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# THE ALBYN REVIEW

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## SPORTS DAY

Highlights of our pupils on the biggest sporting event of the year.

## CLAN REPORTS

An overview of what each clan took part in this school year.

## SCHOOL TRIPS

Our pupils went to places near and far during activities week.



Albyn held a Lower School mock evacuation day to Inverurie so pupils could see the effects of the war at their age, [read more inside...](#)

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# Albyn School



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## ALBYN OVERVIEW

A LOOK AT WHAT OUR HEAD PUPILS,  
CLAN LEADERS AND FORMER PUPILS  
HAVE BEEN DOING THIS YEAR.



## LOWER SCHOOL

AN INSIGHT INTO WHAT OUR  
NURSERY AND LOWER SCHOOL  
PUPILS HAVE ACHIEVED THIS YEAR.



## UPPER SCHOOL

A COLLECTION OF WORK  
PRODUCED BY OUR PUPILS IN  
THE UPPER SCHOOL.



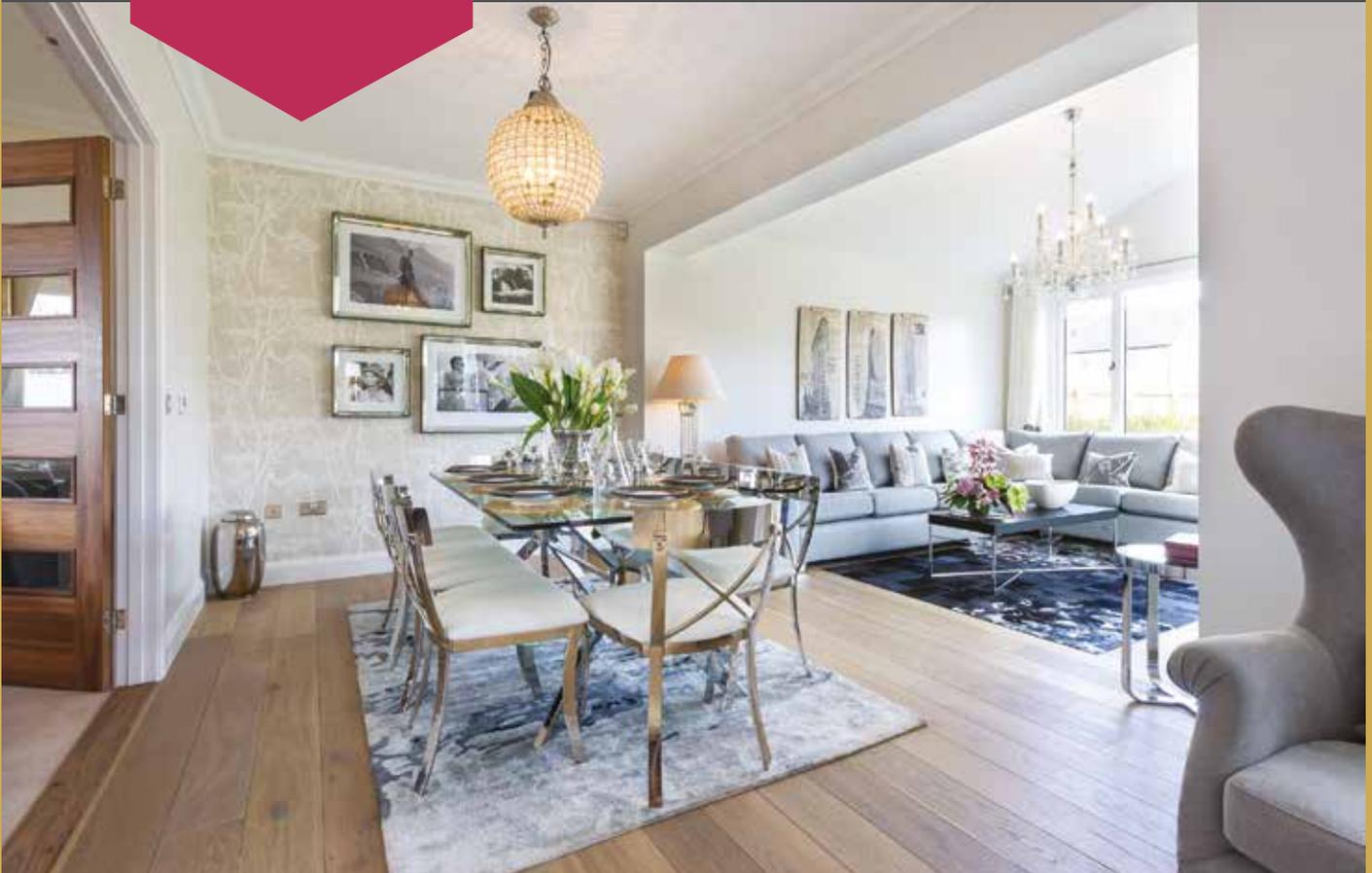
## SCHOOL TRIPS

WHERE OUR PUPILS HAVE  
BEEN VISITING NEAR HOME  
AND ABROAD.



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# Albyn School



## ALBYN OVERVIEW



# Albyn School

## EDITORIAL

### DEAR PARENTS, PUPILS, FORMER PUPILS AND FRIENDS OF ALBYN SCHOOL,

This edition of *The Albyn Review* seeks to capture a flavour of exciting and varied activities that Albyn's pupils have been involved with this last year. You will read about the inter-clan competitions such as dancersize, debating, swimming, sports and for the first time this year, singing. You will also read about how the Clans came together to raise money for the charities that they selected. There are an eclectic mix of accounts in the Review from reports on the Social Studies trip to Edinburgh and the fieldwork undertaken in Biology to how the Fairtrade and Literary and Debating Societies are both thriving. You will read about how well the Music and Drama Departments' production of *Oliver!* was enjoyed by all who took part as well as the Music Department's own superb concerts. You will also learn about the Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and the Upper School Activity week trips to such places as Krakow, Barcelona, Nice and Iceland. As always, we write about the sporting success of teams up and down the

School from our junior athletes to our senior Netball players. You will find reflections about the School from the recipients of the Former Pupils' Award. Because we have altered publication of *The Albyn Review* to the summer, we also have accounts of the Closing Ceremonies together with an account of Sports Day, when 17 athletic records were broken all in the one morning. As an all through School, you will also see how our youngest children watched the incubation of eggs, chose a Christmas tree from Kirkhill Forest and met a guide dog for the blind. You will read about how pupils in the Lower School learnt about emotions, dinosaurs and acted as Roman legionaries while their older counterparts enjoyed their activity week in Alltnacriche, a visit to Edinburgh Zoo, an overseas trip to Normandy and most imaginatively, a recreation of the evacuation of children from Aberdeen at the outset of World War 2 reported on by the local press.

While *The Albyn Review* tells many stories, it hides the many hours of hard work and dedication by the school staff who made these activities happen.

**“THE SCHOOL'S TEACHERS AND THEIR ASSISTANTS SEEK TO ENRICH THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE OF ALL THE CHILDREN”**



The School's teachers and their assistants seek to enrich the learning experience of all the children through their teaching and through the societies, sports, trips and visits that they organise. The Review also doesn't describe the less exciting but important changes that have occurred during the year. At the beginning of the year we opened a new Sixth Form Study Centre and a very well received new junior library – The Warrack Library. Lower School pupils have been immersing themselves in the International Primary Curriculum while last August, for the first time, all Upper 1 pupils experienced Classics, Mandarin, French, German and Spanish before deciding upon the foreign languages to take forward. As I write, the School has just received its 2015 public examination results.





**THE RECORD BREAKING  
HIGHER RESULTS ARE A  
GREAT TESTAMENT TO  
EXCELLENT TEACHING,  
HARD WORK BY PUPILS  
AND SUSTAINED  
PARENTAL SUPPORT**



The record breaking Higher results are a great testament to excellent teaching, hard work by pupils and sustained parental support and will enable many of our senior pupils to embark upon the courses and careers of their choice.

I recognise that the broader Albyn community has also played such a large part in the success of the School. I am so grateful for the work of the parents' association (ASPA),

who continually seek to further the aims, aspirations and success of the School by raising funds to enhance Albyn's environment and resources. Beyond them, I am grateful for the support of the Former Pupils Club and to Miss Francesca Milne who co-ordinates the Albyn Foundation and generates support from Parents, FPs and benefactors to Albyn School, some of whom have no family connections but are simply patrons who believe that what we do for Albyn's children is so worthwhile. On that same theme, we were so pleased and delighted when Sir Ian Wood brought his two sisters, Lorna Jackson and Meg Duncan to talk about their time at Albyn School and when Lady Helen Wood opened a new arts and lecture theatre. At that same event Sir Ian announced a breathtakingly generous sum for the creation of an engineering centre for the School. I should add that

none of what the School has achieved would be possible without the leadership of the Governors who despite their own commitments, give up their time freely and with the sole aim of promoting the interests of Albyn School. Overall it has been an exciting year although not without its challenges!

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to thank Miss Chantelle Robson who has been the editor of *The Albyn Review* and who, I hope you will agree, has created a stylish, colourful and interesting magazine. I am very grateful to all those who contributed articles and photographs as well as those companies who helped sponsor its production. We would like to thank our advertisers and sponsors **HSBC** and **Rugby Plus**. I hope that you enjoy what you find here.

Yours sincerely,  
Dr I Long, Headmaster



# HEAD REPORTS

AN INSIGHT INTO WHAT OUR HEAD PUPILS AND DEPUTY HEADS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THIS YEAR.

## Introduction

**Thinking back to when we were in Upper 1 in 2009, the school was a very different place. The 6th years seemed like invincible, scary women ready to take on the world. Now it is our turn. Although Upper 1 seems like it was only yesterday the school has done a fantastic job in preparing us to leave and become adults outside of the comforting cushion of Albyn.**

Since starting at Albyn the school's appearance has changed immensely. Building developments have been on-going since we started secondary school. The addition of the Oliver Wing, the all weather pitch in the playground, recent Atrium development, and the foyer entrance have all made the school a much more modern and accessible environment. As some of the first students to go through the school with these changes we have felt the great benefits of these improvements. The plans for a new Engineering block are really exciting, and as we are both studying engineering at university we only wish we had an extra year to try it out.

## Head Boy Report by Hamish Leeson

Another recent addition that I have taken full advantage of is the new recording studio. As well as using it to set up the new Albyn podcast, I have used this to set up band in

the 6th year, which has proved very popular (debut album out soon!). The opportunity to record and master the recordings using technology within the studio has been immensely useful to me in particular, as sound engineering and audio production is part of what I want to study in the future.

The music department has had a hugely successful year, with the War concert in autumn last year being an emotional highlight. The joint production between the music department and the drama department of *Oliver! The Musical* was incredibly successful, running two nights in a row and being enjoyed by students and parents alike. As part of the crew, I can attest to the incredible amount of work put in by everyone involved, with multiple rehearsals a week running for months leading up to the performance. All the hard work was worth it however, with an incredible production that is sure to be remembered as a highlight for years to come.

A lot of my responsibilities come from operating the sound desk during these productions, and while a difficult job I find it very enjoyable. I hope to pass on this responsibility to another younger pupil to enjoy, and take advantage of, as it has been very good to me and I hope it will be good to others in the future. It has given me

invaluable and unique experience that would be difficult to find in any other school.

The athletics this year has also been successful, with many new faces joining in at training sessions, and even a new evening to train during the winter. The nearby Aberdeen Sports Village track has been very useful, allowing the athletes to hone their technical skills in the field events while still sprinting or running longer distances. More pupils than ever travelled to the Scottish Schools Indoor Athletics Championships, in the fantastic Emirates Arena venue in east Glasgow. Built for the commonwealth games last year, it played host to athletes from all over Scotland as Albyn competed for glory. While not as successful as hoped, it gave younger pupils valuable experience in a larger competing environment and an opportunity to experience a prestigious venue and track. As captain, this has made me incredibly proud, and I hope next year can once again improve on this and give our athletes the opportunities they deserve.

## Deputy Head Boy Report by Tom Murison

With trips away with Mrs. Findlay to Glasgow and around Aberdeen for Philosophy to listening to Poetry in the Music Hall for English, the year has been filled with many activities



Meriel A-W



Hamish Leeson



Gwen Newman



Tom Murison

that have made it fly by. And between prefect duties and studying I've been kept very busy. Though what I'm most proud that I've taken part in was the School musical Oliver! Though I did have a small role I still found it challenging being, as it was my first time on stage like that. However, when the time came for it to be open I felt ready and thoroughly enjoyed it and I've decided to try and take on some larger roles in the future when I'm in University. I have to say though that my last year at Albyn was maybe my most enjoyable finally being in the senior year made me appreciate it all the more knowing as I did that I would be leaving all too shortly so I would like to thank all my teachers and friends for making this year great.

### Head Girl Report by Gwen Newman

Throughout school I have always been highly involved in Hockey and Netball clubs in the school. This year is the first that Albyn has managed to sustain two senior squads for both of these sports. The uptake of sport has increased hugely in the younger years also, with great potential shown by the Upper 1, 2 and 3 teams. As captain of the 1st XI hockey team I have seen the growing enthusiasm for the sport, which comes hand-in-hand with success. Seeing many younger pupils joining local hockey and netball clubs is really great as this is an amazing way to develop skills and get to know new people, as well as gaining experience from playing with older players. From being a member of a local hockey club since 3rd year I would highly recommend this to any keen player.

Another sport which has been highly successful is rowing. Some members of the 6th year are involved in the Scottish rowing squad, and many row for the school and the local club. Recently Albyn has opened rowing to girls, and this has proven to be extremely successful and popular.

During my time at Albyn the Duke of Edinburgh award has been one of my greatest achievements. From the 6th year 5 groups set out on the Gold expeditions in both Scotland and the Alps. This is a huge uptake for the most challenging level, and it is still growing with even more pupils signing up for the Gold award among the current 5th years. The support from the school in completing all three levels

(Bronze, Silver and Gold) has been amazing, making the process extremely straight forward. The opportunity of completing Duke of Edinburgh is available to all pupils from Upper 3 onwards, and it is an impressive achievement to have when leaving school.

In Summer 2014 four groups of pupils from 5th and 6th year travelled to Namibia, Botswana and Zambia on a month long expedition with the school linked Outlook Expeditions. This experience was like no other and was again made so available by the school. Expeditions are planned for the summer of 2016 to South America, and these are planned to continue for years following. The memories from the Africa Expedition will stay with me forever and I know I speak for everyone who took part in saying that it was unforgettable.

### Deputy Head Girl Report by Meriel A-W

In Albyn, assemblies tend to follow along particular threads, and I remember frequently being told by teachers or sixth year pupils taking assembly, that the most important thing Albyn offers to its pupils are opportunities, and that these should be taken full advantage of. I would like to think that looking back over my time at Albyn from Lower 6 to Upper 6, I have tried to make the most of my time at school.

In fifth year, I took part in the Young Enterprise scheme, acting as Managing Director for our company 'Mes Amis'. I can truly say I learned a huge amount from this experience about what the world of work could entail and I would highly recommend it to any fifth or sixth year pupils as a really valuable extra curricular activity.

In September 2014, I was lucky enough to be successful in my application to take part in the Holocaust Educational Trust visit to the Auschwitz Birkenau concentration camp. This was a deeply humbling and emotional experience that not many people find the time to go through in their life and it is an opportunity I am so grateful for as a result.

As part of the Higher Philosophy course, our class took 'What if?' club every week with a group of lower 7's, helped by our teacher Mrs Findlay. Not only did this group give us an additional chance to improve our organisational and teaching skills, but we

were all so impressed with the amazing conversations we ended up having with this group of pupils, when we asked them what we thought were difficult philosophical questions, they soon proved us wrong.

Taking part in Netball from Lower 6 to Upper 4 was an amazing experience, as competitive sport is an amazing way of making close friends and also developing many useful skills. I tried my hand at hockey also but soon found it not to be my strong point. However, trying new clubs and activities is always a learning curve no matter how naturally gifted (or not gifted) you may be.

### All

As the year comes to an end we would like to thank all the Prefects for all their hard work on Open Mornings, school events, and general school duties. They have put in a commendable effort, sometimes at very short notice! Your hard work is very much appreciated, and while often it may seem like you are not making a huge difference behind the scenes, the actual effects are huge and felt by everyone involved in the school, from other pupils all the way up to the parents.

6th year is a challenge for everyone, and when looking to the future it is sometimes hard to appreciate the present. The year has been extremely enjoyable - and reasonably stress-free - thanks to the help of the Upper 6, our teachers and especially Mrs Prentice. We have all become so much closer as the years have gone on, leading to strong friendships being made that will not be forgotten.

If we could give one piece of advice to any current or future pupils at Albyn, it would be to listen to those who tell you to make the most of the opportunities handed to you. They do not always come easily to you but this is what makes it our responsibility to ensure we make the most of them. We would like to wish everyone luck in the future, and encourage all the younger pupils to make the most of their chances in Albyn as everyone has the potential to succeed. Thank you to everyone throughout the school for everything they have done to support us all through our time here, it has been an amazing experience.

# CLAN DOUGLAS

**This year has been an extremely busy, competitive and successful year for Clan Douglas. After finishing second to Clan Stuart last year, I was determined that we would upgrade this place to take home the Tosh Cup at the end of this year. There were, however, also three other clans determined to take the same approach. This ensured a fun and competitive year between the clans.**

Our leader and deputies were selected through an application and interview process. Oliver Kinghorn (U6) was appointed Clan Leader and Abbie Wilson and Laura Powell (both U5) were appointed as deputies.

There have been many pupil's individual achievements to celebrate this year. There are too many to mention them all but here are some of them:- Maxine Kerr (U6) Completed the Aspire Channel swim when she swam the equivalent of the English Channel, in a swimming pool. Doing this she raised £250 for The Aspire charity which supports people with spinal injuries. Eden Greig (U1) won a team gold medal at the Scottish Gymnastics championships held in Perth. Milly Kinghorn (U4) has been selected to represent the North of Scotland in both Hockey and Netball, competing against teams from other parts of Scotland such as East, West and South.

Clan Douglas chose to support Camphill School as their charity this year. The Clan organised and ran many different charity events in which we raised over £560 to donate to them. Clan Douglas was delighted to be able to make a contribution to help this charity continue with their work.

We have done exceptionally well in clan competitions this year. The year started with Clan Dancersize where our team of ten 1st – 6th years battled it out against the other clans to finish in a strong third place just one point behind Forbes in second. Everyone who took part in this competition should be extremely proud of themselves as the competition this year was particularly tough.

Clan Douglas had great representation at the swimming gala which highlighted the motivated team spirit of the Clan. It is this team spirit that helped us to win the swimming gala along with other events this year.

This year for the first time, the four Clans competed in a singing competition. This new competition tested the musical abilities within the clan. Each clan was challenged to perform two songs as part of a small choir. With many strong singers in the clan, Douglas put on a slick performance and took home the trophy for the very first time.

At Sports day, Clan Douglas triumphed once again taking home first place with many incredibly strong performances on display from many of our athletes. This final event, combined with this year's hard work and dedication from all members of the Clan, helped us to take home the Tosh Cup this year for the most successful clan. I would like to thank my two Deputy Clan Leaders Abbie Wilson and Laura Powell for their continued hard work over the year to help me organise and run clan events. I would also like to thank the Head of Clan, Mr McCulloch 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, and I wish the best of luck to the new Clan Leaders and Clan Douglas next year.

BY Ollie K (U6)  
Clan Leader

## SENIOR PUPILS AT SPORTS DAY

## DOUGLAS

• (left to right) Megan Bramwell, Ruby Leeson, Hamish Leeson, Findlay Douglas, Milly Kinghorn.

# CLAN FORBES

**FORBES**

☺ (left to right) Ellie Mayo,  
Antonia Howlett, Sophie Dorrian  
and Miss Blair

**Another year has passed and Forbes have been successful in many areas. We competed in every Clan event, with our 2nd place for Clan Dancersize being our best result. Many thanks to Olivia Bruce, Alison Lane and Sophie Dorrian for organising our team and for creating a great performance piece. We have a few pupils achieving Dance Grades this year, such as Ella White (Grade 4 Ballet) and Shona Ironside (Grade 4 Tap).**

Forbes are known for their musical talents and we had many of our Clan achieving grades this year. They are: Nicole Pacitti (Grade 5 Clarinet and Piano), Georgia Knowles (Grade 5 Piano and Flute), Laura Gow (Grade 5 Clarinet), Daniel Erskine (Grade 2 Piano) and Ross Greig (Grade 2 Clarinet). Congratulations on your fantastic musical achievements!

We had great participation from Forbes in this year's very successful performance of "Oliver!" with a few also achieving Grades for Musical Theatre. Well done to Emma Smith (Grade 6), Shona Ironside (Grade 5), Morgan Thomson (Grade 4) and Zany Milner (Grade 3).

Swimming Gala and Sports Day.... Ok, we were not in first place... but our list of achievements is impressive! Viyom Varma won the title of U3 Boys Sports Day Champion, with Mark Douglas claiming the title of "Runner-Up". From U2, Oli Nash was first in both the front crawl and backstroke races at the Swimming Gala and Ella Murray was runner-up for U2 Girls Sports Day Champion. Then we get to U1... Lucy Mugford, Amy Walker and Emmy Collins respectively claim the 1st, 2nd and 3rd places for Sports Day Champions, with Ridwanullahi Tella the runner-up for U1 boys Champion. Mrs Kelman - P.E. Teacher and

U1 Form Tutor - must be very proud! Lucy Mugford and Ridwanullahi Tella both achieved new school records - Lucy for the 200m (time of 30.7 seconds) and Ridwanullahi for the 100m (time of 13.1 seconds). I would also like to mention some of the school records that were retained. Oli Nash still holds the record for Long Jump, Ella Murray - 800m and Shot Put, Thomas Kinghorn - Long Jump and Shot Put, Tom Nash - Javelin, Alejandro Coghill - 200m and Christian Dick - Javelin. A big thank you to Ridwanullahi (U1F), Ella (U2F) and Robyn (U3F) for stepping in last minute to take part in the relay race. Other sporting achievements from this year include Emmy Collins winning Clan Points for playing Netball at District Level, Matthew Lynas winning the Aberdeen Boys Golf Championship and Zany Milner and Molly Taylor both achieving their red belt for Kick Boxing.

We always do well in the UKMT and SMC maths competitions. Winners this year are: Gold awards for Oli Nash, Ella White, Sam Kelso and Catherine MacFarlane. Silver awards go to: Joshua Otakoro, Katie Hindle (in both competitions), Mark Douglas, Catherine MacFarlane and Etienne Dick. Bronze awards were achieved by: Edward Freeman, Laura Gow, Karis Christie Nabavi, Lauren Dunhill and William Townsley.

Well done to Karis Christie Nabavi, Joshua Otakoro, Ridwanullahi Tella and Alex Lang for competing in the Debating competition. Alex stepped in at the last minute as Lisa McCallum unfortunately could not attend. Well done to Alex for having the courage to take on this challenge! Alex Lang also competed in the Clan Public Speaking competition.

**KATIE BRIMMER WON THE ABERDEEN ROUND OF THE ENGLISH SPEAKING UNION'S PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION, A FANTASTIC ACHIEVEMENT.**

I would like to finish by thanking my Clan Deputies, Sophie Dorrian and Antonia Howlett, as their enthusiasm and organisational skills this year have been pivotal in the running of the Clan. I really hope they are both considering applying for the post of Clan Leader next year!

Another great year has finished. I cannot wait to start the next.

BY Miss Blair  
Head of Clan Forbes

**"FORBES ARE KNOWN FOR THEIR MUSICAL TALENTS AND WE HAD MANY OF OUR CLAN ACHIEVING GRADES THIS YEAR."**





## GORDON

• (left to right) Lydia Newman, Leo McKeever, Mrs Crawford, Skye Arnott.

# CLAN GORDON

**“TO FUTURE FIFTH AND SIXTH YEARS;  
I CAN PROMISE CLAN LEADERSHIP AS  
A GREAT OPPORTUNITY THROUGH A  
SUPPORTIVE SCHOOL LIFE AS I CAN  
ALSO PROMISE IT WILL BE A DIFFERENT  
EXPERIENCE FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL.”**

September was a time for new commitments and experiences, and taking the mantle of Clan leader was not what I had anticipated. I thought I fully understood the role's description at the time, however it was unexpected how much I was to learn from carrying leader responsibilities. Through 2014 to 2015 running clan events proved tricky enough for myself. This allows me to appreciate how demanding Head of Clan responsibilities must be for the four, already highly committed, Head of Clan teachers at Albyn. Mrs Crawford, Head of Clan Gordon consistently showed humility and dedication to our Clan from before the year began to after the school doors were closed, working in her own hours on-top of her duties as head of the P.E department. I think I speak for the entire school when paying her respect and thanks for every assembly and meeting she guided us through.

This year all of Gordon Clan dedicated to a singly stupendous event in the late Autumn term, with Shelter Aberdeen chosen as our championed charity.

Our festive fleece and bake sale was embraced by pupils across the school, resulting in a momentous record for raised funds. I value the experience as a very personal memory that can remind future pupils why we do this at Albyn. I was pleased when Shelter accepted our invitation to hold a speech last March presenting to us their work for young people and how our donation may be used.

We heard how a new generation of passionate and respected professionals are making successful careers in third sector non-profit-organisations; a perfect example to pupils how work is both constructive and rewarding.

This year has been no exception for Gordon pupils' achievements. Pupils have set new personal bests and retained their titles in a range sports; from biathlon to badminton, climbing to swimming, rowing to riding, all the while giving continued commitment to school and national clubs. Pupils received awards for sporting excellence, service to the community through the Duke of Edinburgh Gold programme, well deserved internal reports, and for grading well in musical examinations. By the end of this year thirty five percent of our final points were earned from these accolades alone, setting a high-bar for next year as Gordon clan scored more for "outside school representation" than any other. This year I have been proud to recognise what so many Albyn pupils feel is important in their life outside of school, and what defines them as a unique person.

This year too, Gordon did exceptionally well in competitive school events. We smashed into the academic year earning first place

in dancersize with a well-rehearsed rap. The inaugural event for Albyn's new public speaking society saw Gordon pupils place first and set a high benchmark for the future of this new club. Several Gordon teams entered Albyn's clan quiz when spirits were running high, ranking second place overall. Lower school pupils in particular showed immense enthusiasm for the swimming gala in first term only narrowly missing on gold medal to Douglas. Three proud winners represented their clan in the Youth Philanthropy Initiative, and far more represented Gordon in highly successful Young Enterprise teams. The traditional clan debate was held in late June, making for a close point tally to end the year in avidity. I congratulate Douglas on winning the Tosh cup, and look forward to hearing of inspired Gordon pupils regaining the trophy next year.

Ensuring Clan Gordon did so well this year would not have been possible without fifth year deputies. I am very thankful to Skye Arnott and Lydia Newman for the active roles they played. To future fifth and sixth years; I can promise clan leadership as a great opportunity through a supportive school life as I can also promise it will be a different experience for each individual. Not often will those you work with be so willing to guide and tutor you when fitting into a completely new role. There have been so many formal pupils who would struggle through uncomfortable parts of undertaking responsibility if given the chance again, only to benefit from resulting personal growth: the commitment proves worthwhile year on year. Take this opportunity and make lasting memories for the clan, and yourself, when you do.

BY Leo M (U6) Clan Leader



# CLAN STUART

## STUART

• (left to right) Matthew Nicol,  
Mr Blunsdon, Katie Holroyd, Anna Dixon

**Clan Stuart has had an extremely successful year packed with a variety of charity events, a range of admirable personal achievements as well as a tremendous amount of support and participation throughout the year at Clan events which include the Clan Singing Competition, the annual Swimming Gala and the Albyn Musician of the Year.**

At the beginning of the year, Clan Leader, Mr Blunsdon, challenged the Clan to raise £200 and he would take part in the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge that was sweeping across the Internet. However, if we raised £300, Miss Blair who leads Clan Forbes, agreed that she would also take part. Within the next couple of weeks, one of the largest bake sales that Albyn had ever seen took place with cakes, brownies, cookies and tray-bakes just being a few of the varieties of baking that was brought in by members of the Clan. After an extremely hectic break and lunchtime, we completely sold out of our baked goods and managed to raise a fantastic £241.65! In the end, we managed to raise over our £300 target due to the extra fundraising undertaken by U5S. The following Friday, both Mr Blunsdon and Miss Blair completed their challenge with multiple bags of ice on a 'pleasant' Autumnal morning. Thank you to everyone who helped to contribute to the Clan's success whether that was baking, buying or helping to sell!

**A SPECIAL MENTION THIS YEAR HAS TO GO OUT TO THE GIRLS IN U4S WHO PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN THE DANCERSIZE COMPETITION THIS YEAR. WITHOUT CHLOE PURDIE AND SOPHIE MILNE, THE CLAN WOULD HAVE STRUGGLED TO EVEN HAVE CHOREOGRAPHED A DANCE ROUTINE IN ONLY 3 DAYS!**

Many break and lunchtimes were spent rehearsing and although the result was disappointing for Clan Dancersize, I feel that it was not a proper representation of the effort that was put into creating such a fun and entertaining routine!

A new Clan singing event was created this year which the whole Clan enjoyed, especially the 6th year! Each Clan was required to create a choir and perform two songs, one was mandatory and then the other was a personal choice. After many mornings of rehearsing, the final performances were filled with charisma, laughter and not to mention singing! Sadly, we were only half a point off of first place however I believe that the choir did a brilliant job and I am very grateful to everyone who gave up their time to be a part of the choir!

Recently the Albyn Musician of the Year and the Shireff's Cup competition final took place in the centenary hall. The competition was extremely fierce and the quality of the musicians this year was outstanding. 3 out of the 4 finalists in the Albyn Musician of the Year as well as half of the finalists in the Sheriff's cup were in Clan Stuart so I was very hopeful of a successful evening for Clan Stuart! All of the musicians performed to an incredibly high standard and I would like

to say congratulations to the winner of the Musician of the Year, Rachel Groves who is in U5S! Also, congratulations to Adam Auchie in U3S for winning the Sheriff's cup! Chris Smith who is also in U3S played fantastically and the 3 of you made the Clan proud!

The number of pupils in Clan Stuart who have achieved awards this year has been outstanding! The excessive number of PDP's as well as music and sporting achievements within and out with school represent how successful we are as a Clan in the Albyn and local community. I would like to thank my two deputies, Matthew Nicol and Anna Dixon for the help, support and commitment that they have given throughout the year. I would also like to thank Mr Blunsdon for his help during the year but most importantly I would like to show my appreciation to every member of Clan Stuart since without your contribution, we would not have accomplished the amount that we have! I have thoroughly enjoyed being Clan Leader this year and although it has had its difficulties, I have also gained many skills and have enjoyed bringing the Clan closer as a team.

BY Katy H, Clan Leader



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# ALBYN FOUNDATION

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**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 the both the pupils concerned and the School community as a whole.

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 the School Albyn 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.

## 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.

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



**Over the past year, Albyn has held different events to help develop various aspects of the school such as the improvement of our bursary scheme, building and redevelopment projects, and relationships in and out with the Albyn Community. As a result of this more pupils have had the opportunity to join Albyn School, new classrooms with smaller numbers of pupils have been created and relations have been made between the school, former pupils and the wider community.**

In November 2014, Dr Long sent out an appeal to current parents of Albyn School with the hope that they may be able to support with Albyn pupils who, due to unfortunate circumstances, would have difficulty remaining at school. We were very touched with the very positive response received and the generous donations were, and still are very much appreciated not just by the school but also the families they supported in difficult times. To show our thanks, a Donor Reception was held in May 2015.

