

December 2018

UPDATE

Dyce Academy



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www.dyceacademy.aberdeen.sch.uk

WELCOME

As we head towards the Christmas holidays we try to strike a balance between keeping the focus on the work of the school and acknowledging some of the more festive celebrations around this time of year.

On the work front we are very aware of the need to prepare our senior pupils for estimate exams in January. Therefore pupils and staff know they will be working hard in class up to the end of the week. The estimate timetable has been issued to our seniors and a copy has been provided to parents via email. Young people should be planning their study alongside ensuring they rest and recharge the batteries.

Our term will end with House assemblies which feature a reflection on the year so far and our hopes for the year to come: lots of pictures, music, performances and the presentation of awards to those who have contributed so much to the sponsored walk. We raised over £5 000 which is a superb effort in quite difficult times. Look out for the staff video on Youtube. Might be the staff that are 'banned' from ASDA – you'll see what I mean when you view our efforts.

I am always proud of the way our young people show kindness within our community. They have supported charity events such as Christmas Jumper Day to support Save the Children; they have gathered gifts for needy teenagers and supported the local foodbank by bringing in a wide range of items. As I look out my window, countless bags filled to the brim with non-perishable items are being stacked into the local minister's car and community van.

Can I thank you all for your continued support in all that we do. On behalf of all staff, I wish you a good holiday and hope that 2019 brings success and prosperity.

Lesley Adam

Head Teacher

CHILDREN IN NEED 2018



Thank you to all pupils and staff who helped raise £427.34 for Children in Need 2018.

Here are some of the photos from the events going on in school. Our 80's disco went down a treat with pupils and staff.

Special thanks goes to Robert in S1 who was our resident DJ and even brought in his speakers from home to make the event a great success!



Super Heroes



Back to the 80's

DYCE VOLLEYBALL TEAM 2018

The S6 boys Volleyball team attended the annual MACvolley Schools Festival at the Aberdeen Sports Village, in which they competed with six other school teams from across Northern Scotland for first place. The SVA organised event has been put in place to try and encourage more school kids to be active and willing to take part in sports. Former Olympic athletes Ben Pipes and Lynne Beattie ran the day-long event in which both male and female competitions took place.

Dyce were placed in a preliminary group against Stromness 1 and Stromness 3 of the Orkney Islands, with each team playing each other twice to decide who would be placed in the top group or bottom group in the next round. The squad got off to a flying start against Stromness 3, winning comfortably and confidently despite it being the first ever game the team had ever played. The remaining three games against the Stromness teams were just as successful, with some impressive pick-ups and hits, with all six team members getting valuable points on the board.

Going into the second round undefeated, Dyce were placed in the Top Three group against Stromness 1 and Grammar School. In a more closely fought game, Dyce scraped the win against Stromness 1 again, making it five wins in total for the team. However the favourites to win, Grammar School, proved too good for the Dyce team as they comfortably won the first and second game despite Dyce's best efforts and well-earned points against the eventual winners of the competition.

Dyce ended up in a respectable 2nd place, with six wins and two losses, impressive for a team with little training and no competitive experience. A special mention to Innes Copeland of Brimmond, who won the festivals Spirit of the Games award for enthusiasm and effort that spurred our team onto a 2nd place finish. The volleyball team now look on to their next opportunity to compete again in the coming year.



WIDER ACHIEVEMENT

CONGRATULATIONS

Cian Murray in S2 ran in the MoRunning 10K competition at Hazlehead Park on the 3rd of November 2018 and set a new personal best of 1 hour 12 minutes. This event was also held in 21 other locations around the UK to help raise massive awareness and funds for Men's Health through supporting our charity partner, the Movember Foundation.

Well done Cian, great job!



That's the Christmas Spirit!

Throughout the term so far, the choir have been very busy. At the beginning of the term, they started off by learning and perfecting a 'Hairspray' medley. Though the group is small, they all sound fantastic together, and everyone had a blast dancing along to 'You Can't Stop The Beat'.



hairspray
THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

More recently, the choir have been working on harmonies and practicing traditional Christmas carols, for their performance at the Christmas Concert at school, on the 13th of December.

Earlier in December, the choir took a short trip to ASDA to raise funds for the music department by singing a couple of carols. They were thrilled to share the amazing news that they managed to raise £204! They also have plans to visit Fergus House - a sheltered house in Dyce - on the last week on term, to perform even more



carols, to get them into the Christmas spirit.

