me a younger cluster of silver birch trees grow, still innocent and unaware of the world around. Their leaves are perfectly diamond shaped and have a fusion of glittering fine silver or bronze bark and a purple winter stem colour. Nature is always awake, in this playground.

There is a refreshing atmosphere which engulfs my forest. The crowns of all my fellow trees absorb the golden sunshine which helps nourish us. We play our part in the circle of life. Through our pores we graze on Carbon Dioxide and we exhale Oxygen, to aid other species, to assist to their existence and to keep life on going, forever. Without us the world would be a wasteland. From one tree to another we look out for each other.

Today seems like any other day. The warm rays of

sunshine hitting my face, the cool breeze twisting around the forest, wildlife at its prime. Then began a unfamiliar soft churning sound. Unusual. A smooth humming crept into my ears. The sound rose, with clinking and banging. In the distance, over the stretch of canopies, I spot a murky dull cloud, lingering low above the tree tops. Its slow arrival enters our home, inviting itself in. What is this impurity? Where has it come from? Upon an inhale of air, there is a sickly, vulgar taste, which my taste buds reject. I wheeze and cough, shaking my structure. The erotic air is sucked through my pores, clinging to my insides, digging its nails deeper and deeper, striking pain from within. I search around for aid, bewildered at what is happening. I see I am not alone. The young birch trees gasp for some clean air, but are strangled in the tightening threshold. Mrs Evergreen engages in eye contact with me, and I notice the tense look within her. The birds squawk in panic, abandoning their nest, carrying their young along with them. The elm tree, one of the older, grander trees is struggling. Our air has been submerged in this poison. It creeps around the soil, dancing. As dawn settles, the cloud disperses, rises, disappears into our atmosphere. I observed the horizon from where the fumes arrived, as our cherished sun says goodnight. The economy recovers from this blow, but will never be forgotten.

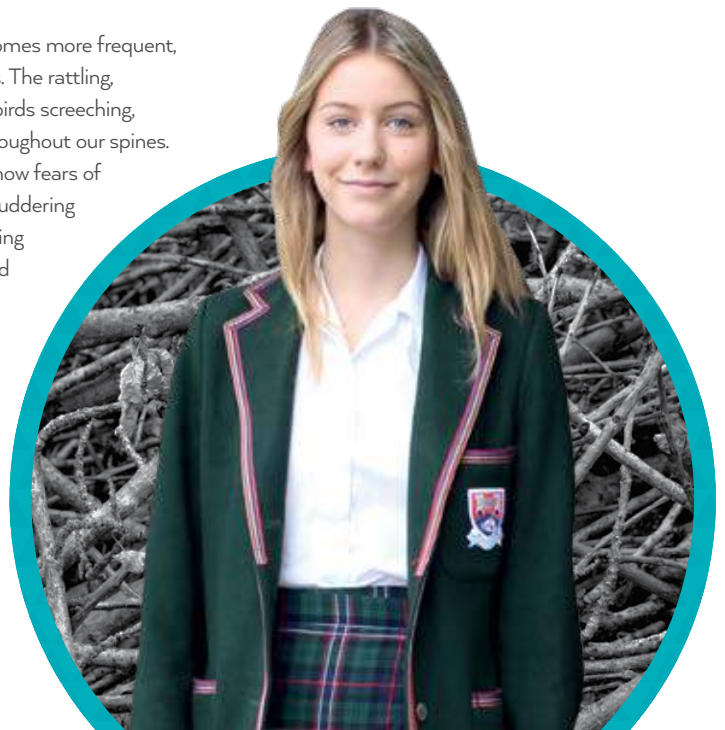
As the day pass, it soon becomes more frequent, these sessions of corrupt roars. The rattling, churning of heavy machinery, birds screeching, hammering. It brings a chill throughout our spines. Our community, once quaint, now fears of what is to be expected. The shuddering and grumbling continued, making its way ever closer. My sprouted roots kept close to my body. This unnatural sound did not belong within our forest.

The arrival of luminous orange and florescent yellow vests on small creatures arrives and scatter the area. Who are they? What are they doing? Could they possibly help us? A flicker of faint hope was sparked in all our hearts.

As they moved in the stretch they scattered the ground, measuring, tapping, and marking an unknown language on our trunks. A handful of these individuals spread themselves across the forest, all securing an area. It was just then, the soft shattering noise began. The grand appearance of coffin shaped metal approached us. It moved with such precision and purpose. Followed was a stretch of empty long wagons.

As the machine roared up and began, it hit home. This was not help. Not help at all. Induced panic was spread around the economy. For one last moment we all held close together, passionately, in an attempt to save and comfort one another. This family of nature had been together for so long. We all love each other. The nature in the forest galloped, flew and sprinted away. Their homes were demolished in seconds, leaving them homeless and exposed. They were to move on now, further being pushed back and back, which eventually will become nothing. A compassionate tear was brought to my eye, but I forced myself to hold it in. I was left with nothing, but a broken heart and a broken structure. Eventually all of us will be gone, leaving harsh detrimental effects on the planet, with no lungs for this earth to breathe.

KIRSTY B, U5



BUSINESS STUDIES

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT TRIP TO LONDON



> A trip around the London sights...viewing the crown jewels, visiting the Bank of England and finally going to see the musical version of the Lion King.

ONE DAY THE BUSINESS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT decided to take Upper 4 pupils taking their subject to London... And what do you know? After a couple of meetings and some painstakingly detailed planning, we all met at the airport to take off to London for a jam-packed three days of fun and educational activities.

Arriving in London for around mid-day, we left our bags at the hotel and headed to the bank. And not just any old NatWest on the corner of a street but the Bank of England! Yes, you read it correctly, the place where several millions of pounds are kept in the form of gold, underground in the vaults. After an interesting talk from an educational spokesperson about how the bank works, we had a look around the museum, which included a chance to hold a bar of gold! In the evening, after an all American dinner at Planet Hollywood, we wandered down some streets, turned some corners and ended up at the London Eye. We were lucky enough to go in one of the capsules and enjoy a full revolution of the wheel, where we were able to

gaze out and see famous buildings such as the Houses of Parliament and St. Paul's Cathedral.

Day two in London and first it was to the Museum of Brands. After a short journey on the underground, we made our way to the museum. We were given worksheets while we went round and enjoyed filling them in and looking at brands that have changed over time and some that have stayed the same. Following a group photo, we left and hopped back on the underground to Tower Hill, this is where the famous Tower of London stands. We ventured in and after a security check, went straight to see the Crown Jewels! Afterwards, we got given some free time in groups to explore the tower and it's historic grounds and learnt some interesting facts. Before we knew it, time was getting on and it was early evening; time for food! We filled our stomachs and went to see the musical; The Lion King, which was brilliant! Definitely a good way to end a busy day.

Day three, the last day! Despite all the fun we had, it was almost time to go home. Nevertheless we still had an exciting day ahead

of us. All of us took the underground to Oxford Circus and walked to Portland Place. Now all of you TV experts will know that this is where the partly new and famous British Broadcasting House is situated. I know you've probably guessed it already, but incase you haven't, we were going to get a tour of the BBC! The tour was mainly about the media side of the organisation but did include some information about how it is publicly owned. We got to look at the news centre and even got a chance to read the news and be in our own radio drama! Some of us even saw Alexander Armstrong's co presenter from Pointless, Richard Osmond!

After an hour of free time in Selfridges, it was to time to leave London Town. The trip was one of the best school trips I've ever had and we all had lots of fun and really enjoyed it. Despite a short delay, we arrived home safely and couldn't wait to tell our jealous friends and families about the amazing trip!

MATTHEW N, U4

WHY PEOPLE JOIN GANGS IN THE USA

GANG MEMBERSHIP IN AMERICA is important to many people because of reasons such as family, protection and influence. These points have such a massive impact in why some people in the USA are in gangs. The two main gangs in the USA are the Bloods and the Crips.

People are often influenced into joining a gang. This may be due to the fact that growing up boys will be taught that to be a man you must be tough and violent. They are taught and believe this because they may have no father figure or role model. The majority of families living in the ghetto will have no father present because they have either left, been murdered or are in jail. 28% of all African-American men will be in jail at least once in their lifetime.

Boys can also be influenced to join gangs because they are lonely. Since they may not have a father in the home it results in their mother having to provide everything which also means that they would have to work a lot. This means they would not be around very often making them feel as if they aren't loved and very lonely and that the only way to have a family is to join a gang as gang members treat each other as if they were in fact their family.

Other times people will join gangs because they are following family tradition. If they are to grow up in an environment in which, for example, their family sells drugs for money then they will grow up thinking that is a correct way to earn money when it is actually very wrong so they won't know any better and will probably do the same when they are older. The same goes for when your family is involved in a gang. Many gang members do not even know why their gang is at war with another gang and when asked why they are in a gang they simply reply with that they followed their family and copied what everyone before them had done.

People could also be influenced to join a gang because they want to have respect or they feel that they will be protected if they are part of a gang which brings us to the next point.

Gangs can be very appealing because of the protection they can provide. Being in a gang means that you will be wearing your gangs colours which means you will be at no risk from

your gang and it could also help you seem more threatening to others, making them leave you alone. However, being involved in gangs can also mean you must protect yourself even more and that you must go to new levels simply to keep yourself alive. This involves doing things like having a gun as young as twelve with you when going to school for fear of being attacked. It can also mean that you must always watch your back and only be around people who have good intentions towards you. It can even mean that you must show no emotions so that no one can find a way to hurt you or the people you care about. All of these are things you must do to stay safe. You can't ever slip (be off guard) because it can be the difference between life and death. So although the protection from a gang can be quite appealing it can also add many more risks in order to be safe.

Another point as to why many people join gangs is because many will be born into the cycle of poverty which means that they will grow up in poverty and will have less of a chance of a good education and so they may struggle to

get a high paying job. Gangs may be the only way to earn respect and get money which can mean they have access to jobs like drug dealing. Drug dealers are often the people with the most respect, nicest car, nicest house and the most money in ghetto areas. Therefore, because people were born into the cycle of poverty and into a poor family they may end up drug dealing instead of sticking with school.

All of these points are what make people feel the need to join a gang. People join gangs because they are influenced to do so and are taught from a young age that being violent is the correct way to live and that it is the way to be a man. Protection makes people want to join a gang because they strive to be part of a family and to be loved unlike what their own families have provided. Families themselves can result in people joining gangs because they feel that they have no other option due to the fact that they were born into a poor family and feel like they have no hope of success in the likes of education and getting a well-paid job.

LAURA T, U2



RMPS

LESSONS FROM AUSCHWITZ

IF WE THOUGHT WE UNDERSTOOD

that idea immediately after returning from my day-long visit to the Nazi-run sites of genocide, Auschwitz I and Auschwitz-Birkenau, we were in for a shock. Most of what we had seen and heard about in those twelve short hours would not hit us until three days after our flight from Kraków landed in Edinburgh Airport. The realisations wouldn't stop there, either: even now, almost two months later, we are still trying to comprehend our experiences and realisations.

That was one of the reasons why we wanted to take part in the trip. Year on year we receive talks from students who had been on the trip before us. Although their presentations were interesting and insightful, we didn't feel we had a full understanding of what Nazi Germany did and how they destroyed so many lives and families all across Europe. We believe mainly we wanted to see Auschwitz for ourselves so when it came to sharing our experience with others, they were able to gain a greater awareness of what lessons we should learn from Auschwitz.

The Orientation Seminar was vital in our initial understanding of the themes and lessons which our visit to Auschwitz made truly meaningful. Hearing the utterly incredible Holocaust survivor Kitty Hart-Moxon tell us about her harrowing experiences of the Holocaust, which she lived through as a child and teenager, put where we were due to go into perspective. The relationship with her mother in Auschwitz was extraordinary as they looked out for one another and helped each other to survive. Also the fact she spent two years at the camp was highly unusual as most people only stayed there for a few months. It allowed us to see how genuinely lucky she was to be alive. More than ever, we realised the extent of the responsibility being placed on the shoulders of us and our peers. The Holocaust and the torture carried out at camps like Auschwitz-Birkenau did not happen a long time ago, and it is up to us to make sure it never happens again.

Having been expecting an image of Hell, or close to it, we overestimated the immediate reaction we would have to seeing the buildings which housed some of the prisoners at Auschwitz I, the first of the two camps we visited. The red brick buildings shocked us, but not in the way we were expecting – they seemed too bright, and not ugly enough. Auschwitz I at times felt more like a tourist attraction with many other groups from all over the world. There was an incredible feeling of 'oneness' as everyone was being shown the same buildings, hearing the same story and learning the same lessons from Auschwitz. This image changed when we stepped inside the room full of hair. Parts of people, collected, harvested like a crop – this step in the process of dehumanisation which Nazis – no, people – carried out so meticulously, chilled us to the core. The little brown plaits were too personal – re-humanisation comes at a cost.

At Birkenau, it was difficult to imagine that thousands of Jews and other groups of society victimised by Nazi Germany who occupied this camp at the same time. The gallery with all the photographs showed how love and family was something that kept people strong. It's upsetting to think that they thought they would be returning to their home and that they would see their family again. Rabbi Markus, who travelled with us said something that has stuck with us since the visit and we believe accurately sums

up our experience of both camps: at Auschwitz I it's about what you see, whereas at Birkenau it's about what you don't see.

To say that the Holocaust is no longer relevant in our society is a sweeping statement. It was not simply an event in history, but an atrocity which has had an immeasurable effect on the lives of those involved, their descendants and even people who perhaps thought that it had little to do with them. Even though Nazi Germany is no more, discrimination continues even in the UK and unfortunately some people act on these nonsensical prejudices. Hitler wanted a divided society where those deemed "unworthy" were used as scapegoats and were brutally punished by those around them. This is why it is important for us to share our experiences of Auschwitz so it can educate as many people as possible. We cannot thank the coordinators and sponsors of the Lessons From Auschwitz Project enough for giving us such a life-changing experience, and assure them that we will be absolutely determined to make as much use of our experiences as possible and pass on the lessons we learnt.

EILIDH H AND RACHEL G, U6



AN INTERVIEW WITH MARTIN LUTHER

U1 is studying the reign of Henry VIII. To better understand

the Protestant Reformation, pupils produced interviews with

Martin Luther. This one was 'held' in 1545.

Interviewer: Now please welcome our next guest, Martin Luther. So, tell me Martin, what exactly is it you're famous for?

Luther: Well, you see, at the start of this century, the Catholic Church was corrupt. What bothered me the most was the buying and selling of indulgences. Basically, an indulgence was a formal document given by a priest pardoning the recipient of any sins they have committed.

Interviewer: And what did you think of this? I'm sure even people who aren't religious would agree that proper forgiveness cannot be bought.