The redevelopment of the Lower School Atrium was completed in December 2014. What was once underutilised space the Atrium was transformed by adding two additional floors and creating three diverse rooms including an Arts and Lecture Theatre, a new Lower School Library and a Senior Study Area. We were honoured to welcome Sir Ian Wood, Lady Helen and Sir Ian's two sisters, Meg Duncan and Lorna Jackson to the opening of the redevelopment project where,

Lady Helen Wood unveiled a plaque officially naming the lecture theatre, the Wood Arts and Lecture Theatre. The Wood family have a history at Albyn School with Sir Ian attending Nursery, and Mrs Duncan and Mrs Dawson attending throughout their school years. After two very entertaining speeches full of stories from when the two Wood sisters were at Albyn, Sir Ian announced that The Wood Foundation was donating £400,000 to go towards a new Engineering Centre that will be situated alongside the science laboratories. We hope to complete this project before 2016.

Over the past two years, with the help of the Former Pupil Committee, Albyn School has reconnected with the former pupil community. Through events such as an annual cheese and wine evening and Founder's Day, we have had a great time getting to know this particular grouping of the wider Albyn Community. A Cheese and Wine evening was held last year in the Mackie Library and had a great turn out of former pupils who had the chance to listen to a festive assortment of music played by our current pupils, look through school memorabilia and take a tour of the school. We were very kindly gifted pictures and news articles from various different decades to add to the archive that the Development team are currently putting together. In June 2015, Founder's Day was organised over two days beginning with former pupils being welcomed to the school for a musical performance by current pupils in the Centenary Hall and enjoyed afternoon tea in the Mackie Library.

On day two, the former pupils were treated to a 'walk through the decades' tour in the Hall. Memorabilia including pictures, news articles, magazines, portraits and school uniform were separated into different decades and put on display. It was great allowing our former pupils to explore a timeline of the school's history and take a walk down memory lane and reminisce. The ladies were then treated to a 'decade buffet lunch' which offered culinary delights such as spam fritters, angel delight and eggless sponge cake washed down with ginger ale which seemed to be a great success!

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**IT WAS FANTASTIC TO SEE SO MANY REGULAR AND NEW FACES AT THESE EVENTS AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING MANY MORE IN THE FUTURE.**

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We are happy to announce that the next school event coming up includes the whole Albyn Community. An Albyn Foundation Ball will be held at the Chester hotel on Friday 2 October 2015 which aims to raise money for the Albyn Foundation. The Albyn Foundation hopes to introduce more bursaries, help those families who have faced very difficult times and to expand the school's facilities. We hope the Foundation Ball will be a big success!



# DEVELOPMENT EVENTS



THE FORMER PUPILS WERE TREATED TO A 'WALK THROUGH THE DECADES' TOUR IN THE HALL



*Albyn Foundation Ball*

The Albyn Foundation Ball takes place on Friday 2 October at the Chester Hotel. The ball aims to raise funds for bursaries. For more details please contact us.



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# ASPA

## THE ALBYN SCHOOL PARENTS ASSOCIATION

ASPA AIMS TO ASSIST THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SCHOOL AND THE PARENTS OF OUR PUPILS. THE ASSOCIATION ALSO HELPS WITH MANY FUNDRAISING PROJECTS TO ALLOW THE SCHOOL TO ENHANCE ITS RESOURCES AND FACILITIES.

It is with great pleasure, and more than a hint of relief on my part, to be able to report that nearly £24,000 of the money that has been raised by ASPA over the last few years was put to good use for the purchase of lighting, staging, sound and drape systems for the new Wood Arts and Lecture Theatre. It is hoped that the new facilities provided by the Atrium redevelopment will enhance the education of all pupils in some way during their time at the school, and we are pleased to be able to contribute towards them.

No sooner had we made the donation of the funds above than we started looking for other ideas, and the pressing need to replace the piano in the Main Hall was considered appropriate as an item that would be of benefit to the whole school especially with regards musical events, in addition to its' use for formal music examinations. The urgency of this requirement necessitated that a suitable piano was sourced as soon as possible and as such ASPA has pledged to refund the school from the proceeds of forthcoming events.

On the social side, our inaugural Fun Day in September seemed to be well received by those who attended. In addition to the activities supplied by Team Challenge, Segway Aberdeen, Laser Tag and the Grampian radio-controlled car club we are very grateful to Aberdeen City Fencing Club, Danz Creations and Ronnie Watt and his karate students for giving up their time to entertain us throughout the day. A similar event is planned to take place towards the end of the next school year.

For a few hours in the morning of Friday 7 November it seemed that our Fireworks Night event would be abandoned due to the weather, but fortunately the rain held off allowing a very enjoyable moonlit display. The soaked grass area forced us to watch from the tarmac, however this did not detract from the event and, providing that Kippie Lodge continue to allow us to use their car parking facilities we will be adopting the same format this year, which has the benefit of preserving the sports pitches.

The Albyn Christmas Fair continues to be popular, with over £5000 raised. The donations received from parents beforehand are the key to the success of the event, and once again we were overwhelmed by the generosity shown. Some of our external crafters have attended the event for a number of years, and it is only the available space that limits us to the current numbers.

In addition to our fundraising activities, the wellbeing of our children is our primary concern, and we were successful in persuading Aberdeen City Council to install safety barriers opposite the Nursery and Lower School entrances along Forest Avenue. Food is always of importance to growing children and we look forward to meeting with the new catering company before the start of the 2015-2016 school year.

Finally, ASPA also exists to promote co-operation between the school and parents. Whilst we will always look to make improvements in all facets of the school, we continue to recognise the school's achievements and the benefits that it has to offer to our children.

**MY THANKS GO TO  
THE ASPA COMMITTEE  
FOR THEIR SUPPORT  
THROUGHOUT THE  
YEAR AND FOR THEIR  
CONTINUED EFFORTS  
TO MAKE OUR EVENTS  
A SUCCESS.**

BY Mark Hindle  
ASPA Chair



# FP PRESIDENT

AN ACCOUNT OF THE YEAR BY OUR  
FORMER PUPILS CLUB PRESIDENT.

**The Former Pupil's Club has been very active through 2014-2015 and its role in promoting and developing the relationships between the School and its FPs has never been more relevant. In my position as Vice President and now President of the FP Club I've enjoyed hearing what Albyn meant and means to FPs throughout the years, while having a unique insight into the hard work and dedication of the staff and others associated with the School today.**

The FP newsletter went out in August so things actually quietened down a bit for the FP Club when the school started up again for another academic year, and our first event was the annual Quiz and Bridge night in November. Unfortunately for various reasons the numbers were down for the Bridge regulars, so we only ran the quiz in the School hall this year, but it was very well attended. FPs pitted their wits against other teams consisting of guests from the sister FP Clubs, Albyn staff and Upper 6 pupils. One of my favourite parts of this evening is that each year the teams of 4 bring their own food and drink so there's everything from a few crisps and dips to a pre-prepared supper with wine (candles optional). The School also hosted a Cheese and Wine evening towards the end of November and FPs were treated to outstanding musical entertainment courtesy of the music department and tours of the new floors built, in what was, the Lower School Atrium.

2015 got off to a quick start after the Prelims with a talk to the Upper 6 pupils about the FP Award. Pupils were invited to submit a written application about their time at Albyn, other activities, interests and achievements they have out with school and what they

think makes an outstanding example of an Albyn pupil going out into the wider world. It was very hard to try and narrow the applications down, but after a bit of discussion, the Club Committee managed to pick 5 to interview before trying to pick the winner. This year the field was exceptionally strong and we found it very hard to pick just one deserving winner, so settled on the joint winners of Sophia Anderson and Morgan Smith. Our congratulations go to both of them and we wish them all the best for the future.

The summer term is one of the busiest terms for everyone associated with the School, and the FP Club is no exception. Having been away for the Annual General Meeting and the 'At Home' meeting in March it was my first chance to step into the Presidents role at an FP function and meet up with other FPs at the Founders Day events. Both the Friday and Saturday were well attended and it was great to see new and old faces enjoying the generous hospitality and entertainment on offer. The boarders in particular have a very strong and fond attachment to the school and loved getting a tour round to see their old dorms and classrooms – I really appreciated hearing their stories and getting a sense of how much it really was home to them. The School has a wealth of photos and other memorabilia that they had out on display and with FPs helping to identify some staff and pupils and date events, as well as offering to bring in their own photos, there is a real sense of working together to build and preserve the Schools history.

This year's Closing Ceremonies were a fantastic experience for me – having not been to an Upper School closing ceremony since my own one in 1991, the Music Hall



was a much grander experience, but it was reassuring to see that some things stay the same (Douglas still had the most Clan points and there were lots of tears from those leaving afterwards). The new head of the Lower School, Mr Bertolotto spoke at the Lower School Closing Ceremony and it was a lovely chance for parents to see his obvious enthusiasm for the role and rapport with the children.

**THE FP CLUB HAS ALSO BEEN VERY ACTIVE OUT WITH ALBYN THIS YEAR AND, AS THE FP CLUB PRESIDENT, I HAVE SO FAR HAD THE PLEASURE OF ATTENDING FP EVENTS HOSTED BY ABERDEEN HIGH/HARLAW ACADEMY, ABERDEEN GRAMMAR AND ST MARGARET'S SCHOOL. THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE SISTER CLUBS ARE VERY GOOD AND THERE IS A LOT OF SUPPORT FOR EACH OTHER.**

Finally with the summer holidays bringing us up to date I am now looking forward to my first full year as President through 2015-2016 and hope to serve the Club and the School well.

BY Sarah Harley  
FP President

**IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A 'SELF-MADE' MAN, THAT WE ARE IN FACT MADE UP OF THOUSANDS OF OTHERS, THAT EVERYONE WHO HAS EVER DONE A KIND DEED FOR US, OR SPOKEN ONE WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO US, HAS ENTERED INTO THE MAKE-UP OF OUR CHARACTER AND OF OUR THOUGHTS, AS WELL AS OUR SUCCESS.**

# FP AWARD



## My Time at Albyn

**It has been said that there is no such thing as a 'self-made' man, that we are in fact made up of thousands of others, that everyone who has ever done a kind deed for us, or spoken one word of encouragement to us, has entered into the make-up of our character and of our thoughts, as well as our success. I could not quite believe it when I heard my name being called out at the Former Pupils' assembly as a winner, and, as I made my way to the stage, a hundred thoughts ran through my head accompanied by a hundred faces of those who had contributed to my success.**

I have had a fantastic time at Albyn, I have been encouraged, inspired, stretched and pushed to the very limits of my being and can say as I near the end of my sixth year that I am completely exhausted! However, I cannot wipe the smile from my face as I go forward knowing that I have, with Albyn as my support, done all that I can do to reach my goals and fulfil my dreams. I was late in joining Albyn and I am delighted to say that it is not a school that is difficult to fit in to, in fact within no time at all I felt a full part of it all. The teachers were welcoming, and the students eager to know me better and I was soon fully immersed in school life. I have learned to row in Albyn, I have sailed, swam, hiked and climbed. I have piped, partied, sang, danced and in between all of this, I have, of course done some school work! I have been afforded some fantastic opportunities, and have experienced wonderful things and I hope that during my time in Albyn School that I have also given back to others. I have been imbued with that 'Albyn Pride' - that which makes you want to go that little bit faster, try that little bit harder and help that little bit more. Although a cliché, I must say that Albyn is so much more than just a school, it is a community, a collective of likeminded, dedicated and driven young people guided by committed professionals.

During my time at Albyn School I have learned so much. I have, along with my studies, spent a great deal of time volunteering my services, and have enjoyed spending time with young swimmers and sailors as well as the elderly within my community. I have also gained a great deal of pleasure and confidence from playing my bagpipes at a variety of charity and social events. I have tried to fit in as many sporting and musical events as I could between my studies and have gained a great deal from being part of a team, from the competition and, of course, the camaraderie that comes with being part of something. I feel privileged to say that I will leave Albyn School with credit grades, a university certificate, my Gold Duke of Edinburgh award, various school prizes, four offers to study medicine, good friends and great memories.

My very first memory of Albyn School was when I came to meet with the Headmaster, and, while waiting in reception, I picked up the Albyn magazine and opened it at a page which read "Luck only happens when preparation meets opportunity". Thus, to all those at Albyn my advice to you would be, do all you can do, and then do more, and have the confidence inside you to know that when opportunity knocks you will be prepared, you will be ready. A very special teacher once gave me a gift of a book and inside it she wrote "Dare to live the life you have dreamed for yourself. Go forward and make your dreams come true" - Ralph Waldo Emerson.

So, to the Former Pupils' Committee and all of Albyn's staff I would like to say a heartfelt thank you and to my fellow pupils I shall simply wish you - Good luck!

BY Morgan S (U6)

**ULTIMATELY MY TIME AT ALBYN HAS BEEN, AND CONTINUES TO BE, THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT DRIVING FORCE IN MY GROWTH AS A PERSON.**

## My Albyn Journey

**When I joined Albyn in 2005, I was very shy. It was an incredibly daunting experience to arrive in this new environment, but I will never forget the way I was instantly accepted and embraced by the Albyn family.**

In such a supportive environment, I was able to make huge strides academically, and discover a strong desire for knowledge, and now I am proud to say that I will be attending the University of St Andrews next year to study Biological Sciences. This is one of the most important parts of an Albyn education, in my opinion, as Albyn offers a huge number of opportunities to learn, both academically and in extra-curricular activities. One such opportunity is a Nuffield Placement which I was able to achieve in the summer of 2014 through the support of my teachers, which allowed me to work in the Institute of Medical Sciences and participate in the research in the field of neuroscience being conducted there, which included performing micro-dissections and live-cell microscopy. Not only was this incredibly interesting and exciting, but it was an excellent chance for me to confirm that Biological research is the right career choice for me.

Participation in the music department has also been a very big part of my time at Albyn. I am in the Choir, Ensemble and Capriccio, and as I play the flute I am in the Orchestra and Wind Band. Being able to participate in so many groups has allowed me to really enjoy performing music and that is something which I will have for the rest of my life.

Activities like these, as well as being given more responsibility within the Albyn community which has culminated in my position as a Senior Prefect, have built my confidence hugely to the point where I was able to lead an assembly this year. It was also an excellent opportunity to talk to the school about something important to me - the relationship between arts and sciences.

Ultimately my time at Albyn has been, and continues to be, the single most important driving force in my growth as a person, from my strong work ethic and love of learning, to my desire to participate in the community around me, within and out-with school. It is for this reason that I am so honoured and grateful to have received this award, particularly with such strong competition, and I am very glad to be able to share it with Morgan Smith.

BY Sophia A (U6)



# CLOSING CEREMONY

**THE CLOSING CEREMONIES WERE HELD JUST BEFORE THE END OF TERM IN JUNE 2015. THE LOWER SCHOOL CEREMONIES TOOK PLACE ON MONDAY 22 JUNE AND WEDNESDAY 24 JUNE IN THE CENTENARY HALL.**

Both ceremonies were bursting at the seams with proud parents eagerly watching their children perform musically and receive prizes for effort and different achievements. One of the main highlights included L1-3 singing, 'We are the Children of Albyn'.

The US Ceremony was held on the evening of Tuesday 23 June in the Music Hall. The ceremony, usually held in the Beach Ballroom, was a wonderful evening full of some beautiful musical performances from the US Choir, US Orchestra, Fideles, Ensemble and of course the emotional U6 performance of 'My Way'. Pupil after pupil took to the stage to pick up prizes for various achievements including merit

and effort, FP, sports, Duke of Edinburgh and other school awards. We were pleased to host our Guest of Honour, Bishop Gillies, who relayed his kind, honest and humorous words of wisdom that were well received by the pupils. He blessed the pupils with some useful advice including the following:

*Crucial in all of this learning is how to develop and grow through the experiences that life throws your way.*

Albyn's Head Boy and Head Girl, Hamish Leeson and Gwen Newman, spoke beautifully about their time at Albyn School leaving most of the audience without a dry eye. It was great to see so many pupils receiving

well-deserved recognition for their hard work and achievements over the past year. All in all, it was an evening full of joy, achievement, friendships and family and signified a real unity in the Albyn Community. We want to wish all those who have recently left the best of luck in the future!

BY Miss Milne



**WE WANT TO WISH ALL THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY LEFT THE BEST OF LUCK IN THE FUTURE!**



# WELCOME

## MEET THE LOWER SCHOOL

### Inside this section you will find:

**A look at what our pupils in our Nursery and Lower School age 2-12 have been involved in this year.** There have been many exciting moments and learning opportunities this year in the Nursery such as the incubation of chicks in the Toddler Nursery, learning about road safety in the Ante Pre-School and visits to Kirkhill Forest by the Pre-School who got to choose their very own Christmas tree.

In the Lower School our Lower 1 pupils got to meet the pupils from Pre-School and spend time playing outdoors and reading stories together to help them familiarise themselves with a school environment. Our Lower 5 pupils got a visit from a real life Roman as part of their project and our Lower 7 pupils visited Normandy as part of their project on WW2.

# Albyn School



## LOWER SCHOOL

# ALBYN SCHOOL

## NURSERIES

PREPARING CHILDREN FOR THE NEXT  
STAGE IN THEIR EDUCATION.

### Toddler Unit

It has been a busy year in the Toddler Unit. We are at full capacity which is great news for us and it means the boys and girls have had lots of birthday parties to attend this year! We now have 2 groups; Ladybirds and Bumble bees. Each day from 9am and 3pm the children will go into their groups, whilst they are in their groups this gives the staff the time to spend quality time with the children and do a number of activities from art and craft, baking, outside play, local walks, gym sessions, learning shapes, colours and numbers and even some of the children know their alphabet and this is at age 2-3.

Miss Addison our fantastic music teacher at Albyn School still comes alternate Tuesdays and Fridays which gives each child a chance to have fun with music. The children thoroughly enjoy their time with her and have all become much more confident joining in with various songs and performing the appropriate actions with the musical instruments.

We have a very healthy menu at the nursery catering for all dietary requirements and needs, we have three healthy snacks and a two course lunch. We encourage independence skills whilst children are at the Toddler Unit one of the main ones being sitting at the table and the children learning to feed themselves.

One of our big projects this year at the Toddler Unit was our incubation of chicks. As a group we followed this very closely by taking the children to see them on a daily basis to see the progress they were making. Once the chicks had hatched the children were allowed to hold the chicks. The children loved this and became very interested in this so we had a mini project all about "An egg to a chick".

BY Miss Edmonstone  
Toddler Unit Manager



### Ante Pre-School

It has been a very exciting and fun packed year in the Ante Pre-School Nursery. The class as a whole were extremely independent and very much conducted their own learning with the aid of their parents and nursery staff. Our topics this year varied from Space, People Who Help Us, The Human Body, The Post Office, The Life Cycle of a Chick and Road Safety.

Various people and animals came to visit us this year which the children thoroughly enjoyed. We played hosts to the Fire Brigade, baby chicks, Mr Bug, The Lollipop Man and our wonderful dancing teacher. Another huge success this year were our "Share a Session" time slots which many parents participated in, the children took great pride in showing and sharing their nursery with their parents.

The children also explored the environment out with the nursery visiting places such as Aberdeen Beach and Hazlehead Park where they took part in a fantastic Mudpie lesson. Also Satrosphere, Den in the Glen, Kings Museum and Charleton Fruit Farm.

The children accomplished a huge amount this year and have taken great pride in their work. One of their biggest accomplishments was their Christmas Nativity and Summer Concert where the children sang and danced to a large group of family and friends which takes a huge amount of courage at such a young age.

It has been a wonderful year in the Ante Pre-School class and we wish them all well on their next stage of learning.

BY Miss McAllan  
Ante Pre-School Manager





- Pre-School pupils in Kirkhill Forest
- (far left) Having fun in the nursery
- Learning in the nursery

## Pre School

**There has been many exciting moments and learning opportunities this year in the Pre-School. It has been a busy year where our thinking and imagination was expanded through the topics we had chosen to learn about and the experiences we took part in both inside and outside the classroom.**

There has been lots of stimulating outdoor learning experiences this year. Our first big trip was to make mud pies and dens at Hazlehead Park and after a busy morning of building we roasted marshmallows on the fire. We have also visited Kirkhill Forest twice, where first - we chose our Christmas tree for the classroom and then on our next visit, got to practice our den making skills.

This year, our big topic was learning all about our body, and where we go if we don't feel well. We had a visit from a Doctor from Aberdeen Royal Infirmary who told us all about her job and how important it was to keep ourselves safe so we don't get hurt. This visit sparked our interest and we wanted to find out more about how our body works so we looked at the heart and how to keep it healthy and the important work that our senses do.

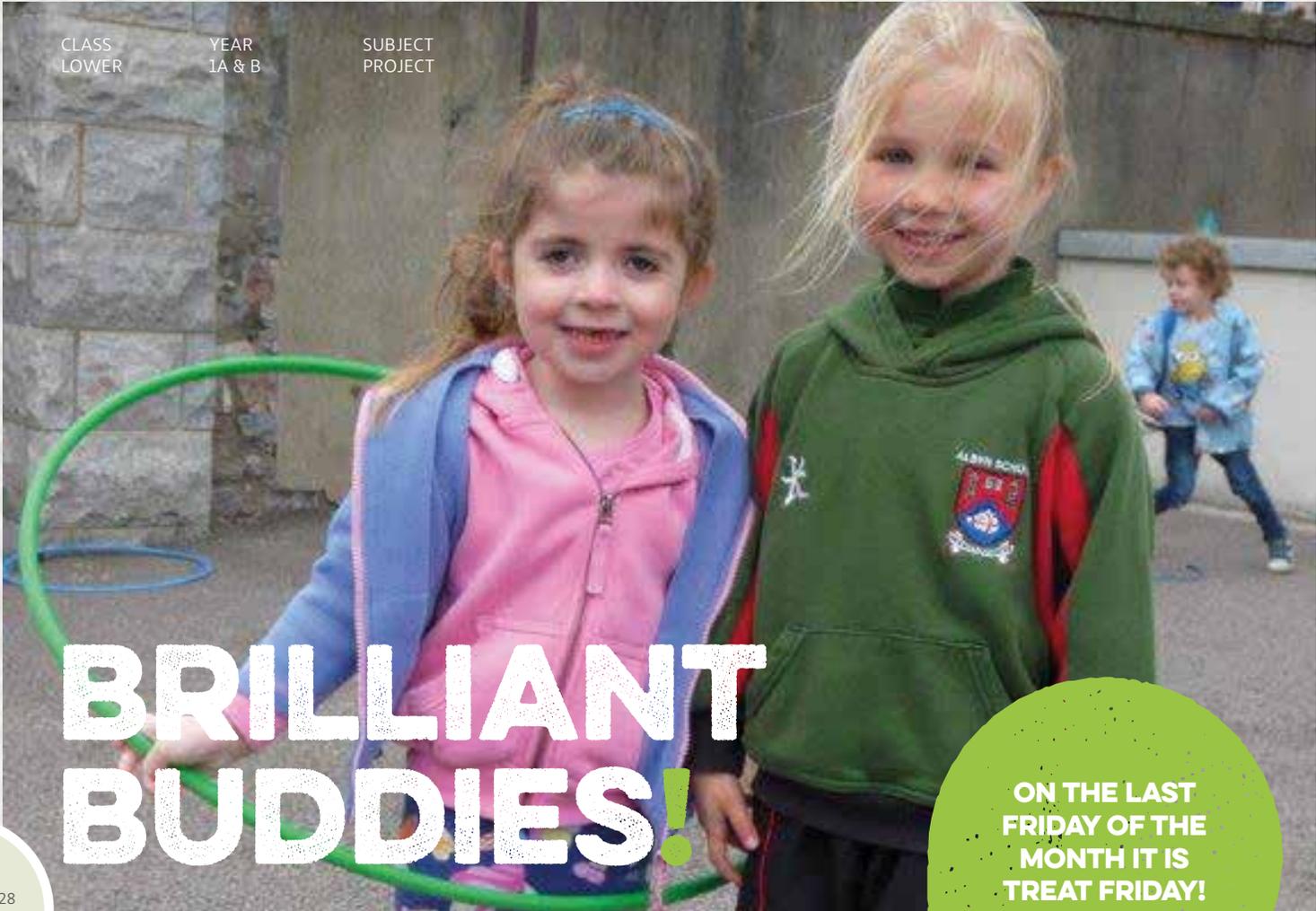
Towards the end of the term we extended our learning about the senses further by inviting two guide dogs and their owners in to speak to us. Nelson was a fully trained guide dog and Sadie was a puppy who had just started her training. This was great fun and very interesting and we learnt all about the daily

life for a guide dog and the amazing work that they do to help and support their owners.

We have had two fantastic concerts this year. Our first was at Christmas, where we recreated the nativity story but with a twist called 'Whoops a daisy angel' and another at the end of term where we performed Scottish songs on stage in the Wood Theatre.

We finished of the year with a trip to Drum Castle, where we played on the zip line and practiced our skills on the climbing frames. After, we were exploring the forest and navigating our way through using signposts to help us. We then ended the day with a lovely picnic on the castle grounds.

BY Mrs McDonald  
Pre-School Manager



# BRILLIANT BUDDIES!

ON THE LAST  
FRIDAY OF THE  
MONTH IT IS  
TREAT FRIDAY!

AYOMIDE

## LOWER 1'S BRILLIANT BUDDIES TO THE PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN!

The journey into Lower 1 is a big adventure and over the past year the Lower 1 children have learned many skills including learning to read, write, investigate shapes and numbers, find out about the world that they live in and learn to communicate with one another.

Lower 1 decided to help the new children coming into Lower 1 after the summer holidays. They did this by meeting them in the playground to play games, talking with them, reading stories together and they even wrote letters to their buddies. In the letters they gave their little buddies some ideas of what it would be like in Lower 1.

*"I've been excited about having a special friend here because if you have someone special they can help and you are loved"* Jonny

*"I like football and karate club"* Tom

*"Albyn is a good school"* Jimi

*"I love it when we get Golden Green Time on Friday"* Poppy

*"I like reading because it helps you to learn"* Zac

## "I LOVE DOING THE SPELLING CHALLENGE" SUMMER

*"Karate and dancing is fun"* India

*"My favourite school lunch is the macaroni cheese"* Mahadev

*"I like phonics because it helps you to write"* Daniel G

*"I like After School Club"* Gaby

*"I love singing and dancing"* Sofia

*"I love the dance club with the Lower 7 buddies"* Pranav

*"I like science because you get to make things"* Jack

*"I like football because I learn new things from the Lower 7 buddies"* Katherine

*"I like homework, we do fun stuff"* Phoebe

*"In PE you will be doing sports"* Tim

*"I like school. In school I like to have a green card!"* Sravya

*"I have strawberries and crackers for my snack"* Ellie

*"If you don't have friends in the playground there is someone to help you find friends"* Felix

*"I like to learn new things at school"* Lucy

*"You get to do experiments"* Lorcan

*"School is very fun because you get to do all sorts of things"* Sabi

*"In PE we have a warm up game called Pac man"* David

*"The best thing about going to music is getting to play instruments"* Zikky

*"I made purple and black chemicals in science"* Lucas

*"You play games on the Smart Board"* Jomi

*"You will learn to spell words"* Esther

YOU GET TO PLAY FOOTBALL INSIDE AND OUTSIDE. YOU HAVE TO DO SOME ADDING AND TAKE AWAY!

MATILDA

WE HAVE A CATERPILLAR THAT TELLS YOU WHAT WE DO EVERY DAY

REHAN

PLAYING FOOTBALL IS AWESOME

WILLIAM

I AM HAPPY AT SCHOOL,

SCOTT

I LIKE TO WORK, PLAY MINI FOOTBALL WITH LOWER 7 BUDDIES AND DO LEGO CLUB

DANIEL C



I LIKE LEGO CLUB WITH THE LOWER 7 BUDDIES.

VINCENT

MAKING FRIENDS IS EASY

KYLE

I LOVE AFTER SCHOOL CLUB BECAUSE IT IS FUN AND YOU GET TO PICK A TOY TO PLAY WITH.

YASEEN



I LIKE DOING BIG MATHS BEAT THAT AS YOU SOMETIMES BEAT YOUR BEST SCORE

JAMIE

I WENT TO SCIENCE AND DID EXPERIMENTS, IT WAS FUN

ABDULLAH

JOLLY PHONICS IS FUN

ETHAN

IN BIG MATHS IT IS TIMED SO YOU HAVE TO GO AS FAST AS CAN!

MAX F

I LOVE MY NURSERY BUDDIES

SOPHIE

IN PE WE RUN AROUND

MAX B

AT GOLDEN TIME YOU PLAY WITH TOYS

ALEX

I AM GOOD AT SKIPPING, YOU WILL HAVE SO MUCH FUN, AND YOU WILL LOVE IT!

MCKAYLA





# LOWER 2A TRIP

Last Wednesday, I was really excited because my class was going on a trip to Hazlehead Park. Mrs Roulson paired us up and I was paired up with my friend Amie. Amie and I had the job of carrying Miss Smith's camera until she got on the bus. Once we got there we had a little play before Mandy got there. Once Mandy got there we lined up in our pairs. When we finally got to the woods we had our snack. After we had all finished our snack we got into our groups. Amie and I were in Miss Forbes group and so were Lewis and Daniel. First, we had to look for flowers. It was very tricky! Then we had to do the bug hunt and I did not like it because I had to hold onto a slimy bug. It was disgusting! The final group we had to do was the rainbow colour group when we had to find something all the different colours of the rainbow. After, we had our lunch and went back to school to have our break.

BY Emily F

Last Wednesday we went to Hazlehead. We went on the bus. We were so excited. When we got there we could not believe it! We got out of the bus. We got inside the woods and we sat on some logs. We ate some biscuits and ribena juice. Then we had to find stuff that was the all the colours of the rainbow. I felt very excited. The sad thing is that we didn't find all of them. Then we switched groups. In that group we had to find different flowers like daisies and all sorts of other flowers. The next thing was bug hunting. It wasn't that charming but we didn't care when we were doing it. I found a dancing spider! Then we went back to school.

BY Lucas M

On Wednesday we went to Hazlehead. Me and my friends were very excited! We first went on a bus. Then we got to the woods very safely. First we had a play then we split into groups of four. We first went on a hunt to look for all the colours of the rainbow and we found all the colours. Then we were looking for different kinds of flowers and unfortunately we found six out of seven. Last but not exactly last, looking for bugs. When we found the bugs we had to do a tally of how many of all the bugs we found on our sheet. Last of all we had lunch. It was delicious! Then we went back to school.

BY Tobì O

WE HAD TO FIND STUFF THAT WAS THE ALL THE COLOURS OF THE RAINBOW. I FELT VERY EXCITED.

Last Wednesday I was really excited because I went to Hazlehead park! In Hazlehead park we went to the playground. When Mandy came we went to the camp to have snack. I had a biscuit and juice. After that we got into groups. First my group had to find different types of flowers. We found all of them except for two then we swapped groups. Next I had to find the colours of the rainbow. My group found all of the colours even ones that were not part of the rainbow and even two of the colours! After that we had lunch. I had two sandwiches, water an apple and a biscuit. Before we went back to school Emily asked everyone to carry the bowl because she was scared of the slug. After that we went back to school.

BY Ore A

# LOWER 2 BETA REVIEW

LOWER 2 BETA HAVE HAD A VERY  
EXCITING YEAR SO FAR!

**From learning how to keep our bodies healthy, exploring parts of history, discovering how forces work and looking after flowers and minibeasts!**

## Maths

We have been amazing mathematicians this year and used Big Maths to help us become quicker at mental maths.

## Topic

We have enjoyed science, geography, history, social studies and international activities through our topic work. We have loved going on trips to bring our topics to life!

## Literacy

We have written in many different formats including newspaper reports, imaginative stories, recipes and poems! Here are some of our alliterative adjective poems.

## Alliterative Adjectives Poems

Lady bird, lady bird what do you see?