(Lacey Dunk, Cara Stewart, Callum Douglas, Claire Douglas, Ellie Robb, Carys Taylor)

Rebekah wins Volunteer of the Year

Rebekah Singer, S6 won Volunteer of the Year – Junior at Aberdeen Sports Awards for her work with the Active Girls committee.

Rebekah said “ I became involved with Active Girls by volunteering with other Active Schools groups. I also did a sports leaders course and when I organised an Active Girls day a couple of years ago I was asked to join the committee from there.”

Active Girls encourages girls across Aberdeen taking part in sport – a trend she is dedicated to increasing. Rebekah said: “It’s always something I’ve noticed and didn’t know how to make a difference. “When the opportunity came up to join a city-wide committee dedicated to making sure girls are getting their fair shot in sport, it was something I was really eager to take on.”



Active Girls



Come along to the Games Hall on Wednesdays between 14:45 and 16:00 where we will be playing games and sports, and having fun whilst getting fit!

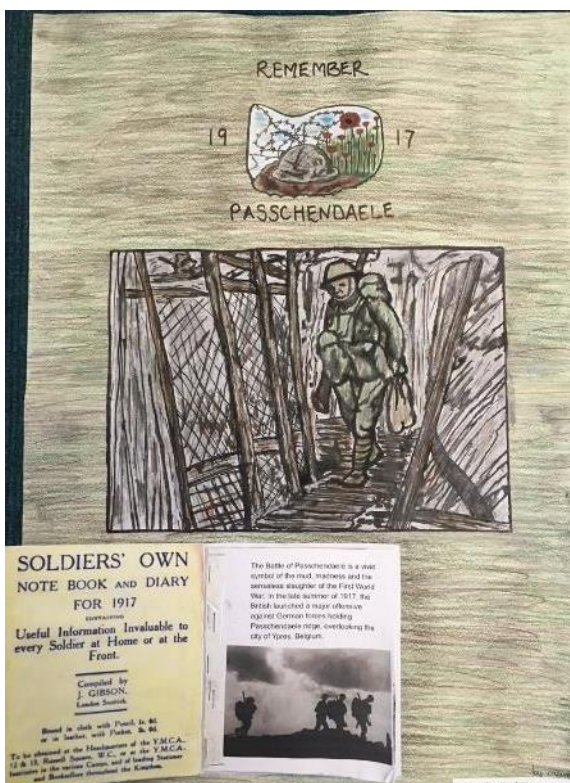
For more information about the club, see the noticeboard at the school entrance. Come and be active the fun way!

Remembrance Day 2018

Leading up to Remembrance Sunday, Mrs Adam and Mrs Jamieson spoke to the junior pupils about the meaning behind the Armistice. It marks the day that WWI ended at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month and this year marks 100 years since there was silence across No-Man's Land. Ceremonies are held at war memorials and churches across the UK and overseas. A 2 minute silence is held to remember the people who died fighting for their country.

Poppies were chosen as the symbol of remembrance as they were the only flowers that grew in the muddy fields on the Western Front. At the end of the war, Canadian surgeon John McCrae wrote a poem about this- In Flanders Fields

Alongside the assemblies, the S3 history class have been learning about life in the Trenches in WW1. Pictured is a finished piece of artwork from S3 pupil, Calum Birrell.



ARMISTICE
100
1918  **2018**

Harry Potter Club

The Harry Potter Club is a popular club run by Miss Farquhar. This club takes place every Tuesdays lunch time in Room 206. Pupils come along and take part in many activities including club debates, art and craft activities, creating and drawing - such as recreating The Marauder's Map and watching the films.

They recently took a trip to the cinema to see The Crimes of Grindelwald at Vue cinema. Pupils really enjoyed the experience - nearly as much as Miss Farquhar. The future plans include potions lessons, wand making! Miss Farquhar is also trying to organise a game of Quidditch!



CRIMES OF GRINDELWALD

Craft Club

Recently the craft club have been engaging in a wide range of activities, one of which they've been focusing on mainly as of recently, is making simple craft gifts.

They have been making gifts such as sewing sets, bag accessories, etc. The main focus for which was getting enough stuff ready to sell at a stall at the music concert which was on the 13th of December.

Overall the group has been trying to develop new skills. Mrs Reed said "Everybody has been trying out a new skill, ranging from pom-pom making, crocheting, knitting, weaving, even to people just doing extra class work."



Dyce Pupils Visit Auschwitz

Iona Copeland and Jo Gillespie (S6) visited Auschwitz on the 30th of October, with the Lessons from Auschwitz organisation to learn about the atrocities of the Holocaust.