Luther: Yes, exactly. Christ wouldn't sell us out. Nowhere in the Bible is the buying and selling of indulgences taught. If it was, then what kind of religion would it be? A man who murdered, lied, committed adultery could just buy an indulgence and walk away feeling as if he'd got a bargain!

Interviewer: Rightly said, Martin. These people wanted to buy their way out of Purgatory with a material possession – money – surely not something needed by God. What else did you not like about these indulgences?

Luther: Well, they were costly. Would God really favour the rich over the poor? Religion is not about money, it is about love, forgiveness, and admitting you have done wrong.

Furthermore, the money from indulgences often was spent not on the poor or another good cause, but on the priests. This outraged many people like me.

Interviewer: That is why, I believe, in 1517, just 28 years ago, you wrote a complaint about this to our bishop, explaining why indulgences were wrong, with the intent of convincing him as to why it was wrong. In the letter you don't show any hint of anger, more like you were explaining, like a parent to their young child, sounding as if you were just pointing out the obvious. And maybe you were. This was one of the events that started the Protestant Reformation. Do you mind me reading it out?

Luther: No, not at all.

AS THE INTERVIEWER
READS THE LETTER
THERE IS APPLAUSE
FROM THE AUDIENCE.

Luther: Thank you!

Interviewer: Were there other reasons why you wanted to change the Church?

Luther: Oh yes! As well as with indulgences, sins were also forgiven by making a pilgrimage to a holy place or buying a relic, a piece of a saint. The Church also taught that one could become closer to God only through Church ceremonies. This is untrue. Another issue that many others had with the Church was that services were held in Latin, not in the people's own languages.

Interviewer: And why is this a problem for many?

Luther: It bothered us because, obviously, we didn't understand what we were saying or worshipping. There are other reasons, but we are not here all day.

Interviewer: Now, Martin. After the Pope saw your letter he declared that anyone who supported your cause would be excommunicated. Tell the audience what this means.

Luther: Excommunicate means to ban someone from the Church, consequently sending them to Hell. The ultimate punishment. The Pope told me the only way this would be undone was if I disbanded my cause.

Interviewer: Which you never did. How did you react to this announcement?

Luther: It was terrible. For me and those who supported me. I was trying to make him see some sense, to bring the Church closer to God. Although people might say that evil always thinks it's doing right, I'm pretty sure that he was just using his position to his advantage. So disappointed.

Interviewer: Thank you for speaking with us today. Ladies and gentlemen: Martin Luther! (APPLAUSE.)

DOBRYA, U1

HISTORY

HIROSHIMA

UPPER 2 PUPILS WERE ASKED TO WRITE PRIMARY SOURCES ABOUT THE DROPPING OF THE ATOMIC BOMB ON THE CITY OF HIROSHIMA.

A JAPANESE MOTHER REMEMBERS THE DROPPING OF THE BOMB ON HIROSHIMA

It was a normal morning just like any other. We went about our normal everyday business; we had breakfast and I was getting my three children ready for school. Of course everyone knew we were in danger because we lived in one of the major cities in Japan. We had escaped bombing so far. We didn't understand how much danger we were in.

It started when the air raid siren went off. My husband was at work so I was alone when I grabbed the baby, Miki, and the other girls, Hana and Lily. As we dashed into the street, hundreds of other petrified people fled from their houses as well and were piling into the air raid shelter. We squeezed in so as many as possible would be safe from the Americans.

When we got out, the city went back to its normal busy activity. Everyone looked and acted as if nothing had happened. Then it happened. The bomb was dropped that would ruin my life. All I remember was seeing a bright light and then suddenly everything went dark as Hana's hand slipped out of mine and I crumpled to the ground in shock. When my children shook me awake they told me that a black rain had fallen. They had drunk it as it fell because the army officers who had been sent to help us were told not to give water to anyone. Fires raged not far away. I didn't know what to do. Nothing had prepared me for this. Miki was limp and bleeding badly. A brick from a fallen building had crushed her leg. Everyone around us was in the same situation so there was no one to really help us. Officers told us that if we needed emergency care we had to go to one of the makeshift hospitals that had been set up on the outskirts of the city. I knew Miki needed urgent care to stop the bleeding so I bundled her in my arms. Taking Hana and Lily, I moved as fast as the children's legs could cope.

When we got to the hospital, there were already huge numbers of people being treated by doctors and nurses who had rushed there. By the look of the queue, by the time we were seen, it would be too late for Miki. I did what any desperate mother would do and shouted for help as loudly as I could. A young doctor took Miki, and as he dashed away with her, the two older ones and I ran after him, determined not to let him out of our sight. We waited for what seemed like hours, watching helplessly as he did everything he could to save my sweetheart's life. When they told me, I could not at first believe that I would never hold her in my arms again.

We met others at the hospital who told stories of what had happened closer to the city centre. This was how I learned that my husband, who was working at a bank there when the bomb hit, was probably amongst those who seemed to have just evaporated. So not only had I lost my child, but also my husband.

We had nowhere to go. We were no longer priorities at the hospital so we thought we could not stay long. It hadn't been more than four hours since Miki had died when we became priorities again. When we got to what used to be the park, Hana collapsed coughing. Dark spots had started to appear on her body. Back at the hospital I lost track of the time, as Hana and Lily died as some of the first victims of what we learned later was radioactive rain.

I now am alone in the world. There is no one to support me. I have no one because of a cruel experiment. The Americans wanted to know just how much damage their nuclear bomb would cause, deciding Hiroshima was a good target. A good target...

INGA L, U2



DIARY OF AN AMERICAN SOLDIER

The war has finally ended! The nuclear bomb has been dropped on Hiroshima. I am ecstatic at this result, as the war has been shortened by at least six months. This let me go home quickly, and in one piece. While innocent casualties were lost in Japan, the bomb helped us to win this bloodthirsty war. Many thousands of American casualties had been lost. The bomb had to be dropped. Letters were sent to the Japanese militia who refused to accept our terms of unconditional surrender. They did this in a cantankerous fashion. The Japanese soldiers were, after all, willing to kill themselves for their emperor, willing to win the war after heavy losses. The bomb was therefore a necessity. Celebrations have happened all

over the U.S.A. I too joined in. I am just so glad I am home. I do regret the casualties inflicted on the Japanese but if the military refused to surrender then we had no choice but to drop the bomb. Over 90,000 casualties, but it was a sacrifice that had to be made to prevent more deaths. After all, the Japanese soldiers benefited subtly. If the war had raged on then the number of Japanese casualties would have risen too. In spite of all the losses, I have a happy life. The Japanese might have thought at the time that we were animals to have caused such suffering, but it was necessary at the time, to end the war. I believe Truman made the right decision.

FARHAN E, U2

HIGHER GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO MALHAM



PRIOR TO THE EASTER HOLIDAYS, the U5 Higher Geographers embarked on a three day fieldtrip to Malham in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The aim of the trip was to broaden our knowledge of the Limestone landscape (which the area around Malham is famous for) as well as understand the conflicts within the National Park particularly between farming, tourism and quarrying.

1

ON DAY 1 after travelling by train from Aberdeen to Settle, North Yorkshire, we met Ruth from the Field Study Centre at Malham Tarn, who was to show us the features of the area. Our first stop was the village of Clapham, where after a short walk we viewed the underground features at Ingleborough Caves including stalagmites, stalactites and pillars. The caves have over 15 kilometers of underground passageways many of which remain undiscovered by humans. After our tour of the cave, we walked up onto the moors and onto Gaping Gill, a 110 meter deep pothole which contains Britain's highest waterfall. Along the way we discovered more geological limestone features like shake holes and swallow holes, learning about their formation. By observing these features ourselves, we were able to appreciate their formation much more than by just looking at a photograph in a text book.

2

DAY 2 was spent walking from our accommodation at the Field Study Centre on the edge of Malham Tarn to Gordale Scar via Malham village. We learned that Malham Tarn (the local name for a lake) is situated on a bed of impermeable slate, an unusual feature in a limestone area. We discovered why Watlowes dry valley is asymmetric—it is due to the south facing valley side undergoing freeze thaw action after the last ice age. We walked on the Limestone Pavement above Malham Cove where Harry Potter was filmed, being amazed at the depth of the Grykes and the solution hollows that were formed on the Clint blocks. Our final attraction of the day was Gordale Scar, a huge gorge with a beautiful waterfall at the head of the gorge.

3

DAY 3 was spent at Dry Rigg, a gritstone quarry. We saw the first stages of redevelopment that will occur to return the site to nature once the quarry is closed. We were able to see the main features of the quarry from above via a viewing platform, and visited the control room on the quarry floor to see how the machines used to crush the stone are managed. We also saw videos of the blasting that occurs to extract the stone and it was amazing to see how easily they were able to blast solid rock!

Overall, the trip to Malham was thoroughly enjoyed by all. We developed our knowledge and understanding of limestone landscapes, along with the conflicts and management of those conflicts within the National Park.

KATIE H, U5

SCIENCE

FOSTERING CREATIVITY IN PHYSICS

As part of the **Sound and Music Topic** pupils in Upper 2 investigated the effects of varying the length and tension of a vibrating string on the frequency sound produced when the string was plucked.

PUPILS ALSO INVESTIGATED the effect of altering the length on the frequency of sound produced by a vibrating column of air.

Following these investigations pupils were given the independent study challenge to design and create a model that describes and illustrates a Physics principle. Pupils were required to use interdisciplinary skills to design and manufacture a musical instrument from recycled materials. Pupils had to use their imagination as well as their knowledge of the difference in frequency between two notes that are one octave apart

to ensure that the instrument had a minimum range of one octave.

There was much excitement on the morning of the deadline when pupils brought their creations to school in order to share their work with their peers. A plethora of different designs were submitted, which varied both aesthetically and in the manner in which they could be played. Several of the string instruments achieved a range of one octave by having one string (or elastic band) that was double the length of the shortest. Other designs successfully produced

a range of notes by varying the tension on wires of the same length. However, not all of the instruments emulated the string section. The wind instruments were also well represented by a range of open and closed tubes that once again achieved a full scale by having one tube that was twice the length of the shortest.

After demonstrating their instruments to the other members of their group, pupils' work was formatively assessed by their peers and they received constructive feedback on a number of criteria that they had previously agreed on.

✓ A plethora of different designs were submitted, which varied both aesthetically and in the manner in which they could be played.



MATHS

MATHS COMPETITION

Budding mathematicians go head to head for

UKMT Junior Maths Challenge.

UKMT JUNIOR MATHS COMPETITION

On Monday the 10th of March, a group of U1 and U2 maths students took a trip to the University of Aberdeen for the UKMT Junior Maths competition. The group consisted of Melody Ama, Stephanie Walker, Olivia Juett and Sam Kelso. After a chatter-filled car ride, we arrived at the university to compete against 17 other teams from the North East, including Shetland. We were kindly introduced by the two leaders and the competition began! Now this competition wasn't just writing down equations; we used a range of problem solving, we had a cross number to complete and there was an activity which involved a lot of running! Everywhere you looked there were focused and determined faces. After a day of challenging activities, they announced the winning teams – and we came in 2nd, the best Albyn has ever done in this particular competition.

MELODY A AND STEPH W, U1

UKMT INTERMEDIATE MATHS CHALLENGE

Well done to Skye Arnott, William Townsley and Calum Bird from U4 who not only gained Gold certificates in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge but also scored enough to enter the next level of competition – Pink Kangaroo – where they again did very well. Only in Maths do you reward achievement by asking them to sit a harder paper!





CONGRATULATIONS
MATTHEW M

U6

2013/14 BRITISH MATHEMATICAL OLYMPIAD

Matthew Macfarlane (U6) was selected to progress from the UKMT Senior Challenge to the British Mathematical Olympiad. Only 1000 invitations to the Olympiad are given following the first round to those pupils that scored very highly on the Senior Challenge. The Olympiad paper consists of six complex mathematical problems requiring full solutions and lasts for three and a half hours. Congratulations to Matthew for this achievement.

Round 1: Friday, 29 November 2013

– sat by Matthew Macfarlane (U6)

BMO Round 1 takes 3½ hours and contains six complex and involved mathematical problems for which full written solutions are required.

MATHEMATICAL PROBLEM

1. Calculate the value of $\frac{2014^4 + 4 \times 2013^4}{2013^2 + 4027^2} - \frac{2014^4 + 4 \times 2013^4}{2013^2 + 4025^2}$
2. In the acute-angled triangle ABC, the foot of the perpendicular from B to CA is E. Let l be the tangent to the circle ABC at B. The foot of the perpendicular from C to l is F. Prove that EF is parallel to AB.
3. A number written in base 10 is a string of 3^{2013} digit 3s. No other digit appears. Find the highest power of 3 which divides this number.
4. Isaac is planning a nine-day holiday. Every day he will go surfing, water skiing, or he will rest. On any given day he does just one of these three things. He never does different water-sports on consecutive days. How many schedules are possible for the holiday?
5. Let ABC be an equilateral triangle, and P be a point inside this triangle. Let D, E and F be the feet of the perpendiculars from P to the sides BC, CA and AB respectively. Prove that
 - a) $AF + BD + CE = AE + BF + CD$ and
 - b) $[APF] + [BPD] + [CPE] = [APE] + [BPF] + [CPD]$.

The area of triangle XYZ is denoted $[XYZ]$.
6. The angles A, B and C of a triangle are measured in degrees, and the lengths of the opposite sides are a, b and c respectively. Prove that

$$60^\circ \leq \frac{aA + bB + cC}{a + b + c} < 90^\circ$$

GERMAN EXCHANGE 2013 BY FREDERIK BOSCH

SCHOTTLANDAUSTAUSCH

Früh am Morgen des 16. Juni 2013 ging es für uns Schüler zunächst mit dem Auto von Markdorf nach Ulm. Von dort nahmen wir den 4.40-Uhr-Zug über Stuttgart nach Frankfurt. Nach einem längeren Aufenthalt hob endlich das Flugzeug Richtung Aberdeen ab, nach nur etwa 1 ½ Stunden landeten wir am frühen Nachmittag im recht sonnigen Schottland, und am dortigen Airport warteten schon unsere Gastfamilien auf uns.

Wir wurden herzlich begrüßt und gingen dann mit unseren Gastfamilien nach Hause in die für Aberdeen typischen Granithäuser. Mit den Familien verbrachten wir auch den Sonntagnachmittag. Viele besuchten die **Highland Games**, dort messen sich kräftige Athleten in typischen Disziplinen wie Tauziehen oder Hammerwurf, dies alles in Schottenrock und begleitet von Dudelsackmusik.