I see a bright beautiful butterfly  
flying towards me.

Dragonfly, dragonfly what do you see?

I see a big busy bee flying towards me.

Worm, worm what do you see?

I see a black beetle crawling towards me.

Ladybird, Ladybird what do you see?

I see a fabulous friendly frog  
jumping towards me.

Ant, ant what do you see?

I see a wonderful wiggly worm  
wriggling towards me.

BY Kirsty S

Ladybird, ladybird what do you see?

I see a terrific twisting tadpole  
swimming towards me.

Snake, snake what do you see?

I see a big busy bee buzzing towards me.

Wasp, wasp what do you see?

I see a spooky shiny spider  
crawling towards me.

BY Marcus C

Ladybird, ladybird what do you see?

I see a tall thin tadpole swimming towards me.

Dragonfly, dragonfly what do you see?

I see a scary spooky spider  
crawling towards me.

Butterfly, butterfly what do you see?

I see a big beautiful bee buzzing towards me.

Ladybird, ladybird what do you see?

I see a crazy creepy caterpillar  
walking towards me.

Slug, slug what do you see?

I see a bright beautiful butterfly  
flying towards me.

Bug, bug what do you see?

I see a skinny slippery snake  
coming towards me.

BY Georgia C



# DINOSAUR STUDY

LOWER 3 PUPILS STUDIED DINOSAURS AND CAME UP WITH SOME EXCITING AND IMAGINATIVE STORIES.

## Hunting Time

One day, I was at my house with my friends. We wanted to build a time machine out of diamond and gold. Ross said, 'Where will we get the diamond and gold?' I said, 'Follow me'. We went in to the attic where my lab was, it was a secret lab. Ross wanted to know how we would hide the time machine when it was built. He didn't know where we were going to get the diamond and gold but that was why we were in the Lab. We were disturbed by my mum.

The next morning we ordered the diamond and gold because we didn't make it. We ran downstairs and outside. We waited for the van to arrive. It took ages but it was here! We can build our time machine now. We opened the box and got to work. We made the window first out of diamond. We finally finished that and made the rest out of gold.

## WE GOT INSIDE AND SET IT TO 65 MILLION YEARS AGO, THE CRETACEOUS PERIOD.

Just then a stegosaurus came round the corner. We hid in a bush. The time machine turned invisible. We walked to where we thought it was but it wasn't invisible, it had disappeared! We didn't know what to do so we went for a walk. We saw a triceratops and a velociraptor. We sneaked behind them and followed them to see where they went. We were silent, it went back to its nest and saw eggs in it, we tried to steal them but just then it turned around and it came charging towards us, we screamed...

BY Bailey M

## Amazing Dinosaurs

### Chapter 1

One day I was playing with Cara, Evie, Bailey, Ben and my sister, Simi. We decided to go outside, it was raining and we wanted to see a rainbow. We told our parents we were going out to play. Instead we got on a bus and headed to the theme park.

When we arrived we saw a massive rainbow. It was very colourful and it felt like the rainbow was falling on us. Sometimes my friends disappeared. Then suddenly we heard a volcano erupt. 'What was that?' I screamed. When we got to the other side it looked different. We had travelled back in time, 100 million years!

### Chapter 2

When we got back from the rainbow, it was about 50 degrees. It was the perfect climate for the T-rex and the Parasaurolophus to hatch, live and eat. The T-rex was taken to a school so it could grow safely. The heat continued to rise. It got up to 200 degrees.

About 100 people were dead! Now since the T-rex was an adult it started to get aggressive. It wanted to eat people! It got loose and started to find food, he was hungry! I screamed, 'What do we do?' Evie shouted, 'The time rainbow or a shrink gun?' The T-rex was so hungry it started to eat my friend's house. It was all over the news, 'DANGEROUS, DON'T GO OUTSIDE!'

When I was in the middle of trying to invent something to stop this disaster, my mum interrupted me! She asked me at me to get to bed!

### Chapter 3

I was up all night and managed to finish my invention, they looked excellent. We had to sneak past our parents. We then had to go and find the T-rex, this wouldn't be too difficult as he is huge. I decided to go first and aim for his head. I aimed at him and shot, he started to shrink. Evie grabbed him and flung him towards the time machine/rainbow...

BY Philip O





### We are in the Past

First, we wanted to see the Iguanodon so we made a Time Rover but we did not have tools but we did have a friend who has everything so we could go. We went with a crew called Andrew, Harry, Ben and me and so off we went.

My boss was called Anna and she was really happy about the Iguanodon coming back with us. Just then, the Time Rover stopped and we found ourselves in the Cretaceous with a T-Rex. Suddenly Ben stood up and got a stick and the dinosaurs ran away. Just then it worked so we got the Iguanodon and took it back. We did it, woohoo!

BY Keldan W

**“JUST THEN A T-REX CAME AND SCARED THE VELOCIRAPTORS AND THEY KNEW THIS WAS THE TIME TO MAKE A SWIFT ESCAPE.”**

### Bringing the Iguanodon Back

Once the Dino Institute needed to study the Iguanodon because we needed to learn. We went to the lab for the Time Rover to get the Iguanodon so the Time Rover travelled through time. It didn't have enough fuel and crash landed in the Triassic. The fuel is wood. They were in the desert of Mongolia but just then a pack of Herrerasaurus came. The pack leader was 3 metres long so they sent 5 other people with fuel for the Time Rover and they finally got there but got caught by Velociraptors. Just then a T-Rex came and scared the Velociraptors and they knew this was the time to make a swift escape. They walked in to a field of Titanosaurus.

They saw an Iguanodon but an Acrocanthosaurus pack started hunting in the area and they chased everything away but they chased it too and they got it back but carnivores came too. They were the T-Rex, Oviraptor, Troodon and Spinosaurus. They gathered them together and Harry had an idea. They decided to make a Dinosaur Zoo!

BY Alex F

### Iguanodon Come Back Now

This story began in the Dino Institute. The boss' name was Zara. The boss said "you have to go back in time to get the Iguanodon."

"Everybody ready?" "Yes," said everyone.

"Okay, go to the Time Rover," said Zara.

"Wow it is fast," said Roxane. They reached the Jurassic Era. "I see the Brachiosaurus and the Stegosaurus," said Sameera.

"What is that banging sound?" asked Mona.

"I don't know!" said Erica. BOOM! CRASH! "Aahhh oh no we have broken down. It is bad. We have crashed in the Jurassic."

It has been 30 minutes and there was more banging. A Diplodocus arrived.

"It will not eat you because they are vegetarian so they eat leaves," said Roxane. "Okay, he is being nice."

Roxane had a leaf in her hand. "He is coming to eat it- 10,9,8,7,6,5,4,3,2,1. It is tickly."

"Can we ride on you?" asked Mona.

"Yes you can," said the Diplodocus, "I am very bumpy."

"Can you help us take the Iguanodon?"

"Wow this is super high up here. It has been 30 minutes. We are here. Be careful," said Sameera.

The team said bye to the Diplodocus and took the Iguanodon to the boss.

"WE HAVE THE IGUANODON!" said everyone.

"Well done fantastic. Now we can do science like look at the bones and at their teeth. Look and feel their skin and the colour. The real colour is fabulous," said Zara.

BY Anna C



# A LOOK AT FRIENDSHIP

OUR LOWER 4 PUPILS DESCRIBE WHAT FRIENDSHIP  
IS AND HOW IT MAKES THEM FEEL.

## Friendships

I love friends, I think  
You get them as one  
Of nature's  
Gifts. They're special  
To me. I love friends.  
Actually, I find everyone a  
Friend, my  
Teacher, my family,  
My pets, they're the  
Best! I hope someone  
Thinks I'm a friend to them, like  
Ross,  
Max and Rhys.  
Friends are the best!

BY Jake B

## Friends

Fun, amazing friends,  
Really special and fantastic.  
Intelligent, marvellous pals,  
Even better than normal friends,  
they are super friends.  
Never horrible and nasty,  
Delightful, special and great  
best friends to have  
Super-buddy to have with me.

BY Anna S B

## Friendship

Friendship, It's the best  
Just playing with the rest.  
Don't be a bully,  
Just be happy.  
A great time  
Not to lie,  
You need to be a good friend  
By helping each other.  
Let's stick together  
Friendship forever!

BY Jigya K

## Best Friends

Buddy together all the time.  
Everyone is kind to each other  
Samuel is my best friend  
Together, we can achieve everything.  
Friends stick together!  
Running all day, playing outside  
In the playground, we play, play, play!  
Never be horrible to your friends.  
Don't leave a friend alone.  
Super-duper friends!

BY Rhys C

## Friendship

Friendship, full of fun  
You must share with everyone.  
Everybody laugh and play  
Each and every single day.  
Buttercups with lots of snails,  
Candyfloss and polka-dot whales.  
Friendship, full of fun  
You must share with everyone!

BY Julia F

## Friendship

Friends are kind  
Rhys runs fast and he's funny  
I have lots of friends.  
Every day I play with my friends  
Never be unkind to friends.  
Don't hurt friends' feelings  
Samuel is fast and fun.

Amazing pals  
Remarkable mate  
Every day I play with my chums.  
The best pals

Happy chums  
Everybody has buddies.  
Best mates are the best

Everybody has chums  
Super buddies  
The best friends!

BY Sophie G

## Friends

Friends are amazing, jolly.  
And funny, happy chums  
Are the best.  
New friends can be great  
Special and kind super,  
Amazing and caring.  
We are friends forever.  
Bud, buddy, whatever you call  
Them, they are fantastic  
And funny and the best.  
All my friends can be great  
At times, so never forget  
Them because they are  
Your friends forever.

BY Magnus L

# STUDY OF EMOTIONS

HOW OUR LOWER 4 PUPILS ASSOCIATE  
COLOUR AND EMOTIONS.

## Love

Love is pink, like the scented petals of roses.  
It tastes like bubbles in the shape of hearts.  
It smells like dolphins covered in yellow primroses.  
It looks like hot, soft, sandy beach.  
It sounds like shiny clam-shells humming a tune of grace.  
It feels like being connected by a ring of roses.

BY Ailsa Q

## Happiness

Happiness is yellow, like a sun that will always shine.  
It tastes like popping Mentos in your mouth.  
It smells like a tornado of chocolate.  
It looks like an endless heaven.  
It sounds like birds in a tree, humming.  
It feels like bubbles popping all over.

BY Aayaan J

## Fear

Fear is navy blue, like the night sky.  
It tastes like a deep dark cave.  
It smells like a spooky house.  
It looks like a dark shadow.  
It sounds like the moaning of wind.  
It feels like toxic slime.

BY Micah P

## Love

Love is red, like the gems of a rock.  
It tastes like peace all around the world.  
It smells like a precious petal from your heart.  
It looks like glorious rosy, pink cheeks.  
It feels like the pink, pretty sky hitting you.

BY Tiana M

## Love

Love is red, like a pure heart.  
It tastes like a freshly picked strawberry.  
It smells like a beautiful, red rose.  
It looks like children playing in the sunset.  
It sounds like beautiful soft music.  
It feels like having a huge hug from your family.

BY Nuala W

## Fear

Fear is grey, like a dusty floor.  
It tastes like melted iron.  
It smells like old charcoal.  
It looks like horrible monsters.  
It sounds like hissing snakes.  
It feels like being stuck in a dark cave.

BY Gregor M

## Love

Love is pink, like a heart let free.  
It tastes like a tear from the lips.  
It smells like a perfume you can't create.  
It looks like people smiling and holding hands.  
It sounds like kissing and hugging.  
It feels like you are in a world with nobody ... but who you love.

BY Jessica F

## Hatred

Hatred is dark red, like anger you can't control.  
It tastes like blood in your throat.  
It smells like a burning fire.  
It looks like thunder crashing.  
It sounds like ghastly screams.  
It feels like the world is over.

BY Laura D

**HAPPINESS IS  
YELLOW, LIKE A  
SUN THAT WILL  
ALWAYS SHINE.**



# THE ROMANS!



READY TO  
GO INTO  
BATTLE!



## A Day in the Life of a Roman Soldier

This morning I woke up to the ferocious sound of a wild hawk. I quickly jumped off the floor after a long night of gambling. As I got out of my really small uncomfortable tent I realised there was no lousy wakeup call from the Old Centurion but somehow I still felt tense, it was horrible.

Just at that quiet moment in the camp, a short doctor quickly ran out of the centurion's big tent followed by a panicking Optio. I decided to walk out like nothing was at all wrong but of course I didn't know. The Old Centurion had DIED. At that moment the Emperor walked casually and distinctly out of the Centurion's tent not looking like his legion's Centurion had just died. He showed no thought or emotion.

After the Emperor had left camp everything seemed to go back to its boring self. We all tucked into our disgusting sour, gloop porridge.

Finally once I had paid for the food I went to my gruesome stabbing practice with the Optio. It seemed really weird. As the Optio was known for just being able to push us during battle but as it turns out he was almost as good as the Old Centurion.

Moments after our interesting stabbing practice with the Optio a new and young centurion walked into our small camp. Not many soldiers noticed but I seemed to have noticed everything lately from what we are having for dinner to exactly who is marching up the steep hill. The new Centurion walked into the massive tent. I chose to ignore that feature of the day. Finally once everyone had noticed the new Centurion we all formed our long lines and started marching energetically.

After a few miles of marching most soldiers got surprisingly tired but as usual we kept going. Once we returned from our twenty mile march everyone could smell delicious chewy beef. Once we had eaten our delicious dinner all the soldiers and I went off to the gambling tent to play a game of 'fives and twos.' I surprisingly won 5 games of 'fives and twos.'

Later on in the warm summery night I finally, after a long day, wanted to go to sleep on the floor in my small shared tent.

BY Yvonne D

## A Day in the Life of a Roman Soldier

Yesterday I was eagerly preparing for battle against the smelly Celts. I had to train very hard because the strict Centurion had his hard vine stick again. I was practising gruesome stabbing and we were just about to go on our very tiring twenty mile walk.

We walked all along the bumpy road with our metal gladiolus and my really heavy scutum.

The angry Centurion whipped us with his hard vine stick if we didn't walk fast enough and the officer pushed us all along the very long journey.

It was now time for the fierce war I had been eagerly waiting for for 8 years and it had finally come. I was nervous but excited at the same time. This would be my first gruesome battle with the smelly Celts.

The time had come. We all stood in our positions ready for battle. We eagerly began to fight. One Celt was knocked out in less than fifty seconds and I was so worried that the same would happen to me as I didn't want to die. I longingly wanted to see all my loving friends and family again.

The Roman Army struck hard and had a victorious win over the Celts.

Seventeen years had passed and it had been my fifteenth battle. It was time to leave the Roman Army and be reunited with my friends and family. They paid me a huge amount of money and I happily packed my bags for home.

BY Simi O

## The Experiences of a Roman Legionary

Hello Mum. Right now I am in Greece. The marching is so hard. We had to march twenty miles, so as a result of that we have just built camp. My back is in pain because one of the centurions whacked me with a vine stick. The reason why was because when he ordered us to stop, I kept on marching. Our food is some watery form of porridge, some dried beef if we are lucky but we have to chew it for about thirty minutes, and also if we are very lucky we get pancakes with some honey and black pepper on top. We have to march for hours each day. Just to say it is not just hours every day it is also night. I do get to gamble with my friends at night. Also we have to guard the camps, and if we fall asleep we get a severe punishment, maybe even getting beaten! I also forgot to tell you how we build camps. First we dig a deep hole in the ground after that we use the mud to build a wall around us and there we have our very own camp. I hope I will become an optio someday. Well I am only sixteen and if I live the life of a soldier for just under twenty five years, I can leave the army. I will be forty one then. The reward you get for being in the army for twenty five years is lots of land and lots of slaves.

Thank you for the woolly underwear, seeing that it is winter I will wear them a lot. Anyway I will tell you about the equipment. We have a gladiolus which is a sword, scutum which is probably the main weapon because it can be used for defence and attack by holding up the shield to protect you and punching forward with it. There are more weapons but those are the main ones. I hope to hear from you again.

BY Jenna D

## The Experiences of a Roman Legionary

As you know how bored I can get in Rome, and most places for that matter, you might be pleased to hear that I am now in Britannia and I am ever so glad that you made me woolly socks and underwear as they have come in very handy. It is a lot colder here in Britannia than it is in Rome. Even better news though is that I have been given my new armour and equipment. I have been spending all of my spare time cleaning it.

My lorica is shining, personally I am most pleased with my cassis. Everyone else's helmet is shiny but my one gleams the brightest. The scabbard for my Gladius has very intricate details and our scutum's are red and yellow with exceptionally strong metal bosses.

In the army we do a lot of marching. Fortunately I enjoy a short stroll but unfortunately we would not be strolling, we were marching whilst a centurion yelled 'cen, dec, cen, dec' and so on. At first I thought he was yelling 'Cena, dec' and I wondered why he was saying 'dinner, right'. Also it is NOT a short march unless your short is twenty long miles! We also have to carry all of our equipment through and the shield alone must weigh over a ton, and as if all that wasn't bad enough there was the Optio to look out for. He was very stern and a terror in drills.

Once we finally reach our destination we have to make our camp. Having put up a couple of tents before I was not expecting it to be that hard but alas it was much more than just merely putting up a tent. What we had to do was much harder than that. Firstly you had to work out where your tent was meant to be. The next thing to be done was to dig a ditch around where the tent was going to go. When that was finished all the dirt would be used to make a wall around where our tent would go. After that we put our tent up and our camp was made. I share my tent with seven other men, they all seem nice enough apart from the Decanus he's a very strict man and he is very ostentatious, especially with his medals.

I wish there was better food, this is what I eat, Jentuculum: porridge, Pardium: dried meat (but only if I am lucky) Cena: it depends sometimes it is dried meat.

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**LIFE IN TOWN IS  
MUCH NICER BUT  
I WILL BE WELL  
REWARDED ONCE  
I'VE SERVED  
MY TIME.**

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BY Rachel G

# YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

## L6a Highlights

My favourite activities and highlights in L6a this year was when we went on our end of year activity trip to Alltnacriche in May 2015. On our trip my favourite activities were: the canoeing, bread making over an open fire, visiting Landmark and gorge walking. A great part of all of the trip was that we did all of our activities with our friends in a group. Another great part of Alltnacriche was during gorge walking we had a massive water splashing fight against the boys and we got really wet but it got even wetter when we did this fun activity in the gorge called the flush. The flush was when a member of the group lay down on the freezing cold river water you thought you might have frostbite, it went all the way down your back and down your legs but it was fun. The way to make it more of a shock for the person lying down, two people blocked the water from the middle of the stream and then after the instructor shouted 321 the two people would run out, and soaked the person lying down.

BY Amelie W

My highlight of L6 would have to be going on the sky dive at Landmark because you got to climb up a big pole and having the feeling your tummy has been left behind. When I got to the top I felt like I wasn't attached to anything and I would just fall to my death but then I get caught and that's what I liked about it. It also brought back good memories of when I was younger and used to go there almost every weekend.

I also loved doing bread making at Alltnacriche because we got to choose our own flavours of bread in our group and make the dough then cook it on the fire that we built earlier. Once it was cooked we got to eat it and it was delicious.

BY Laura P

My favourite part of Lower 6 was when we went to Alltnacriche and did the Discovery Level of the John Muir Award.

We went gorge walking. We went up the stream and over loads of slimy rocks. When we got to a steep area we either got a rope to help us climb up it just climb it. We got soaking wet after we did the toilet flush.

While away at Alltnacriche we learnt how to make bread and light a fire. It was really interesting. The bread was cooked on an open fire we had lit before. We had to choose different ingredients to add to our bread for flavour. We could choose from loads of different things from paprika to cinnamon. The end was the best because we got to eat the bread we cooked. Delicious!

BY Evie L

My favourite part of Lower 6 was Alltnacriche. I loved all of the activities that we did and all the games we played and the songs we sang and spending time with my friends and teachers. I loved gorge walking and how we had to squeeze through tight bends and climb up slimy and slippery rocks but thankfully with a rope. I also liked survival skills where we had to make a fire then we had to make bread and cook the bread on an open fire. When we made the bread it was easy to make the ingredients were: flour, sugar, powder milk, water, lemon vanilla and cinnamon.

The games that I liked were nukemball, land grab, survival game, the egg drop challenge.

BY Leena S

My best highlight in Lower 6 would be when we went to Alltnacriche on Thursday, and we went to Landmark, then when I was on the slide with Kelly (the falcon slide) she took her camera up, and when we went down we took a waterslide selfie! Me and Kelly were wet when we got to the bottom and it was a very funny photo!

BY Sarah W

The best part of landmark for me was going on the ropes course because I found it challenging. It was quite high up and very nerve wracking but was still great fun. I really enjoyed going and taking part because I got to have fun and spend time with my friends

BY William L

Recently we went to Alltnacriche were we went gorge walking up a long burn. When we got to the top of the gorge there was something called the toilet flush were the burn goes really about 3 inches wide. Then you sit down in the small part then you block it up as much as you can and someone helps you to block it up by pushing their knees into the small part as well. Finally when it is blocked up till you are freezing cold one of the instructors pulls you up and all the water goes down pushing the water into a person who is lying down waiting for the water to push them down to into a little pond. I all so really enjoyed the camp fire songs.

BY Andrew H

There are many many highlights when I have have been in L6. Lots of them are trips but some are different my favourite trips have been: Alltnacriche, Edinburgh and lots more but my favourite part in L6 have been. Spending time with my friends, Having the best teacher ever Miss Singleton, Doing many many fun activities at Alltnacriche they were: bread making on an open fire, canoeing or kiacking, gore walking, and are trip to landmark on the way home from Alltnacriche, we went on lots of ride such as the massive red slides. Skydive I have done skydive before so it wasn't as scary for me but when Lisa Rogerson first time doing it and she was so so so scared she held on to the post and wanted to come down Laura Patterson another friend of mine was on the other side so Lisa wanted Laura to go first to see there was nothing to worry about and me helping her she closed her eyes and jumped and half way down she opened her eyes and was smiling and waiting for her at the bottom was Laura to give her a big hug. L6 have been amazing I wish I good do it all again it was unbelievable.

BY Natasha H

**THE BEST PARTS  
OF ALLTNACRICHE  
WAS MAKING A  
WILLOW HOUSE**

WILLIAM C

**WITH ALL THE  
SPLASHING AND  
WATER CRASHING  
AND EVERYONE IS  
LAUGHING**

RAEGAN R

### Alltnacriche

The gorge is really fun  
And I really want to run,  
With all the splashing and water crashing  
And everyone is laughing,  
And we had a water fight  
Kicking the water with all our might,  
The end is not in sight,  
Miss Singleton tried to rugby tackle  
And she got herself in a tangle,  
We were going back  
And I put my stuff on the rack.

BY Raegan R

Living in the outdoors looking at the wildlife  
Cutting up dough with a knife  
Sleeping in a comfy bed  
And my pyjamas are red

Building a house of wood in the pouring rain  
Not everything is the same  
Running around trying not to be caught  
But trying to tie a double nought

But going home again is much better  
to end the week with happiness!

BY Sarah W

Quite recently we went to Alltnacriche and my favourite part of the whole time that I was there was on Thursday because me and my group went gorge walking with Miss Singleton and Miss Smith it was Amazing at the end of the Gorge that we were walking up we did the toilet flush and Miss Singleton dunked us all in and we got soaked but it was worth it when we were just about to get out we all decided to have a water fight and we all got even more soaked including Miss Singleton and Miss Smith.

So that was my highlight of Alltnacriche but as Miss Singleton calls it Alltnawhatzit.

BY Olivia D

When I was at Landmark on our Alltnacriche trip with school my group went on Skydive. When we were going on the skyfall I was ready to go. I got my harness on I climbed up to the top but.....when I got to the top the wheel tugged the rope very hard and I almost fell off. I got a huge fright. Now I lost all of my confidence and I was very scared to jump off. My tummy was feeling sick and my knees were shivering. When I got near the edge I fled back and held onto the fence and held on very tight. I wanted to go back down on the ladder but you were not allowed because the whole point of the skyfall was to jump off. My legs were getting weaker from the height but when I was about to I did the one thing that stopped me. I looked down. Then I was even more scared to jump off but when I looked across to the other pole Laura was there and she showed me how you do it. Then it gave me all the confidence back. I stepped off. Then when I got to the ground I went up again and I LOVED IT!

BY Lisa R

The best parts of Alltnacriche was making a willow house. It was very interesting how the willow will start growing again once they had been cut down. I also had great fun gorge walking. When I did the flush got so cold I could not keep still. The flush is when two people sit in the gorge where it is thin and become a dam. All the ice cold goes up your back and someone lies down below then the people all stand up as quick as they can and all the water goes all over the person underneath.

BY William C

After we arrived we were straight into activities. Starting of the week, we went for a hill walk with great views and then did orienteering all over the place on different counties in Scotland. The very next day we built a shelter out of willow (because it's bendy). We put them in a circle and dug them into the ground and they met in the middle. Alan (one of the staff) was telling lots of jokes that weren't funny. When the shelter is a bit older it will grow leaves and be warm. The shelter will stand there for 40 years! Soon after we went to "wacky wildlife" and went to a pond next to where a pheasant was nesting. We caught lots of animals including newts. After that long and exhausting day came the next day. On the next day we were bread making. We were the first to start the fire but the last to finish our bread. Our flavour of bread was cinnamon and sugar and tasted like a pretzel. After that was kayaking at Loch Morlich and at the end I capsized. The instructor said that people have walked the whole way across the loch; so we tried it! Sure enough he had tricked us. The day after we kicked the day off with gorge walking and Miss S soaked me! I got water all down

my neck twice and I fell over. I was really really cold. After that we went to land mark and did sky diving red squirrel watching the water slides and a maze and got wet. We all had loads of fun. Then came the last day. We went swimming in Aviemore and had a good journey home!

BY Jasper L

At Alltnacriche, we made bread on Wednesday. Here are the following steps to make bread and fire outside:

You will need: a different sizes of sticks, a shovel, four thick sticks and flint and steel.

Collect a lot of sticks and put them in a bag.

Then you get thin sticks and start to make a birds nest out of that.

You have to dig up a bit of grass and put it next to the nearest tree.

Get a huge, thick sticks (four large ones) and put it into the dug up part.

Start stacking up the other sticks in the dug up bit and that you half way.

Get flint and steel and hold the flint and scratch it agents the steel and you will get a spark.

Then you have to blow the sparks onto the wood and you would get your fire started.

Well done you have made your fire!

You will need: utensils, a bowl, flour, milk, water, pan and a towel.

Now the next step:

### **MAKING THE BREAD.**

- 1. YOU NEED LOT OF UTENSILS, BOWL AND WATER.**
- 2. YOU NEED FLOUR IN THE BOWL AND POUR A TINY BIT OF MILK.**
- 3. YOU NEED TO MIX IT AND WHEN IT'S A BIG HARD TO MIX, YOU NEED TO ADD A BIT OF WATER.**
- 4. YOU NEED A FILLING SO HAVE A BOTTLE OF SOMETHING YOU LIKE AND POUR A LITTLE BIT OR A LOT.**
- 5. YOU PUT THE PAN OVER THE FIRE AND WHEN IT FEELS HARD YOU FLIP IT OVER**
- 6. THEN YOU GET A TOWEL AND TAKE THE PAN OF AND YOU CAN EAT IT**
- 7. WELL DONE FOR MAKING BREAD, THEN YOU'LL HAVE TO CLEAN UP THE DISHES AND THE UTENSILS!**

BY Charlotte B

## Edinburgh Zoo

Edinburgh Zoo is a place filled with noises of creatures of all shapes and sizes. It has amazing animals, wicked workshops and good and fair enclosures for the animals. It's good for young children and has a huge shop. You can keep up with the action at home on the internet on their webcam, where you can view penguins, pandas and squirrel monkeys.

### Edinburgh zoo animal facts!

- They have pandas called Tian Tian and Yang Guang which they try to breed to save the endangered species.
- The African hunter dogs have only 4 toes on each foot.
- Chimpanzees walk with a technique called knuckle walking.
- Penguins are flightless birds because they have flippers instead of wings to help them swim.
- The one-horned rhinoceros can swim and feed under-water very well.
- There are 5 species of squirrel monkey.
- A female koala carries her young in her pouch for around 6 months.
- Wallabies are part of the kangaroo clan mostly found in Australia and surrounding islands.

### Our opinion!

Emily - I think it was fun and I loved seeing the deer, wallabies and penguins!

Kai - I really enjoyed Edinburgh Zoo because there were many animals but my favourite animals were the koala and the howler monkeys.

Zane - I really liked Edinburgh zoo because I enjoyed seeing the squirrel monkeys and the Giant pandas!

BY Emily B, Kai C and Zane B

## Edinburgh 2015

On the first night we went to the cinema we had the choice to watch Stardust or The Simpsons Movie. We had our evening snack and drink at the cinema.

### ON THE SECOND NIGHT OF EDINBURGH WE WENT BOWLING AND IT WAS JAMIE'S BIRTHDAY SO WE HAD A COSTCO CUPCAKE.

We stayed in a Youth Hostel. The food tasted alright but the portions were far too big.

On the first night we had lentil soup and it was nice for our main course we had lasagne, it was not that nice but different people have different opinions. For dessert we had a chocolate brownie with chocolate sauce but it was super sweet.

On the second night we had tomato soup, it was really nice. For our main course we had chicken gravy and chips, it was really nice as well. For dessert we had apple crumble and custard it again was very nice!

So moving on to the bedrooms, each of them had a bathroom and a shower.

There was a different amount of beds each of them being bunk beds, the beds were comfy.

BY Emily H, Patrick L and Collin C

## Museum of Childhood!

At the National Museum of Childhood there is a toy section, a doll room, a games room, a bike room and a marvellous gift shop. First we split into groups and looked around each room. In the doll room there is china dolls, plastic dolls, dollhouses and even a cute little tea set. In the games room there is lots of trains, some doll houses and lots of board games and card games. There was also a room with old baby bottles and nappies.

One of the ladies who worked there told us about this girl aged 10. There was a picture of this girl and she was next to a doll house, the lady said she built it by herself. On the glass case was a carnival scene with a man or lady on an elephant, another was a man swinging on a bar.

There was also this awesome thing called the zoetrope and it is a bit of paper with a man on it in a box. You spin it and you look inside it and it looks like the man is running.

There was also this thing which was a piano which played its own music. We all danced to it.

BY Charlotte M and Rachael M

# A YEAR'S WORK

LOWER 6 GOT TO GRIPS WITH SOME EXCITING REPTILES DURING THEIR YEAR!





### Butterfly World Report

Butterfly World -where we discovered many different kinds of creatures. Even two rare special types of hedgehogs.

When we entered there was a very intelligent man who told us all about the creatures we were going to see and more! After that we got to see the creatures in their natural habitat meanwhile butterflies scurried around us in the centre. We learnt many exquisite things that blew our minds like the colourful butterflies are poisonous. We admired the massive tortoises.

Afterwards we all wandered in an orderly fashion to the reptile room. In there we saw snakes, geckoes and many more reptiles. We all admired a gecko who loved all the staff apart from the intelligent man who showed us around their centre. So many people took photographs to show their parents.

There was also a room with millions of bug with piles and piles of spiders, grass hoppers, stick insects and hedgehogs. We were extremely privileged to get to hold some magnificent insects. The things we got to hold were tarantulas, millipedes and a royal python. Afterwards we washed our hands to keep bacteria at bay.

Eventually we got shown into the dark room which had lots of creatures that enjoyed the dark. Most of us found it disgusting. There were cages with very little light on each habitat.

Eventually by the time butterfly world was coming to an end. We all go to play in the park and got to go to the gift shop. The shop had a lot of things to choose from such as sunflower decorations, toys and lots more. We would recommend going there.