The day began with a 6am flight to Poland, where they visited Oświęcim. While exploring Auschwitz they witnessed many heartbreaking sites, including mountains of the victims' hair. During this trip, they were given the distressing opportunity to walk through a gas chamber which they both endured.

Nicola Sturgeon attended this visit, and the girls even got the opportunity to meet her. Overall they described the day as educational and encourage everyone to visit Auschwitz.



Sky News Academy Visit

The NPA Journalism class visited Sky Academy Studios in Livingston on the 19th of November to learn about the news making process.

Upon arrival, the class was briefed about what the day would entail and quickly began the activities. This involved pupils writing, producing and filming their own news story based on social media. Each person in the class had a role, such as script writer, producer, editor and presenter. After completing these tasks, the footage was brought together to form a news story. This gave the class invaluable insight into the production news and the wide variety of skills required to create an accurate and informative piece of news.



This edition of the Update was researched, written and edited by the NPA Journalism class! Well done all!

Duke of Edinburgh

This term, Duke of Edinburgh had a new intake of S3 pupils for the Bronze level of the award. During their meetings they have begun to work on teamwork and communication skills which will come into play during their practice expedition next Easter. However, before then they will have to plan a two day route out in the Scottish countryside, in previous years pupils have visited Balmoral Estate and Glen Tanar on their travels.

Are you interested? Duke of Edinburgh meet on Thursdays after school, Speak to Mr Reid or Miss Howard to find out more!



BP Maths in the Pipeline

6 Pupils had a day out to Techfest run Maths in the Pipeline at BP with Mrs Manson, to complete a day of workshops

For the day each of our pupils were put in teams with pupils from other schools. All worked very hard in their respective groups.

Workshop one was build a sturdy helipad out of 6 sheets of A4 paper, 6 paperclips and a paper plate. The resulting model had to be able to hold Harold the helicopter from Thomas the Tank Engine. Not as easy as it sounds. Other workshops included running a platform (looked more like jenga to me) if the platform collapsed based on their decisions they lost all their barrels of oil, they had to decide when it was no longer safe to run the rig. Calculating the volume of an oil field, no rectangles here for them.

The surprise of the day was the business challenge where they had to work out the running costs for a new oil field in the Caspian Sea. I say surprise as pupils were not told before we left school that they would be giving a presentation to BP staff. I am delighted to say all pupils stood up and gave very detailed presentations along with their teams.

Well done to all who took part.



Wind Ensemble



The Wind Ensemble, run by Miss Marshal, have been very busy recently! They've been practicing several different christmas tunes and carols.

Not too long ago they were up in Asda on the 4th and 11th of December, trying to raise money for the wind group themselves, but also for the Dyce Academy Radio Station! They managed to raise an astonishing £160 over the 2 days!!! They also performed at the school christmas concert on the 13th of December, which was an absolute success!

With the actual band themselves, they have a fair variety of members. Miss Marshal said "There are a couple staff members as well a pupils that play in the band, and all of which have great fun!"

RMPS at Dyce

Holiday Heroes

Inspired by their topic of Heroes and The Good Samaritan, this term the S1 RMPS class has decided to start a collection of non-perishable food, drinks and toiletries for CFINE food bank during the harsh winter months. In order for them to act like heroes they are collecting supplies to hand in to Community Food Initiatives North East, so that they can provide people in need around the community with supplies.

CFINE help a variety of people including families, drug addicts and people who are unemployed. By donating all of this food, the S1's are aiding those who require a little extra help.



Rape Crisis Scotland Talk

The National 5 RMPS class received a talk from Rebecca Eldon from Rape Crisis Scotland, as part of their Morality and Relationships topic. She was able to talk to the class about what was meant by sexual consent, the problems that some people might face due to sexual violence and where they can go if they need or want to get any help. Rape Crisis Scotland provides a national helpline where people can talk to someone if they have been affected in any way by sexual violence, no matter how or when it happened. The class were able to gain understanding that will help them in the future, during their exam.

From Pastor to Prisoner

This term, as part of their Morality and Belief topic, the Higher RMPS class invited Gerry Bower to talk to the class about Street Pastors. The talk was extremely interesting and explained to the class that Street Pastors are vital in reducing violent crime in the city centre on Friday and Saturday nights. He explained that Street Pastors are a Christian organisation that are there to care, listen and help people who may have gotten themselves in any trouble while out.