Am Montag besuchten wir erstmals unsere Partnerschule, die **Albyn School**. Weil alle schottischen Schüler selbstverständlich ihre Schuluniform tragen, wurden wir sofort als Austauschschüler erkannt und freundlich begrüßt. An den darauf folgenden Tagen unternahmen wir zunächst gemeinsam einen Ausflug nach **Loch Muick** nahe **Balmoral**, wo man manchmal Mitglieder der Königsfamilie treffen kann, dann besuchten wir einige Ziele in der Umgebung ohne unsere Austauschschüler, aber mit unseren Lehrern Herrn Grünbaum und Frau Schulz und schottischen Lehrern, zum Beispiel die **Glenfiddich Whisky Distillery**. Wieder zusammen mit unseren Austauschpartnern ging es dann am Freitag in die Hauptstadt Edinburgh, wo wir am Vormittag die **National Museum of Scotland** besuchten und am Nachmittag die **Royal Mile** und **Edinburgh Castle**. In der Freizeit danach, gingen in Kleingruppen shoppen oder erkundeten die Stadt.

Besonders gut hat mir gefallen, dass unsere Austauschschüler und -Familien auch nach den Ausflügen oder am Wochenende etwas organisiert haben und wir Dinge zusammen unternehmen konnten. Das Schöne war, dass auch viele andere Schüler nachmittags mit uns zusammen kamen, die gar nicht am Austausch teilnahmen. Abends spielte man zusammen Fußball oder man ging zusammen Essen oder ins Kino.

Mein persönliches Highlight war der Montag: zuerst bestaunten wir die Ruine von **Dunottar Castle**, die direkt auf spektakulären Klippen erbaut worden war. Abends stand in der Schulaula ein **ceilidh** mit den Gastfamilien an, dort wurde typisch schottisch getanzt. Ich trug als einziger deutscher Schüler einen **kilt**, was meine deutschen Mitschüler sehr amüsierte. Am vorletzten Tag waren wir dann golfen und ich musste mir eingestehen, dass Golfen kein langweiliger Rentnersport ist, sondern echt Spaß macht.

Leider gingen die wundervollen 10 Tage schnell vorbei und wir mussten uns schweren Herzens von unseren Gastfamilien und auch von Schülern der **Albyn School** verabschieden. Am Mittwoch des 26.06.2013 landeten wir dann mittags wieder in Frankfurt mit schönen Erinnerungen im Gepäck. Bedanken möchte Ich mich bei meiner Gastfamilie und der schottischen Partnerschule, die uns herzlich aufgenommen und alles super organisiert haben. Wir freuen uns schon auf das Wiedersehen in diesem Sommer.

TRANSLATION

It was an early start for us on the 16th June 2013 when we travelled firstly by car from Markdorf to Ulm. From there we took the 4.40am train to Frankfurt via Stuttgart. After a long wait our flight for Aberdeen finally took off and 1 ½ hours later we landed in the early afternoon in a very sunny Scotland where our host families were waiting for us at the airport.

We received a very warm welcome, then our host families drove us to their granite homes which are characteristic of Aberdeen. The Sunday afternoon was spent with our host families. Some of our group attended the **Highland Games** where hefty athletes in kilts compete against each other in disciplines like the tug-of-war and throwing the hammer accompanied by the sound of the bagpipes.

On Monday we attended **Albyn School**, our partner school. As all of the Scottish pupils wear uniform, we were immediately recognised as the exchange students and given a very warm welcome. On the days that followed we went on an excursion with our exchange partners to **Loch Muick** near **Balmoral** where you can sometimes meet members of the royal family, then we visited a few places in the surrounding area with our German teachers, Mr Grünbaum, Mrs Schulz and some of the Scottish teachers. For example, we visited the **Glenfiddich Whisky Distillery**. On the Friday we visited Scotland's capital, Edinburgh, together with our exchange partners where we visited the **National Museum of Scotland** in the morning, and the **Royal Mile** and **Edinburgh Castle** in the afternoon. Afterwards we used our free-time to go shopping or to get to know Edinburgh.

I was really delighted that our exchange partners and their families organised things for us to do after the trips and at the weekend, and that we were able to do things together. It was nice that lots of other pupils who were not involved with the exchange did things with us in the afternoons. In the evenings we played football or we went out for something to eat or to the cinema.

The highlight of the exchange for me was the second Monday; first of all we visited **Dunottar Castle** which we gazed at in astonishment as it was built on spectacular cliffs. That evening there was a **ceilidh** in the school hall for us and our host families where we did typical Scottish dancing. I was the only German wearing a **kilt** much to the amusement of the other German pupils! On the second last day we went golfing, and I had to admit that it is not a boring sport for pensioners! It is actually great fun!

Our 10 wonderful days quickly came to an end and somewhat reluctantly we had to say goodbye to our host families and the pupils of **Albyn School**. On Wednesday 26th June 2013 we landed back in Frankfurt in the afternoon with lots of wonderful memories. I would like to thank my host family and our Scottish partner school who gave us such a warm reception and organised a great programme for us. We look forward to seeing you this summer.



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ALBYN CONCERTS



Albyn School Presents

AN EVENING WITH GERSHWIN & PORTER

The first musical concert of the school year celebrated two of the best jazz composers of our time. Led by Director of Music Mr Somerville along with members of the music department the guests were treated to a spectacular evening in the FP Centenary Hall.

The Ensemble opened the show by singing "Another Op'nin" followed by the talented future of Albyn pupils, as the Lower School Vocal Ensemble performed "Be a Clown." The Upper School Orchestra performed "Summertime," which was played with a great deal of emotion. The audience was then treated to a different kind of performance, by Shona and Fionna Ironside, performing a tap dance to the soundtrack, "I've Got Rhythm," never done before in an Albyn concert. The brilliant Josh McCulloch performed "I'll Build a Stairway to Paradise," which the audience greatly appreciated as he delivered it with passion.

The evening had been a great success so far and there were still many acts to follow. Peter Haugh performed his Jazz solo, "They Can't Take That Away From Me," his jazzy performance led very nicely to the last two individual performances of the evening. Hannah McDonald beautifully sang "A foggy day," which led to my performance "Night and Day." The finale was performed by the entire musical cast and the song was "Let's do it," but with an Albyn twist.

Much of the show's success was down to the lighting team, consisting of Mr. Ward, and the Art department who created a great performance area. I have to thank all members of the music department who put in numerous hours of work. The first show of the year was a massive success and set the bar high for all other performances.

MAYON P, U6

SHAKESPEARE CONCERT

The first thing I thought of when Mr Somerville said we were doing a Shakespeare concert was "no!" Yet, after further debate with Mr Somerville, it became apparent that the show would not be a complete disaster and in fact was a great success! Personally, I am not a huge fan of Shakespeare; however it became clear that Shakespeare influenced the English language to a much larger extent that I previously understood. The number of songs and music that have references to Shakespeare are extortionate. Many modern songs that were performed in the concert had themes very similar to the works of Shakespeare.

The running up to the concert was a very stressful time. As well as having to keep up with our school work and keep up with extra-curricular activities, we had to have a number of rehearsals to get the music to the standard that it was performed at in the concert. The Gershwin and Porter concert was so different to what Albyn had ever done before, that there was extra pressure to make this concert just as good – if not better! All of the music teachers put so much effort into pulling off this exceptional concert. They pushed the boundaries and put a tremendous amount of work into getting the pupils up to a terrific standard by putting in extra rehearsals before, during and after school.

The Shakespeare concert started with a spectacular opening with Alex Walker, Peter Haugh, Josh McLulloch and Mayon Patel singing "Brush Up Your Shakespeare" by Cole Porter. This was a very entertaining opening due to the piano accompaniment cutting out and the innuendos within the lyrics. Capriccio and Cantabile both showed off their musical abilities when they sang "Love Story" and "Skyfall". "Love Story" which was originally supposed to be a cappella, ended up having a drum accompaniment by Matthew Nicol which added a fuller effect. The instrumental pieces were played at a much higher standard than Albyn has ever done before. The music department has put in an exceptional amount of work to really excel and push the pupils to achieve their greatest potential. The finale, "Non, Nobis Domine" was performed by the whole school, including Fidelis where the tenor section started the song. The piece – very polyphonic – builds up to a climax which had a large impact on the audience. The unity between the pupils and staff was clear throughout this unique concert.

JILL R, U6



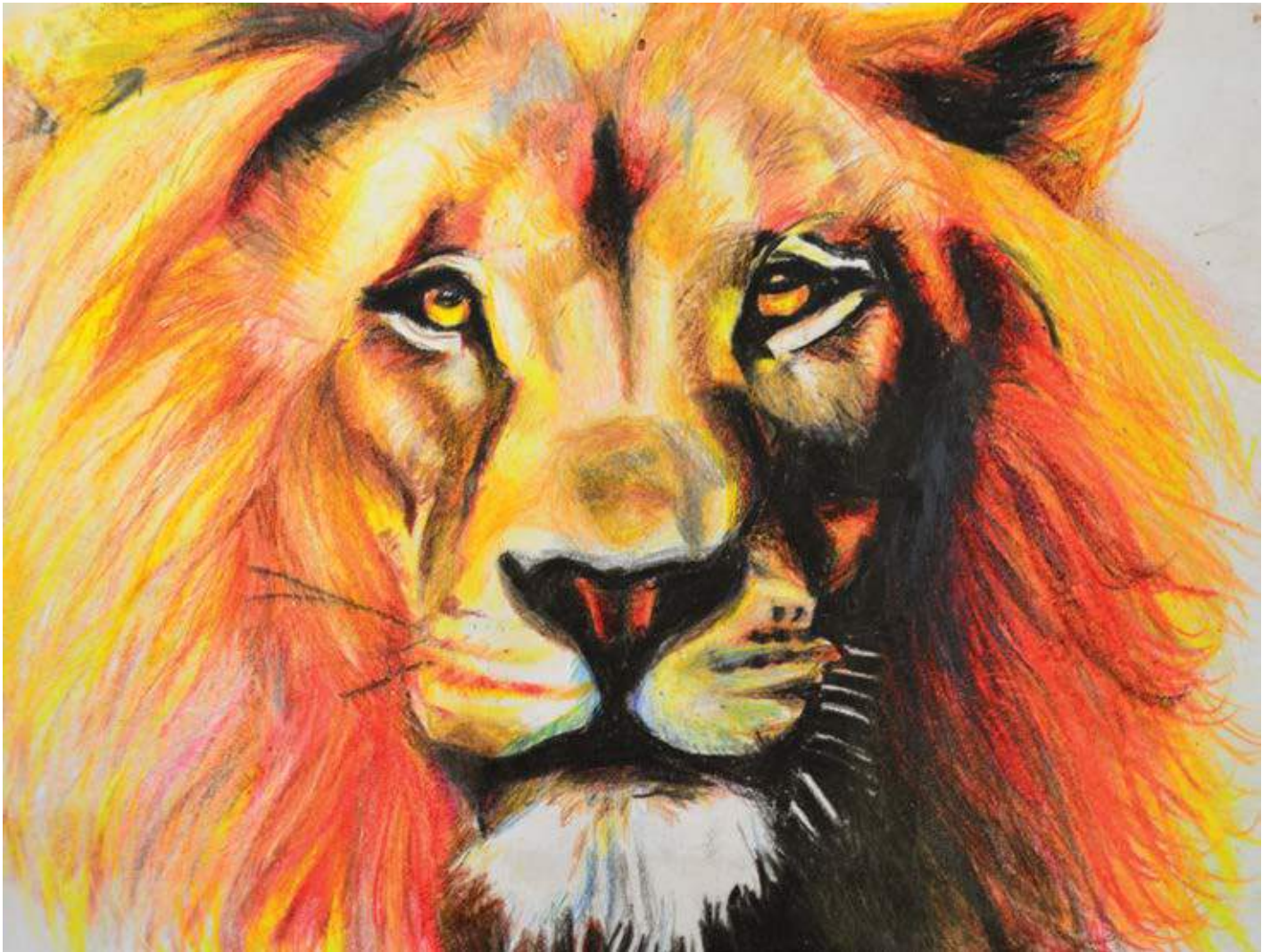
The brilliant Josh McCullich performed "I'll build a Stairway to Paradise," which the audience greatly appreciated as he delivered it with passion.



UPPER SCHOOL ART

A look at artwork from **Upper 3** over the past year

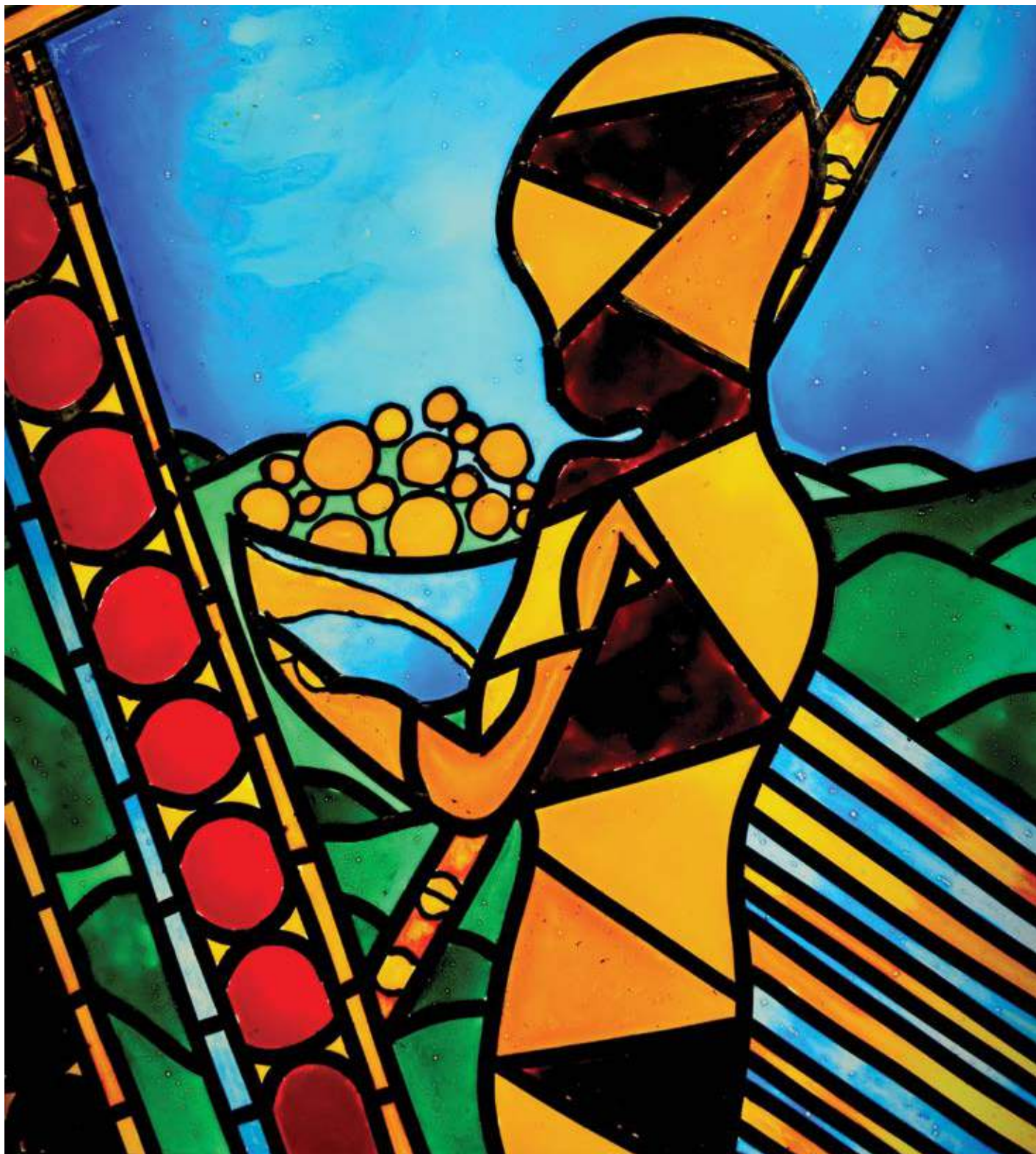
- stained glass window designs and a look at nature.