BY Kirsty D, Claire B and Emma H

**BUTTERFLY WORLD**  
**-WHERE WE DISCOVERED**  
**MANY DIFFERENT KINDS**  
**OF CREATURES.**  
 KIRSTY D, CLAIRE B  
 & EMMA H

### Edinburgh Castle Report

The castle is an old building used as a prison in the 18th century and early 19th century. It's also known to hold the crown jewels which is also known as "the Honours of Scotland." One of the best things about the castle is that it's built on top of a volcano! As we are sure you know some things about Royal family but something you might not know is that when you become King or Queen in Great Britain you sit on the royal stone and it is kept where the crown jewels are in the box and you would think it would be all glamorous but no it is just a plain old stone. If you have ever been to Edinburgh you may remember at 1:00pm a cannon goes off everyday into the sea and it is actually really quite loud! You may not know this but Edinburgh castle has its own church.

You might be wondering why we said there was a church because in the 18th century and early 19th it was used as a town it was not a very big town but quite a few people lived in it.

BY Ramsay W, Emma C, Maggie C and Taya B

### The National Museum of Scotland

The National Museum has lots of different exhibits and a café and gift shop!

The museum is located in Edinburgh, you can do all sorts of things like,

- Watching video clips about the exhibits
- Weighing yourself to see what weight you are compared to animals
- Smelling posts
- Feeling animal fur and shells
- A wooden dragon you can control with spinney wheels
- Walk around and HAVE FUN!!
- Lots of facts about dinosaurs, Incas, Romans, Amazonian tribes and pretty much anything you can think of

They have an event Feely Friday every Friday. You can learn about a million things in a couple of hours at the National Museum Of Scotland, some of the most popular attractions are

- Feeling and Smelling things
- The Animal Section
- Exhibitions that sometimes happen are normally quite popular

On Feely Fridays you can hold replicas of things and learn about them from Vikings to Victorians they have it all! They do have some real ones too!

There are several floors to explore and it a great place for a day trip.

When you walk in you find it looks boring but when you go upstairs it beautiful!

BY Fay B, Catherine O and Finlay C

# WORLD WAR 2

LOWER 7 WROTE  
LETTERS HOME AS  
THEY IMAGINED THE  
LIFE OF AN EVACUEE  
DURING WW2.



## Letter About Evacuation

**Bramble Cottage,  
Inverurie,  
Aberdeenshire,  
Scotland**

**27/4/1940**

**Dear Mother and Father,**

I have arrived safely at a small town called Inverurie in Aberdeenshire. When I left home early in the morning, I was feeling extremely nervous because I had no idea where I was going however I was still quite excited and curious. When we all arrived at school, I could see that everyone was sad to leave their families. Everyone was given a tag which had a number on it - this number was our seat number on the train.

After that, we began the journey to Inverurie. The first part of the journey was walking to the train station. It was quite difficult as we all had heavy suitcases or pillowcases. The short journey to the Aberdeen train station took around 25 minutes. We were all shocked when we arrived at the station because the Press and Journal were there and they took some photos of us. Not long after that our train arrived. Next we boarded the train and started the journey to Inverurie. The journey there took about 35 minutes.

When we arrived at Inverurie I was feeling scared as I was at a place that I had never been to before. There was a billeting officer at the train station and this person was who took us to the church. In this church was a large amount of host families. We all sat down and then the families began to choose the children who they thought looked like they could work in their home or farm. I was chosen by the Bramble family because they were looking for a boy and a girl to work on their farm. They chose me and Brodie. Our family took us to sit down and introduced themselves to us. There was a father and a daughter in the family, the father was called John and his daughter was called Mildred. After that Brodie and I introduced ourselves to them. Shortly after they began to ask us questions like, "Have you ever seen a cow?" Next we played a few games of 21s which was a card game. After we played cards it was time for lunch but I couldn't eat because I was still tense and nervous with my family. When everyone finished lunch we asked them questions like, "Are there any air-raids here?" Surprisingly, they said very rarely, Brodie and I were so surprised as where we lived there were air-raids nightly. On that day it was a teacher's birthday so another teacher saved up all their flour and egg rations to bake a cake - this must have taken ages!

After we had eaten the cake everyone was taken through to a room where the radio was on and on this day we were told by Neville Chamberlain that Britain was at war with Germany. Everyone was so surprised and upset. "Our own country was at war," I said in my head. I couldn't believe it! Since everyone was so upset we decided to sing some songs and it worked.. to distract us! All of us were now feeling cheery and happy but I was still feeling very upset that I wasn't at home with my family. Since everyone had been inside the whole day we decided to go outside. After that, our family took us to their house which was a cottage in the countryside called the Bramble cottage. It is quite large and my bedroom is on the third floor but it's quite small.

**I REALLY MISS  
YOU AND I AM  
EXTREMELY EXCITED  
TO SEE YOU. I  
HOPE TO SEE YOU  
VERY SOON.**

FROM Cameron D



## Evacuation Day

**I woke up with an excited but slightly anxious feeling, it was Evacuation day. As soon as I was in my outfit, a skirt and a jumper, with woollen socks and a trench coat, I felt in character. When I arrived at school, and saw the other children dressed up, the excitement hit me. We entered the classroom, and saw the Lower 7 teachers Ms. Ross and Mrs. Sword in their outfits, they looked great, exactly like WW2 teachers! We had to make ID cards and labels "just in case you get lost, an A.R.P Warden will know where to put you!"**

When we all left the school, embarking on an adventure, parents waved us off, taking pictures and smiling. We walked to the train station, and people were staring at us as we walked down Union Street. When we arrived at the train station, we were met by two photographers, one from the Press and Journal, and the other from the Evening Express. We had group photos taken, and then one of photographers took some extra photos of Lauren and I around the station. We were asked to do all sorts of photos, and we both found it really fun. We then boarded the train at 09:58, having just found out that our secret destination was Inverurie.

At the station, we were met by a billeting officer, and Ms. Ross' mum was there waving to us. We were then walked to a church hall, where we saw our host families. They were P6s from Strathburn Primary, all dressed up as our new families. I, along with Lyndsay,



• Pupils at the train station on their way to Inverurie.

• Pupils preparing to be evacuated.

was picked by the Strachan family, who owned the sweet shop. We were asked questions by our family in and out of character, as well as us having questions for them. Then, we played card games, and listened to Neville Chamberlain's Declaration of War. By this time we were hungry and we began to eat our authentic WW2 lunches sitting with our families while still getting to know them. Then, we sang songs from that era to lift our spirits after the Prime Minister's upsetting news. After that we were taught the Gay Gordon's by our host families, and we taught them to jive, which they found really confusing!

We had a short play on the grass outside the church and got some much needed fresh air after being inside a cramped hall. We ran around and played all sorts of games with the other children. By this time, we were nearing the end of our time with our host

families in Inverurie and were having group photos taken for the Inverurie Advertiser. A journalist arrived and Lyndsay and I were interviewed in character about our time in Inverurie and what we had been doing with our host families, along with a few pupils from Strathburn Primary. We described our journey, and the feelings we had about going to Inverurie. We had to say goodbye, and began walking back to the Inverurie train station. After a fun day, we boarded the train for a second time in that day and waved a farewell to Ms. Ross' mum. After the train journey we got a coach back to the school where our parents met us (and asked lots of questions!)

I really enjoyed our day, and I hope the next Lower 7 pupils get the same opportunity as I would really recommend it! Our photos were published in the Evening Express. I would love to experience the whole day again!

BY Martha S

CLASS  
LOWER

YEAR  
7A & B

SUBJECT  
TRIPS

# LOWER 7 TRIP

LOWER 7 PUPILS VISITED NORMANDY AS  
PART OF THEIR PROJECT ON WW2.

LES FORCES ALLIEES  
DEBARQUENT SUR CETTE  
PLAGE QUE ELLES NOMMENT  
D'HAHA BEACH LIBERENT  
L'EUROPE LE 6 JUIN 1944

THE ALLIED FORCES  
LANDING ON THIS  
SHORE WHICH THEY CALL  
D'HAHA BEACH LIBERATE  
EUROPE JUNE 6<sup>th</sup> 1944



## Normandy

**On Tuesday 26 May we went to Pegasus Bridge. The Bridge was called Pegasus Bridge because the emblem of the British airborne forces some of whom attacked Pegasus Bridge and helped to liberate France and eventually the rest of Western Europe. We saw the old bridge and the replica bridge. We watched a video about the attack on Pegasus Bridge and it was incredibly interesting and also talked about the film Pegasus Bridge (called The Longest Day).**

We got to walk on the real Pegasus Bridge and we had a photo taken on the bridge. We also got to go and see a replica Horsa glider and our tour guide talked about the importance of this. Then we went to have a look around the museum. After that we went to the gift shop and Oscar and Harris both got aviator teddy bears.

Mont Saint Michel is an island in the sea. It is about a kilometre away from mainland France and is connected by a bridge that cars and buses travel over.

Mont Saint Michel is as big as 50 football pitches and less than 50 people live on it. When we arrived we had a baguette for lunch with a filling of our choice.

After that we got a shuttle (bus) to Mont Saint Michel. We had a little walk around the island and we split up and some of us went to a museum and the rest of us went for a walk around Mont Saint Michel and we found a nice peaceful area with shade and a nice view. We then waited for the people who went to the museum and had an ice cream challenge, the rules where: you tried to get an ice cream and/or drink but you had to be back on time. If not you had to be accompanied by an adult when you went back down. One group was late and a member of the group bought not one, not two, but three ice creams. Our group did ok but at least we were back on time.



Straight after that my group went to the shops down a small alley that turned out to be quite a good place to go. It had everything tourists would need: ice cream shops and souvenir shops. There was many things bought by my group including a mug, a model of Mont Saint Michel, a thimble and a box of caramel.

BY George H (L7)

- Pegasus Bridge
- Omaha Beach
- Mont St Michael



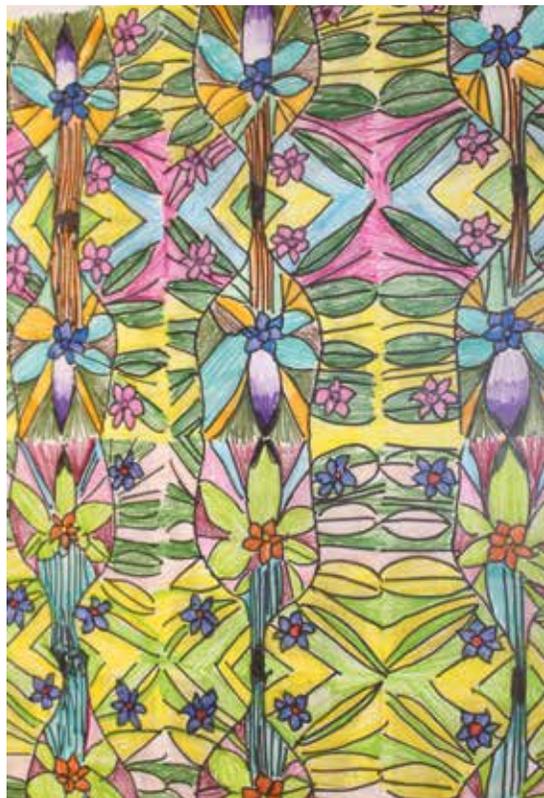
# LOWER ART

A SELECTION OF ARTWORK DONE THROUGHOUT  
THE YEAR IN LOWER SCHOOL.



• Anya Lazlo (L4)

• Anya Lazlo (L4)



- Lisa Rogerson (L6)
- Emily Barker (L6)
- (far left) Lucy Shaw (L4)

# WELCOME

## MEET THE UPPER SCHOOL

### Inside this section you will find:

**Upper 2 English writers who were inspired to write their own mysteries after studying the classic novel, *The Hound of the Baskervilles* penned by one of the best detective writers of our time, Sir Conan Arthur Doyle.**

On stage, our drama and music departments' used their collaborative effort to bring *Oliver* the musical to the Albyn School Centenary Hall stage. Some inspiring self-portraiture in the art department and of course a look at our school sports teams and how they performed this year.

Learn how the Physics Department experienced the Solar Eclipse earlier in the school year. Higher biologists went on a 3 day excursion to Kindrogan Field Centre in October. This enabled pupils to carry out practical work within a fantastic setting in rural Perthshire. The 3 day programme included various Ecological sampling and surveying techniques of grassland and river ecosystems.

# Albyn School



## UPPER SCHOOL

# THE MURDER OF LADY TONNINGTON

WHAT MAKES A GREAT MYSTERY? SHADY CHARACTERS, A SPINE-CHILLING SETTING, A FEW RED HERRINGS AND A CRACKING GOOD DETECTIVE.

**In Upper 2, pupils were inspired to write their own mysteries after studying the classic novel, *The Hound of the Baskervilles* penned by one of the best detective writers of our time, Sir Conan Arthur Doyle.**

Katherine was sitting in the drawing room next to a large window. It was a beautiful day outside; sun shining, blossoms in full bloom; however it was also rather cold. At least too cold for the likes of Lady Katherine Tonnington.

She was a very fair lady. Pale by skin and by nature.

Katherine stared through the glass, somewhat unhappily. Today had not been a good day for her.

She unclenched the letter that she was holding so tightly in her hand. What this morning had been a crisp white envelope was now a creased scrunched up mess. The contents made her want to regurgitate her lunch.

She gazed at her reflection in the glass and sipped her tea.

*pitter patter, pitter patter.*

'Is someone there?' she called. No one answered. 'It must just be my imagination,' she thought to herself.

*pitter patter, pitter patter*

It was louder this time, much louder.

Katherine saw a shadow of a person in the corner of her eye. Cold finger pressed against her neck.

'Who are you?' she choked.

However, they did not respond.

They strangled her.

\*\*\*

Detective Samantha Caney drove up the long, windy drive of Tonnington Manor. She finally reached the end of it and parked next to an unmarked white van which she supposed belonged to the forensics department.

She was met by a tall thin man, whose hair was as grey as the expression on his face.

'You must be Henry Berkins. I'm Detective Caney; I'm here to investigate the murder of a one Katherine Tonnington.'

'Right this way Ma'am.'

He led her through a series of corridors and hallways. Each was richly decorated with paintings, vases and marble busts. They passed countless rooms and doors.

At last they reached a room, that unlike any others she had seen, was decked out in yellow crime scene tape. In the centre of it lay a body.

The woman was young, nineteen or twenty maybe. Her long dark hair covering the floor around her head. Her figure spread eagled on the floor.

Another officer, who Detective Caney knew to be Eileen, walked up to her.

'Hey Caney, are you the officer in charge of this case?'

'Yes I am. What is the cause of death for our dear friend here?' She pointed at the figure lying face down on the carpet.

'Strangled. They're dusting for prints but they don't think we'll find any. A pair of plastic gloves were found in that bin over there. They're going back to the lab for analysis.'

'Any other evidence?'

'Apart from a smashed teacup there are

no other items of interest on the scene.'

'Great! I just love a case where there is nothing to solve it.' Detective Caney said sarcastically.

'Have you looked at the security footage yet?'

'No, I guess that will be my first stop.'

\*

'After watching hours of security footage with no movement in them whatsoever. I decree that someone in the building must have killed her.' Detective Caney said.

'Well, whilst you were clawing your eyes out, I made this.' Eileen handed Detective Caney a list with four names on it. Detective Caney looked at her in amazement.

'Is this...'

'A list of possible suspects? Yes! I got a bit bored of watching the forensics crew do their thing, so I asked the butler a few questions and hey presto!'

Detective Caney just stood in shocked silence. Eileen never did anything for her.

'Let the interviews begin,' she muttered. 'Eileen you take the cousin Arabella and ask the butler a few more questions. I'll take the maid, Mildred and Baron Tonnington, the uncle.'

\*

A large, pink faced man sat down in the chair opposite Detective Caney. He had an air of expense around him and almost looked gleeful.

'I'll start with some finger prints. You don't need to worry we're taking them from all the suspects to aid our investigation.' The Baron agreed and Caney began the interrogation.

'My condolences about your late niece. I understand that this might be hard for you but I need you to answer some questions about her.'

'No, no. It's only procedure, it's not like your arresting me for her death!' He chuckled to himself until he saw the expression on Detective Caney's face.

'What was Katherine like? How did you end up being her legal guardian?' She said coldly.

'She was very quiet; she never really spoke up. Her parents died when she was eight. Odd circumstances, very odd. As her next of kin she was placed in my household.'

'Was Katherine left anything from her parents? Heirlooms. Money perhaps?'

'I'm sorry but I can't tell you anything about that. It is strictly a private matter.'

'If there is anything that might help solve this case, I need to know it. As her legal guardian I expect you would inherit any money or belongings, is that so?'

'This is preposterous! You are acting as if I'm a murderer!' The man's face turned from red to purple and then back again.

'I'm sorry sir but I'm just doing what I can to aid the investigation. Could you perhaps tell me your movements this afternoon? From the forensics we know that the murder took place around 2pm.'

'After lunch I went to my study to deal with some private business matters. Around one thirty I retired to the lounge to watch the races. I remained there the rest of the afternoon.'

'Did anyone see you?'

'I shouldn't think so.'

'So you don't have an alibi for the time of the murder?' At this point the Baron's face started to change colour again so Detective Caney took it as her cue to go.

\*

A small mousy woman sat before Detective Caney. She was plainly dressed and quiet. After Caney fingerprinted her, she began the questioning.

'I know this may be hard for you but I need to know about you and your relationship with the late Katherine.'

'I came to work for the Tonnington household ten years ago. Back then Katherine was a just a child, I grew very close to her. She was such a lovely girl...'  
The maid broke down in floods of tears.

'There, there.' Detective Caney handed her some tissues from the box beside her.

'I'm sorry,' hiccupped the maid 'but...'  
She then burst into tears again.

'I know this is hard for you but I need you to talk me through your movements this afternoon.'

'After I served lunch, I cleaned up the dining room and had my own. Around two o'clock I started cleaning the hallway, dusting pots and things. I think the butler saw me.' She stuttered.

'What are your relationships with others in this household?'

'Mr. Tonnington was never pleasant to me but he wasn't mean either. Arabella on the other hand...' Mildred's face turned very bitter. 'I don't think I can ever forgive her for the things she did to my son,' she muttered to herself.

'That'll be enough for now.'

\*\*\*

'So what did you learn from Arabella?'

'She didn't tell me anything I didn't already know. She bears a striking resemblance to her cousin. She kept talking about this stupid dress of hers that Katherine had borrowed. Apparently she doesn't want to wear it now it's touched a dead person. Oddly enough she didn't want to discuss her relationship with Mildred the maid.'

'Does she have an alibi for the time of the death?'

'No, but I doubt she would kill Katherine. She seems unpleasant but she doesn't have much of a motive. Also seems if she had let Katherine borrow her dress they would be fairly close.'

'And the butler?'

'Nothing that we didn't already know. Was down in the wine cellar at the time of the murder. Doesn't have a motive.'

'Well if it's any use to us the autopsy and the fingerprints reports are in,' Detective Caney said opening the up the envelope.

'What's it say?' asked Eileen.

'You'll never believe it. But I think I know the solution to this case.'

\*

Detective Caney looked around the room. Sat before her was, in no particular order: Mildred, Baron Tonnington, Arabella and Berkins, the butler.

'I think you understand why I have

gathered you all here. Someone in this room is responsible for the murder of the late Lady Tonnington. I was very sur....'

'I tell you, it wasn't me!' Yelled the Baron angrily. However Detective Caney ignored him and continued her speech: 'I was very surprised when I received the autopsy, unlike our assumption, there were fingerprints on the Katherine's neck. Fingerprints that clearly matched a single person.'

Mildred burst into tears.

'The pieces of this puzzle just weren't fitting in place. That was until my dear co-worker mentioned how Katherine was wearing Arabella's dress when she died. And then I suddenly remembered something that Mildred had told me earlier, something that she hadn't meant to tell me, something about the mistreatment of her son. The mistreatment which Arabella had caused.'

Arabella glared at the crying maid

'I told you! I did not do it! It was his own fault, he did not do what I asked him too!'

'So you thought it was appropriate to throw him down the stairs!' Mildred screamed suddenly.

'Excuse me ladies but you can discuss these matters later,' Caney cut in, 'Well actually you may not be able too. Mildred Brown you are under arrest for culpable homicide and plotting to kill Arabella Tonnington.'

Arabella's jaw dropped, the butler turned white and the Baron's face once again turned that nasty shade of red.

'This is unbelievable! Tell me Mildred this surely isn't true?!'

Mildred however said nothing.

Detective Caney continued, 'You wanted to seek revenge for the mistreatment of your son. It is very hard to tell the difference between Arabella and Katherine from behind. You saw Arabella's dress and decided it would be the perfect moment to strike. Only it wasn't Arabella. But by the time you had noticed, it was too late. Don't try to deny it, your finger prints are all over Katherine's neck.'

A shocked silence echoed through the room.

'One more thing. Arabella Tonnington, you are under arrest for suspicion of neglect and abuse of a minor. Now if you two ladies would kindly put your hands behind your back, my dear friend Eileen here will handcuff you and read you your rights.'

BY Alexa S

# THE CURSE OF THE BELL

A CRIME FICTION TALE SET IN THE QUIET VILLAGE OF PORLOCK.

**What makes a great mystery? Shady characters, a spine-chilling setting, a few red herrings and a cracking good detective.**

**In Upper 2 pupils were inspired to write their own mysteries after studying the classic novel, *The Hound of the Baskervilles* penned by one of the best detective writers of our time, Sir Conan Arthur Doyle.**

The village of Porlock lay bathed in soft morning sunlight and the clock on the ancient church stroked 7am. No bell rung. There was an eerie silence that descended on Porlock like a cloud of fog. This was unusual, Porlock was a quaint little bustling town, with a butcher, a baker and a boarding school for the education of young ladies, and silent wasn't a word used for the girls. The school housed 60 girls and 12 teachers as well as a cook, some housemaids and a school nurse affectionately called by the girls Nursie though she was as tough as iron.

On that strangely quiet morning Nursie woke up to hear a muffled knocking on her door, so she quickly stuffed her feet in her slippers, threw on her shawl and carefully opened the door. It was Miss Constance, the head teacher, fully dressed and very pale. Nursie speedily made some hot milk and told the trembling Miss Constance to drink it. "Whatever is wrong, Lucie?" Nursie asked. Miss Constance gulped down the rest of her milk before replying in a somewhat shaky voice; "It's the church bell, it's not rung!". Nursie who was a sensible person, took Miss Constance back to bed and prepared to go out for a brief walk past the church, since there was still a bit of time before the girls woke up.

Just as Nursie was setting out, a strange figure entangled in bedclothes and hair was sitting up in bed, it was Prudence- the oldest of the school's identical triplets. She had long masses of curly chestnut hair, as did her triplet

sisters, Patience and Pearla, which made them hard to identify. Suddenly two faces appeared in the curtain of her cubical, Patience and Pearla. "Prudence, did you hear the clock chime half seven?" Inquired Patience, who had begun burying herself in Prudence's bed. "Cos I didn't" added Pearla, who was following her sister's example. "I wonder if we slept through it" said a much squashed person because her bed had been intruded.

Suddenly a sweet gentle voice called that it was time to get up, "Come on girls, it is 7.30." In answer to this 7 girls tumbled out of bed and rushed toward the teacher bamboozling her with questions. But the teacher quickly silenced them and realised someone was missing. "Girls, do you know who is missing?" She said. But nobody did. Pearla began to search the cubicles and was quickly followed by everyone including the teacher whose name was Miss Maple. Finally in the middle cubical Patience found a very sleepy girl, "It's Jessamine", Miss Maple called. When Miss Maple touched Jessamine's hand it felt cold and she coughed and murmured "I'm fine, you sillies". This was such a Jessamine like statement to make that they all laughed but quickly returned to sense. "We must get Jessamine to Nursie," Miss Maple exclaimed "Quick Daisy go fetch Nursie and the rest of you get ready for Breakfast!"

However when Daisy got to Nursie's rooms, Nursie was nowhere in sight. Daisy decided to wait a minute, which she was rewarded for because Nursie appeared. "Now Daisy, what's the issue?" Nursie kindly asked because on her walk she had found that in fact the bell was not in its place, though Nursie suspected that the bell was just being repaired, she was sure the girls would be greatly shaken by this. "Its Jessamine, Nursie, she is so cold and has a cough and, and..." said Daisy her words all in a jumble. "Well hurry and get ready for

breakfast. Don't worry, I'll see to Jessamine. "Was the gentle reply from Nursie's office. Daisy fled back to her dormitory.

At breakfast the school was told that the bell was missing, though Miss Constance gave Nursie's explanation, the younger forms had different opinions. "I think that someone stole it!" Prudence told her form but this idea was crushed by Mary, "If someone stole the bell we would have heard it clanging." "Maybe ..." but no one heard what Pearla said because Nursie broke in: "Do any of you know why Jessamine is missing the new pillows I gave her yesterday? I have had to take her to the sick room because she is so cold and shivery." The seven remaining Primrose classmates looked at each other.

After lunch all the forms when on their daily walk with their teacher for Primrose form it was Miss Maple, the History mistress. At the start of the walk the girls begged that they may walk past the church and check that Father Barry was alright to which Miss Maple let them and was greeted with shouts of joy. The girls chattering in the silent street made Miss Maple turn round and hush the girls. Once they had crossed the square, they tiptoed inside.

A terrible sight met their eyes; Father Barry was sitting in the back pew rocking backward and forward, crying his heart out. Miss Maple much stunned by this, slowly turned to leave but Pearla, Prudence and Patience ran towards him, crying "Father Barry, Father Barry." He stopped crying and looked up; as the triplets were great favourites of his. "Girls, dear, dear girls," he murmured as they sat round him "I'm going to tell you something you must not tell another person about; The Curse of the Bell. When the bell was carried into this church 100 years ago, to replace the old one, it had a curse carved on it which

reads: 'If this, the bell of hope shall stop ringing four times an hour then the church will crumble.' Now the bell is gone, what will happen to me?" And he started sobbing again. Miss Maple was intrigued by mysteries and could not stop herself from rushing through to the lower belfry. There was the rope. But there was definitely no bell. The triplets began to climb the ladder up to the belfry, where they found a top hat worn by men. "It's our first clue" Patience whispered to her sisters. "Come down girls," called Miss Maple "And the rest of you could you go back to school."

The bell ringer appeared just as the triplets were showing Miss Maple their find. "Oye, Wha' you doin' with ma 'at" he grunted. The triplets and Miss Maple turned scarlet and stammered: "We're so sorry, we thought it belonged to the 'robber'" "Don't ye be afraid I ain't gonna 'urt ye. I was just a wee bit shocked to see ye 'ere with ma 'at" he said with what looked to Prudence like a fake smile.

Once the triplets were in their dormitory Pearla called a discussion with her sisters in which Prudence put forward her dislike of the bell ringer, with Patience agreeing. Pearla thought they ought to go out and see if they could see the 'robber' snooping about so they arranged to meet in Pearla's cubical once Nursie had come and checked them.

Finally that hour struck and the unsuspecting Nursie clad all in white tiptoed into Primrose Dormitory and out again sure that all were asleep. Sure that Nursie was gone Prudence rushed toward Pearla's bed and found Pearla fast asleep so she took a pillow and hit her over the head, Pearla screeched and sat up, Nursie ran to see what was happening, and Prudence dived under Pearla's bed. Pearla began to pretend to go back to sleep and with no amount of shaking from Nursie would arise. Nursie left feeling very flustered and worried about Pearla. Once she was gone, Prudence removed herself from under the bed, "What did you think you were doing screaming like that?" She whispered menacingly. Before Pearla could reply Patience appeared ready to go, "Hurry up, if we're going to ..." But she stopped because she could see two figures slowly moving across the back courtyard which was illuminated by moonlight. The first figure was quite small, about Prudence's height and was scuttling along in a suspicious manner, followed at a distance by a tall elegant figure with hair piled up on top of her head. "It's Miss Maple- I'm sure it is" whispered Pearla, "I bet

that's the thief!". So the three rule breakers snuck on their warmest clothes and silently descended the steps with no creaks but one. The latch was a bit stiff but with all three triplets pulling at it, the latch gave way with a creak. The triplets waited a moment to see if anyone would appear but no one did so they slipped out into the damp, fresh night air. The door slammed. There was no turning back.

The girls tiptoed along the courtyard, standing against the wall everytime they thought they heard a sound. Finally they made it to the entrance of the courtyard. In the cool, clear night air a definitive chime of a bell was heard very close to where they were standing. Then a young girl's voice "Be quiet you sillies, we don't want anyone hearing the bell." Prudence turned to Patience, Patience to Pearla and Pearla said: "It's Jasmine!" They edged closer along the wall and bumped into something soft and silky. Patience was about to scream when a hand covered her mouth. The hand was dainty and feminine not a rough, manly hand, which made Patience look up. It was Miss Maple.

She put her finger to her lips and they tiptoed behind the huge waste bins. The girls had never seen bins for food they did not eat; they presumed it just magically disappeared. Pearla was so shocked she tripped and fell. A nasty voice in front of her cackled gleefully, "Wha' 'ave we 'ere? Well, well, well Miss Jethamine will be 'appy." Poor Pearla felt nasty rough hands lift her up and carry her away.

It was almost more than Miss Maple could do to stop Prudence and Patience from running and dragging Pearla back. "Now you two," she whispered, "Don't you run off. Do you hear me?" They both nodded their heads though they were trembling.

They could no longer hear the voice of who they thought was Jessamine so they moved on to the chapel. At the chapel they heard the bellringer's voice talking to Jessamine in hushed tones. "I told you the bellringer was in the plot," Prudence proudly whispered. Their attention was quickly diverted to a quiet whimpering sound like a sad puppy, but it wasn't a dog, it was Pearla. "Poor child!" Miss Maple murmured sadly.



**"A NASTY VOICE  
IN FRONT OF HER  
CACKLED GLEEFULLY,  
"WHA' 'AVE WE 'ERE?  
WELL, WELL, WELL  
MISS JETHAMINE  
WILL BE 'APPY." POOR  
PEARLA FELT NASTY  
ROUGH HANDS  
LIFT HER UP AND  
CARRY HER AWAY."**

Suddenly, as the bellringer turned to walk away, Jessamine tripped him up and the girls let out a startled gasp. "I always knew Jessamine was unkind, but to do that to a grown-up man..." Prudence cautiously whispered. The bellringer slowly stood up looking dazed and shouting such words that the young mistress had to cover her charges ears. "Can't be the bellringer," said Patience once the man had moved on, "Because Jessamine wouldn't have hurt him, if he was."

"That's not entirely true, they could have disagreed on something," piped up Prudence. Miss Maple at that point had a breakthrough: "I didn't hear his voice when we were at school, only Jessamine's and two village teens." The remaining two triplets agreed. "So is that the mystery solved?" Patience asked Miss Maple. "Not yet dear, we still need to find the bell, question Jessamine and of course find your sister! But for now I think we should head back to school and sleep 'til morning as my dress feels as if it frozen solid and I'm sure you feel the same. Come to think of it the girls did feel exhausted and cold so were glad to be heading back to their cosy beds.

When Miss Maple opened her bedroom door she found a very unimpressed looking Miss Constance. "Florence Maple I suggest you shut that door and tell me exactly where you have been!" Poor Miss Maple told the whole tale and Miss Constance's face grew more and more shocked. "And to think that bad girl, Jessamine, would take away that poor girl, Pearla.

**CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE >>**

# THE CURSE OF THE BELL CONTINUED...

You should have taken better care of her, Florence! From now until the end of term you must do all your duties with another teacher” yelled Miss Constance and quickly left the room. Miss Maple, feeling somewhat relieved that she could still work at the school, snuggled down in the blankets and bedclothes.