The class also visited Peterhead Prison Museum and found it a shocking and fascinating experience. They were given a guided tour of the once used prison and were told many haunting stories about what happened within the prison while it was running. They were able to look all over the prison including in some of the cells, the kitchen and the laundry room and were shown pictures of the prison while it was in use.



Space Club

This term so far, Space Club have covered a wide range of interesting and exciting activities. These young intellects have managed to learn a variety of skills such as how to build a spectrometer and explaining the living conditions of life on other planet.

Earlier on, they ran a star gazing event with a guest from the Aberdeen Astronomical Society and looked at the craters on the moon through different telescopes. The club meet on Friday lunchtimes to discuss the universe so come along if you are keen to learn!



Charity Concert

A small charity based in Dyce - the Respiratory Medicine Society - put together a concert to raise funds, at Robert Gordon's College. A couple of pupils from Dyce Academy, along with some medical students and members of the Respiratory Society, volunteered to perform a few songs. All of the money went to the charity, to help to support and educate people, with allergies and asthma, on proper inhaler techniques etc and to help them cope with their illnesses.



I ain't 'friad of no ghost!

On Halloween, Dyce Academy ran its 3rd annual ghost tour, organised by Mr Naples-Campbell and the S3s. 5 groups of S1 pupils toured many areas of the school, meeting a range of from characters from a crazed asylum to a seance. The tour was created as a way for the S3s to lead a project, assisted by some of the National 5 and Higher Drama students who already have experience with this.

The S1s found it terrifying, with some of them exclaiming it was “good but scary!” and that they liked the way “the tour told a story”.



Mr Naples-Campbell commented on the S3s efforts, saying “It’s a really good way for the Third years to lead their own learning and each year try to outdo each other on the scare factor so it’s really fun” Thank you to all the teachers and pupils that took part!



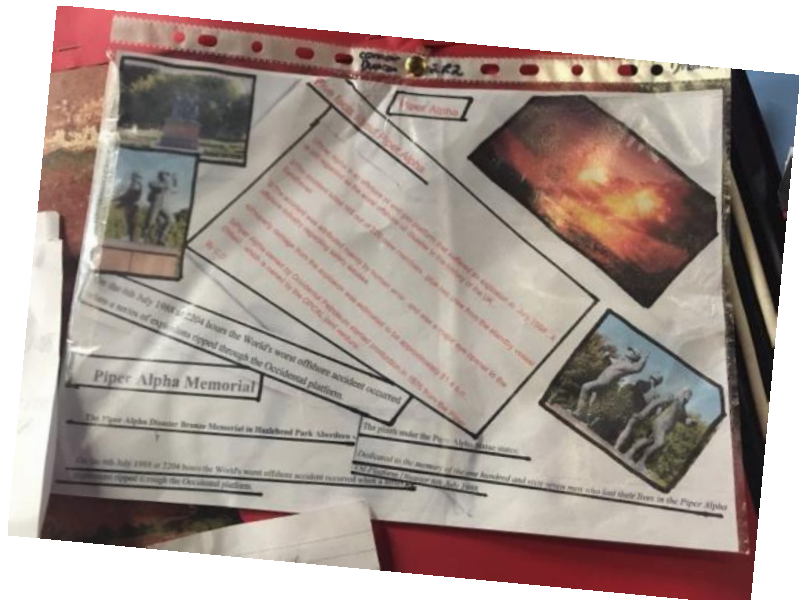
Expressive Arts Interdisciplinary Learning Project

This term, the S2s did a IDL Expressive Arts project where they focused on Aberdeen Harbour, specifically the creation of it. To create their projects they looked at look at a ship crash and Piper Alpha, a explosion on a oil rig in 1988.



It gave the pupils the opportunity to look look at different techniques in their Expressive Art subjects. In Drama they learned different forms and conventions to tell their story, entering the world of Physical Theatre. In Art they created pieces that showed elements of these

events, visited by artist Tracey Johnstone. The S2s did an exceptional job with their projects, well done!



English at Dyce

Foul Macbeth

In November, the English department took a trip to HMT to see MacBeth, a production by the National Theatre of Scotland. The purpose of the trip was for Higher pupils to develop a deeper understanding behind the play for their exams next year.