ARTWORK BY...

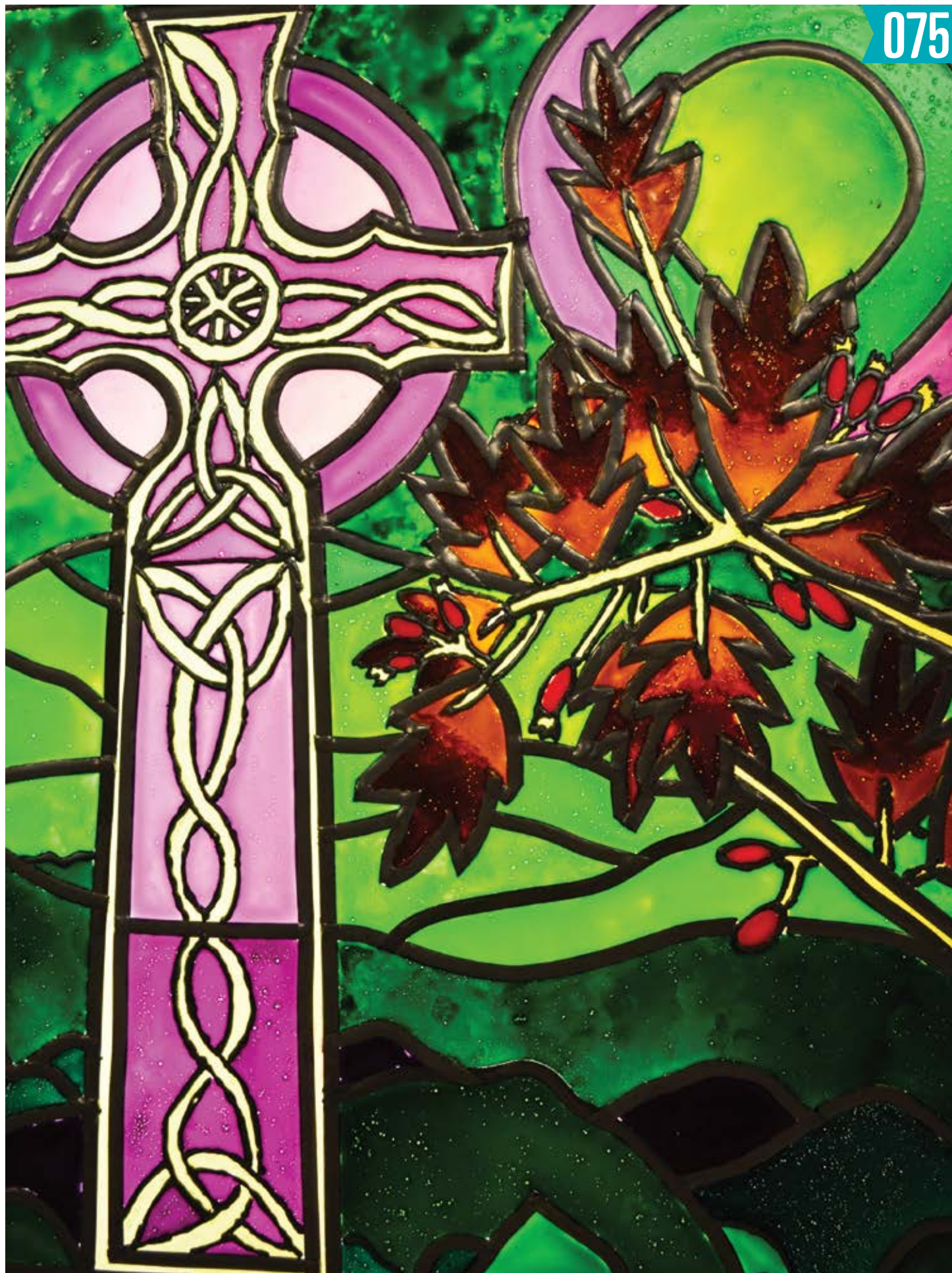
THIS PAGE MARION H / U3. OPPOSITE PAGE REBECCA E / U3





ARTWORK BY...

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UPPER SCHOOL ART

A look at artwork from **Upper 5** over
the past year - a portrait study.



ARTWORK BY...

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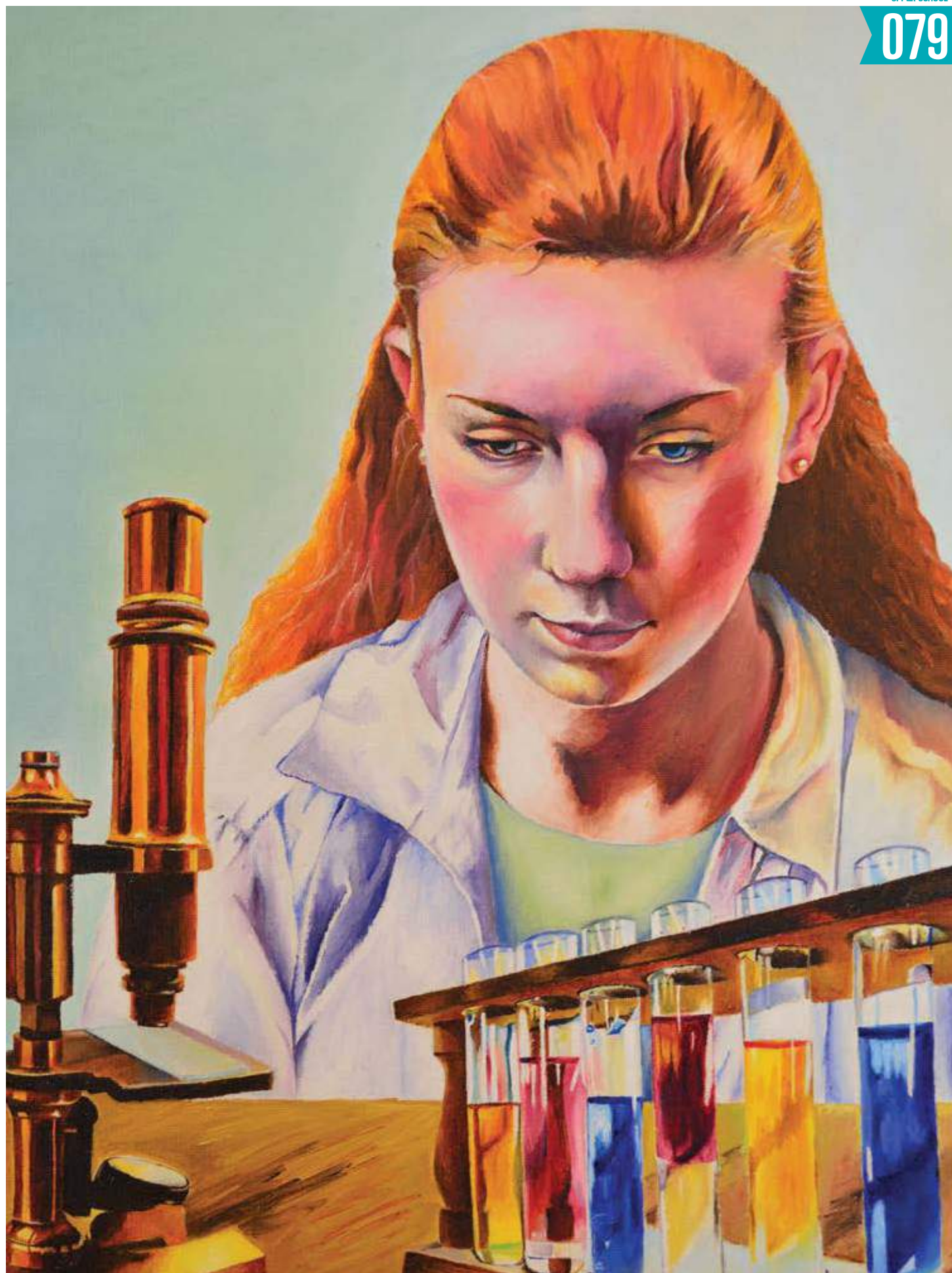


UPPER SCHOOL ART



ARTWORK BY...

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SPORT REPORTS

FOOTBALL TEAMS AND REPORTS



L2 AND L3 FOOTBALL TEAM

(L to R) Back: Max Mason, Jake Blackwood, Rhys Crawford, Rory Moir, Finn Bryce, Aayaan Jeet, Millai Pillai. Front: Nate Rennie, Samuel Cordiner, Daniel Thomson, Ben Horne, Ewan Smith.



L4 FOOTBALL TEAM

(L to R) Back: Sam Doherty, Rory Littlewood, Connor Sibbald, Sam McFarlane. Front: Yavi Pillai, Ricardo Barrera- Forsyth, Lewis Carter, Lloyd Sharp, William Walker.



L5 FOOTBALL TEAM

(L to R) Back: Tiaan Truter, Finlay Cooper, Andrew Jamieson, Jamie Gillick, Zane Bedawi, Ramsey Wilson, Pranav Thamari Sarvanan, Patrick Lynas. Front: Raegan Rintoul, Dylan Driver, Joseph Horne, Andrew Howell, Jasper Lecore, Colin Campbell, Kai Crawford.



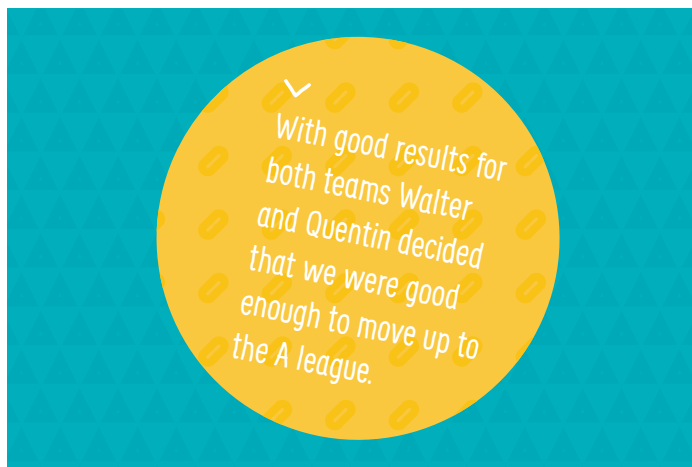
L6 FOOTBALL TEAM

(L to R) Back: Daniel Soremekun, Maurizio De Gennaro Sorrentino, Harris MacDonald, William Bricknell, Matthew Riddell, Michael Doig. Front: Aaron Bedawi, Oscar Forbes, Connor Kennedy, Oliver Werb, James Cavanagh.



L7A FOOTBALL TEAM

(L to R) Back: Baptiste Armengol, Sean Doherty, Murray Addison, Liam Tavendale, Antony Thomson. Front: Matthew McLulich, Thomas Gilbert, Finlay Jardine, Bailey Yule, Max Milne.



L7B FOOTBALL TEAM - PLEASE SEE BELOW ▼

(L to R) Back: Jeremy Wong, Jonathan Marshall, Joe Taylor, James Lawson, Oscar Lecore. Front: Ben Cooper, Oliver Waterhouse, Edward Freeman, Kai Tait, Daniel Smith.



L7 FOOTBALL 2013/14

The first part of the Lower 7 season was trials at Milltimber playing fields in late August. There would be two seven a side teams chosen with ten in each squad. One squad would be coached by Finlay Jardine's dad, Walter and the other by Edward Freeman's dad, Quentin.

After the two teams were chosen we trained at Harlaw Playing Fields until the we moved to the Aberdeen Sports Village for the Winter. The training included passing drills, shooting drills, speed work and a five a side match at the end. We were all encouraged to try our best and work hard.

Both teams started the season in the B league with one team playing at the Sports village and the other team playing an away game. Every week the two teams swapped over. With good results for both teams Walter and Quentin decided that we were good enough to move up to the A league. My teams best result was a 12-0 win against Ferryhill, while Quentin's team was also winning by a safe margin. But the two teams both suffered defeats as well, Walter's team lost against Airyhall 5-3 and Quentin's team lost 8-6 to Crombie United.

The star players from Walter's team were Bailey Yule who scored eight

goals in one game, Finlay Jardine for making fantastic saves in goals however the whole team greatly improved over the course of the season. The star players from Quentin's team were Oscar Lecore for being a very good midfielder, Edward Freeman for scoring and setting up goals but the whole team also improved through the season.

The awards ceremony for the L7 football was in April, Edward Freeman picked up Player of the Year and Jeremy Wong picked up most improved for Quentin's team while I picked up Player of the Year and Ze-Hung picked up most improved.

As the season finished there was the Westhill Gala, one team had to be picked from the two teams. We were put out in the first round by goal difference even though we had won and drew games but the conditions were atrocious with mud all over the pitch.

The final game was an Eleven a side friendly against Mannor Park at Milltimber. It was a good game and the final score was a 7-1 win for Albyn so things are looking good for next season.

MURRAY A, L7

ALBYN U14S FOOTBALL TEAM

The Albyn U14s football team have improved a lot since last season. We have pulled off a few more wins than we did last year and gained more respectable results. The highlight of our season was our cup run, which took us to play teams in Inverness and St Andrews, where we beat Inverness High School 7-0 before narrowly losing to Madras College in the next round. The player of the year was Viyom Varma and the most improved player was Thomas Kinghorn, both having very impressive seasons.