In the morning the barometer said that it would rain heavily in the afternoon so the teachers decided a walk would be a good thing. Miss Maple chose to invite her great friend, Miss Richardson, the English teacher to ‘supervise’ her. Primrose Form decided that they wanted to walk along the beach and the teachers agreed. They all sauntered along the beach and the teachers agreed they could so they sauntered along the sand chatting all except Jessamine, who was gazing out to sea, it was almost as if she was waiting for something.

Suddenly Prudence and Patience who were walking together, heard a shout.

“I wonder what that is, maybe it’s Pearla.”

Prudence said with hope rising in her eyes. The two girls set off across the beach to where the sound was coming from, though the teachers called for them to come back. They were nearing the cave where the sound was coming from. When Prudence tripped on something hard and metal. Patience didn’t wait for her, but tore into the cave and found Pearla shouting with all the power in her lungs. Patience quickly pulled out her scissors which she had left in her frock from sewing the day before and cut through the ropes which bound her sister. Free at last Pearla rubbed her wrists together with joy.

“Where’s Prudence?” Pearla asked after hugging her sister.

“Well,” said Patience

“I didn’t have enough time to wait!”

Pearla laughed and patted Patience on the back.

They hurried over to Prudence who was desperately digging in the ground. She looked up triumphantly at them.

“I found the bell!”

The three whooped, cheered and giggled so much that Miss Richardson and Miss Maple came over to them.

“Pearla, you’ve been found! What’s this?” Miss Maple questioned.

“The bell,” chorused the schools one and only triplets.

“Who did it then?” Miss Richardson asked in her soft silvery voice.

So the triplets told the entire story and Pearla talked about how she had heard Jessamine talking about how she hates her grandfather,

Father Barry because he hated her father and wouldn’t let her mother marry him.

“And overall,” she concluded “she wanted to make him feel as sad as her mother had been before she died at the workhouse.”

When the teachers told Nursie about it she said,

**“AH HA, SO THAT’S HOW SHE CAUGHT A COLD AND I GUESS SHE MUTED THE SOUND OF THE BELL BY STUFFING THE PILLOWS INSIDE.”**

“Oh Nursie, you are a detective!” Miss Maple exclaimed.

The last thing to do was to give the bell back to father Barry. When the bell arrived at the church, Father Barry smiled so hard the triplets were afraid his face would burst and he hugged them so hard they thought they might burst.

For Jessamine, however, fate was less kind, Miss Constance sent her away from school and her village boy helpers had to help father Barry for 5 years.

“Overall,” said Prudence, “This has been a mysterious mystery!!!!”

BY Jessica D

**“OVERALL,” SAID PRUDENCE, “THIS HAS BEEN A MYSTERIOUS MYSTERY!!!!”**

# POEM STUDY

**“NO ONE  
REMEMBERS  
THE FALLEN  
UNTIL THE  
GUILT BEGINS  
TO CREEP IN.”**

A LOOK AT SOME OF THE POETRY  
WRITTEN BY U3 PUPILS IN ENGLISH.

## Peace from Tragedy

By the way he walked and in his eyes,  
I could see he was trying to say a lasting goodbye.  
I paced towards the door. Wringing my hands  
His team, he told me had lost all individuality –  
Slaughtered like cattle.  
Creating a scaring from the bloody and barbaric battle.  
That he was forced to believe was his.

I resembled a distraction, having already been told of his demise,  
I was a trembling old woman in that instant, weak and a suffering disability.  
I knew blood did not run in his veins, but I was blessed to witness this reprise,  
Placing his numb lips on mine, mumbling goodbyes – I sensed  
Peace and tranquillity.

Many say I dreamt that day, as ghosts do not exist,  
But I know what I saw and I saw the man I missed.  
He, my man of lust and love, who reeked boldness and audacity.  
No more suffering. I had reached peace from tragedy.

BY Hannah M

**“NO MORE  
SUFFERING. I  
HAD REACHED  
PEACE FROM  
TRAGEDY.”**

## A Dead Flower for a Dead Man's Grave

Flowers are pretty, so full of life.  
Unique. Delicate. Dead.  
Cut down by the reapers scythe.  
A poppy field of red.

A battle field of crushed stems,  
trampled, forgotten petals.  
Drowned within a green sea of nettles  
a human cleanse.

He hopes that his struggles will be remembered  
Within the shell-shocked mist.  
Though on this cold, broken November  
He's just another name on the list.

No one remembers the fallen  
Until the guilt begins to creep in.

BY Bethany T



# MOSH & LUMSDEN

MOSH: PRIZE FOR CREATIVE WRITING IN U4-6 IN MEMORY OF MISS MORRISON WHO TAUGHT ENGLISH AND HISTORY KNOWN BY THE NICKNAME MOSH. LUMSDEN: PRIZE FOR POETRY DONATED BY MRS LUMSDEN WHO WAS HEAD OF BIOLOGY AND THEN DEPUTY HEAD.

## The Battle

What would you do if your dreams were trapped,  
Deep inside your head and heart?  
What would you do if you could not show  
Your worth because the words won't flow?  
What would you do if doubt was cast  
As the world expects you to always come last  
What would you do if all ears were closed,  
Your honour questioned, every flaw exposed?

Well, I could lie down, defeated and broken  
Or defend with words, not written, but spoken.  
I could always run faster in every race,  
Striving, toiling, quickening my pace.  
Proving my worth to all who would listen,  
Till I am restored, and once again glisten.  
I could turn my back and grow thicker skin  
Or push to my limits, try to prove I can win.

But what would these foolish endeavours achieve?  
And who do I need, in my gifts, to believe?  
Do I need to prove to the man on the street,  
Should I wilfully fall at anyone's feet.  
Is their dignity found in a begging soul,  
Or is it pride in yourself that makes a man whole?  
So, if I am to battle, what should I fight to be?  
I shall fight for the courage, to keep being me.

BY Morgan S

**MOSH WINNER  
REBECCA B**

**LUMSDEN  
WINNER  
MORGAN S**

## From Ash

Beneath the radars, where he flies  
Glimpsing sun through cloudy skies  
His armoured coat wearied, tired -  
Scratched and pierced from where they've fired.  
But straight he flies, no dip, nor bend  
A path they cannot comprehend.  
Not broken, beat, nor lost the race  
Though wounded, tired, he holds their pace.  
This grand charade he skilfully keeps,  
By day the Trojan, by night he weeps.  
But he is sure to break the cloud  
To pass the hollow, shallow crowd,  
And with his tip as red as fire  
His heart still pure with one desire.  
His battered soul will rise and shout:  
"This world's not yours to keep me out  
And I am coming, hard, and fast,  
To break the mould, destroy the cast.  
To breathe the air my lungs have craved  
And end this journey my heart has braved.  
To soar above the madding crowd,  
To free the shackles and lift the shroud."

Renewed, refreshed, success at last.  
Clear skies, bright sun, the cloud long passed.  
His coat alight, old skin now shed,  
Silence his water and knowledge his bread.  
Reborn, refuelled, reformed and still  
He feels and tastes the bitter pill.  
But he will break the chains of peers,  
And leave behind those tortured years.  
No longer live by their decree  
But for the man he was born to be.  
And as they rejoice in moderate glory,  
He'll rise from Ash to tell his story.  
A scarlet phoenix; proud, and sure  
Bright and bold; no more demure.  
And they will scream, who dares to fly?  
Who spreads their wings within our sky?  
With stealth, and speed, and wit he'll go  
And will they catch him?  
Catch him?  
No

BY Morgan S

## Cold Gold

A tight white sheet, a push from earth  
She cuts the crest through nature's breath.  
The icy tears caress the cheeks  
The muscles shake, the organ beats.  
Forward to the crimson points,  
Stretch silvered limbs and knotted joints.  
Rise and fall she cuts her path  
Through overcrowded rivalled wrath.  
She keeps her pace, though old, with new  
Ten fair faced maidens, one stanch shrew.  
The rising blue now shakes her blades  
And slows the cut till hope, it fades.  
She wheezes, creeks and loses line  
Sees six, then seven, eight then nine  
And just as last will be her place,  
She tilts and water fills her face.  
The white wraps round his icy shock  
His race, now new, against the clock.  
A rise to air, a fall to deep  
To breath, and life, or watery sleep.  
The clock ticks slow, the struggle fast  
In black he weights her floor turned mast.  
She rolls and wraps her tendrils round  
Then breaks the surface homeward bound.  
The fall behind, the sunken soul,  
A straggler in the racing shoal.  
But up she comes, as if on fire,  
An undefeated raging pyre.

Surge nor surf can hold her down  
Wind nor water shake her crown.  
On she drives and leads his hand,  
As if she'd manage though unmanned.  
She meets the new, the crisp, the clean,  
Compares her ancient veteran beam,  
But pushes on against belief  
Provides her master no relief.  
Flesh tears from deep within his grip  
Yet, firm he holds and will not slip.  
One by one she breaks their bow  
Till only one can beat her now.  
He leans, he pulls, he drives and screams,  
He begs her to fulfil his dreams.  
She tries and inches up her side  
With tensioned cloth she keeps her stride.  
Then powers across her virgin bow  
He cries to take her, take her now!  
She rises up as if on wing  
To hear the sailors siren sing.  
With golden grains beneath his feet  
He waits for triumph or defeat.  
With cheer and prod, and rapturous spate,  
The two they finally hear their fate.  
By hair, by line, by Gods, by grit  
A glorious place is where they sit.  
Raised on her tip, a pennant crest  
While cold gold sits upon his chest.

BY Morgan S

## The Vacancy

The sound of the radio had long since been consumed by the stifling heat as my bruised brain ached after plummeting into yet another pot-hole. Lifting my fingers to my sopping forehead, I massage my temples and close my eyes from the midday sun, beating down onto this pathetic sardine can. All cloud had been swept clear from the bleached blue sky. In front of me, I can see her eating a cocktail of paracetamol and aspirin with a bottle of 'Coors Lite' balanced between her fingers. At my feet, the rough canvas of my travel bag rubs against my shins. I reach down and unzip the side pocket, removing a thick, folded pile of papers with my name: 'Tom Norman - age 16' printed on top. I wonder if the higher the number of pages means something important. Surely they can't all be evidence of my suitability to work in a fast-food joint, the first place my father found to send me. Being packed off with a bunch of paperwork was not how I wanted to start my so-called 'career' in flipping burgers.

I am deeply conscious of the fact we have been on the road for over five hours now with only one stop so far, where I was ordered to remain in the car whilst he took her in to get more beers. Surely he must have exceeded the drink-drive limit by now though I shouldn't complain. I guess I wasn't entitled to a free ride out here anyway. Never before had I considered being envious of them until they ambled into the air-conditioned chain store in which they stood talking for at least twenty minutes. Upon return, no words were exchanged between us and he once again, kicked the car coughing into action, pulling out easily onto the deserted road.

I wondered if my airless confinement was beginning to smother my memory as I attempted to recall what possessed me to take this step into the unknown. My future bleak in comparison to these bright surroundings. Nothing to fall back on. Nobody to catch me. I was struggling to come to terms to this new concept.

Had I really lost my mother? It all seems so unreal considering how indifferent he acted when he turned up and packed both me and my belongings into the backseat with only a grunt of acknowledgement. Without my mother, I guess, there was nobody to keep me there. Nothing to tie me down with. I was like a rubber balloon; filled with nothing, floating, gradually getting smaller and smaller until void. I pictured myself drooping under the hot sun. My features dribbling, unrecognisable. My fingers ooze into useless, elongated shapes. The world snapped back into focus. At least I would be out of this Goddamn car, I reason.

She swipes at the sun visor to reveal the doleful, dusty mirror and untwists the lid of her ridiculous red lipstick before applying. I catch her eyes stabbing me in the chest as I glance fleetingly to the front of the car. They are outlined obscenely with what could arguably be a black marker pen, giving her the appearance of a raccoon or some other sort of wild, scavenging rodent. I contemplate reasons to why she would be inspecting me, especially as I can't escape anywhere. Maybe waiting for her next opportunity to claw at my life, already punctured and ripped by her ravenous actions. I only wish she would perhaps volunteer some small conversation, giving me an excuse to request some painkillers. I hope she realizes that her relationship with my dad has been the reason for all of my misfortune these past few years. That she is the reason I now have to live motherless but I sincerely doubt she feels any sort of remorse. After all, we only met this morning.

As the edges of the sky darken, in the distance, a small building comes into view. It is easy to spot seeing as it is the only one for miles. I strain my neck in anticipation and hope that this is my destination. That soon I will be free from this cruel container. Slowly it grows larger revealing the construction, neglected in appearance, isolated in the middle of this open plain.

## **"READING THE SIGN ON THE DOOR, GRASPING THE PAPERS IN MY HANDS, MY HEART SINKS AS IF MADE OF LEAD."**

He changes gear and slows as we approach. All prospects of a thriving, sparkling restaurant serving organically sourced, gluten-free meals were choked out. Once the car finally halts, I fumble trying to unclip the seat belt as he unlocks his door and strides purposefully around the car. As he pulls my door open, he grabs my bag and waits while I swing my legs out and stand shakily atop this uneven terrain. My entire body shimmers from disuse and before I have time to stretch despairingly towards the sky, my bag is pushed forcefully towards me, knocking the air out of my lungs as I struggle not to tumble back into the car. Squinting up to meet his gaze, I feel a hand on my shoulder. Pressing me into the ground. Commanding me to stay. He smiles at me. That sort of half smile you usually see on the faces such as Blofeld. "Bye, son", he says and I dig deep to find some reassurance in his voice. Nothing, yet what did I expect from this deity who gave up an entire day of his gambling consumed life to drive his own abandoned son to an even more abandoned and desolate setting. I feel indebted in his presence. Without waiting for any sort of response, he turns to get back into the car. Within ten seconds, they are pulling away, leaving me in a haze of dust. "Bye, Dad".

I shift my bag over my shoulder and walk towards what appears to be the front door, my heart pounding so hard I feel it in my teeth. "\$3.99 MEAL DEAL". "BRAND NEW RECIPE!" in colourful block letters. "Part time vacancies", "FULL-TIME STAFF NEEDED" typed in black on laminated A4 sheets of paper. Reading the sign on the door, grasping the papers in my hands, my heart sinks as if made of lead.

"Out of Business"

\* \* \*

BY Rebecca B



# SOCIAL SUBJECTS TRIP TO EDINBURGH

THE UPPER 2 PUPILS VISITED EDINBURGH SITES TO HELP WITH THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES.

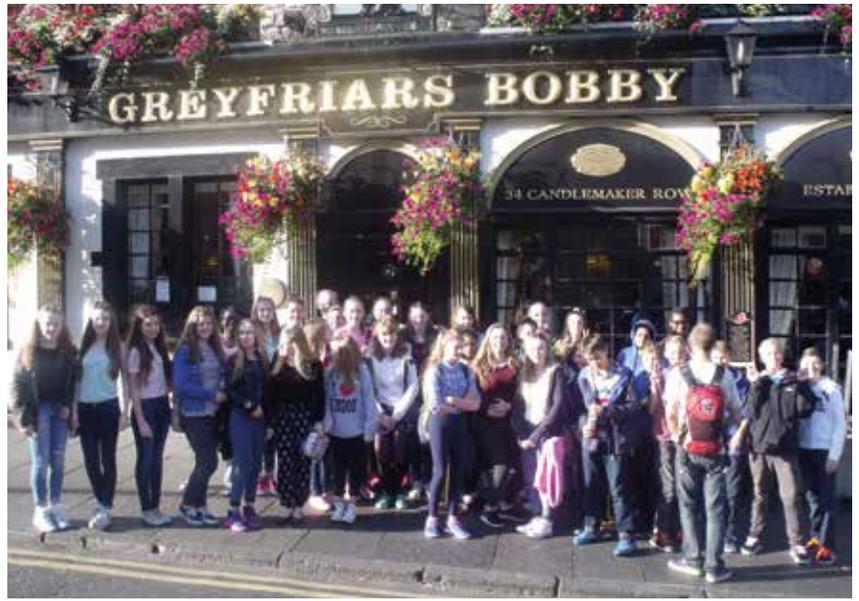
Following on from previously successful trips, the U2 again this year travelled as a year-group to Edinburgh with their History, Geography and Modern Studies teachers.

The purpose of the trip was to use Scotland's historical, geographical and political richness to develop our pupils' interest in their classroom studies. Staying in the heart of Edinburgh, just off the Royal Mile, pupils were able to enjoy the city on foot, exploring many of the famous sites and places of interest. This included a visit to the Old Town's Mary King's Close, which brought to life Edinburgh's murky past and coincided with their studies of Early Modern Scotland and the Reformation. The Museum of Scotland was also part of our itinerary, allowing the pupils to explore Scotland's earliest history up to more modern times, as well as to appreciate the architecture of the building and the great views of the city. Pupils then had a chance to extend their interest in their geographical studies with a visit to the award-winning Dynamic Earth. From volcanoes to glaciers, pupils enjoyed the multi-sensory experience which even included 3D film. Finally, pupils were able to enjoy a guided tour of the Scottish parliament, learning about how parliament works and about devolution. On the back of the recent referendum, the obvious interest of our young people was encouraging to see and this led to many intelligent questions about our political system. Overall, this was another wonderful enrichment trip for our Social Subjects pupils.

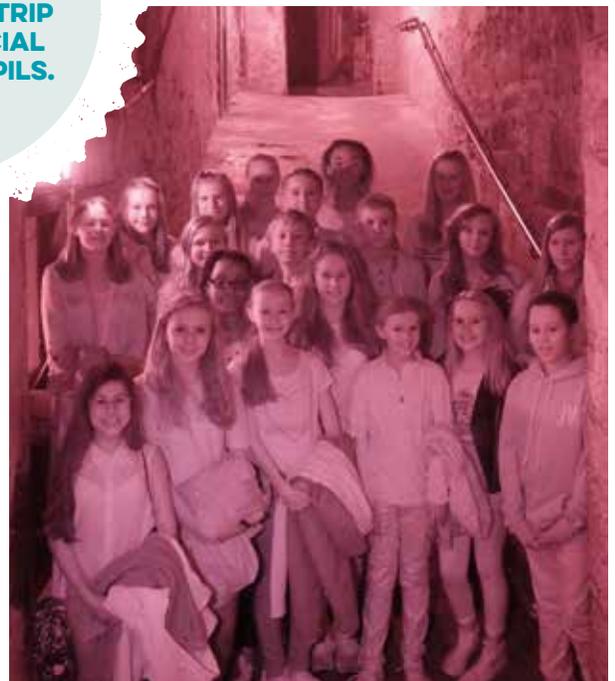
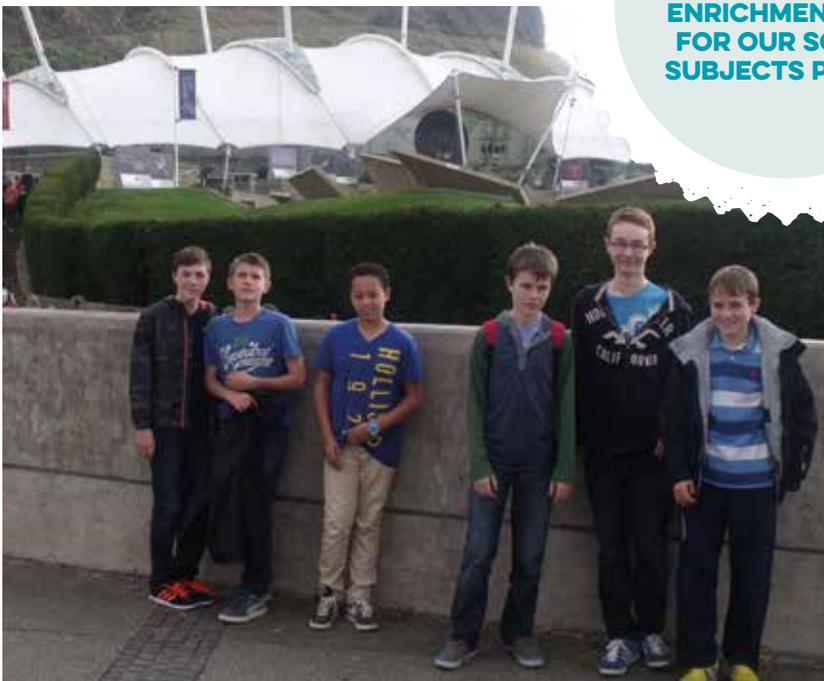
BY Miss Archibald

**“FROM VOLCANOES TO GLACIERS, PUPILS ENJOYED THE MULTI-SENSORY EXPERIENCE WHICH EVEN INCLUDED 3D FILM.”**





**OVERALL, THIS WAS ANOTHER WONDERFUL ENRICHMENT TRIP FOR OUR SOCIAL SUBJECTS PUPILS.**



# ENTERING FREEDOM

THE STORY OF A FAMILY LEAVING THEIR HOMES  
FOR THE AMERICAN DREAM

**Two years ago, my family and I illegally moved from El Salvador to the USA. There was five of us, including my brother, Javier, who was two years old at the time. My father knew people in the USA who were also from El Salvador, they helped convince him to leave our home in El Salvador. They said that they could help him get a job in the USA and find a job.**

El Salvador suffers heavily from climate change, for example in 2009 we were forced to evacuate our home due to the Hurricane Ida. It was very scary, especially since I was ten years old at the time. When we finally allowed to return to our home, not much remained. And to make things worse, the disasters were not finished, the hurricane left mudslides and floods all across El Salvador. I remember seeing hillsides collapse, rivers burst their banks all whilst I sat under a temporary shelter in the hard and ferocious rain. I didn't just experience disastrous hurricanes, there is also many volcanoes and earthquakes.

El Salvador is notorious for its youth gangs, it is now estimated that over 60,000 young people in El Salvador are members of gangs. Both my parents were concerned that because of my age I was going to join a gang, this was a major reason why we moved to America. Just before we left El Salvador there were 16 killings per day on average. It has some of the highest of the highest murder rates within Latin America. I witnessed a lot of crime during my time in El Salvador,

**THERE IS  
91,966 (8.4%)  
SALVADORANS  
LIVING IN  
NEW YORK**

my friend told me a lot of the boys from my school have gone on to join gangs, and the country is considered an epicentre of gang crisis. I consider myself lucky that I have both my parents because many of my friends in El Salvador only have one parent, the government claim that is one of the main reasons for young boys joining gangs, along with poverty. The main gangs in El Salvador are MS-13 and M-18, I know that they are often involved with drugs and weapon trafficking. My father new many people in El Salvador who when then they were in gangs, had to prove their loyalty to the gang by doing an act which often involved them being killed.

My father was unemployed when we left El Salvador but previously he worked for a factory that exported coffee. My mother also worked in a restaurant at weekends, so my father had to look after my two younger brothers and me, at weekends. My father was earning under the US minimum wage so we struggled to pay for luxuries and repairs. Our house was very basic and simple, it had two bedrooms so I had to share with my brothers unfortunately.

In America everything is different, everything is developed and there nowhere near as much violence and crime in the street. My father is struggling to find work here and we do not have any health insurance.

We live in a one bedroom apartment in Queens, New York. My father says it is only temporary but we have been here for two years. I sleep on the couch while my brothers sleep in the only bed and my parents sleep on a mattress on the floor. Our apartment has four rooms and we are struggling to pay the rent. However it is not all bad as I am doing well at school and my English has improved drastically. My youngest brother is lucky because he cannot remember El Salvador. I would like to be granted US citizenship because I would legally be allowed to live here for as long as I want and never return to El Salvador. I have no intentions of dropping out of high school because I would like to go to college even though I cannot afford the fees. I do experience some discrimination or racist comments but I normally hang out with my friends who are all from Latin America. We normally speak Spanish outside of class and sometimes the white teachers get annoyed at us if we speak Spanish in class. Within the area which I live in there is a small Spanish speaking community. It makes the USA feel more like home and we often do lots of activities with each other. Moving to New York was the best thing our family has ever done because now we hardly worry about crime, our house is small but nicer than the one El Salvador, my brothers and I receive free education. Overall my life has improved since moving to the US.

BY William W

# FAIR TRADE LEARNING CHALLENGE

THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT LOOKS AT THE DIFFERENCE FAIR TRADE CAN MAKE AND THE IMPROVEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE NOW.

During the week of 23-27 February, the History Department taught one lesson focusing on fair trade to all of the Second Year. This was part of a series of lessons on the British Empire, within an investigation focusing on whether the British Empire did more harm than good. We had already been looking at a number of case studies focusing on different aspects of what the British got from their empire (e.g. India and the East India Company and Australia and transportation).

## THE LESSON HAD THREE PARTS:

1

History of Chocolate - starter activity where pupils had to produce a timeline using facts posted around the room within a time limit.

2

Completion of map showing where chocolate is grown and where it is consumed. This was followed by a class discussion about what we can learn from these locations and countries

3

The final task went on to explain how although the history of British interests in their empire have historically been exploitative, in the last 20 years there has been a growing awareness of the importance of fair trade. We watched two short videos about the benefits of fair trade. Finally, the pupils did some chocolate tasting of fair trade chocolate!

**OVERALL, PUPILS LEFT WITH A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF FAIR TRADE, AND I SUSPECT WILL NOW BE MORE LIKELY TO LOOK FOR THESE PRODUCTS IN THE FUTURE. THEY COULD ALSO SEE THE MODERN DAY RELEVANCE OF OUR TOPIC ON THE EMPIRE.**

# WAS THE BRITISH EMPIRE A FORCE FOR GOOD OR FOR BAD?

DOBRY SUMMARISES THE ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST THE INFLUENCE OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

**The British Empire is a controversial topic. There were many negative aspects of the British Empire as well as many positive ones. In my opinion, the British Empire were ultimately a force for bad, mainly because they exploited other countries and oppressed them using violence to benefit themselves only. Although they did help their countries in some ways, I don't believe that they compensate for all the bad things about the Empire as they are much more severe. In the following paragraphs, I will outline the main negative and positive aspects of the British Empire to explain my opinion.**

The main disadvantage, as mentioned before, is that Britain exploited the other countries in the Empire in numerous ways. For example, in some countries like India, the British living abroad enslaved the native people and worked them to the bone in horrible conditions while they themselves enjoyed a relaxed, enjoyable and healthy lifestyle with luxuries such as having their slave bring their drinks to them while they basked in the sunshine. Furthermore, some slaves were sold and exported to the American continent. 3½ million African slaves had to go to America whether they wanted to or not and never got to see their family again. Of course, they were made to work in horrible conditions there like the other slaves.

However, this was not the only way in which the British exploited their empire. These countries were also economically exploited. One of the main reasons Britain wanted territory in countries all over the world was so they could import exotic raw materials such as silk, cotton, cocoa and spices and have more market to export manufactured goods. Unfortunately, only the British benefitted from this trade. This was because the British controlled the trade and transport within the Empire. They used this to their advantage and that is why today, countries like South Africa and India are so poor but Britain is so rich. An example of how the British economically exploited their Empire is that the British had to pay around 3% tax when exporting to India while India, on the other hand, had to pay a massive 10-30% tax when exporting to Britain. This is really unfair. If it hadn't been for the British Empire, some of these countries would be much more economically developed. Furthermore, the profits from this trade just went towards making the richest people in Britain even richer- none went to the poor who needed this money much more and because of this they remained poor through no fault of their own (no voting rights, no opportunity to education so boring, low-paid job). This shows that by trading with other countries, the rich upper classes' only interest was to make themselves as rich

as possible and they were willing to do so at the major expense of the British colonies.

## ALL OF THIS IS VERY SELFISH AND GREEDY.

Another way in which the British exploited their countries was through transportation. Transportation was a punishment given to criminals (British) who had committed a petty crime (could be as small as stealing a piece of bread). It involved offenders being transported in large numbers by ship to a faraway country, most of the time, Australia. If they survived the long and uncomfortable journey, they were put into work camps where they did heavy manual labour every day. This was really unfair, first of all, on those who had to be transported. Most of the people who had to suffer this punishment had committed a very small crime and very few had actually done something bad enough to deserve this punishment. They had to go to a faraway place, never to see their family again and doing hard menial labour all day for free. It was also unfair on the countries who had to receive the transportees. Instead of the British paying large amounts of money to keep their criminals captive, they simply dumped them in Australia and let them deal with them.

As you can imagine, the Australians weren't very happy about having a bunch of criminals dumped on their land as they had to pay for their accommodation (even if it was very poor) for lots and lots of British criminals.

Britain's exploitation of their colonies is made worse by the fact that they were ignorant towards the native cultures and forced the British way upon them, insistent that it was the best culture. Consequently, many diverse and interesting cultures disappeared such as the Aborigines of Australia. This is because the British took their land by force and over time as a result of this, 80% of their population was wiped out. Many aspects of the British culture were forced on the native colonies such as food, clothes and language. However, the most harmful, in my opinion was the religion. Religion was a key part of these cultures and their identities. Because of forcing Christianity on the people, many native cultures died out. Although some people might say that the spread of Christianity was a good thing because of the values it teaches, I disagree because it is not the only religion that encourages people to live life in a good way. It would've been much better for the natives if they had simply been allowed to worship freely.

Now, after all this detail on how badly the British treated their colonies, you might think, "Then why did these countries put up with it?" The answer to that question is that the British kept control of their empire using violent oppression. Often, if the natives refused to obey the British (for example, to give them their land), they were murdered violently without trial. In India, this job was done by the Indian soldiers serving under British command to enforce the British rule. Eventually, the Indians became fed up with the British rule and formed a large rebellion, the Indian Mutiny (Notice the use of the word "mutiny" which tries to play down how violent and desperate the British were to try and keep control) which was very violent and gruesome as many people lost their lives, and is one of the most infamous events in British history. After the Mutiny, the British agreed to compromise. The East India Company was abolished and the British had weaker control over India, however, it wasn't until 1947 that India gained complete independence. This shows just how desperate Britain was to keep control of India and the rest of their Empire for as long as possible.



## **“THE BRITISH EMPIRE IS A CONTROVERSIAL TOPIC. THERE WERE MANY NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE AS WELL AS MANY POSITIVE ONES”**

However, despite all this, the British weren't completely bad. They did help the countries in their empire become more developed in some ways. In my opinion, one of the best aspects of the British Empire is their introduction of the British law and democratic system which has made lasting improvements to the lives of the native people to this day. The British also improved the infrastructures of their colonies by building good roads, railway networks, sewage systems and bridges. These have helped improve the native's lives greatly as well. Another way in which the British made their Empire more developed is through introducing the British education system. Education is very important towards making a country more developed and civilised as it allows the people to get better, well paid jobs, and have a better life quality. The introduction of the British education system in these countries brings benefits to this day for that reason. Furthermore, the British also improved the quality of life for the natives by improving their health through bringing new medical advances to the colonies and building

wells which could supply the local people with lots of clean water. These two things have greatly helped the people of the former colonies to protect themselves from infection. Finally, although forcing the English language upon the native peoples was very damaging to their cultures, there is also a positive aspect of this as well. As I'm sure you're aware, English is a universal language because it is spoken in many different countries. This is partly due to the British Empire for spreading it. This allows lots of countries today to communicate with each other more easily because they have a common language.

Everything considered, I still believe that the British Empire was ultimately a force for bad, mainly because of their exploitation and violent oppression of their colonies, which has hindered some countries' development. Although they did leave a legacy of good I do not think it makes up for the negative impacts, some of which we can still see today.

BY Dobry A

# DOES GOD EXIST?

A PUPIL'S OPINION PIECE ON THE TOPIC OF RELIGION.

At the beginning of this course, I classed myself as an agnostic, because both sides have yet to prove their belief with solid evidence. Influence of my parents also drove me towards agnosticism. I hadn't really looked into the subject of God too deeply until now, although I did feel that agnosticism was right for me. I felt that God not existing was more probable than God's existence, therefore I classed myself as an agnostic.