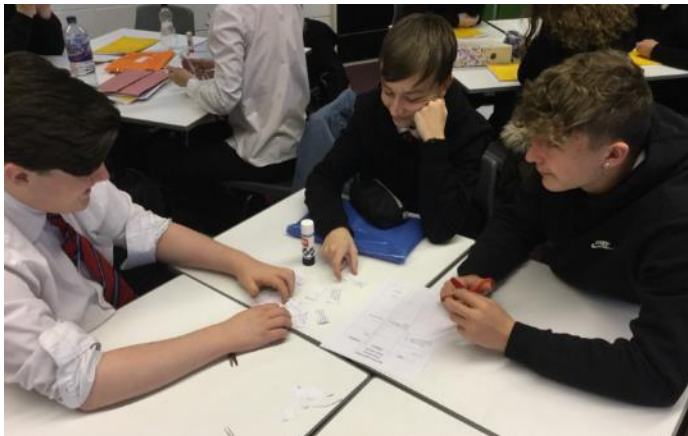
MacBeth is a tragedy written by playwright William Shakespeare, telling the story of noble soldier MacBeth. After he is told by three witches that he will become King, he does everything in his power to make it happen, leading to treacherous and murderous events unfolding across Scotland. MacBeth is eventually defeated and Malcolm, the true King takes the throne and order is restored.



The pupils seemed to have enjoyed the play and will use their newfound knowledge in class in the run up to their prelims.

Busy Busy Busy!

The English Department have been jam-packed this term, engaging lessons that will develop pupil's sharing and organizing skills, as well as their understanding and analysis of their texts as a whole. This is all in



preparation for Observations in the New Year where members of SMT will visit English classes to see how they showcase their lessons to pupils.

Book Week Scotland - Library Competitions

This year as part of Book Week Scotland we decided to run a “fridge magnet” poetry competition. On our big noticeboard I put up lots of small cards with words on and pupils and staff were invited to come along and have a go. A special thank you needs to go to our technicians who did all the laminating and cutting up of the individual words. Here are some photos of our winners.

Social Subjects

This term has been a busy one in the social subjects department.

Both National 5 and higher geography classes have been doing fieldwork for their assignments.

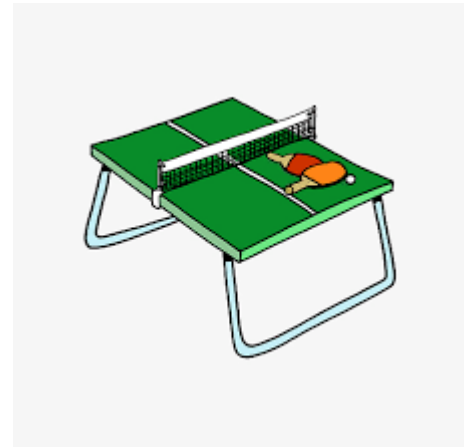
On the 5th of December the National 5 modern studies class went down to Peterhead Prison as part of their crime and law unit. This was an extremely beneficial trip as it gave an insight on how prisoners lived and still do live in Scottish prisons.



Table Tennis Club

The table tennis club, which is run by Mrs Keith, has been increasing in popularity as of recently. The club itself works on a Monday from 1:10 till 1:40, in the MPA.

The pupil Bradley Thompson comes on the Monday to help Mrs Keith out with running the club. He has been doing so to achieve the voluntary section of his DofE bronze award. She believes Bradley is a great pupil, and is glad to have him in the club.



The club is open to anyone in the school, S1 all the way through to S6. Mrs Keith said “The people who come are ranging from S1-6, it’s a pop in club, and you can come and go as you please, you don’t have to turn up if you don’t want to. It has also helped some of the younger ones with their team-building skills, and also helped them with their confidence.”

Basketball Club

Mrs McCaw’s basketball club have been busy training this term. They meet every Friday lunchtimes in the games hall and the team is captained by Cameron Reid in S6. The club is open to all pupils S2-S6.

The club was recently introduced to S2 and S3 pupils as there was a high interest in the sport. The club played their first match of the season against Grammar, the players held their own and all worked great as a team. The team have got fixtures right through till easter, including matches against Bucksburn, St. Machar, Harlaw and Lochside Academy.

Aberdeen City Music School @ Citadel

Aberdeen City Music School has been looking for new and fresh talent to take up the challenge of matching the musical skills of the pupils who entertained a lunchtime audience at the Citadel on November 22nd.

The 40-minute programme featured piano, accordion and vocal soloists as well as two chamber ensembles.

Education Operational Convener, Councillor John Wheeler. Councillor Wheeler said: “We are justly proud of Aberdeen City Music School and it’s well-deserved reputation for excellence. The challenge now is to find emerging talents to step forward and, under expert tuition, maintain the high standards set over the years”.