EUAN M. U2



U13 FOOTBALL TEAM

(L to R) Back: Alexander Kasparian, Joel Yule, Alexander Anderson, Miles Beeson, Osemeke Mordi, Shaan Singh, Seumas Hughes, Daniel Michie. Front: Bobo Ivanov, Craig Murison, Adam Walker, Oliver Nash, Keaton Bramwell, Matthew Lynas, Andrew MacRae. Kneeling: Josh Minty, Ross Greig.



U16 FOOTBALL TEAM

(L to R) Back: Gbenga Komolafe, Mobolaji Ajayi, Gregor Dewhirst, Scott Brooks, Euan Watson, Matthew Girling, Zak Davis. Front: Etienne Dick, Jack Cruickshank, Rory McGuckin, Aymen Benylles, Matthew Wheardon, Alejandro Coghill, Tom Nash.

SENIOR FOOTBALL

The 2013/14 season was the first year of Albyn senior football and the whole team knew it would not be easy as we were playing Under 18's with only a couple of Upper six pupils and a number of Upper four pupils meaning we were starting with a disadvantage. The season started off in the Independent Schools league with a loss away to Gordounstoun 6-2, who finished at the top of the league. We fought hard and gave it our all and on another day it could have been a different score line in our favour. Unfortunately, we were knocked out of the Scottish Cup in the first round by a very strong Banchory team. Our first victory came against Glenalmond which was a very difficult game. We worked extremely well as a team and saw out the game with a 1-0 victory. Throughout the season the whole team got to know one another on and off the field and bonded well as a team. We finished off the season strongly with a 2-2 draw against St.Leonards and ended up in fourth position in the league. Overall, this season has been successful for the first ever Albyn senior team and is a stepping-stone for next season where we can look to improve as a team.

CLARK S, U5



U14 FOOTBALL TEAM

(L to R) Back: Conrad Forbes, William Werb, Viyom Varma, Miles Beeson, Thomas Kinghorn, Mateus Grebogi, Oliver Baillie. Middle: Josh Minty, Feranmi Oluwadayomi, Fin Pearson, Conor Hannick, Oluwaferanmi Adenuga, Euan McKnight, Llyod Alexander Brown. Front: Oli Nash, James Hughes, Elliot Cameron, Mark Douglas, Sam kelso, Andrew Webster, Seumas Hughes.



U18 FOOTBALL TEAM

(L to R) Back: Josh Clarkson, Jamie Wills, Aymen Benyless, Kyle Brunsmann, Christian Dick, Charlie Werb, Jacob Logue, Ben Wrighton, Euan Watson. Front: Mayon Patel, Rhys Brumfield, Callum McKnight, Clark Scott, Chris Cooper, Matthew Girling, Andrew King.

ATHLETICS



ATHLETICS CHAMPIONS

(L to R) Back: Milly Kinghorn, Hamish Leeson, Gregor Dewhirst, Aymen Benylles, Mobolaji Ajayi, Thomas Kinghorn. Front: Oliver Nash, Naomi Morrison, Grace McCrorie, Jamie Wills, Poppy Clayton-Littler, Hannah McMahon, Finlay Pearson.

SWIMMING



UPPER SCHOOL SWIMMING CHAMPIONS

(L to R) Back: Eilidh Duthie, Skye Arnott, Callum Bird, Matthew MacFarlane, Findlay Douglas, Daniel Depasquale, Joel Robertson, Rebecca Bews. Front: Oliver Nash, Becky Kemp, Niamh Duthie, Andrew Webster, Ailsa Duthie, Eve Littlewood, Duncan Depasquale.

HOCKEY TEAMS AND REPORT

SENIOR HOCKEY

The Senior Hockey players have had yet another positive season. With over thirty pupils opting to play hockey, we were at times able to field two senior teams. The Senior players were dedicated to weekly training sessions at Aberdeen Sports Village and played against a breadth of teams including Robert Gordons College, St Margaret's, Gordonstoun, Dundee High, Aberdeen Grammar and Cults. The enthusiasm and experience of U6 girls inspired U4 players as they worked hard to develop their skills and establish their position within the team. Hopefully the cohesiveness and commitment of the Senior players will remain strong so we can continue to build on our successes next year.



L6 HOCKEY

(L to R) Back: Milly Yule, Louise Melville, Jennifer McClung, Sarah Henderson, Stephanie Williams, Grace Donaldson, Zoe Durriger. **Front:** Holly Greig, Amy Innes, Andre Mpah, Loran Mann, Natalia Mudkavi, Lauren Michie, Hannah Michie. **Sitting:** Martha Sheal, Lyndsay Caldwell.



L7 HOCKEY

(L to R) Back: Lily Leeson, Emmy Collins, Rebecca Hardy, Fadia Bedawi, Amy Walker, Lucy Mugford. **Front:** Charley Hamilton, Kirsty Cooper, Larah Mudkavi, Emily Jamieson, Keeva Riddle.



U1 HOCKEY

(L to R) Back: Gemma Lane, Abigail Byrne, Zoe Clark, Laura Gow, Ella White, Eve Littlewood, Jo Littlewood. **Front:** Liz Barrera-Forsyth, Becky Kemp, Phoebe Nutall, Erin Sharp, Kirsty Brooks, Rachel Buchan, Katie Howell. **Sitting:** Rebecca Milne, Morgan Thomson.



U2 HOCKEY

(L to R) Back: Niamh Anderson, Olivia Juett, Catherine MacFarlane, Caitlin Cole, Laura Tavendale, Mhairi Brooker, Jennifer Milne. **Middle:** Laura Stephen, Emma Williams, Inga Lawson, Emma Holroyd, Anna Ferguson, Jodie Lawson. **Front:** Ellie Rintoul, Lauren Dunhill, Grace McCrorie, Anna McKeever, Alia Bedawi, Hannah McMahon, Orla Prentice.



U3 HOCKEY

(L to R) Back: Rhona Wallace, Katie Brimmer, Laura Cameron, Shona Ironside, Molly Taylor, Susan Heywood, Sophie Milne. Middle: Ruby Leeson, Fiona Emsley, Katherine Buchan, Catherine McEwan, Chloe Purdie, Olivia Thom, Sophie Lawson. Front: Laila Bedawi, Annabel Brumfield, Niamh Duthie, Milly Kinghorn, Joanna Bremner, Zoe Clark, Ailsa Duthie.



SENIOR HOCKEY

(L to R) Back: Ellie Mayo, Caitlin Cole, Ellie Nuttall, Siobhan Wooley, Katie Holroyd, Fionna Ironside, Anna Rennie. Middle: Aideen Coote, Lydia Newman, Roisean Farquahr, Jill Russell, Naomi Morrison, Poppy Clayton-Littler, Emily Sutherland, Laura McDonald, Alison Lane. Front: Abi Walters, Heather Bruce, Gwen Newman, Eilidh Webster, Holly Clayton-Littler, Catherine Scott, Rachel Milne.

NETBALL TEAMS AND REPORT

NETBALL REPORT

The 2013/2014 season began with the difficulty of rebuilding the 1st team as many of our 1st team from the 2013 season had left. For us the season was a tale of two halves. It was a bit of a roller coaster of a year as at the beginning of the season we didn't do very well in the Aberdeen Schools Senior Netball Tournament, we had hoped to reach the final but the team got knocked out in the semi-finals. Unfortunately due to illness and accidents we were unable to compete in the Independent Schools Senior Netball Tournament which was an event we were all looking really forward to competing in.

However, throughout the season we were able to bond as a team, as from the beginning it was the first time some of us had worked together

and we had a very young team. As the year progressed we played some really good netball and reached the Quarter Finals of the Scottish Plate against Peebles, which unfortunately we lost right at the final whistle. We also played exceptionally well throughout the season beating Cults, St Margaret's, Lathallan and Harlaw in the Aberdeen Secondary schools league.

It has been a season with lots of ups and a few downs but in the end I feel the commitment from the team has been exceptional and not only have we developed our game play throughout the year but I have worked with lots of talented Netballers and made lots of new friends.

Naomi M, U6



SENIOR NETBALL TEAM

(L to R) Back: Laura Jack, Holly Clayton-Littler, Poppy Clatyton-Littler, Anne Rennie, Front: Anna Dixon, Emily Sutherland, Naomi Morrison, Gwen Newman, Lydia Newman.

**JUNIOR NETBALL TEAM**

(L to R) Back: Catherine McEwan, Sophie Milne, Alana Wilson, Shona Ironside, Susan Heywood. Front: Annabel Brumfield, Chloe Purdie, Milly Kinghorn, Orla Coote, Zoe Clark.

**L6 NETBALL TEAM**

(L to R) Back: Amy Innes, Stephanie Williams, Sarah Henderson, Toni Shaw. Front: Natalia Mudkavi, Zoe Duringer, Lyndsay Caldwell, Martha Sheal, Lily Meldrum.

**L7 NETBALL TEAM**

(L to R) Back: Jill Beard, Lucy Mugford, Faadia Bedawi, Hannah Jarret, Amy Walker, Lisa McCallum, Lily Leeson. Front: Kirsty Cooper, Saskia Robson, Larah Mudkavi, Keeva Riddle, Emmy Collins, Symone Strath, Emily Jamieson.

**U1 NETBALL TEAM**

(L to R) Back: Becky Kemp, Alex Shaw, Abigail Byrne, Charlotte Crawford, Ella Murray, Kirsty Brooks, Rebecca Milne. Front: Jessica Davies, Rachel Buchan, Stephanie Walker, Jo Littlewood, Gemma Lane, Eve Littlewood, Jasmine Robertson.

**U2 NETBALL TEAM**

(L to R) Back: Emily Watson, Mhairi Brooker, Olivia Juett, Jennifer Milne. Front: Elle Rintoul, Grace McCrorie, Hannah McMahon, Emma Holroyd, Inga Lawson.

✓ As the year progressed we played some really good netball and reached the Quarter Finals

✓ I feel the commitment from the team has been exceptional

GOLF TEAM AND REPORT



GOLF TEAM

(L to R) Back: Rebecca Kinghorn, Alistair Kinghorn, David McIvor, Elliot Cameron. Front: Fintan McKenna, Harry Webster, Matthew Lynas, Mayon Patel.

ALBYN GOLF SEASON

STROKE PLAY, ABERDEEN SCHOOLS, MURCAR GOLF CLUB >

This links course, windy as usual, was dry all day. Each match was played 3-ball and around 60 golfers entered. At a 21 handicap I then won my handicap category. I was nervous as this was my first competition for the school, but managed to focus and play a good game.

LINKS CHAMPIONSHIP 2013 > In October 2013, Albyn Golf Team invited the Irish school Coláiste Iósaef to play with Aberdeen Grammar in the Links Cup. This is a yearly match alternating between Aberdeen and Ireland each year. After a rainy, cold practice round at Stonehaven, we were hoping the weather would brighten or at least be dry for our Irish guests who had travelled so far. The first two matches at St Andrew's and Royal Aberdeen saw Albyn take the lead against the other two schools. The weather for both days was windy, however, thankfully it stayed dry. Cruden Bay was Finals Day, and a glorious, sunny day to play this links course. The Final was extremely close and was decided by the penultimate match where Albyn were up against Aberdeen Grammar to win. Fintan McKenna and Elliot Cameron won the decisive match and along with Captain, Mayon Patel, Harry Webster and me, we retained 'The Links Cup'. It was wonderful to have Finals Day at my home course.

ALBYN SCHOOL GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP 2013 > We played the school competition at Stonehaven Course in April 2013. Everyone played well and we're complimented on both our ability and etiquette. The results were:

Longest drive: Fintan McKenna (U5)

Closest to the pin: Harry Webster (U4)

Handicap Champion: Matthew Lynas (L7) - Nett 66

Scratch Champion: Fintan McKenna (U5) - Gross 73 which was tied with Mayon Patel (U6), however won with a better back 9.

ST. LEONARDS > Soon after Easter holidays, we were back to school for a few days before Albyn entered their golf team into the St Leonard's Golf Championship. Matthew Lynas (U1), Elliot Cameron (U2) and I played in the competition. The competition was played on the Eden and the Straththyrum courses. It was a good day however there was a strong breeze and both the courses proved to be very difficult which was proved by some of the scores. Both the courses had extremely well kept fairways along with smooth greens. At first it was hard to adapt to the pace of the greens but over the duration of the round we became familiar with the pace and we're soon holing putts. All three of us found the competition very hard and unfortunately none of us won. I was placed best in 6th.

LORETTO-SIMMERS CUP > The Simmers Cup was played on September 24th 2013 at Haddington G.C. When Elliot Cameron, Harry Webster, Matthew Lynas and I travelled down to Haddington, we were hoping for a bright, sunny day as it was a dull day in Aberdeen. The weather at Haddington was fine as it wasn't raining but sadly the sun didn't fully come out. Even though none of us won, we all played well and tried our best. The course has excellent greens which were the perfect pace and the fairways were smooth. We all enjoyed playing the course and would like to play it again.

SCHOOL GOLF LEAGUE > We've enjoyed playing various school golf teams in the golf matches and even though we had little success it was a valuable experience which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. Sadly, we had to forfeit some matches as there weren't enough players but I hope we will find more players so we are able to participate in more games and won't have to forfeit any matches which will hopefully help us to progress.

Overall, our golf season has had its ups and downs and hopefully we will have more success in the following year.

ALISTAIR K, U2

X COUNTRY TEAMS



L6 X COUNTRY TEAM

(L to R) Back: Nathan Roulson, Toni Shaw, Oscar Forbes, Harris MacDonald, Oliver Werb, Sarah Henderson, James Cavanagh. Front: Nathalia Mudkavi, Aaron Bedawi, Zoe Düringer, Michael Doig, Lynsey Caldwell, Muarizio De Gennaro Sorrentino, Martha Sheal.



L7 X COUNTRY TEAM

(L to R) Back: Amy Walker, Emmy Collins, Murray Addison, Fadia Bedawi, James Lawson, Sean Doherty. Middle: Kai Tait, Lucy Mugford, Max Milne, Bailey Yule, Oscar Lecore, Kirsty Cooper. Front: Emily Jamieson, Daniel Smith, Matthew McLulich, Larah Mudkavi, Edward Freeman, Eden Greig, Symone Strath.



LOWER SCHOOL X COUNTRY CHAMPIONS

(L to R) Back: Jasper Lecore, Charlotte Bain, Laura Patterson, William Cooper, Daphne Armengol, Finlay Cooper. Front: Emma Hardy, Raegan Rintoul, Tasha Hamilton, Dylan Driver, Kelly Grant, Kai Crawford, Charlotte Mackenzie.