## Three Arguments for the Existence of God

**Design Argument:** The Design Argument says that there is evidence in the world around us that the universe has been designed by a great intelligence called God. It says that it is impossible for our world to have begun by chance.

**First Cause Argument:** The First Cause Argument states that the universe must have a cause or creator, and that the cause/creator is God. It says that nothing would exist if someone or something hadn't made it; therefore theists believe that the universe must have been made by God.

**Religious Experience Argument:** The Religious Experience Argument says that the spiritual experiences of people explain the existence of God, because it's as if God has communicated with them in His own special way.

## Pros and Cons

**Design Argument:** This argument says that everything that is natural in our world gives us evidence that God exists and that God designed the beauty, pattern and order in our universe. The believers of this argument state that it would have been completely impossible for our world to have happened by chance, because apparently, everything natural in our world looks like it's been deliberately made as beautiful as it is. It is also known as the Teleological Argument.

**Argument Against It:** An argument against the Design Argument is the fact that there are many devastating natural disasters that kill hundreds of thousands of people each year. If God designed everything natural in our world, then He must have designed the world's natural disasters, such as: earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, tornados and typhoons, which may lead to us thinking that God didn't design the world very well, or maybe He didn't design the world at all! Also, many creatures on our planet have to kill and destroy in order to survive. Wouldn't God have designed our world so that no one would have to kill, slaughter or destroy one another in order to survive? Innocent creatures have to die because God 'designed the world' in such a way that another creature needs to kill that innocent creature in order to stay alive. Also, many different species of animals have become extinct because they couldn't adapt to changes in their habitat or climate, which means that God didn't design them very well either, because God wouldn't want innocent creatures to die for His mistakes, would He? There are many other aspects of nature that can disprove this argument, such as: old age, disability and disease.

Would God really have designed the world in a way that makes people suffer and go through pain every day because of something natural that happened to them?

**Own Opinion:** I disagree with the Design Argument, because for this argument to be true, God must have designed all of the natural disasters that kill so many innocent people on our planet, all the creatures that have to kill other poor, innocent creatures in order to survive, all of the poor animals that have gone extinct over the years because of God's 'designing errors', and all other aspects of nature that are most certainly not beautiful or helpful, but responsible for our pain and suffering. If God wanted to punish us for our sins by designing these things, many of the people and creatures that He kills with these 'mistakes' have not been a part of any type of sin! Many of them would be theists too! Therefore, I don't think that reason is good enough to prove the Design Argument. I don't think God would've made a mistake in the creation of the universe either, by designing all of these horrible things, if God is so perfect and can help us, save us, heal us and do anything for us, how could he have made such a crucial and fatal mistake?

## HOW COULD HE BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SO MANY DEATHS IF THEISTS SAY HE HAS SAVED SO MANY LIVES?

Personally, I don't believe in the Design Argument and I think that it is very possible for the world to have happened by chance. It seems the most logical and most probable option in this case.

## “WOULD GOD REALLY HAVE DESIGNED THE WORLD IN A WAY THAT MAKES PEOPLE SUFFER AND GO THROUGH PAIN EVERY DAY BECAUSE OF SOMETHING NATURAL THAT HAPPENED TO THEM?”

**First Cause Argument:** This argument says that there must have been a cause or some sort of creator that made our world. Theists say that things only move when someone or something has moved them, and our universe is constantly moving therefore there must be a God that started all of this movement. Theists also say that nothing would exist if somebody or something hadn't made it, therefore the universe must have been 'made' by something or someone eternal, someone with no beginning and no end and someone with great power. This of course, had to be God. Theists believe that God is all-powerful and that He can do absolutely everything. It is also known as the Cosmological Argument, because the cosmos is another name for the universe.

**Argument Against It:** An argument against the First Cause Argument is the idea that the universe had no beginning and that it had always existed. Also, many scientific discoveries can prove that things can come into existence or start moving by themselves and also, that atoms can appear out of nowhere without anyone or anything creating them. Scientists and atheists believe that the universe began with something called the Big Bang; where enormous amounts of matter flew out across space. The matter cooled down and formed the planets and stars we learn about today. These planets and stars began to move due to the forces of gravity. Some people think that the Big Bang is enough to prove the non-existence of God, whereas others think that we need to find out what caused the Big Bang in the first place.

**Own Opinion:** I disagree with the First Cause Argument, because I feel that it only contains beliefs and no proof, and in this case, each argument needs solid proof. Atheists argue that theists say that God did something when they don't actually know how that thing happened. I agree with this statement. I also agree with atheists when they say that religious people use God to explain things that they aren't able to understand. This falls into this argument. Theists are saying that God created the world, when really; they don't understand the beginning of our universe and don't actually know what happened. Personally, I believe that the Big Bang created our universe, and although I don't know if there was something that created the Big Bang or not, I feel that once again, it is the most probably option in this case.

**Religious Experience Argument:** This argument states that the spiritual and God-related experiences of some people prove the existence of God. Religious experiences are when God connects with a person and makes Him known to them in His own special way. People can have religious experiences in many different ways, such as: seeing bright lights and hearing 'heavenly' music. These experiences can come in many different formats, such as: visions, voices, conversions, meditation, feeling close to God, healings and answered prayers. Religious experiences can change lives immensely and can convince people that God exists. This argument may also include religious 'miracles' where someone has been miraculously cured of their illnesses or injuries. Alister Hardy, an English marine biologist, founded the Religious Experience Research Centre in 1969 where an archive of religious experiences is kept. Also, a city named Lourdes in France is a place of Roman Catholic Pilgrimage and 'miraculous healings'. People go to Lourdes hoping to have their illnesses or injuries cured. An archive of 69 healings that are counted as miracles is kept there.

**Argument Against It:** An argument against the Religious Experience Argument is the fact that very few religious experiences have been recorded, and those that have been recorded, such as the ones in the Religious Experience Research Centre, have only been witnessed by the person that had the experience, which is not enough to prove the existence of God. Also, out of the millions of people that flock to Lourdes each year to be cured, only 69 people have been 'miraculously cured'. Also, many of the people who claim to have been cured once they went to Lourdes, probably had some sort of illness or injury that would've healed overnight with no cure in the first place. The person who had the religious experience may have been dreaming, or having hallucinations. Religious people want God to exist, so they might think that they have experienced God, when it was just their imaginations.

**Own Opinion:** Once again, I disagree with this argument, because if only one person has witnessed their own religious experience, how would we know if they are telling the truth or not or if what they experienced was just a trick of the mind or a hallucination? You cannot prove that God exists from one person's own, special religious experience, because one witness can't prove anything in this case.

It is nowhere near enough evidence to prove the existence of God. Also, I feel that going to Lourdes to be 'cured' would be a complete waste of time; because there's a higher chance of you catching another illness off of someone else rather than being cured yourself. The probability for you to be miraculously cured in Lourdes is very low, considering the fact that out of the millions of hopeful people that go to Lourdes each year; only 69 people have been 'miraculously' cured throughout all of the years of Lourdes' existence as a pilgrimage.

### Conclusion

Personally, I think that the most convincing argument is the Religious Experience Argument, because out of all 3 arguments, this one gives the most proof, because if similar sounding religious experiences happen, that could lead to some evidence being gathered to prove the existence of God. Also, many people have actually had what they called, a religious experience, in real life; therefore it has real-life situations which is much easier to believe in. To me, the least convincing argument is the First Cause Argument, because there is hardly any evidence to prove this argument. It mainly consists of the beliefs of theists, and not how they prove it. It contains their thoughts and beliefs, but nothing to back these up. Now, as we're reaching the end of this essay and this block in RMPS, I would class myself as an atheist, and the same as Richard Dawkins: a 6 on his scale of 7, because no one can be completely sure, whether they're a theist or an atheist. I have become an atheist because all of these arguments hardly prove anything to me, and in all cases, the non-existence of God seems more logical and more probable to me. The only thing that could change my mind in the future is real, solid proof that is from a reliable and trustworthy source. Until then, I will stick with my own beliefs. However, as technology and peoples' minds are advancing enormously, I think and hope that sometime in the future, we will be able to prove the existence or non-existence of God, because I'm sure many people will be dying to finally know the answer to one of the world's most famous questions, like me!

BY Bahar G

# ECLIPSE REPORT

PUPILS SEE THE RARE OCCURRENCE OF A  
TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE.

**On Friday the 20th of March 2015, the first total solar eclipse to be visible in Northern Europe since that of the 11th of August 1999 took place. These are rare occurrences as the conditions necessary are very specific with the next one taking place on the 23rd September 2090.**

Total solar eclipses occur during a new moon when the Sun and the Moon are in conjunction with one another as seen from Earth resulting in the Moon's shadow being cast upon the surface of the Earth. However, the main cone of the shadow (called the umbra) is only just long enough for this to be achieved which results in totality being observed (when the disk of the Sun is completely obscured by the Moon). This shadow moves along a narrow track known as the path of totality. Only a partial eclipse of the Sun will be visible either side of this path.

On the 20th of March 2015, the path of totality moved between Iceland and the Outer Hebrides resulting in a significant partial solar eclipse being visible across the British Isles ranging from 85% in the south east of England to 97% in the far north and north west of Scotland. The whole event lasted well over 2 hours. In Aberdeen itself, 94% obscuration was observed with the whole event starting at 08:32:54 and ending at 10:46:06 with the maximum obscuration for the area being visible at 09:37:53.

To mark this event, the Physics Department decided to run a series of experiments with Upper 1 pupils. In addition, Upper 1 pupils took part in NEWEx – National Eclipse Weather Experiment through the collection and submission of data. NEWEx was a citizen science project run by the Department of Meteorology at the University of Reading which involved the collection

and submission of weather data by making observations of temperature, wind speed and direction and cloud cover during the solar eclipse. Pupils divided themselves into groups in order to record such observations for submission at a later date.

The weather was variable and it was uncertain as to whether or not this event would be fully visible but thankfully the cloud coverage reduced sufficiently just before first contact occurred.

The first experiment involved pupils either creating their own pinhole viewers (using 2 pieces of card with a small hole cut out of one) or making use of objects such as a colander and either the ground or a nearby wall to act as a pinhole viewer. Pinhole viewers allow solar eclipses to be viewed safely and easily through allowing light to pass through them creating an image of the solar eclipse on a screen. Pupils experienced limited success as the cloudy weather conditions surrounding the whole event did not allow a sharp enough image to be produced.

The second experiment involved using the department's latest acquisition in the form of sensing equipment and

software to monitor the changes in both temperature and light intensity.

The data collected for light intensity was not conclusive due to the cloudy weather conditions but the temperature data displayed a noticeable change from when the solar eclipse first began (first contact) to when it ended (fourth contact) as shown in the graph below.

Pupils were tasked with writing an article about the whole experience ranging from a narrative describing their experiences to incorporating the data obtained with a view to describing and explaining a scientific aspect of the whole event.

Such an occurrence allows the scientific concepts to come to life and to be viewed in their own light in the real world. It gives pupils the chance to gain first-hand experience of such momentous events within our universe and to gauge their significance by furthering and deepening their understanding of the world around them. The Upper 1 pupils really relished the experience of being a part of the event itself and for playing an active and instrumental role in contributing to the scientific community at large.



# BIOLOGY IN THE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

**This year has been a busy year in the Biology department with particular emphasis on outdoor learning.** The department took 17 Advanced Higher pupils on a 3 day excursion to Kindrogan Field Centre in October. This enables student to carry out practical work within a fantastic setting in rural Perthshire. The 3 day programme included various ecological sampling and surveying techniques of grassland and river ecosystems.



The excursion was a great opportunity for pupils and staff to build valuable bonds out with the classroom environment. One of the highlights of the trip was watching the pupils enjoy some respite whilst playing a game of man hunt (tag) in the dark wearing their head lamps. This caused much amusement to the staff and fellow residents at the centre as all were curious as to where all commotion, hilarity and flashing lights were coming from in such a rural location.

Upper 4 pupils visited Forvie National Nature Reserve to enable them to in to carry out sampling techniques which feature as part of the Ecosystems and Biodiversity unit. This included sampling plant life on the amazing dune landscapes that form one of the largest natural dune systems in the country. As these great waves of sand are constantly changing due to movement by the wind and tide it also allowed for a great discussion on the topic of succession.



The pupils were also able to enjoy one of Forvie's other special environments, the wide estuary of the river Ythan. At our second site pupils used sampling techniques to investigate the variety of invertebrates living on and in the mud flats. The difficult terrain underfoot caused a few slips and slides and was consequently a source of much hilarity to all pupils and staff. The mudflats may have looked barren and empty, but following a little bit of digging and sifting the pupils were surprised to find they are in fact full of a variety of shellfish and worms.

During the summer term the department also worked in collaboration with the Chemistry department to deliver a series of lessons to the Lower 5 classes. The lessons were developed in order to help the Lower 5 pupils gain a greater understanding of animal adaptations as part of their Extreme Survivors unit. This involved the Lower 5 pupils visiting the Upper School Science Department to carry out the Penguin Huddle experiment. This experiment enabled the pupils to investigate the efficiency of the penguin huddle, one of their many behavioural adaptations. This was an exciting experience for the Lower 5 pupils and allowed them to gain an insight into Biology in the Upper School. It also provided a great opportunity for staff to develop working relationships with the Lower school...And of course no penguin experiment would be complete without googly eyes and bright orange sticky beaks to accessorize our boiling tubes!

This year has seen some outstanding achievement In Biology, particularly from the Upper School pupils.

**ONE PUPIL IN PARTICULAR (SKYE ARNOTT) HAS BEEN AWARDED THE FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY TO CARRY OUT A NUFFIELD RESEARCH PLACEMENT.**

The Nuffield scheme is aimed Upper 5 students who will be sitting their Higher exams in 2015 and who are studying any Science, Technology, Engineering and/or Maths (STEM) subjects at this level.

As part of her commitment and interest in the subject, Skye will spend her summer break gaining valuable hands on experience working with the Macduff Marine Aquarium to complete a Nuffield Research project entitled "Can Jellyfish blooms be predicted". The department look forward to hearing about Skye's progress when she returns to undertake her Advanced Higher Biology in August.

# ANCIENT & MODERN LANGUAGES

LANGUAGES IN SCHOOL AND OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM.

## French Breakfast

**We had a French breakfast where we were served food in French to our parents. We served them tea, coffee, hot chocolate and pastries. We managed to have some too!**

First we welcomed our hungry parents and brought them down to the canteen. Our teacher Madame Joss welcomed us all to the breakfast event. We took our parents orders in French and went to the “cuisine” to fetch their orders and serve them.

Once our parents had finished their breakfast our class sang a song about French food which included some of the food we served them. At the end our parents gave us a huge round of applause and thanked us for the breakfast.

BY Grace R

## Latin Trip

**On 28th April a group of pupils from U2 visited an exhibition at the McManus Gallery in Dundee entitled Roman Empire: Power and People.** The exhibition was made up of Roman materials from the British Museum along with other items lent by museums in Scotland. There were lots of fascinating things to see, ranging from statues of Emperors to the humble grave-monuments of freed slaves. The objects came from all over the Roman Empire, from North Africa to Scotland. One of the most interesting aspects was seeing how many items we could find which had been used to illustrate our Latin textbook, such as a painting of a priest from a mummy case from Roman Egypt. In another room we saw an exhibition of items from modern times showing how artists had followed and adapted Classical models, not only in paintings and sculptures, but even advertisements and political cartoons.

In addition to seeing the exhibition, we were taken by the museum staff to the Collection store, where we got to see how items from the past are maintained and restored.

There were racks full of textiles, such as beautiful Edwardian ball-gowns and (not everyone’s favourite) a large selection of taxidermy! At the end of this part of the tour, we had the chance to handle some authentic Roman artefacts, including some terra-cotta lamps and fragments of pottery.

“My favourite part of the trip was when I got to make my own tombstone. I also liked handling all the different real-life artefacts from the Roman Empire.”

“My favourite part of the trip was when we went to the museum and got to touch the real-life artefacts from Rome. It taught us a lot about the artefacts we read about in our textbooks.”

“I enjoyed the exhibition of classical period themed art and sculptures. There were modern pieces alongside of more traditional pieces and prints.”

BY Dr Girdwood





**WE SERVED  
THEM TEA,  
COFFEE,  
HOT  
CHOCOLATE  
AND PASTRIES.  
WE MANAGED  
TO HAVE  
SOME TOO!**

# MUSIC SUMMARY

PUPILS WORKED HARD THIS YEAR AND PERFORMED AT MANY EVENTS SUCH AS ELPHINSTONE HALL AND DUTHIE PARK.

**The Music Department has had a busy and exciting year as always. At the beginning of the academic year a recording studio with industry standard equipment opened. Head Boy Hamish Leeson, played an integral part in ensuring that pupils were able to utilise the facility. The new studio has allowed pupils studying Music to work more effectively and to record their own compositions and podcasts. In the near future we will launch Albyn School Radio via podcast.**

In September, pupils hurriedly auditioned for parts in the forthcoming drama production *Oliver* and also that month the orchestra and various soloists and ensembles provided some of the entertainment at the ASPA Fun Day at Milltimber. Meanwhile all the vocal and instrumental groups were rehearsing hard for the Evening with War Concert which took place in October and was a sell-out show!

**A LOWER SCHOOL PARENT SAID “JUST A LITTLE NOTE TO SAY HOW FANTASTIC THE WAR CONCERT WAS. IT REALLY WAS EXHILARATING LISTENING TO IT! MY PARENTS DROVE ALL THE WAY UP FROM KIRRIEMUIR TO ATTEND AND WERE DELIGHTED WITH THE EVENING.”**

This was the first time that the newly formed Lower School Vocal Ensemble and saxophone and clarinet groups (Saxophony and Con Brio) had performed.

The pupils often perform in the community and this year was no different; firstly the Upper School Vocal Ensemble and Capriccio were asked to perform at Trinity Hall for a private function in November, joined by Saxophony and Con Brio. A few days later a small choir and Con Brio performed at the Former Pupils Cheese and Wine evening which took place in the Mackie Library.

The Lower School groups have also gone from strength to strength with their first Lower School Choir performance being at St Nicholas Kirk to an audience including the Lord Provost of Aberdeen. The event was to unveil the Nativity Scene which included Baby Jesus in his crib, Joseph, the three kings, an observer and a shepherd. Lord Provost George Adam said: “Christmas is the season of goodwill to all and a fun time for many children around the world. The blessing of the nativity scene is a reminder of why we celebrate this very special time of year. I hope that many people, especially children, will come and visit the scene over the festive period.”

The Lower School Choir and Ensemble and the RedRocers/LS Orchestra alongside several soloists took part in a very successful informal Christmas Assembly in the Hall. Additionally the L1-3 Classes performed three separate, highly entertaining and memorable Nativity plays in the Hall to a packed audience.

The Vocal Ensemble and Capriccio were called on again to perform at a Christmas Carol Concert which took place at Duthie Park’s Winter Gardens along with the Bon Accord Silver Band. This was a public event for families to come and watch as part of Aberdeen City Council’s Winter Festival.

On Sunday 7 December the Upper School Vocal Ensemble and Capriccio took part in a charity concert at Queen’s Cross Church along with Aberdeen Grammar Concert Band.

The evening raised £2500 for the charity Homestart. Homestart is the UK’s leading charity providing one to one support and friendship for families. The event organisers said “Thank you again for facilitating the appearance of both groups and for coaching them to such a high standard. As I am sure you could tell from the audience reaction they went down terrifically well.”

To end the year before Christmas break we had the annual Christmas Carol Service. This year’s service took place in St Mark’s Church which allowed us to bring together pupils from the Lower and Upper School for the first time in a number of years. All pupils in L4-7 joined with the Intermediate and US Choir to sing Vivaldi’s Gloria, Rutter’s Magnificat and finished with the beautiful Benedictus by Karl Jenkins, featuring Milly Kinghorn on cello. The orchestra provided accompaniment for all of these pieces as well as the congregational carols. We thank Rev Diane Hobson, current minister of St Mark’s Church, for welcoming us and allowing us to hold the School’s Carol Service at St Mark’s and also Mr Neil Meldrum for playing the organ alongside the orchestra. A retiring collection was donated to ‘Bethany Christian Trust.’

After Christmas break was over the pupils were into rehearsal for this year’s production of *Oliver!* Leo M has a little more to say about this overleaf.

One week after the very successful production of the *Oliver*, the US Choir, Ensemble, Intermediate Choir, Fidelis, Capriccio, Con Brio/ Saxophony performed at the Aberdeen Citadel as part of the Lunch break series. The following week saw a Charity concert at Elphinstone Hall featuring mainly the orchestra but also the Wind Band, Intermediate Choir and the LS and US Vocal Ensembles.



**THIS WAS A JOINT VENTURE WITH ST LEONARD'S SCHOOL AND THE BON ACCORD BRASS AND WAS AN EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL EVENING, RAISING £1500 FOR THE ALBYN FOUNDATION.**

Continuing with tradition the Lower School and Upper School Easter Services took place at the end of the spring term. The services took place at Queen's Cross Church and was led by Rev. Scott Rennie. The Upper School Choir and ensembles sang the Easter Passion accompanied by a small woodwind group. The Upper School service raised £475 for the charity PLAN International. The charity works to promote children's rights and lift millions out of poverty by focusing on the 8 areas of: Education, Health, Water and Sanitation, Protection, Economic Security, Emergencies, Child Participation and HIV.

Nearing the end of the school year it was time to try and choose the Musician of the Year and Shireff's Cup Winners. The event took place in the school hall and was judged by Sarah Neil, Gillian Jack and Pauline Black. The standard of entries was again very high this year. The Lower School Musician of the Year was awarded to Olivia Douglas who sang Dalmatian Cradle Song, the Upper School winner was Rachel Groves who played Nataliana on the Clarsach. The Shireff's Cup was awarded to Adam Auchie for playing Clair De Lune by Debussy on the piano.

Two other concerts that took place in June involving Albyn pupils were the Charity Concert at Mid-Stocket Church and a short recital for Former Pupils in the Centenary Hall.

As always the finale of the school year ended with the Closing Ceremonies for lower and upper school. The L1-3 Closing Ceremony featured both uplifting and tear-jerking songs from each year group while the L4-7 Closing Ceremony included songs ranging from *Ombra mai fu* by Handel to *The best Day of my Life*. The Upper School Closing Ceremony was held at the prestigious Music Hall and once again showed off the rich musical talent in the school. From the dramatic orchestral opening of Richard Strauss' *Also Sprach Zarathustra* to the delicate sounds of the Mozart Flute and Harp Concerto featuring Sophia Anderson and Rachel Groves as soloists, to the lively rendition of *One* by Fidelis and Van Halen's *Right Now* by the US Choir with guitar and drums accompaniment by Marc Smith, Callum McKnight and Matthew Nicol, there was something for almost everyone's taste.

CLASS  
UPPER

YEAR  
ALL

SUBJECT  
DRAMA

# OLIVER REPORT

72  
US





## DRAMA ALLOWS AN AUDIENCE TO TAKE PERSPECTIVE OF THEIR LIFE IN EXAGGERATIONS, AND CAN SUBTLY DRAW ATTENTION TO MISTAKES WE MAKE IN EVERYDAY LIFE.

More admirable human qualities are highlighted in works of tragedy, yet few forms of drama show this with more clarity than musical theatre. The choice of script for “Oliver!” also promised to make use of a much wider range of cast than the school’s previous production two years ago, varying in every aspect from this production of Oliver! Albyn has made use of a young cast to exaggerate the crimes of each villain in the musical, it was a welcome change that, most importantly of all, introduced more pupils to acting and theatre than a typical Shakespearian play ever could.

The quantity of scenes and the logistics of ferrying props (and sometimes actors) to and from the stage during the performance added some additional challenges to our task. The element of continued musical performance, not attempted for several years at the school, was demanding on crew and staff. This became more evident with so many actors, however the extra effort was clearly worth the work: Albyn now has a new host of future actors with both time on stage, and budding musical performance added to their skills repertoire. Considering also that the cast lost some valued members along the way to performance in February, we are all immensely proud of setting so high a benchmark for next year’s production.

I am particularly grateful to the dedicated crew members who committed hours to crucial roles away from the stage. It is difficult for some to give their efforts to a production in the knowledge that their faces may never be seen by the audience.

It is these members whom the audiences, cast, and producers owe so much, especially in such cases where the crew is made up entirely of volunteers.

I must also thank a resilient, patient, and co-operative cast. Theatre in schools can give performers an introduction to act into a new pursuit or career, and introduced me to an experience I would not have gained



otherwise. My memories of a final year at Albyn are now largely made of what I have learned in the drama department, and what knowledge I can use in future productions. My deepest and genuine thanks go to Mrs. Williams, Mr. Somerville, and to the entire troupe of “Oliver!”.

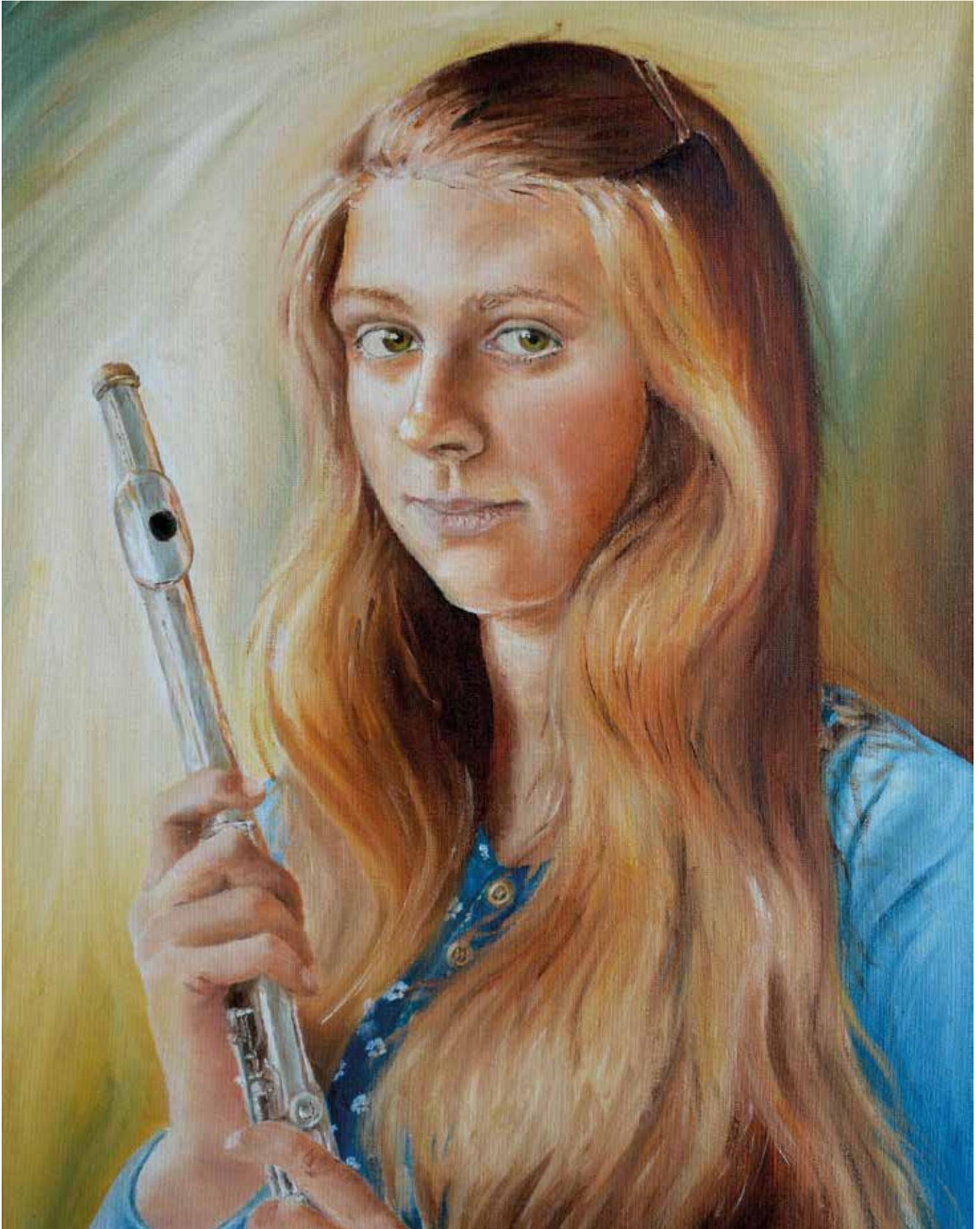
On listening to kind words from our audience, I am pleased to know that Oliver delivered exactly the message that was intended, and that the performance did justice to a classic British tale. 2016’s “The Tempest” is set to be a vastly different production which aims to become the highlight of the school year. If a performance’s success is measured on how an audience is impressed, the cast of “Tempest” have high standards to meet before claiming success in Albyn’s history books.