UPPER SCHOOL X COUNTRY CHAMPIONS

(L to R) Back: Niamh Duthie, Milly Kinghorn, Hannah McMahon, Alia Bedawi, Laura Stephen, Ailsa Duthie, Dobry Atanassov. Front: Jessica Davies, Oliver Nash, Alex Shaw, Keaton Bramwell, Ella Murray.

TENNIS



UPPER SCHOOL TENNIS TEAM

(L to R) Back: Aídeen Coote, Rhys Brumfield, Callum McKnight, Peter Eagles, Fin Pearson. Front: Anna Brumfield, Milly Kinghorn, Sophia Murray.

This year has been a very successful one for the Upper School tennis team, mostly due to the dedication and enthusiastic coaching of Mr Wilkie who makes even the early morning sessions fun.

The Upper 1-3 girls' singles champion this year was Milly Kinghorn and the runner up was Sophia Murray. The Upper 1-3 girls' doubles champions were Milly Kinghorn and Susan Heywood and the runners up were Sophia Murray and Annabel Brumfield.

This year the tennis team has been very successful in their competitions. The Upper 1-4 girls' team (consisting of Khushvita Singh and Milly Kinghorn) came second in the North East Schools Tennis Competition against Robert Gordon's College and St Margaret's. The whole team (consisting of Khushvita Singh, Milly Kinghorn, Annabel Brumfield and Marion Howett) won the annual match against Lathallan and Robert Gordon's College. In addition, the Upper School tennis team have reached the semi-finals of the consolation Scottish Schools Cup and have yet to play their next round.

Of course none of this would have been possible without Mr Wilkie so the tennis team would like to thank him for all his hard work.

Milly K, U3

ROWING TEAM AND REPORT

ROWING REPORT

Rowing has been enormously successful at Albyn this year with existing rowers achieving great success and many new pupils taking up the sport.

This year the school bought a second safety boat that is used for coaching as well as new riggers and new oars. This new equipment has allowed us to coach more pupils in each session. This allowed 40 Upper 1, 30 Upper 2 and 30 Upper 3 boys and girls to participate in rowing taster sessions since August, gaining their first ever experience of rowing. Many of these pupils have now decided to continue rowing in their Games time for next year.

In March this year we had our largest ever entry, five crews, for Scottish Schools' Head of the Canal. For the first time in Albyn history we also had a girls crew compete at this event. Another one of the participating crews (boys J14 4x+) won the race for their age group.

In May we also had six crews compete in the North East Regatta where we won all three events we entered. All the crews that took part were relatively inexperienced however they all raced exceptionally well.

In this year of firsts for rowing at the school it wasn't all positive, we also experienced our first ever capsizes. Luckily there were not too many of these!

With the success that we have had this year and with some promising new rowers, I hope we can build on our success next year.

KRIS A, U6



ROWING TEAM

(L to R) Back: Findlay Douglas, Christy Chapman-Bird, Oliver Kinghorn, Andrew Kelso, Nicholas Read, Robert Powell, Leo McKeever, Jamie Rendall, Matthew Carter.
Middle: Conrad Forbes, Thomas Roulson, Matthew Simmers, Alex McGrath, Miles Beeson, Euan Gregory, Lawrence Jennings, Tom Falconer, Morgan Smith, Olivia Lawrence.
Front: Sam Kelso, Fiona Emsley, Orla Coote, William Van Wachem, Kris Anderson, Matthew Nicol, Rhona Wallace, Emma Smith, Elliot Cameron. Kneeling: Oliver Baillie, Callum Bell.

SKI



LOWER SCHOOL SKI TEAM

(L to R) Back: Sam Mckenzie, Jonathan Marshall, Sean Doherty, Anthony Thomson, Eden Greig. Front: Symone Strath, Rebecca Hardy, Emily Jamieson.



UPPER SCHOOL SKI TEAM

(L to R) Back: Sophie Ross, Conrad Forbes, Oliver Baillie, Gregory Baillie, Mhairi Brooker, Catriona Brooker. Front: Elliot Cameron, Finlay Pearson, Erin Sharp, Sam Kelso, David Weardon.

LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETY

AS ARCHBISHOP DESMOND TUTU TESTIFIES, "It is better not to raise your voice, but rather to improve your argument." This year, those of us in the Literary and Debating Society would certainly like to think we have improved our powers of persuasion and our ability to engage in meaningful discussion on a whole range of topics.

It has been heartening to see a large number of new members join the ranks and, although this was due in part to Mr Starbuck's own persuasive regime, many of those who have come along to meetings this year for the first time have shown themselves to be confident and competent speakers who have discovered a new skill.

The Calendar this year has been busy with an ever-increasing number of pupils taking part in both external and internal competitions. While our fortunes have been mixed, and results not always as we have hoped, valuable experience has been gained and skills developed.

The year kicked off with the North of Scotland Schools' competition where various combinations of Sam Johnson, Leo McKeever and this year's President, Samuel Watson, represented Albyn in the first three rounds, debating such motions as, "This House Believes Britain is No Longer Great" and "This House wants to be Famous".

The NOSS Public Speaking competition saw Fintan McKenna deliver a fine speech on Bullying and he was ably assisted by Chairman Sam Watson and Voter of Thanks Sam Johnson.

Sam Johnson and Fintan McKenna also performed very well in the Law Society

Competition where they won through the early stages. Unfortunately, the logistics of their third round draw proved tricky as the date clashed with their English prelim exam and so, sadly, we were forced to withdraw.

Our enthusiastic and able new members made for a lively Burnside Cup this year. For the first time, due to our swelling ranks, we had two semi-finals and a final where our U1- U3 pupils confirmed that what they lack in experience, they more than make up for in potential and determination. Our eventual finalists were Robert Powell and Miles Beesom, Stephanie Walker and Melody Ama, Ewen Harold and Fiona Emsley and Milly Kinghorn and Euan Gregory. A very lively debate on whether "This House would Fully Arm the Police" saw Euan and Milly emerge victorious for the third year in a row.

The Debater Trophy was held this year at St Margaret's and presented us with the creative motion "This House Values Vintage Wine over Beaujolais Nouveau". Fortunately, speakers did not take the motion too literally, and the debate centred around whether age and experience was more valuable than youth and enthusiasm.

Albyn was represented by Eilidh Hughes and Rachel Garden from U6 and Ewan Harold and Fiona Emsley from U3. All four spoke eloquently and passionately.

Our final external competition for the year was The Auld Hoose short prep debating competition held at Robert Gordon's College and aimed at U1- U3. This was a new competition for us where our teams spoke on three different

motions with only fifteen minutes to prepare. Emma McPherson and Stephanie Walker of U1 and Euan Gregory and Milly Kinghorn of U3 went up against over 40 schools from all over Scotland and coped admirably with the short prep format. They all agreed that their debating skills improved in the course of the day and they relished the challenge of thinking on their feet.

The Clan Debate, as ever, provided us with an entertaining lunch hour as representatives from all four Clans debated the motion, This House believes the best way to judge a school's success is on its exam results". After Leo McKeever kindly agreed to stand in at the very last minute, he and his partner Sam Johnson gave a commendable performance which saw Clan Gordon emerge as victors for the Opposition.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank Samuel Watson, our President, for his longstanding commitment to the society, Mr Currie for his invaluable help with lunchtime meetings and Mrs Shand for her continued support and encouragement.

Having reflected on the Debating year while writing this piece, I have been struck once again by how gratifying it is to watch young minds develop the power to persuade, the ability to acknowledge and respect the opinions of others and the confidence to stand before others to present an argument. It has been a pleasure to witness the development of so many young people and I look forward to seeing many of them develop further next session.

MRS S WALKER



BON ACCORD MODEL UNITED NATIONS CLUB

THE MODEL UNITED NATIONS CLUB at Albyn started up this spring as several pupils joined in order to try to solve the problems in the world around them. "Model UN gives us a chance to try to debate and to solve real problems we are interested in," reports Miles Beeson, one of the founding members. Learning more about other countries is exciting because "something new happens every day in the world," said Matthew Bain (U2), who is interested in a career in the media. For those pupils who have travelled extensively, their observations of extreme poverty and wealth inspired them to take a closer look at the causes and consequences of conflict. Beeson suggested that it was "the poverty I saw in Egypt, the wealth in Dubai and the presence of both extremes in the US" that inspired him to learn more about the causes and consequences of conflict.



For other pupils, it was their enjoyment of Modern Studies and History that brought them to the club.

How do countries with very different religious, cultural and political beliefs compromise? Our first of many UN style conferences will aim to tackle the issue of violence against LGBT persons. Through group research and debate they will eventually represent countries such as the US, Uganda and Russia as they try to solve this problem which affects many peoples' lives across the globe. The group has also invited speakers, including Eilidh Hughes (U6), who explained what LGBT meant and listed some of the discrimination they suffer. Future speakers include Dr. Nigel Dower, Honorary Senior Lecturer in Philosophy at the University of Aberdeen and a specialist in global citizenship will also speak to the club about how the UN works. Next year we can look forward to tackling more problems such as the trafficking of drugs and people, ethnic cleansing, AIDs orphans, civil wars, and the use of child soldiers. With debate, simulations, even videos and speakers who have seen and dealt with these issues, we can expand our awareness of the world around us.

MRS E HEYWOOD



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

Some of our gold award pupils share their experiences of volunteering as part of the **Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme**.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

As I'm sure many of you are aware, the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme is a great motivator to go out and help in your local community. But do you ever stop to think about the difference that you are making? I have been volunteering at a local cub pack since I was 14, starting as a Young Leader. Now four years later, even after completing my Gold Award, I am still volunteering there and I am now a fully registered leader. I enjoy going every Tuesday night, where I lead the cubs in various games and activities, and attending the various camps and trips that we organise. If I hadn't stayed committed for those four years, the pack may not have flourished like it has done due to a transitional period where the head leader has changed several times. On some weeks, over a couple months, it was only myself, a student leader and some parent helpers that kept the pack alive. Today, we have so many cubs and leaders that we've had to split the cubs over 2 week day nights. But, as with all volunteer work, even though you are providing your services free of charge you often get 'paid' in other ways. This can be anything from learning a new skill to experiencing a different aspect of life that you hadn't been exposed to before. Volunteering at cubs has been making a difference to me since my first evening there. As I'm sure many teachers in the room can relate, controlling a group of younger children is not an easy task, especially when they refuse to be quiet. Volunteering at cubs has helped develop my leadership skills, my communication skills and ability to come up with activities that are both fun to participate in and easy to run. Volunteering at cubs has also encouraged me to volunteer at other places such as Roxeburgh House where I serve teas and coffees every second Sunday morning.

SAM W, U6

HOW I HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE?

For the Volunteering section for my DofE Awards, I have had a chance to work with a small charity, Halfpenny Farm Animal Sanctuary, who work to provide a safe home for a variety of animals. They currently have 147 animals in their care with each have specific needs and require daily attention. Throughout the two years I have been volunteering with the sanctuary, I have done many different activities, both working with the

animals themselves and working to maintain the sanctuary and raise money. On open days I have worked as a tour guide and throughout the year have shown many visitors and first time volunteers around the farm. Most of the work on the farm is done by the owners, Mike and Louise, but as they both have full time jobs, their time on the sanctuary has to work around these, so with all the feeding, walking and mucking out to do, their day often starts at five in the morning and doesn't finish until ten or eleven in the evening. By working as one of a few volunteers on the farm, I can help to reduce this work load for them and ensure that the animals are living in the best possible conditions, as well as raise precious money that also helps to ensure a better quality of life for the animals on the farm.

WHAT DIFFERENCE HAS IT MADE TO ME?

Working on the farm has made a massive difference to me personally. Firstly it has greatly increased my confidence when dealing with new people - meeting other volunteers has let me mix with lots of people from different places and of different ages and work with them for the benefit of the animals. I have also begun to really enjoy showing people around the farm. Volunteering at Halfpenny has also given me a greater sense of independence as I am now assigned many jobs to do on my own and have recently begun supervising the newer volunteers. With this also comes a sense of responsibility, not only for myself, but also for the animals I have been trusted to help. I personally feel that the volunteering section for DofE is the biggest commitment of the Award, but it does make a massive difference both to the people you help and you yourself, and is well worth taking part in.

ELLIE N, U5

HOW HAVE I MADE A DIFFERENCE?

For three years now, instead of spending my Saturday morning in bed (as is expected of us teenagers) I have devoted this time volunteering to help build a path, linking Daviot Estate with the village of Daviot. Over these years, myself and a team of considerably older men have totally cleared an area of woodland, completed the main path joining the estate to the town, but most importantly, we have created a much stronger community within the village with more and more people using these paths every week.

HOW IT HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE TO ME?

Spending my Saturday mornings volunteering has helped me develop many useful skills, with my cooperation within a team and leadership skills improving greatly. The others have been so encouraging to me and I have learnt so much from them. Along with these skills I have learned how to construct a heavy duty path, become an expert on dry stone wall building and I now have gardening skills beyond most 16 year old boy's dreams. I would totally recommend volunteering, even if you don't do DofE as even just an hour a week can go a long way.

DANIEL K, U5

NOTRE EXPÉDITION DU DUC D'EDIMBOURG

Albyn School's Duke of Edinburgh expeditions are always meticulously planned out and spectacularly run, but the first foreign expedition carried out by the school, which took place in the Alps last August, really takes the biscuit. A group of ten pupils were lucky enough to take part in this expedition, and although it may have been one of the most physically and emotionally strenuous experiences we have ever had, it was also one of the most fantastically thrilling too.

All previous memories of expeditions are of coming home midge-bitten, damp and in desperate need of a shower. The reality of the Alps was infinitely better in comparison to this, as much as we had enjoyed expeditions in the past. The most obvious difference we came across was the beautiful but terrifying scenery which loomed over us as we approached Chamonix. Mountains twice as big as Scotland's highest Monroe seemed impossible but we managed it! The most rewarding part of the expedition was the stunning views: Lac Blanc was the highlight - actually seeing the blueness of the only glacial lake in Europe is breath-taking. Although there were many long, tiring days and challenges to overcome, the experience was ultimately incredibly rewarding.

If doing a Duke of Edinburgh expedition in the Cairngorms is comparable to going to Alton Towers, then carrying one out in the Alps is like going to Disneyland: visually stunning and memorable for a lifetime.

EILIDH H AND EMMA S, U6



As well as pupils volunteering they also get plenty of outdoor experiences through the expeditions.



YOUNG ENTERPRISE 2013-14

ALBYN'S YOUNG ENTERPRISING BUSINESSES GREW SIGNIFICANTLY this session with four companies being formed in September 2013. Upper 5 pupils created Mes Amies, Home Aroma and The Tie Dye Co. The Upper 6 formed Practical Home Solutions but unfortunately the company closed prior to Christmas.