BY Leo M (U6)

# A SELECTION OF ART





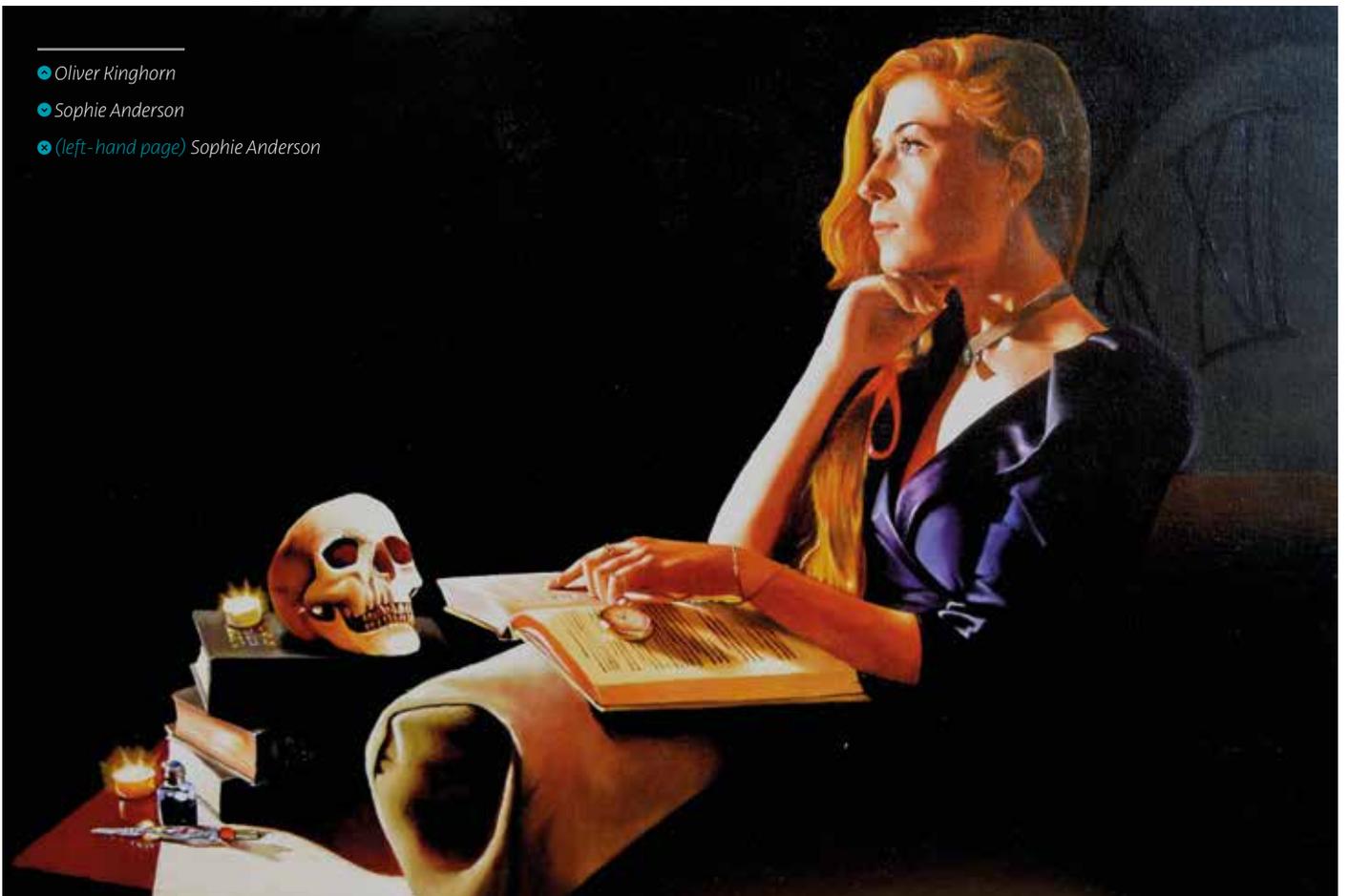




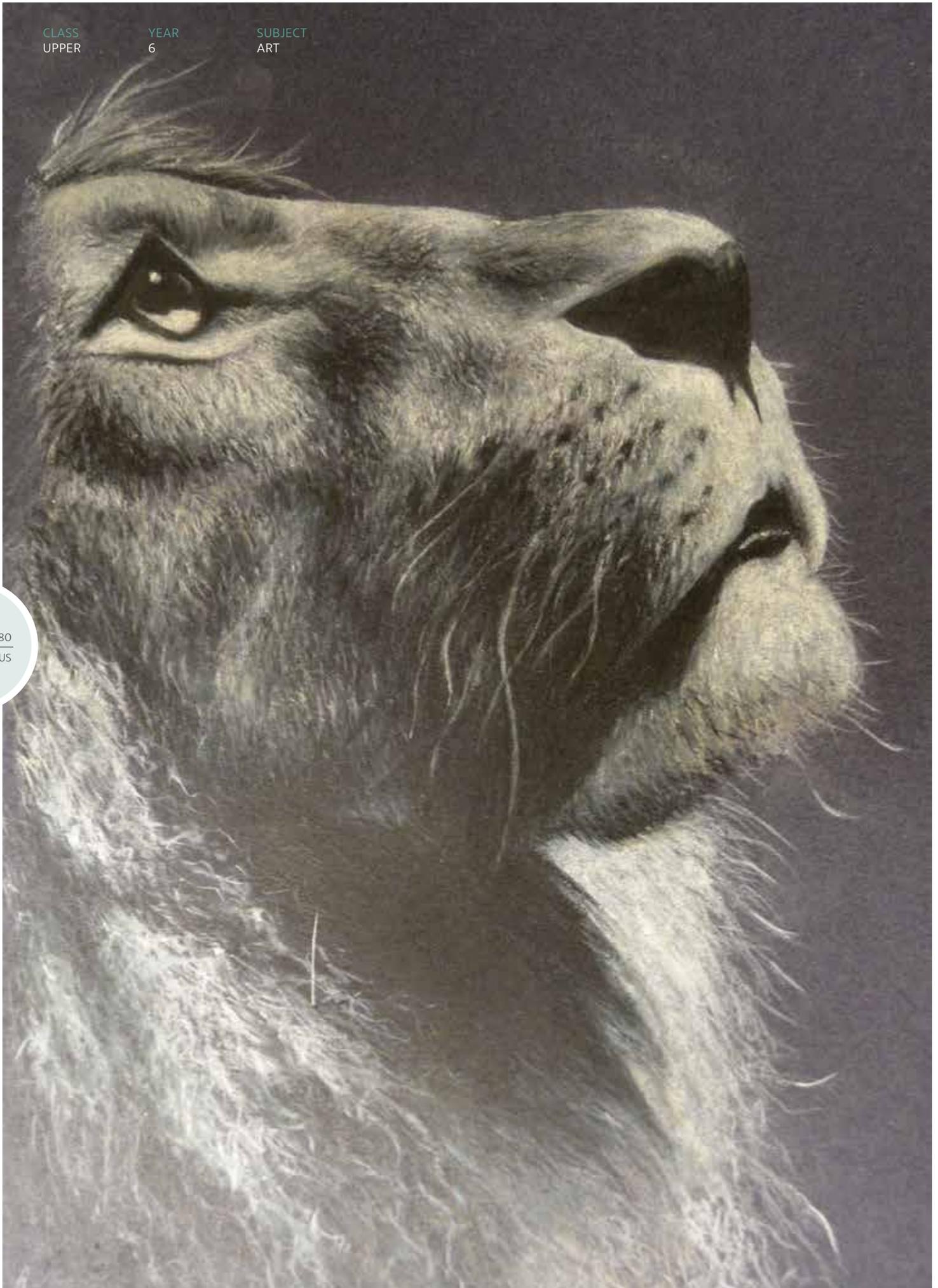
• Kathryn Fiddes  
• Beth Gilbert  
• (left-hand page) Rachel Groves







- Oliver Kinghorn
- Sophie Anderson
- ✕ (left-hand page) Sophie Anderson





- (top left) Rebecca Bews
- (top right) Rachel Groves
- Rebecca Bews
- (left-hand page) Alex Blasi

# TEAM REPORTS

## 2015

### Albyn U13's Football Team

As many of the boys in the team had already been in Lower 7 there was no need to have trials unlike last year. One of the coaches Walter Jardine would sadly become unavailable to help run the team, leaving Quentin Freeman to coach for the season, along with help from the P.E staff.

There were many high points in the season, these would include our Scottish Cup run, winning games in the league and becoming a much better team with us all working together to do our best.

The Scottish Cup run would last for three rounds, firstly in September we played Banchory Academy at Milltimber. The game was tight and tough as after normal and extra time the score would stay 0-0 which would lead us to a penalty shootout, unfortunately though we lost 4-2 on penalties. But! There was a bit of luck, we were told that Banchory were unable to play against the team in the next round {Northfield}. This meant we would play Northfield on 10 March, 2015.

At Northfield playing fields the game began and they scored a quick goal due to an error by myself but everyone's confidence was still high. We then scored three goals due to the help of Oscar Lecore and Bailey Yule. We defended really well to see out the game and we won 3-2 which gave us 3 points in the league and sent us through to the 3rd round of the Scottish Cup.

In our final round we would face St Ambrose School from Glasgow. We left school on Friday 20 March at 8:00am and arrived in Glasgow at 11:00am with a little look at the solar eclipse on our way down to enjoy. It was a very nice day for football with a full sun and a nice AstroTurf pitch to play on. The game kicked off and it was a tight until the referee pointed to the spot for a penalty. What he didn't see was that Finlay Jardine {Goalkeeper} had two hands on the ball. By half time they were 3-0 up but we were still thinking we could do well in the second half. The game remained close until the last 10 minutes. We began to tire and that's when they scored 6 goals. As the final whistle blew it signified the end of our cup run with a 9-0 defeat and we traveled back up to Aberdeen feeling a bit disappointed.

In the league we sit with four points in a comfortable position.

The only low points would be losing two key players Joe Taylor and Michael Watt due to injury and not being able to be in the top division in Aberdeen but onward and upwards for next season.

BY Murray A (U1)

### Albyn U15's Football Team

This season was going to be our last one as a team before some players would move up to the senior side and we wanted to make it a memorable one. We started off with an unlucky 2-0 defeat against one of the best teams in Aberdeen, Old Machar Academy. However this set up our season well with close games against Bucksburn Academy and Northfield Academy after our first game. Following in our footsteps from last year, we went on a cup run. This took us out to Fraserburgh Academy. Unfortunately, the narrow defeat ended our cup run. We played our best and on another day, the score could have been different. Since the turn of the year, the team has had some better results including a 0-0 draw against Dyce Academy, a team who had quite convincingly beat us earlier on in the season. However in our last game as a team, we managed to play our best team performance of the season, winning 4-3 in a game where we could have scored even more. All in all, we had a great season and a great three seasons as a team where we have all progressed to be better players and play better as team.

BY Euan M (U3)

• (left to right - top row) Scott Brooks, Callum McKnight, Aymen Benylles, Charlie Werb, James Shand, Mobolajo Ajayi, Rhys Brumfield, Christopher Cooper (front row) Josh Clarkson, Euan Watson, Alejandro Coghill, Clark Scott, Rory McGuckin, Etienne Dick, Tom Nash

### Albyn U18's Football Team

The Senior Football team have had yet another positive season. The season kicked off with a loss to a strong Cults side in the Scottish Cup but it was an encouraging performance from the whole team. For a second consecutive season we were involved in the Independent Schools League. We started with a 2-1 win against St Leonard's. Throughout the year, in this league, we won twice, drew twice and lost twice. However, this proved to not be enough and resulted in us narrowly missing out on qualification for the Quarter Finals by only a single point. Nonetheless, it was a fine season for us and we gave it our all but unfortunately it was not enough. The two draws could well have been two wins instead; we dominated both games but were unlucky to only collect two points instead of six.

In every game we competed well and had to dig deep at times collectively as a team. There were times when we had to call on some Upper 3 pupils to fill places in the team as Upper 4 pupils were on study leave with prelims over several games. These Upper 3 pupils fit straight in and with guidance on the more experienced players, stuck to their task and did an exceptional job for us, which we were all grateful for.

It turned out to be an excellent yet unfortunate season. The commitment of the team over the years has been second to none and it was much of the same this season. With the majority of the team being made up of Upper 6 pupils it will be a fresh start next year for the team.

BY Clark S (U6)





L3

• (left to right - top row) Andreas Jones, Benjamin Horne, Connor Hastings, Ben Park, Laurence Byrne, Philip Ogedengbe, Bailey Mackay (front row) Harry Lawson, Nathaniel Rennie, Andrew Ritchie, Ewan Michie, Alexander Arris



L4

• (left to right - top row) Thomas Pearce, Max Mason, Magnus Lawson, Daniel Thomson, Fin Bryce, Rhys Crawford, Aayaan Jeet (front row) Tliuwani Amusan, Rory Moir, Micah Pillai, Jake Blackwood, Samuel Cordiner



L5

• (left to right - top row) Lewis Carter, Llyod Sharp, Matthew Donaldson, Samuel Doherty, William Walker (front row) Yavi Pillai, Rory Littlewood, Ricardo Barrera Forsyth



L7

• (left to right - top row) Connor Kennedy, James Cavanagh, Oscar Forbes, William Bricknell, Harris MacDonald, Matthew Riddell, Matthew Dunhill (front row) James Arnell, Aaron Bedawi, Lewis Watt, Maurizio De Gennaro Sorrentino, Cameron Dawson



U2

• (left to right - top row) Alexander Kasparian, Shaan Singh, Alexander Anderson, Osemeke Mordi, Daniel Michie, Matthew Lynas (front row) Adam Walker, Joe Yule, Craig Murison, Oliver Nash, Reaton Bramwell, Andrew MacRae, Bobo Ivanov



U3

• (left to right - top row) Oliver Baillie, Viyom Varma, Miles Beeson, Mark Douglas, Conrad Forbes (middle row) Connor Hannick, Thomas Kinghorn, William Werb, Lloyd Alexander-Brown, Eniolubi Faley (front row) Oliver Nash, Elliot Cameron, Fin Pearson, Euan McKnight, Callum Bell, Sam Kelso, Jack Bentley

## Tennis at Albyn 2014-15

This year, the boys' tennis team have gone the furthest they have ever gone before when we reached the quarter finals of the Scottish Cup.

First we got a bye in the round of 128 then we played Aboyne Academy at our home surface, 'Westburn Tennis Centre' where we drew 3-3 in all the matches. Fin Pearson (U3) and I had to play one final championship tiebreak (up to 10 points) where we won 10-6. And so we advanced onto the next round of the Scottish Cup.

Once again we got a bye through the round of 64 so next we once again played at 'Westburn' against Forris Academy where we won 5-1. All of Albyn played excellent tennis and by now we were feeling more confident as a team.

By now Albyn boys tennis team had made it the furthest in this prestigious competition than we ever had before also in the upcoming round, we would travel to Glasgow.

We were now in the round of 16 (quarter finals) and we were unsure of what to expect because we had never played a team from Glasgow before.

Although we lost some matches, we are still developing and we will be even better next year!

BY Gabe K (U1)

**“ALTHOUGH WE LOST SOME MATCHES,  
WE ARE STILL DEVELOPING AND WE  
WILL BE EVEN BETTER NEXT YEAR!”**



⦿ (left to right - top row) Sophia Murray, Peter Eagles, Callum McKnight, Fin Pearson, Khushvita Singh, Gabe Kennedy (front row) Lucy Mugford, Annabel Brumfield, Rhys Brumfield, Aideen Coote, Milly Kinghorn

## Golf

This year the Links Cup was held in Ireland by one of the Irish schools called Colaiste Iosaef, Kilmallock. We saw the addition of 3 new Championship Links courses this year which included County Louth, Dooks and Tralee. There were 3 schools competing which were Colaiste Iosaef, Colaiste Chiarain and Albyn School.

On the first day, we played County Leith Golf Course in a four ball format in which Fintan McKenna (U6) and Elliot Cameron (U3) were paired together whilst Alistair Kinghorn (U3) and Harry Webster (U5) were paired together. It was tough playing on the first day as we had just crossed over on the ferry after an overnight stay. The weather was the best of the week with lots of sunshine, no rain and a very light breeze which provided a day of very enjoyable golf. At the end of the day, all schools were tied with 1 point each.

On the second day, we played Dooks Golf Course with the format also being four ball however the teams switched as Fintan McKenna (U6) was paired with Harry Webster (U5) and Alistair Kinghorn (U3) was paired with Elliot Cameron (U3).

Both teams proved to be successful bringing in two of the two points which was up for grabs for each team. This put Albyn in the lead with 3 points. They were closely followed by Colaiste Iosaef at 2 points and Colaiste Chiarain behind with 1 point. The weather on the second day proved to be tougher as the winds were slightly higher and the sun did not appear as much. However the day was still very bright and everyone enjoyed the course.

On the final day, we played in singles which gave each team a chance of 4 points. For the deciding day we played Tralee Golf Course, arguably the most impressive course of the bunch. Unfortunately, the weather was nothing like the other days with the winds picking up significantly and the clouds covering the sun for the majority of the day. However the course was fantastic and everyone enjoyed it regardless. At the end of the day all the scores were counted and Albyn proved victorious for the third consecutive year on a score of 5 ½ which allowed us to edge out Colaiste Iosaef on 4 ½ and Colaiste Chiarain who finished on 2 points.

I would like to thank all the other schools for competing in this competition and also the pupils for allowing us to stay in their homes.

The staff and pupils made us feel welcome and made our stay very enjoyable. I would also like to thank all the staff and other members involved in organising this competition. I hope that this competition will be played for many years to come and will continue to help create links between Irish and Scottish schools.

BY Alistair K (U3)

⦿ (left to right) Matthew Lynas, Harry Webster, Fintan McKenna, Alistair Kinghorn, Elliot Cameron



## U2 Netball

At the beginning of U2 a new coach was introduced to us, Miss Singleton. Every year U2 take part in the Scottish Cup Netball and this year we won some of our games and qualified for the Gold League. We travelled to Edinburgh to play against Craigmount and we won 28-14 which meant we qualified for the quarter finals. Although we unfortunately lost to Peebles we were still proud of a top eight finish in Scotland!

BY Rebecca M (U2)



● (left to right - top row) Lyndsay Caldwell, Lily Meldrum, Stephanie Williams, Sarah Henderson, Zoe Durringer, Natalia Mudkavi (front row) Amy Innes, Camille Denniel, Grace Donaldson, Jessica Carns, Martha Sheal



● (left to right - top row) Lauren Robbie, Amy walker, Fadia Bedawi, Fiona Carnegie, Bahar Ganjvar, Lucy Mugford (front row) Keeva Riddle, Lara Mudkavi, Emmy Collins, Tessa Yau, Kirsty Cooper



● (left to right - top row) Gemma Lane, Eve Littlewood, Charlotte Crawford, Abigail Byrne, Jo Littlewood, Becky Kemp (front row) Erin Sharp, Becca Milne, Ella Murray, Rachel Buchan, Alex Shaw



● (left to right - top row) Inga Lawson, Mhairi Brooker, Eilidh McKenna, Olivia Juett, Emma Holroyd (front row) Ellie Rintoul, Grace McRory, Hannah McMahon, Emily Watson, Orla Prentice



● (left to right - top row) Elizabeth Bell, Chloe Purdie, Shona Ironside, Sophie Milne, Holly Reid, Alana Wilson (front row) Annabel Brumfield, Olivia Lawrence, Catherine Halliday, Zoe Clark, Nicola Pacitti, Kirsty Halliday, Freya Murray



● (left to right - top row) Milly Kinghorn, Orla Coote, Susan Heywood, Lydia Newman (front row) Gwen Newman, Aideen Coote, Holly Clayton-Littler, Catherine MacEwan, Anna Dixon

## U2 Hockey

Our training sessions took place on a Monday evening and Saturday morning this year. Many girls participated in hockey sessions throughout the year and we always had a full team including subs. All team members showed great dedication to training with our coaches, Sandy and Mrs Tinto. Unfortunately we played fewer matches this year due to weather, but despite this we still achieved some good results. At the end of the season we took part in the U2 tournament with Aberdeen Grammar, Robert Gordons College and St Margaret's. Ella White was awarded "Most Improved Player" and Erin Sharp achieved "Player of the Year". It has been a successful season for U2 hockey and hopefully we will get more matches next season!

BY Rachel B (U2)

## U3 Hockey

The U3 hockey team have had another very exciting year. At times, the weather has forced some of our matches and training sessions to be postponed. During the season we have played friendly matches against local schools such as Robert Gordons, St Margaret's, Lathallan and Gordonstoun. We have had many victories out of these matches but in each we have taken away constructive criticism from teammates and coaches, continually improving our game play for the next match. Whether we won or lost, the whole team played exceptionally well and we all worked hard and to the best of our ability. At the end of the hockey season for 2015 we participated in the U3 tournament at Countesswells competing against Robert Gordons, St Margaret's and Aberdeen Grammar. Throughout the year our confidence and ability has improved as a team and as individuals and I could not ask to be part of a more motivated team. Emma Holroyd was awarded "Most Improved Player" and Eilidh McKenna achieved "Player of the Year". We are all looking forward to our season as seniors next year!

BY Hannah M (U3)

## Senior Hockey

Senior hockey has had a huge uptake this year, with enough players from Upper 4-6 to have both a 1st and a 2nd XI team. Both teams have played matches against local Aberdeen teams, as well as Dundee High and Gordonstoun. Although many nail-biting and exciting matches have been played, the cold weather this winter resulted in a few cancellations. The Christmas Festival, however, took place despite the frozen pitches and allowed many of the senior players to showcase their fancy dress costumes. The great commitment of the squad has meant that a full team is always available to play on Saturday mornings bright and early!

There are many good players throughout the senior squad. Milly Kinghorn in Upper 4 was selected to represent the North District in the Under 16's squad. She is also a member of the North District Performance Squad, as well as Chloe Purdie, Sophie Lawson and Niamh Duthie. Many of the senior players also play for clubs in Aberdeen such as Merlin's Gordonians and Granite City, which is a huge benefit for the team and individual players.

Overall this season has been extremely enjoyable, and the increase in players and training intensity will only lead to Albyn's hockey team going further and further.

**THANKS TO OUR COACHES MISS KNOX AND SANDY FOR ALL THE HELP THIS YEAR, AND TO ALL THE PARENTS WHO WATCHED AND SUPPORTED IN THE COLD!**

BY Gwen N (U6)

♥ (left to right - top row) Holly Moir, Zoe Durringer, Grace Donaldson, Stephanie Williams, Jennifer McClung, Sarah Henderson, Milly Yule, Martha Sheal (front row) Lyndsay Caldwell, Natalia Mudkavi, Jessica Carns, Lorán Mann, Camille Denniel, Andree Mpah, Amy Innes



## U1



• (left to right - top row) Kirsty Cooper, Lydia Aufferman, Fadia Bedawi, Rebecca Hardy, Amy Walker, Emmy Collins (front row) Lauren Robertson, Keeva Riddle, Lara Mudkavi, Anna Bentley, Charlie Hamilton, Lucy Mugford, Emily Jamieson

## U2



• (left to right - top row) Abigail Byrne, Ella Murray, Laura Gow, Ella Whyte, Phoebe Nuttall, Charlotte Crawford, Zoe Walker, Caitlin Trueman, Gemma Lane (front row) Becky Shaw, Hirushi Dissanayake, Rachel Buchan, Erin Sharp, Becca Milne, Jo Littlewood, Liz Barrera Forsyth

## U3



• (left to right - top row) Olivia Juett, Alia Bedawi, Toni Cole, Eilidh McKenna, Laura Tavendale (mid row) Anna Ferguson, Hannah McMahon, Mhairi Brooker, Jennifer Milne, Jodie Lawson (front row) Ellie Rintoul, Grace McRory, Inga Lawson, Anna McKeever, Emma Holroyd, Emma Williamson, Orla Prentice

## SENIOR



• (left to right - top row) Chloe Purdie, Caitin Cole, Siobhan Woolley, Shona Ironside, Ellie Nuttall, Laura Cameron, Sophie Milne, Ellie Mayo (mid row) Sophie Lawson, Niamh Duthie, Milly Kinghorn, India Robson, Eilidh Webster, Lydia Newman, Catherine Buchan, Heather Bruce (front row) Emily Sutherland, Annabel Brumfield, Abigail Walters, Holly Clayton-Littler, Ruby Leeson, Gwen Newman, Joanna Bremner, Laila Bedawi, Zoe Clark (sitting) Catherine Scott, Ailsa Duthie



### Swimming Gala Winner

Some of this year's winners from our annual Clan event which took place in March.

• (left to right - top row) Catherine McFarlane, Miles Beeson, Finlay Douglas, Imogen Bews, Modupe Goke-Dabiri, Eilidh Duthie (front row) Matthew Riddle, Toni Shaw, Daniel Smith

## ATHLETICS



● (left to right - top row) Melody Ama, Hamish Leeson, Mark Douglas, Thomas Kinghorn, Alia Bedawi (front row) Milly Kinghorn, Alejandro Coghil, Tom Nash, Thomas Roulson, Dobry Atanassov, Ailsa Duthie (mid row) Rebecca Milne, Hannah McMahon, Oliver Nash, Ella Murray, Lewis Watt, Grace McRory, Jessica Davies

### Athletics

The first event of the year took place at Lathallan School Highland Games in September where our L4 and L5 teams won their age events. By October the Cross Country season was now in full flow. 30 L6 and L7 pupils competed at Grangemouth on Saturday 25 October 2014 and our highest placed team finished fifth out of 60 competing teams. Among our U11 boys - Lewis Watt, Kai Crawford and Finlay Cooper, finished first in the Scottish League in Stirling on 18 October 2014. They also finished first at Balgownie in the U11 XC series. 25 US pupils travelled to compete at Falkirk Saturday 8 November where solid performances were achieved by all.

The PE Department organised and hosted the annual Albyn & RGU invitational Cross Country event at Balgownie. Over 1700 pupils took part from 44 primary schools and 28 secondary schools. Our teams were more successful than any other school with three 1st place and three 2nd place finishes.

Albyn also won five individual medals and had 19 top 10 finishes in races of up to 170 competitors.

L6 & L7 finished runner's up in North East of Scotland Sportshall Athletics finals on Monday 23 February. The U1 & U2 Heptathlon team finished second in the North of Scotland finals after winning their regional heat on 3 March. At the Scottish Schools Biathlon Championships on 1 March, Albyn's pupils achieved a first place in U10 boys' division, a first place in U11 girls' division, a second place in the U14's girls' race and a first.

### Skiing

Skiing has grown in strength since being introduced into the PE curriculum. Pupils have had practice sessions at Aberdeen Snowsports Centre to develop their skills and prepare for competitions such as the Independent Schools Championship which pupils competed at in December. Our team who were all U15 achieved 8th place in the Giant Slalom competition with Oliver Baillie being the best placed individual coming in sixth place. The Scottish School

Championships took place in March and Sarah Henderson finished 2nd in the Primary Skiing Competition at Ben Nevis.

### Rowing

Rowing has proved to be very popular this year with over 35 pupils taking part in the programme who all train 3 to 4 times per week.

**THE PUPIL'S HARD WORK PAID OFF WHEN THEY COMPLETED AT THE SCOTTISH SCHOOLS INDOOR ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN NOVEMBER AND WON GOLD.**

Our U4 team consisted of Euan Gregory, Thomas Roulson, Fiona Emslie and Rhona Wallace. Alexander Beeson won Bronze in the U3 individual category whilst Thomas and Euan both came 4th in the U3 and U4 individual categories.

## SKIING



• (left to right - top row) Elliot Cameron, Rebecca Hardy, Fin Pearson, Eilidh McKenna, Sophie Ross, Catriona Brooker, Sam Kelso (front row) Sarah Henderson, Milly Pearson, Symone Strath, Oliver Baillie, Milli Yule, Erin Sharp, Keeva Riddle (sitting) Sam McKenzie, Eden Greig

## ROWING



• (left to right - top row) Uche Mordi, Ewan Harold, Thomas Roulson, Morgan Smith, Rhona Wallace, Molly Taylor, Jo Taylor (mid row) Sam McKenzie, Eden Greig, Pratik Digavadekar, James Lawson, Robbie Gregory, Oliver Waterhouse, Matthew McLulich, Zane Shah (front row) Sarah McGuckin, Zany Milner, Fiona Emslie, Jill Beard, Euan Gregory, Olivia Lawrence, Emma Smith.



# SPORTS DAY!

# CHAMPIONS!

## WELL DONE CLAN DOUGLAS



• (left to right - top row) Megan Bramwell, Ruby Leeson, Hamish Leeson, Findlay Douglas, Milly Kinghorn (mid row) Mr McCulloch, Bahar Ganjvar, Russell Anderson (front row) Joyce Chong, Baptiste Armengol, Anna Bentley, Eden Greig, Jack Bentley, Eniolubi Faleye, Keaton Bramwell, Alexander Kasparian, Sean Doherty

### Sports Day

Albyn School had yet another successful sports day on Saturday 20 June. With a total of 16 school records broken this year, the pupils have proved that they are going from strength to strength and show no sign of slowing down!

With the weather on our side, the day started off with an air of excitement and friendly competition!

Upper School pupils had the chance to take part in different activities including, 100m, 200m, 800m, hurdles, shot putt, long jump, and the high jump. The Lower School pupils took part in the 60m sprint, the egg and spoon and 2 in a hoop races, over and under and over the head throw. All the pupils seemed to really enjoy themselves and all did very well!

We were lucky to have Russell Anderson, the departing Aberdeen Football Club Captain to hand out our prizes and trophies. Mr Anderson, who has made 300 appearances and has played for Scotland 11 times, retired from the position of Aberdeen Captain in May 2015.

The PE department would like to thank all the parents who came along to support their children on sports day and for the staff who helped out.

BY Miss Milne



# THE LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETY

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF OUR  
ENGAGING DEBATING TEAM.

## The Literary and Debating Society: Inspiring Confidence

**With the relaunch of the Literary and Debating Society this year there has been an upsurge in interest in debating within the school, with over twenty new members joining from across the year groups.**

The year began with a workshop from the Speakers' Trust. The aim of the workshop was to equip pupils with confidence, skill and purpose so that they can motivate and inspire others in the way they speak. Places were quickly filled up on the workshop, and pupils enjoyed the opportunity to learn how to engage people and form convincing arguments. This was also the training ground for the inaugural Clan Public Speaking competition, which took place in early December. It was judged by our capitals on Vice-Chair of Governors, Peter Murray. 8 pupils volunteered to represent their clans to deliver a short speech that persuaded the audience about a message that was important to the speaker, and made them believe in their message. Freya Giles from Stuart won the Junior competition in a moving speech about the media and charities. Freya used her personal story to draw attention to the imbalance of media coverage with regards to charities. Euan Gregory from Gordon won the senior category discussing four important topics which have a serious impact on one significant feature in Euan's life... pizza! Euan provided a thoughtful insight into the carbon footprint of wheat to make flour, genetically modified produce such as

tomatoes and Fairtrade produce which not only affects tea and coffee but also cheese.

Hot on the heels of public speaking in the Autumn came training from the English Speaking Union (ESU) in February providing an introduction to debating and its procedures for our many new members. Younger pupils and those new to debating were acquainted with the techniques and skills required to capture an audience's attention and the format and structure of British Parliamentary Debating. While some of the more experienced debaters spent time with ESU coaches honing their argument writing technique and developing the expertise required to effectively bring their opponents' arguments crashing to the ground. The day concluded with a very animated and engaging miniature debate on the topic of social media.

On Saturday 28th March Albyn hosted the Aberdeen heat of the ESU's public speaking competition, with a strong performance by Sean Doherty in the junior category and a winning performance from Katie Brimmer in the senior category. Judges thought that Katie's speech, which considered the statement "Charity Begins at Home", was well-crafted, persuasive and humorous. The ESU Final was on 11th June at Fettes College in Edinburgh. Katie gave another excellent speech, about whether Big Brother is watching us, concluding that she doesn't know about whether the state is watching her but modern technology has certainly allowed her parents to snoop on what she is doing.

The semi-finals of the Burnside Cup combined with the Clan Debate took place on 11th June. Two teams, comprised of U1-U3 pupils, from each of the four clans debated the motion of the day: "This house would ban private schools". Both sides raised several complex and well-constructed arguments ranging from the inequality resulting from private schools to the benefits of the bursaries they provide to assist less well off families. However, despite the many intellectual points raised by all teams there had to be a winner. The winners of the first semi-final were Robbie Gregory and Jessica Davies, representing clan Gordon and in the second semi-final Gordon had further winning success, with its team of Stephanie Walker and Alexandra Eagles. These two teams will compete for the places of first and second in the final while the runners up – Ben Cooper and Freya Giles for Stuart, and Sean Doherty and Oisin Lyons for Douglas – will compete for third and fourth. They will debate the topical motion: "This house would remove the UK from the European Union."

The talent on display during these debates was far above the standard we hoped for at the beginning of this year and we anticipate a dynamic and fierce debate in the final.

The society has benefitted greatly from the new Wood Theatre, where our meetings and competitions are now held. So with new competitions to enter, and a new wave of debaters and speakers coming through, and a whole literary element still to foster and grow, the society will no doubt continue to flourish.

BY Euan G (U4)

**Katie's speech won the Aberdeen heat of the English Speaking Union Scotland Public Speaking Competition.**

## Charity Begins at Home

### Strachan, Banchory, Aberdeen, Scotland?

So which one do I call home? My village, my town, my country?

Let's take my city, Aberdeen. Aberdeen is the oil Capital of Europe, a wealthy area.

Let's just pause for a moment to picture what's outside this building... a few range Rovers, Bentleys, porches, BMWs? I bet they all have private number plates too!

Let's do an exercise: hold out your arms, what do we see? Men, Rolex? Ladies, diamond rings? Golden bracelets? How does that make you feel? How does that make you feel when we think about children with empty tummies without the basic medicines to let them live? My point is, most of us here are quite privileged, a walk around the city allows us to see those who are not as fortunate as ourselves. Or to watch the news on TV to see people starving the world over.

This raises the question, does charity begin at home with these people on our doorstep? And where does it end? Is it the people starving in Africa? Maybe we should think about that when we check the time on our Rolex watches. Last night after school I was walking to catch my bus. I had a bit of time to spare. I was going to go into Starbucks, I was going to buy my favourite, frothy cappuccino with a caramel shot. Just as I got to the shop, I saw this lady sitting on the footpath, she had only one leg. And she was holding out a small bowl begging. I gave her the two pounds, the way she thanked me, you would have thought it was a million. I felt I had done something, but it was not enough. I didn't have the courage to look back.

How many of you here can deny that you have walked down the street, seen someone selling the Big Issue and pretended you were on the phone or crossed the street to avoid them? I've done it, I bet money you have done it. But does it make any of us feel good?

In the UK 14% of our population exist below the poverty line. In Chad it is 80%.

It is such an uneven world. Do we have a duty to do something about it? Not to make us feel better like my Starbucks story, but because we really should.

Last Sunday at church, I spoke to my minister and I asked her, "Where does charity begin?" She took a moment; I think she was actually getting over the fact I was at church! Then she said to me "Well Katie charity is the important thing, not where it begins." She made me think. And I wondered what do I do for charity, could I do more?

Last night I was in Tesco and I watched a lady put an Easter egg in the trolley for the disadvantaged children. And I wondered does that gesture buy her piece of mind? Is it enough? Many religions give a large part of their income to charity, should more of us? What's most important? A food bank in Banchory? Homeless shelter in Aberdeen? Or money to help the Ebola victims in Africa? It's impossible to choose isn't it? They're all important. And they all need our help. Perhaps it doesn't matter where charity starts, just that it happens.

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**HERE WE ARE TODAY, WE ARE ALL QUITE PRIVILEGED – THANKFULLY. SO TONIGHT WHEN YOU DRIVE OFF IN YOUR RANGE ROVER, ENJOY YOUR MEAL, WASHED DOWN WITH EXPENSIVE WINE, AND PUT THE TIME FORWARD ON YOUR ROLEX, SPARE A THOUGHT FOR ALL THOSE PEOPLE WHO YOU COULD DO A LITTLE MORE FOR AND REMEMBER WHAT THE MINISTER SAID. CHARITY IS THE IMPORTANT THING, NOT WHERE IT BEGINS.**

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BY Katie B (U4)



# DUKE OF EDINBURGH



**It has been another incredibly successful year for all those involved in DofE with 50 Bronze Awards, 40 Silver Awards and 22 Gold Awards being completed.**

At all levels it is great to see the wide variety of volunteering undertaken. Age can be limiting in what can be offered, so at Bronze level it is good to see so many support local charity shops and youth groups as both are so heavily dependent on volunteers, and as they move to Silver and Gold they either maintain these vital roles or some look to more different opportunities such as working with community transport, working with a Saturday club for those with severe learning difficulties, and being a member of Aberdeen City Youth Council.

Skills and Physical sections show just how wide a variety of talent we have at Albyn, and it is particularly pleasing to see some take on new challenges for DofE.

Expeditions sections generally thrill (provided the weather is kind). Last year saw 11 Gold do part of the Tour de Mont Blanc from Chamonix while 11 went to Rannoch Moor. From the presentations made, both were spectacular!

## **“50 BRONZE AWARDS, 40 SILVER AWARDS AND 22 GOLD AWARDS BEING COMPLETED.”**

Mrs Arthur who has led DofE bows out at Holyrood where she received her award for her years of service from the Duke of Edinburgh.

### **Comments from Pupils:**

On Friday the holiday club went to Huntly castle. The children found it fun to run around and play in. I was "locked" up several time during the visit. After we went to the castle play park which the children loved...I think they were more excited for the park than the castle. Again it was a fun day out for the children and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

In tap we are doing Australian tap as a world famous tap champion from Australia is coming to the AAPA dance studio soon and we are learning the routines that he made up...its complicated!

On Halloween I organised a Halloween party for the junior section so they could dress up, have a competition of best dressed, dunk for apples and eat lots of sweets. I gave them prizes of a goody bag if they won any of the competitions such as musical statues and duck duck goose.

I was looking forward to volunteering this week just as it was a nice break from revision and was an excuse to get out of the house! I am really enjoying volunteering for Befriend A Child as I am having fun whilst I am there - it is never boring and every job I get assigned to do is never boring which is something which I never thought I would ever say! This week, I was on the till as the shop was very busy since it was a Saturday morning!

This week I managed to do 5km on the cross trainer in 25 mins and 7.5 km on the bikes in 16mins!

I had a treat today: after our break Laurie and I went into the hot storage that occupies the largest part of AFRC to see a jet engine rotary blade be removed from it's forge. The SPF machine that heated the alloy to the required temperature was huge, the height of the warehouse! Another technician said that Rolls Royce themselves, who requested the blade I describe, didn't use forges the size of this one. The only machines of that size that he knew of are in Singapore, but I already knew that from all the advertisements in Changi airport and university websites.



**MRS ARTHUR BOWS OUT AT HOLYROOD ON 15 JULY WHERE SHE RECEIVED RECOGNITION FROM THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH**



**DOFE GOLD PUPILS**

The company **Roots** developed wooden coasters and decorative hangers from tree branches. **Candy Co.** developed branded confectionery. **Against the Grain** created home decor photographs printed on wood. The **Pine Cone Co** made a range of pine cone crafts while **Afternoon Tea** is selling candles set in vintage tea cups and cakes of soap.

Teams sold items in the Bon Accord Shopping Centre, Aberdeenshire Trade Fayre at the Trinity Church in Westhill and at our ASPA Christmas Fayre in December. The companies were fortunate to receive funding from some local businesses.

Against the Grain and Roots were selected as 2 of the S6 teams for the Grampian Final on Tuesday 21 April 2015 at the Ardoe House Hotel. This achievement was all the more impressive in light of the 37 registered Young Enterprise companies competing.

The outcome of the final was that Against the Grain won the Best Trade Stand award. Managing director, Claire Leishman, was delighted with the team's success which included Rachel Milne, Amy Young, Kathryn Fiddes, Esme Lumsden, Jennifer Newby, Jamie Chick, Aymen Benylles, Matthew Nicol, Daniel Depasquale and David McIvor. The Roots Young Enterprise team also competed in the final. Skye Arnott, Managing director, led a very talented team who have developed considerable practical skills in woodworking as well as business skills. Their presentation was confidently delivered and Alex Rayner was dressed as a very likeable Red Squirrel to emphasise their commitment to education about forestry.

• (left to right) Lydia Newman, Megan Bramwell, Anna Dixon, Eilidh Duthie, Joyce Chong, Jasper Gilmore, Molly Jardine, Alex Rainer



• (left to right) Aymen Benylles, Rachel Milne, David McIvor, Claire Leishman, Daniel Depasquale, Amy Young, Matthew Nicol, Esme Fowler, Kathryn Fiddes

**BEST  
TRADE  
STAND  
AWARD**

# YOUNG ENTERPRISE

PUPILS TAKING PART IN THIS YEAR'S YOUNG ENTERPRISE BEGAN THE YEAR BY DEVELOPING AND PRODUCING THEIR CHOSEN PRODUCTS.

# FAIRTRADE AT ALBYN

IT HAS BEEN A BUSY AND HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR OUR PUPILS AND STAFF INVOLVED IN FAIR TRADE CLUB WITH 30 PUPILS INVOLVED THIS YEAR BETWEEN UPPER 1 AND 6.

## FairActive Status

Albyn School's Fair Trade Club, led by Mrs Findlay, and was recognised for their dedication and hard work recently having achieved Fair Active status. This award is the second highest Fair Trade Schools Award and has meant that the Fair Trade Club have been very busy raising awareness of Fair Trade issues in the school community and raising funds for a huge variety of causes. The Club encouraged others to buy ethical and Fair Trade products including advent calendars, Easter eggs and ethically sourced t-shirts (featuring a logo designed by Claire Beard in Lower 6) from their Fairtrade stall. Across the school year, the Fair Trade Club sold £1193.39 worth of ethical goods from Traidcraft including at the Lower School Mad Hatter's Picnic and at South Holburn Church. The Fair Trade Club has helped support a variety of different causes including planting 15 Olive Trees as part of Zaytoun's Trees For Life Project which will continue to provide an income for many farmers living in horrendous conditions for years to come as well as donations of £346.27 to Traidcraft, Comfort Rwanda and Cambodia Action.

The Fair Trade Club also invited in a host of enlightening speakers from causes they helped support including those from the Keep Hope Alive Olive Tree Project and staff from 'Aberdeen for a Fairer World' as part of Fair Trade Fortnight.

## Stevenson Prize

In April we learned that the Albyn School Fair Trade Club won the Church of Scotland Stevenson Prize for "Best Secondary School Assembly 2015" for their assembly on Fair Trade in March. Fifteen pupils and three members of staff were delighted to attend the Church of Scotland Annual Assembly on 19 June 2015 where they were presented with a prize of £500 and the trophy for this year which was awarded for excellence within the fields of Religious Observance and Religious Education. The Annual Assembly and prize giving was streamed live online with local MSPs also attending so that they could report it in the Scottish Parliament.

**OUR PUPILS WON THE PRIZE FOR THEIR FUN-FILLED AND EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL ASSEMBLY THEY HELD IN MARCH WHICH RAISED AWARENESS OF FAIRTRADE WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY AND HIGHLIGHTED THE WORK OF THE FAIR TRADE CLUB.**

Pupils from Lower 6 to Upper 6 and several teachers all joined in to share their message which challenged the audience to think about "the person in their shopping trolley" and concluded in a giant sing-a-long of the "Fair Necessities".

THE FAIR TRADE CLUB HAS HELPED SUPPORT A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT CAUSES

ALBYN SCHOOL'S FAIR TRADE CLUB, WAS RECOGNISED FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND HARD WORK

## Soapboxes

Despite their busy year, the Fair Trade Club kept the momentum going after Christmas by selling "Heaven Scent" soap for Mother's Day. The profits from which went towards Kraft Aid in Mauritius and the Soapbox Collaborative. The club were visited by Lorna and Natalie from the Soapbox Collaborative which was started in 2012 and is run from Aberdeen Royal Infirmary and has partners in 10 different countries in Africa and Asia. The aim of the charity is "to save lives with clean safe care at birth" and the club were shown how important cleanliness is by the use of gel and ultraviolet light, showing up our dirty hands. After this we learned about the work of the charity and saw some of the unclean conditions in maternity units across the world before offering to donate some of our Palestinian lemon soaps to the cause as well.

BY Miss Hulse

# WELCOME

## DISCOVER SCHOOL TRIPS

### Inside this section you will find:

**Pupils experienced trips in the UK such as visiting Liverpool's famous Penny Lane, the pupils then saw the future plans for Liverpool Football Clubs' stadium which is due to be completed in 2016 and they then visited the clubs' interactive museum.**

Slightly further afield some pupils chose to visit London where they saw all the sights such as the Natural History Museum where they saw a T-Rex skeleton, later in the week they ventured to see Les Misérables in theatre.

Our U2 and 3 pupils ventured overseas to locations such as Nice where they visited the Picasso museum, saw the race track in Monaco and had fun on segways by the beach. In Barcelona our pupils had some adventurous activities such as windsurfing, kayaking and sailing which required a lot of practice and endurance but their hard work paid off later in the week when they got to visit the local chocolate museum.

# Albyn School



## SCHOOL TRIPS

# BARCELONA DIARY

A FUN FILLED WEEK OF WATER SPORTS, FOOTBALL  
GROUND VISITS AND EVEN A CHOCOLATE FACTORY.

## Saturday

We arrived in the early morning at School to depart for Glasgow Prestwick to set off on our adventure through Barcelona El Prat airport and onto L'Escala where our enthusiastic instructors met off us off the bus at midnight. Once we were in our cabins it was lights out and straight to bed after a tiring day of travel.

## Sunday

After having our breakfast in the resort restaurant, we took a five minute train journey (on wheels rather than a train track) down to the beach to partake in the mornings water sports. One group started off sailing, one kayaking and one windsurfing. The sun was shining and it was extremely hot but also very windy which made the conditions fun and challenging. We returned to the campsite for lunch and then had our afternoon activities with the addition of mountain biking. At night we had our evening meal then the instructors took us to a different scenic beach for some beach Olympics, followed by some free time in our cabins before lights out.

## Monday

Monday followed a similar pattern to Sunday but allowing each group to try the other two activities they hadn't managed yet. The sun was once more beating down but again the wind made conditions very challenging with almost everyone ending up in the sea on several occasions. Our evening activities included a BBQ and some free time where some of the Boys played Football on the camp's AstroTurf.

## Tuesday

We were sad to leave the campsite and say our goodbyes to the enthusiastic instructors but also really looking forward to a day at the waterpark. We had heard from the teachers that the waterpark in Lloret de Mar had some scary and thrilling rides and once there we had free time in the park to go on as many of the rides as we could fit in. We then headed on to our hotel in Barcelona which was very central and modern. A short walk up the busy street of Las Ramblas to a local restaurant and an early night was needed.

## Wednesday

Our first trip in Barcelona was to Parc Guell, one of the major works of Gaudi. It had spectacular views of the city and sea. From here we headed to the Sagrada Famillia which again was impressive and gave us the opportunity to climb and see the city from one of the highest possible views. The final activity of the day was to a local chocolate museum which had some interesting man made chocolate items such as a Komodo Dragon. Our evening meal was once again at the restaurant we had visited the previous night and then back to the hotel.

## Thursday

Thursday morning was the moment many of the boys had been particularly looking forward to, a visit to do the stadium tour at the Camp Nou Football stadium, home of FC Barcelona and also the 5th biggest stadium in the world holding nearly 100,000 people when full. We then had some free time to visit the tourist shops amongst others before heading to the Aquarium which had many different creatures. After Tea we were all set for our bed after another busy day in high 20s heat.

## Friday

Our final day was Friday and almost everyone was not ready to go home. Our first visit was to the Picasso museum and then to the Hard Rock Café for a well-earned burger and chips. We had some free time in the afternoon in the biggest park in Barcelona where we could row in the pond and also listen to some live music and enjoy the last of the sunshine.





- Arco de Triunfo
- Camp Nou football stadium
- (far right) Windsurfing
- Group photo of the Barcelona pupils





# ICELAND TRIP

A BEAUTIFUL AND AMAZING TRIP TO REMEMBER.

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**AT THE WATERFALL  
WE CLIMBED WHAT  
SEEMED LIKE AN  
ETERNITY OF STEPS,  
I LOST COUNT AT 50,  
BUT ON THE WAY  
BACK MANAGED TO  
COUNT UP TO 423!**



## Our Trip to Iceland

**On Sunday the 24th May, 32 pupils and 4 teachers met at school at 12:30pm ready to embark on their great adventure to Iceland which would include seeing waterfalls, glaciers, hearing many sagas along the way, having a dip in the Blue Lagoon and plenty of shopping!**

We drove down to Edinburgh and boarded our flight which finally landed in beautiful Iceland, land of fire and ice! We then met Claire, who was our guide for the week. She told us an interesting saga ( which is basically a story with a meaning ) about trolls, elves and the Garden of Eden.

On Monday we were quickly awake and raring to go for our first day of activities! After enjoying a continental breakfast, we set off on the bus to Skógafoss waterfall via some Icelandic shops for road trip snacks. At the waterfall we climbed what seemed like an eternity of steps, I lost count at 50, but on the way back managed to count up to 423! It was all worth it for the view though! It was amazing to see the water crashing down with such force, we even got wet! Afterwards, we went off to a black sand beach called Reynishverfi. We found great examples of basalt hexagonal columns, shaped all along the beach. After lunch, we visited Vik ( which means bay ) and went on to the Myrdalsjökull Glacier.

The Glacier was a river of ice with grit and stones. It was very interesting to learn that the glacier will not be around for much longer. The last stop of the day was Seljalandsfoss waterfall, which we walked behind we then went into a hidden cave with a waterfall inside. After dinner the day ended with bowling in Reykjavik.

On the next day, Tuesday, we visited Hellisheidi Power Station, where we received a talk on how they make thermal energy, then transport it in pipes 27 miles to Reykjavik. Next, we went to Kerid, which is a crater. Then we went to Gullfoss waterfall, where we ate lunch. Gullfoss means golden, the double waterfall was beautiful. We then went down to the Geysirs. We saw one of the Geysirs called Strokkur, which spurted up 20m every 2-10 minutes, this was amazing to see! Last of all we went to the canyon between the European and American plates. This was very interesting to see! We spent the evening shopping and playing games.

Wednesday was the fourth day. We spent the morning in Reykjavik, buying gifts and lunch. The afternoon was spent whale watching. Many of us managed to see Minkie whales in the water. In the evening we did a quiz after dinner.

Thursday was the last day and we headed up the Reykjanes Peninsula.

**WE SAW A BEAUTIFUL BLUE LAKE AND WENT TO THE SELTÚN GEOTHERMAL AREA, WHICH HAD BUBBLING MUD POOLS. NEXT WE WENT TO SEE THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN PLATES, WHICH HAD A BRIDGE BETWEEN AND BLACK SAND. STAMPER VOLCANIC FISSURE WAS OUR NEXT STOP, WHERE WE SAW A BEAUTIFUL VIEW.**

The final stop of the morning was at Grunnuhur hot spring area. Some of us ran through steam and we were amazed at how dense it was. After lunch, we went to the blue lagoon, which was our favourite. It was so beautiful, blue and warm! At 8:30pm we left Iceland, Bye Iceland. Then by 3am, 32 sleepy pupils and 4 teachers were all homeward bound!

BY Jessica D and Karis C N

# KRAKOW TRIP

FROM MAY 25 TO MAY 30, 20 ALBYN SCHOOL  
PUPILS VISITED POLAND.





**We stayed in two lovely hotels, one for four nights in Krakow, and one night spent in Zakopane.**

After a tiring day travelling from Aberdeen, we were delighted to see our beds in the Alexander II Hotel. We saw truly amazing sights the next day on our guided tour of the city and Wieliczka salt mine. We visited the Wawel Cathedral, where many Polish kings are buried and visited the Old Jewish Quarter. After a well-deserved lunch, we had a guided tour of the salt mine. We were astounded to hear how long the mine was, 250km! We only walked a short part of this, but at deepest, were over 100m underground. The day ended with a traditional Polish meal in the town square.

After being woken early by the noise of trains outside, we were taken on a tour of Wawel Castle. It was amazing to visit as it was built in the early 16th century! The castle had a fabulous range of different portraits and pictures, each telling a story. After a short bus trip, we visited Auschwitz and Birkenau after lunch. This was a very emotional part of the trip as the scale of the number of people who were there wasn't clear until we got there. After a bus journey returning to Krakow, we had some free time in the square to do some shopping.

Thursday came with an early start, as today, we were going to southern Poland to a town called Zakopane. We went for a swift walk to the cable car station, and then were amazed as we saw the huge Tatra Mountains.

We had a very large lunch at the top, before our descent back down. That afternoon, we went for a walk through the Tatra National Park, and a few pupils were brave enough to taste the locally made cheese! After another very large meal and watching some traditional Polish dancing, there was nothing we wanted more than to have a good night sleep!

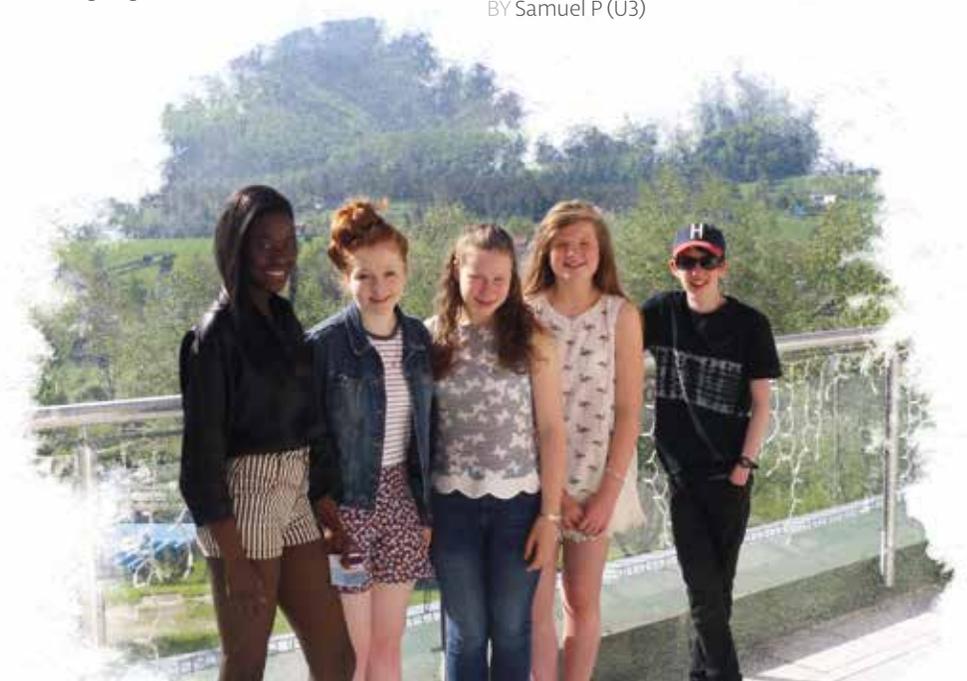
Friday was a more relaxing day. We enjoyed a two hour boat ride down the Dunajec River on our return to Krakow. The wildlife around the river was breath-taking. One minute, we would be surrounded by a huge canyon, and the next by a dozen types of trees. It really was an amazing journey on our way back to Krakow, a lot nicer than a road.

At the end of a long week, there was nothing we were looking more forward to than going to Water Park.

**WE EXPERIENCED NUMEROUS THRILLING WATER SLIDES AS WELL AS PLAYING A BIT OF WATER-VOLLEYBALL! OUR LAST MEAL IN KRAKOW WAS EXTREMELY PLEASING.**

We had a very nice soup, followed by chicken and chips, a common occurrence for us! This was then topped off by ice cream or cheesecake. After a bit of a delay at the airport, it was a happy sight to see Aberdeen again. Finally, on behalf of the pupils of the Poland 2015 Activities Week Trip, I would like to thank the teachers who came with us, Mrs Czuchnicka, Mrs Chapman and Dr Girdwood.

BY Samuel P (U3)



# ACTIVITIES WEEK NICE 2015

A COMBINATION OF ART, DELICIOUS FOOD,  
AND LOTS OF SUNSHINE.

**Monday- All 30 of us arrived at Aberdeen airport extremely excited for our week ahead at 8.30 am. Our excitement was rapidly squashed as we got news that our flight to London had been cancelled. However, BA accommodated all 30 of us on the next flight which enabled us to make our connecting flight to Nice.**

Tuesday morning commenced early at 7am for the energetic 12 who fancied a steady 5km run along the Promenade whilst the rest of the crew made sure they caught an extra hour of beauty sleep. This was our first full day in Nice so it was really memorable as everything was new and exciting.

We all headed to the Musè de Beau Art. The artwork was beautifully detailed and lifelike. Some of the paintings were the biggest I have ever seen. We then continued the day by walking through the flower market, relaxing on the beach, and then going on a Segway tour along and around the Promenade. We had some nice food at the Hard Rock Café to round off the day.

Wednesday started with our energetic running group which had halved in size. Only six made it out for a 6.45 am run. After breakfast, Mrs Crawford was on a mission with not only one map but three maps in hand we headed to the Musè de Chagall. It had really nice paintings which told colourful stories but if Mr Raegan saw his attempt at anatomy he'd probably faint. Chagall liked to paint about bible stories and used colours to emphasise the atmosphere of the painting.

Hearing about the background of the painting was very interesting, it gave us an insight into his thoughts and visions. The museum had a pretty garden where we had the opportunity to have some lunch and relax with yet another ice cream before we continued our trek uphill to the musè Matisse. We finished our afternoon with a dip in sea before we got ready for dinner and our evening activity of bowling which saw some very exciting and competitive games. We covered a total of 30,000 steps on the Wednesday.

On Thursday we went on a train to Monaco in the morning, and once we got there we went on an open Bus tour around Monaco.

Monaco was really nice and it was a warm day. The bus tour was a really good way to see all the sites. It was great seeing where the Grand Prix was the previous weekend and even got to tour around parts of the course the cars raced on. We had lunch at the Castle and experienced the changing of the guards and then went to an aquarium where our tour guide, Alexandra, showed us all the amazing tropical fish as well as shark skin and bones. We also got to touch some sharks and that was very cool but a bit scary. That night we had dinner in Nice beside our hotel and the food was great and we loved the ice cream and crepes.

On Friday our day started nice and early. We travelled by coach to Antibes to visit the Picasso museum. We experienced some very expressive art and sculptures. The views from the museum balcony were amazing. We were not allowed to take any pictures inside the museum unfortunately.

After the museum we took a scenic stroll down onto the beach of Antibes, for a short paddle and a drink before heading off back on the bus to Marineland. Marineland had lots of sea life including penguins, sea lions and dolphins.

We took the bus to Cannes after our visit to Marineland. Cannes beach was lovely with the sunset, and the cardboard cut-outs of celebrities dotted along the beachfront were funny. We got to see different celebrities handprints at Cannes as well as having an ice cream as we strolled along the promenade.

Saturday was our last day and we had breakfast in the hotel which was lovely again. We got a variety of cereals, fruit, pastries and cooked food to choose from.

The view of Nice from the plane when we took off was brilliant, the sky was clear blue and the sun was shining creating a clear outline of the beautiful coast of the Cote de Azur.





THE KOP



# LIVERPOOL TRIP

FOR ACTIVITIES WEEK 24 PUPILS CHOSE TO VISIT LIVERPOOL, THE HOME OF FOOTBALL, MUSIC AND ARCHITECTURE.

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## “WE PLAYED VOLLEYBALL IN THE HOTEL SWIMMING POOL AND NEARLY RAISED THE ROOF OFF THE HOTEL WITH OUR COMPETITIVE SPIRIT!”

The trip offered the Beatles Story, Anfield Stadium and the award winning Chester Zoo. Liverpool has recently experienced lots of city centre rejuvenation with Liverpool 1 and Albert Docks hosting the three Queens Cruise Liners while we were there. The pupils travelled by private coach for the week and stayed at the famous Adelphi Hotel. Good weather and a fun time was had by all!

### Day 1

On the first day we visited the 360 wheel that told us all about the sites and history of Liverpool. Liverpool celebrated its 800th birthday in 2007 and was awarded City of European Culture in 2008. The city boasts a wealth of award winning architecture, both old and new, which we could see from above the skyline. From the top of the wheel we could spot the three Graces and the Liver birds. We walked through Albert Docks to the Maritime and Slavery Museum before embarking on the Interactive Beatles Story. The Magical Beatles Tour showed us Penny Lane and John Lennon’s family home and the interactive 4D cinema was one of the best bits of the day. After waving goodbye to the Queen Mary on the river Mersey we enjoyed dinner at Pizza Express and a game of Jungle Adventure Golf volcano style at Liverpool 1.

### Day 2

After a full cooked breakfast and a quick stop at the Liverpool Tate we made our way to Anfield stadium. We were taken around the grounds, shown the new stadium plans and got our photo taken next to the KOP. After the Anfield interactive museum we visited the Liverpool Football Club shop to buy some souvenirs.

**“LIVERPOOL CELEBRATED ITS 800TH BIRTHDAY IN 2007 AND WAS AWARDED CITY OF EUROPEAN CULTURE IN 2008.”**

Our private bus took us past Everton’s Goodison Park and we played football in view of the two stadiums at Stanley Park. On our way back into the centre of town we drove past Crombie beach to see the Gormley statues. We had dinner at Gourmet Burger Kitchen before travelling to Hollywood Bowl and playing for the “Liverpool King Pin 2015” trophy.

### Day 3

This was our final day and one of the most enjoyable days of the trip. After another full breakfast we hopped on our private coach to Cheshire Oaks outlet, a pedestrianised Edwardian replica village. We had lunch in Pret before travelling to Chester Zoo which was lots of fun and by far deserved its awards for animals and botanic gardens. We travelled through bat caves and looked for tigers from the treetop train. On our way home we played football in Stanford Park before heading straight to Jamie’s Italian for a bowl of Spaghetti Bolognese. In the evening we played volleyball in the hotel swimming pool and nearly raised the roof off the hotel with our competitive spirit!

BY Feranmi O, Alexander A, Alexander K and Murray A



• (top) Penny Lane

• By the pier

• By the pier



# LONDON DIARY



## Monday 25th May

On the Monday we all woke up around 4am to catch the bus to London. We didn't relish the thought of the journey one bit! It took around twelve and a half hours including the stops that we made. The bus was comfortable, our excitement was building and the bus journey flew by as we all had fun chatting and speculating about the week ahead. After our long journey and a not so speedy check-in, we felt we had earned our 3 course dinner at Pizza Express.

## Tuesday 26th May

On Tuesday we all went to the Natural History Museum. This was a fabulous experience. We all enjoyed going through the many exhibits. The enormous T Rex was a formidable sight. It was also great experiencing the earthquake simulator.

After the delights of the Museum we went to the London Eye where we were lucky enough to see the landscape of London draped in sunshine. After our time on the London Eye we took the tube back to the hotel where we had a little time to get changed into something more suitable for our first show of the week - The Lion King. Travelling by tube at rush hour was an experience! It was packed as people were making their way home from work. Thanks to the repeated counting of pupils by the teachers, no one got left behind or lost. Dinner was at Gourmet Burger Kitchen and after our many adventures and huge amount of walking, we were certainly ready for it. The Lion King was amazing. The cast were dressed as animals and the costumes were spectacular. There were people in giraffe costumes with stilts on their hands and feet. It was such a fun

and lively show to see. Afterwards everyone was on a high. We got back to the hotel at about 10:30pm. However, none of us were very tired in spite of our action packed day.

## Wednesday 27th May

We set off bright and early to walk to the Club for Actors in Covent Garden where our theatre workshop was to take place. We spent two hours being put through our paces by a burly actor with a big voice and an actress who had previously appeared in Les Miserables. They told us a bit about the show and helped us prepare a number from the Musical. Pupils from our group were cast in various parts and we presented the final number to our teachers who were very impressed.

After lunch in Covent Garden and a little bit of browsing around the shops, we headed to the Queen's Theatre to see Les Misérables. The show lasted about three hours but it seemed to pass very quickly. It was quite an emotional show but it did have some funny parts and characters. It was quite interesting from a historical perspective too. Everyone really enjoyed it but we were all quite hungry afterwards so we all made our way to Wagamamas for dinner. We sat at high tables or booths and all got to order something from the menu since we had not pre-ordered our choices for this night. We made our way back to our hotel in Russell Square and got to bed a little earlier on this night which was definitely welcome. London is tiring!

## Thursday 28th May

On Thursday we got up at around 7:15am, got dressed and headed down for breakfast. After this we walked to a nearby Tesco and

Prêt A Manger where we bought our lunch for the day. We needed proper sustenance as we were off to the Tower Of London. After getting our tickets, we got to go off and explore by ourselves for a bit. We looked around in small groups at things like the Crown Jewels, the Torture Tower and the Animals in the Tower Exhibit. We ate lunch across from London Bridge and enjoyed the spectacular view. Covent Gardens was our afternoon destination. We all got a couple of hours to shop and watch some of the many street artists. We walked around in groups and bought souvenirs and gifts for our families. Everyone enjoyed it.

Dinner was a repeat visit to the Gourmet Burger Kitchen as it was so close to the theatre district. Matilda at the Cambridge Theatre was our third and final show of the week. The best was saved for last as this was our favourite. It was really funny, fast-paced and exciting. Everyone seemed to really enjoy it, judging by the laughter and the general buzz as we left the theatre. When we got back to our hotel we had to finish packing and get straight to sleep.

## Friday 29th May

On Friday morning we got up very early to get the train back to Aberdeen. Everyone was quite sad to go as we had had so much fun. We bought our lunch and got the tube to Kings Cross. We tried to convince our teachers to stay a while longer with us in London, but sadly we had to board our train at about half past nine. The train journey was about 8 hours long. On the train we played games, listened to music, had lunch and chatted and were in Aberdeen before we knew it. We were excited to see our families waiting at the station but very sad that the wonderful week was over as we had all had an amazing time.

# “An investment in knowledge pays the best interest”

Benjamin Franklin

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# **THE ALBYN REVIEW**

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