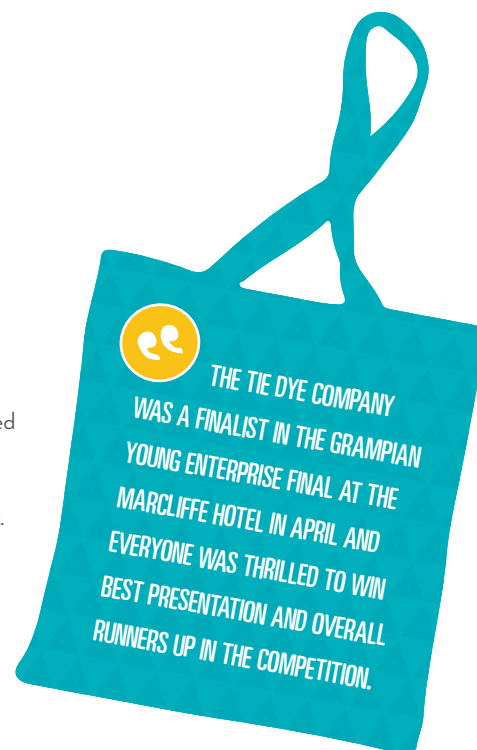
Mes Amies sold hot chocolate mugs and introduced Clan hoodies as their product line. The Company was led by Meriel Aldersey-Williams consisted of Heather Bruce, Aideen Coote, Maxine Kerr, Andrew King, Ellie Mayo, Erinn Prentice and Thomas Murison.

Home Aroma developed a reed diffuser product with a choice of scents. The product was very popular with customers and the company achieved a healthy profit.

Katie Holroyd was the Managing Director and other company members were Alex Blasi, Yasmin Dennis, Jack Lovie, Daniel King, Shona Marshall and Siobhan Woolley.

The Tie Dye Co was the third Albyn Young Enterprise Company led by Farah Sadiq with Holly Allan, Sophia Anderson, Rebecca Bews, Catriona Brooker, Kirsty Buyers, Lauren McCallum, Gwen Newman, Ellie Nuttall, and Eilidh Webster. The company produced tie dye T shirts and bags. They created a winter range and a summer collection of clothing and products. The Tie Dye Company was a finalist in the Grampian Young Enterprise Final at the Marcliffe Hotel in April and everyone was thrilled to win Best Presentation and Overall Runners Up in the competition.

Sir Chis Hoy was the guest judge at the event.



FAIRTRADE ACTIVITIES

Lead by Mrs Findlay Head of RMPS our pupils have been involved in a wealth of fairtrade activities this past year.

HANDMADE JEWELLERY

This session pupils made jewellery to sell for mother's day gifts to support two charities; Comfort Rwanda and Rajana Crafts, Cambodia.

Comfort Rwanda is a charity that helps Rwandan Christian partners in their work to heal and support the survivors of the 1994 genocide. The charity partners two indigenous Rwandan organisations.

Rajana Crafts Cambodia was established as a project by a UK charity called Southeast Asian Outreach (SAO). SAO was founded in 1973 by Chhirc Taing who was studying in the UK. He appealed to the British Church to help in Cambodia. In 1995 Marie Hill founded Rajana working with young Cambodians whom she had met while working in the Refugee Camps in Thailand. In only two years, Rajana has grown from just two people learning basic card marking skills in Marie's house and selling to her friends, to 5 or 6 staff including three silversmiths.

The first shops were opened in Phnom Penh, followed by the Siem Reap shop in 2001 and Sihanoukville store in 2006. Rajana is now under local management, and has a Board of Governors.

The money raised will help fund many projects such as to provide livestock, fund education, sponsor orphan families, purchase or building of houses, distribution of sewing machines, shoes and other essentials, provision of wells and development of integrated community projects – just to name a few!

The pupils raised £346 from their jewellery sale and also donated the remaining jewellery to Rajana Crafts for them to sell.

ALEXANDRA E, U2

CHURCH AND BEE FAIR

On Sunday 9th March we attended a local church service at South Holburn Street Church. The service focused on the work by fairtrade and the resulting effects it has on many lives.

As this year's fairtrade theme is bananas, the minister, Rev George Cowie, gave a sermon all about bananas! Following his very interesting sermon, we gave a short sketch demonstrating the problems faced by banana farmers and how fairtrade could help. We explained how the fairtrade premium improved communities and how fairtrade guarantees a farmer's income by using a minimum price.

Before the service we had set up a fairtrade stall in the church hall. There was also an area with a video and leaflets where people could learn more fairtrade work.

After the service we went through to run the stall but Euan got dressed up as a fairtrade banana and met everyone leaving to hand out petition forms and other informational leaflets. The stall was a huge success as we almost sold out of everything – the popular item being the bananas! Many of the people expressed their intentions to try and buy fairtrade products. It was a great morning and a great success!

On Thursday the 9th on January, beekeeper, John Cooper joined our Fairtrade meeting. He informed our group about many different bee-associated facts, all of which were extremely interesting, amusing and even shocking. It was a rather novel experience, and it was nice to learn about bees and bee-keeping especially since our proceeds made prior to Christmas are going to help a community in Tanzania who are involved with improving their skills in beekeeping. After speaking to us, a handful of us were allowed to try on the 'veils' that are worn by bee-keepers. They didn't smell very nice but it was fun getting a photo taken. We also ate delicious home bakes, made with fairtrade honey which we all made ourselves.

JOANNA B, U3

BANANA FAYRE

On Thursday 20th of March the fair-trade group held a banana fair in the atrium for the Lower school to raise money for the "Stick with Foncho" campaign.

We were holding this event to support banana farmers in Colombia, Ecuador and the Caribbean so that they can get a fair price for their bananas. This enables them to pay all of their bills, send their children to school and pay for health care. Banana farmers are normally paid 1/30th of the bananas profit.

We also had a DVD playing in the background to explain the campaign and what fairtrade wanted to do for banana farmers and how they were being treated.

There were games such as 'Pin the Banana on the Minion' (a spin on the classic pin the tail on the donkey), 'Banana Throw', 'Fair trade Banana Scramble' and 'Banana Hop'. There were also banana splits and banana cake!

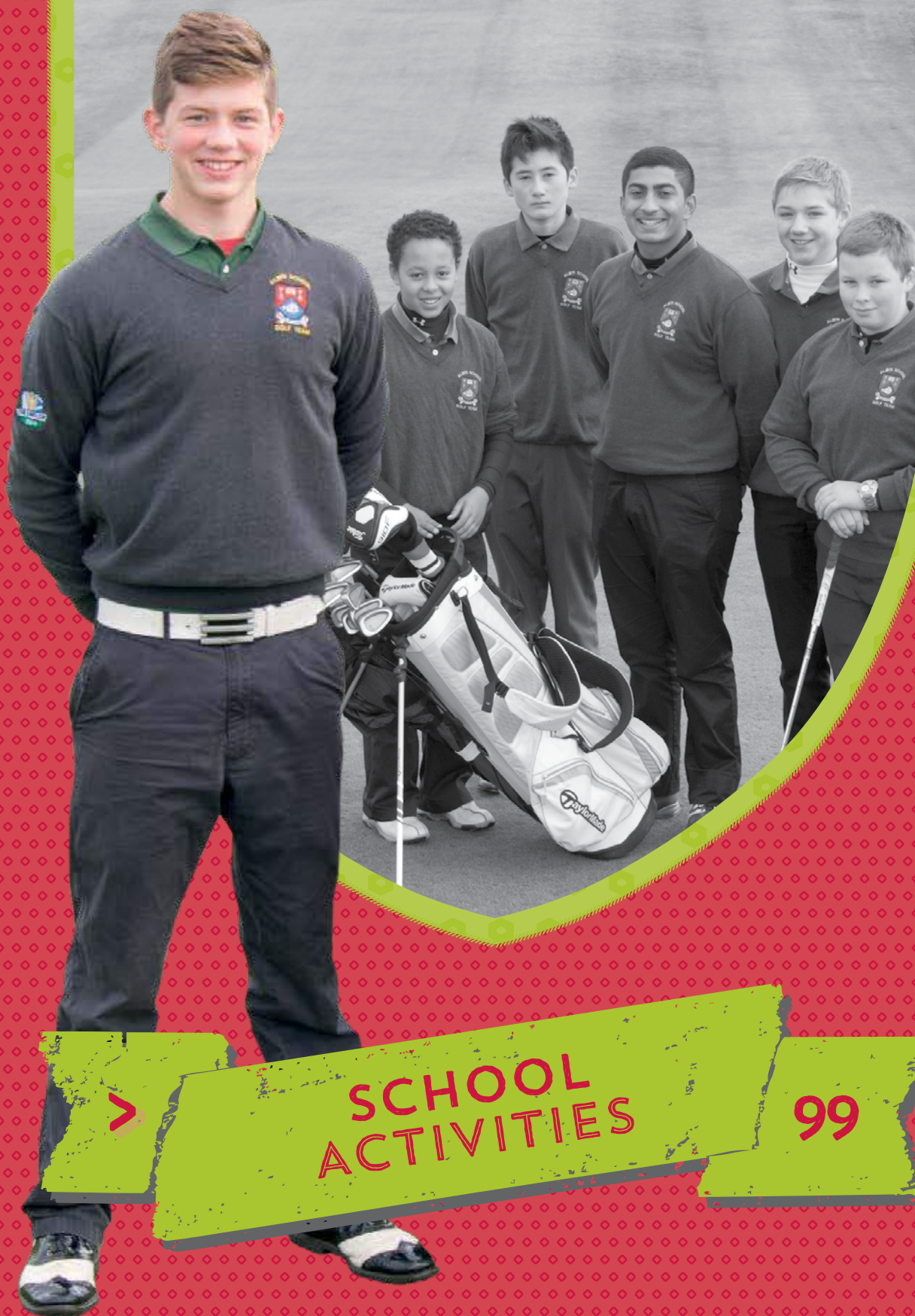
Everyone had lots of fun – helpers and participants alike. All signed the petition and all of the profit will go to the campaign. We were very happy with the outcome and hope to make an even bigger difference in the future! This is why we support fair trade!

JESSICA D, FREYA G
AND KATIE H,
U1



PARADISE VALLEY WAS
THE **BEST PART OF THE
TRIP**. OUR JOURNEY TOOK
US THROUGH SCENERY
YOU WOULD NOT SEE
IN SCOTLAND: LOW
BUSHES AND CACTUS
DOTTED TALL HILLS OF
SEDIMENTARY ROCK.
EVEN WITH THE WINDOWS
DOWN IT WAS A VERY
HOT AND DUSTY RIDE.

US PUPIL



> SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

99

EXPLORING SCOTLAND

FOR ACTIVITIES WEEK WE WENT TO DIFFERENT PLACES ALL OVER SCOTLAND and did all types of activities.

On Monday we got the train from Aberdeen to Glasgow. When we arrived in Glasgow we went to the Riverside Museum. This was very interesting and we learnt a lot about different types of transport such as cars, planes, buses and trains. After the transport museum we had dinner at Pizza Express before going to see 'Wicked' at the King's Theatre. It tells the story of what happened to the Wicked Witch of the West before Dorothy arrived in Oz. It was a very good show and it was really entertaining because of the singing and the special effects.

On Tuesday morning we went to the Scottish Football Museum at Hampden. I enjoyed this a lot because I am a football fan. We got a tour of the stadium and we saw the home and away changing rooms. In the warm-up area we played a football shot accuracy game and then we took penalties against each other. We learnt about the different parts of the stand and ground and about the preparation for the Commonwealth Games. In the museum we saw trophies and old football kits. We also played table football and FIFA 11. After that we went to the Kelvingrove Art Gallery where we saw many interesting statues, sculptures and paintings and discovered lots of facts and information about the rain forests, fossils and animals. After our visit, we walked through Kelvingrove Park and we saw Susan Boyle out shopping on Sauchiehall Street.

In the evening we took the train from Glasgow to Fort William.

On Wednesday we travelled to Mallaig and back by train. We took the Jacobite steam train, also known as the Hogwarts Express because it was in the Harry Potter films. It was a steam train which was different from the other trains that we took on the trip. The train went over the Glenfinnan Viaduct as it does in 'Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets'. It also had great views of the Highland scenery and islands like Rum, Eigg and Skye. When we got to Mallaig we had fish and chips on the pier for lunch and then we had a look around the town. After an hour we headed back on the train to Fort William. In the evening, after a stroll along Loch Linnhe, we went bowling at the Nevis Centre. The bowling was great fun but I wasn't that good at it. After bowling we went outside to play football or tennis. We played for an hour which was really good and then went back to the hotel for our last night away.

On Thursday we went by bus to the Ice Factor in Kinlochleven, which has the largest ice wall in Europe. On arrival we were given ice axes and boots with spikes and then we went into a room like a big freezer where the instructors showed us how to climb and belay. It was very hard to climb but fun and I got to the top of one of the walls but some people climbed harder and taller walls. I was okay but not that good at it but I really enjoyed it anyway. After that we had to get the bus back to Aberdeen. We had lunch on the bus and we stopped in Grantown-on-Spey. We got back to school at 5:30pm. I enjoyed the trip very much and we had lots of fun every day.

SEUMAS H, U2



UPPER SCHOOL AT
KELVINGROVE ART GALLERY



I enjoyed the trip
very much and
we had lots of fun
every day.



LONDON TRIPS

ON 26 MAY 2014, 30 PUPILS HEADED TO THE TRAIN STATION TO TRAVEL TO LONDON. The main focus of the trip was to be Musical Theatre. Here is a diary of what we did during the week -

MONDAY 26 MAY - We arrived at Aberdeen Train Station at 9.10am, where we were greeted by the teachers, Miss Hudson, Mr Blanche, Miss Johnston and Mrs Walker. We then loaded our luggage onto the guard's carriage and made our way to our reserved seats. We got settled in, took out our entertainment for the trip and produced what seemed like a small food mountain per person. It was certain nobody would go hungry.

Seven hours later, we arrived in London. It was busy as it was rush hour but none of us got lost en route to the hotel.

We had a short wait while the teachers checked us in and then our rooms were allocated. Everyone was looking forward to being able to have some rest but we didn't stay for long. At half past seven, we went back out to have tea at Pizza Express, where everybody enjoyed tasty pizza and delicious desserts.

Afterwards, we returned to the hotel. Everybody was tired but that didn't stop us staying up and chatting to friends. The excitement definitely helped us to fight sleep!

TUESDAY 27 MAY - The next morning, we had an early breakfast and were given a quick outline of what we were going to be doing that day. Then we set out on the tube to the Natural History Museum. When we arrived, we split up into groups of four and had a walk around this interesting museum. There were all sorts of rooms where

you could go and learn interesting facts and see fascinating things. We all marveled at the size of the blue whale and felt glad we weren't around in the days of the T-Rex.

After the Natural History Museum, we got back onto the tube and travelled to the London Eye. When we arrived, we were invited into a 4D cinema that showed us a short introduction to the attraction. After watching the video, we started to queue for our ride on the London Eye. The short wait was definitely worth it. We saw some great views and we could see many of the main sights around London. Even though the weather was a bit rainy, I think everyone enjoyed the experience and we got some great photographs.

After freshening up we headed to Nando's for dinner and then made our way to the Apollo Theatre to see Wicked the musical. Everyone enjoyed the show and we arrived back at the hotel in high spirits.

WEDNESDAY 28 MAY - After breakfast we left early to make our way to the venue where we would be taking part in the Les Mis theatre workshop, but our journey didn't go as planned. It turned out that our travel agent had given us the address of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) rather than the Club for Acts and Actors (CAA). We did think it was strange when we arrived at the building to be met by an armed guard! Fortunately a quick call from Mrs Walker and a short walk in the direction of Covent Garden soon took us to where we were meant to be.

The workshop was a master class in musical theatre. At the end we performed a number from Les Mis as a group and we were delighted to be

given the roles of Marius and Eponine.

The workshop put us in the mood for the Les Mis matinee and helped clarify the complex storyline. The show did not disappoint and we were left awestruck by the performance.

A tasty dinner in Wagamama, followed by a swift visit to M and M world completed our day.

THURSDAY 29 MAY - Our first dry day came at the right time. Our morning was spent at the Tower of London where we gazed longingly at the Crown Jewels and heard gory tales of torture.

The afternoon was spent shopping and marveling at the many street performers in Covent Garden. Elijah even took part in one performer's show. Fortunately it wasn't the knife thrower who selected him!

Dinner tonight was a tasty burger and then we went to the very beautiful Her Majesty's Theatre where we saw Phantom of the Opera. This was really spectacular both in terms of music and costumes.

By the time we returned to the hotel and packed, we were all pretty exhausted.

FRIDAY 30 MAY - Our last day was spent on the train home. I think the teachers had expected us to be quieter on the return journey. However, with so many memorable and funny stories to share and the prospect of seeing our families again, we were far too excited even to think about sleeping.

Our London visit was a fantastic one. Three West End shows in three days, dinner out every night and shopping and socialising with our friends - this trip was truly Wicked!

ADAM A, U2 AND STEPH W, U1

LONDON ADVENTURES





pupils had enjoyed making new friendships and spending time with people they would not normally spend time with.



MR SOMERVILLE, MRS MAGILL, MRS WEBSTER AND 17 PUPILS SPENT ACTIVITIES' WEEK 2014 IN LONDON.

The wet, cool weather for most of the week did not much dampen the enjoyment had by all. A visit to Hampton Court revealed the ostentatious luxury that Henry VIII enjoyed. The maze did not prove a difficult challenge and no-one was left behind. The mother swan in the pond proudly showed off her brood of cygnets but ensured that no-one got too close and eventually encouraged two of her babies to hitch a ride on her back as she took them away to safety.

A treasure hunt in the area around St Paul's Cathedral proved a highly competitive activity for one of the three groups. However, attempts to sabotage the clue-finding of the other two groups were foiled by the superior detective skills of these groups. In the end the final scores were very close showing that first finished does not always necessarily lead to victory.

At the Globe Theatre, the group watched some of the tense rehearsal for the afternoon performance; the tension due to the late replacement of two main characters due to illness. A workshop followed in which the leader, Connor, encouraged the metamorphosis of the pupils into creatures not of earth.

On the Wednesday night, the group enjoyed a visit to the Theatre Royal in Drury Lane for a performance of the musical, "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory". This was an especially emotional performance for the boy who played Charlie as this was his final show after six months' of performing.

The week's final activity was a visit to Chessington World of Adventures where many fears were overcome including those of the teachers. A few pupils enjoyed a performance of the Madagascar Show aimed at a younger audience as a "reward" for their late return to the rendezvous point!

Highlight of the day for one teacher was the elephant tree singing Happy Birthday to her.

When asked what they had learned or developed on the trip several of the pupils gave similar answers: Some felt they had overcome their initial fears about travelling on the underground system and were more confident about doing this on their own in the future. Others enjoyed learning a new skill when they visited the ice rink, including the ability following a fall to pick themselves up and carry on. But the most common answer was that the pupils had enjoyed making new friendships and spending time with people they would not normally spend time with. Certainly there was lots of conversation, many laughs but numerous blistered and tired feet throughout the week. The 123 stairs at Queensway underground will be fondly remembered by all too!

MRS D WEBSTER

BARCELONA TRIP

FOR ACTIVITIES WEEK 47 PUPILS CHOSE TO GO TO BARCELONA on a trip that promised lots of water sports and cultural experiences. We flew from Prestwick Airport to Barcelona on Saturday 24 May. Once we arrived in Barcelona we travelled to L'Escala which took around two hours to reach by road.

The first three days were spent in log cabins at the campsite in L'Escala. It was quite late when we arrived and so once we had met the instructors we went straight to bed. Over the next few days we did kayaking, sailing, mountain biking and wind surfing. In kayaking we played games which ended in everyone falling in and getting soaking wet and the same with wind surfing. The head instructor, Rich, made sure we fell in by pulling us off our wind surf boards and playing balance games that were impossible. The wind was strong whilst we were sailing and capsizing was inevitable. Luckily it meant a ride in a motorboat afterwards. The mountain bike trail was fun too and our games of ninja squirrel hide and seek with a twist, kept us all laughing. I really enjoyed the time we spent in L'Escala and all the instructors we had and activities we did, made it really fun.

On Tuesday we went to a water park for the day on our way to Barcelona. Funnily enough two other schools from Aberdeen were there at the same time! At first we were tentative to get wet but in the afternoon when the sun was out we were disappointed to leave. The second slide I went on so happened to be the scariest and steepest in the water park, one in which the floor dropped beneath you! We all enjoyed the excitement of the rides and the relaxation of the sun.

After staying on the campsite for three days we made our way to the centre of Barcelona where stayed at Hotel Comercio – it was situated around 400m from Les Rambles. We visited several different sites in the three days we stayed Barcelona city centre.

Parc Guell: The view of Barcelona from Gaudi's Parc Guell was great. It was different from the populated areas of Barcelona with its building design.

Sagrada Familia: The church was really pretty and the pillars looked like trees growing up to the roof like the top of a forest. We went up to the top which had stunning views of Barcelona.

Chocolate Museum: I was thoroughly impressed by the Chocolate Museum as the sculptures were very realistic to the point no one was sure what was actually made of chocolate and what was not.

Picasso Museum: The Picasso museum was very interesting and it was great to see how his work progressed throughout the years.

Las Ramblas: Las Ramblas was an amazing place full of lovely shops and authentic Spanish cafes. The street venders were hilarious trying to sell us their goods.

Aquarium: The aquarium had so many fish and it was fascinating to see the information about them all. The tanks were full of many colourful unusual fish I had never seen before.

Poble Espanyol: It was a cultural mixture of all the different Spanish states and it was great to see all the different styles of housing and foods.

It was a unique experience and I felt like I had seen the whole of Spain at once. The best bit was the handmade glass sculptures which were constructed live and absolutely beautiful.

SHONA I, ETIENNE D, KHUSHVITA S,
SUSAN H, MATTHEW W, OLIVIA L, ZOE C





TRIP TO ROME



DR GIRDWOOD, MRS LONG AND MRS BUTLER TOOK TWENTY PUPILS ON AN ACTIVITIES WEEK TRIP TO ROME. We had lots of fun and saw all the amazing sights of Rome like the Colosseum, the Trevi Fountain and St Peter's Basilica. We also had lots of lovely food at a restaurant for tea and other shops and restaurants for lunch.

On Monday the group set off on the plane from Aberdeen International Airport via London Heathrow to Rome.

We went to St Peter's Square, and then visited the Vatican Museum on Tuesday morning. In the museum there were some famous and interesting statues and ceilings, especially in the Sistine Chapel. In the afternoon we went to the Castel S. Angelo, which started as a tomb for Roman emperors but then was a Medieval Fortress. We could see a lovely view of Rome from it. Finally we finished the day by visiting the Pantheon, meaning Temple of All Gods and it is still used as a church today even though it was built by Romans. In the evening we went to

the Trevi Fountain to throw our coin over our left shoulder with our right hand.

On Wednesday we went up Palatine Hill and saw the remains of the Imperial Palace. There was a garden designed to look like a chariot racing track -- it even had an arena for Gladiator fights. Down in the Roman Forum there were many temples to many strange Gods such as Vesta Goddess of warm hearths, and the Goddess of the sewers, because the Romans invented the sewers to keep the people healthier. Then we went to the Capitoline Museum where there were huge parts of an immense statue of the Emperor Constantine, which was so big the Romans only made its nose, elbow and foot in marble and the rest in brick. There was a statue that was unusual because the boy was looking down, picking a splinter out of his foot. Most statues the people are looking up and trying to make themselves look grand and powerful. Next we went to the Colosseum. The Colosseum was amazingly constructed and very big. It was commonly known as the "Colosseum" because

of a colossal statue of the emperor Nero and was originally called the Flavian Amphitheatre. We thought the Colosseum was big but when we saw where the Circus Maximus chariot racing track used to be it seemed small because chariot racing was one of the most popular sports. In the evening we saw a lights show about what a temple of Mars looked like in Roman times.

We went to Ostia Antica, which was a Roman port town, on Thursday morning. It had lots of beautiful mosaic patterns on the floors and a theatre. There were also Roman public toilets which were very well plumbed and hygienic. In the afternoon we went to Bioparc Zoo and we had fun looking at the animals.

Friday was the last day so we visited S. Maria Maggiore Basilica, which had an amazing ceiling. Then we walked to a Roman shopping centre. Afterwards we did some shopping in the present day Italian shops then flew back to Aberdeen via Heathrow. Over all we had a great trip that everyone enjoyed and learnt more about Roman times!

JESSICA D, U1



Over all we had a great trip that everyone enjoyed and learnt more about Roman times!



BIENVENUE AU MAROC! SALAM!

Upper School travelled to **Morocco** for their activities week. Take a look at some of our favourite activities we took part in on the trip.



SURFING

We surfed for several days. After breakfast each morning we collected our wet suits and surfboards and headed to the vans. The beach was only a short ride away. The heat of the sand and the sight of the cool water made us eager to begin. Our surf instructors led us through exercises to stretch our arms and strengthen our legs, then they taught us how to get up and balance ourselves on the board. We were excited but also quite nervous as most of us had not surfed before. At first we all found it really hard and struggled even to catch a wave but soon people started to catch waves, then kneel or even stand up on the board. We were each proud of our progress. During our breaks

we played frisbee and football on the beach. Learning to surf was a totally new and exciting experience which was fun and exhilarating.

MARRAKECH

We drove down a long modern street to meet our guides near the King's Palace. The lead guide showed us the main city mosque. He told us about the mosque's geometrical designs and, at the top of the tower, the pointer that always shows Moroccans where Mecca is. He led us into the main square where we saw many snake charmers, monkeys and ladies who paint henna designs. In the souk, we went down different alleys where people made their products. One was full of people who made leather goods like

shoes and handbags. Another had craftsmen who made tin lanterns and silver platters. One man showed us how he carved wooden rings, animals and boxes using traditional tools. We visited an apothecary where we learned about spices, scents and lotions made from herbs. We ate pizza on a veranda which had a great view overlooking the central square. Back in the souk we visited the medina and a large old house which had been turned into the Dar es Salaam restaurant, whose rooms were covered in mosaics, stucco and wooden designs. We then had free time to shop in the souk. We haggled for good prices. The stalls were brilliant with a huge variety of items to buy. Another great day in Morocco.



BERBER CULTURAL CENTRE

We headed into the Atlas Mountains to the Berber Cultural Centre to learn to live like Berbers. We were greeted by the family who live there. They showed us how to make Moroccan mint tea in the traditional way. Later that evening we had a competition to see who could make the best tea. Molly and Rhona won so they got teapots as prizes. We also made flat bread and baked it ourselves. The oven was made of clay and it really hot when it was your turn to put your bread in. We also made tagine, a Moroccan dish that consists of vegetables, spices and meat. We took a donkey to a well to collect water. We climbed a mountain to see a cave and walked through 'snake valley' but

didn't see any snakes, unfortunately. The family who lived at the Centre were extremely nice and caring. We will never forget their hospitality.

PARADISE VALLEY

Paradise Valley was the best part of the trip. Our journey took us through scenery you would not see in Scotland: low bushes and cactus dotted tall hills of sedimentary rock. Even with the windows down it was a very hot and dusty ride. The narrow roads that wound up the hills made us feel like we were in an episode of Top Gear. After a short walk we came upon the first jade pool, in which a baby turtle was enjoying a lush pink flower. We could see now why they call it Paradise Valley. Fresh, sky blue water filled

small pools along the valley. The rocks that rose above the pools gave us ledges from which we jumped and dove into the water, each of us cheering the others on. Some people tried tricks and poses as they jumped. There was nothing like the feeling when you jumped off the rock and into the warm water. Other rocks rose up from under the water, one of these gave us a great slide because the rock was very slippery. We pretended to surf down it. No one wanted to leave the pools, but eventually we headed to a cafe in the forest where we ate chicken tagine with bread. Our time at Paradise Valley will be an experience we will never forget.

A DIARY OF OUR TIME IN ICELAND



DAY 1

The pupils visited a number of physical features on the Southshore including the 200ft high Skogafoss Waterfall, Reynishverfi Beach with its volcanic black sands and Solheimajokull Glacier before walking behind the Seljalandsfos waterfall. The pupils finished off the evening with bowling.

DAY 2

This day started with a visit to Kerid Crater a miniature volcano. The pupils then moved on to Pingbeller Canyon and Gollfuss waterfall – a two and a half kilometre canyon before visiting the Geysir Centre where Strokkur which spouts water 20 metres into the air every ten minutes. Finally they toured the Hellisheidi Geothermal Power Station.

DAY 3

The pupils spent this day in Reykjavick seeing the sights and shopping before going on a whale watching tour in the afternoon.

DAY 4

This day was spent on the Reyknes Pininsula including Lake Kleifarvatnseltun Geothermal area with its hot springs, mud pools and steam vents before seeing Iceland's oldest lighthouse and coastal features. Before returning home to Scotland the pupils finally bathed in the famous Blue Lagoon.



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