Photograph shows Councillor John Wheeler with Duncan Ritchie, Sienna Lee and Ariana Black.



Aberdeen City Music School Audition Success

Aberdeen City Music School's 6th years have had an rewarding past few months. All four of them (Elizabeth MacKenzie, Andrew Neill, Duncan Ritchie and Daniel Toderas) have received places at Conservatoires and Music Colleges after much hard work on their pieces for their auditions. This has been down to their hard work and ACMS's expert help. They have all earned places at the 5th ranked arts and performing school in the world: The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Glasgow.

Duncan and Elizabeth will be going on to study Traditional music, and Daniel and Andrew will go onto study classical music.



Maths

The maths department have been very busy this term in the run up to exams, getting all pupils to a good enough standard to pass. The pupils are coping very well, being pushed very hard to make sure they have the right work ethic, and hopefully this will pay off after prelims/exams.

Mr Murray has been busy with pupils throughout the year, getting them ready for maths challenges as well. Mr Murray said “Lots of maths challenges, team and individual ones. The team competed in the maths in the pipeline earlier this year, which is sponsored by the oil industry, and the pupils take part in different simulations.”



Personal Finance

On Monday 5th November our Personal Finance class were lucky enough to get a visit from a local financial advisor. Little did we know that Dons legend Russell Anderson was that financial advisor.

Russell came in to the school to give pupils a more in-depth understanding of pensions, ISA's and financial risk. The class found this very helpful and informative.

Then our visit made it into the local papers both the P&J and Evening Express.

Hospitality

Throughout this Christmas term the S5-S6 cake decoration class have been carrying out a project to make Christmas cakes. All the pupils have successfully managed to create their cakes very well. So far the pupils in this class have successfully created Halloween cakes and various other tasks. The future plans for the cake dec class is to prepare, plan and start to create their final piece.



Safe Drive, Stay Alive

Every year, S5 pupils are given the opportunity to attend a hard-hitting, emotional and informative presentation about safe driving within Aberdeen and the Shire. The aim of the presentation includes informing youngsters about safe driving, and the possible consequences if you decide to break the law whilst behind the wheel. Some pupils, who attended the presentation, described it as, 'realistic', 'moving' and 'harrowing.'

The experience was an eye-opener for all of the year group and the previous year groups who have been given the experience too, as Safe Drive Stay Alive has been informing youngsters about safe driving for 12 years, and we are all extremely grateful that this initiative is still being funded for youngsters in the North-East.

Northsound 1 Energy Schools Challenge

A team of four pupils from Dyce Academy (Daniel Stebbings, Harry Sayers, Lucy Burnett, Rocky Troup) recently took part in the radio challenge that started at the end of September. Each round involved them answering questions on different topics such as sport, films, music and quickfire general knowledge.

The team beat Bucksburn Academy and then Robert Gordons in the first two rounds. They then went onto the semi final against Alford and won against them to get through to the final which they won against Bridge of Don Academy and received a trophy.

This is a great achievement for the school as it is the first time in over ten years that Dyce Academy has won. Well done!



Guitar and Ukulele Club

The Guitar and Ukulele group is run by the music department and takes place once a week on a Wednesday afternoon for all pupils within the school but is most popular within the S1 - S3 year groups. The group began early last term and has shown progression in numbers and enjoyment by all pupils who attend! The group has worked extremely hard and practised all term, songs in which they played at the schools Christmas Concert on the 13th of December, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed!

Well done!

S1 Life Stars

S1 Life Stars is an sporting project run by Iona Copeland, Ryan Cruikshank and Natasha Livingston. It takes places every Thursday lunchtime in the MPA for 20 minutes. This project is great as it allows the S1 pupils to develop their social skills through fun sporting activities that are led by the S5/S6s each week.

So far this year they have been on two trips. The first one was to the Beach Leisure Centre where they got to take part in able-body and wheelchair basketball. The second trip was to Sheddocksley Sports Centre where the pupils played a Boccia, a game that is quite similar to bowls. The pupils all really enjoyed taking part in both of those.



Soup Squad

The S2 Soup Squad is an enterprise project that is run by the S2 SFL pupils. It involves them firstly doing market research to find out what flavours of soup that people like so that they can source a recipe to make. After that they go up to Asda to buy ingredients and then use them to make and serve the soup on Thursday lunchtime. They also use an account book to keep track of how much they spend and how much they earn each week.

This project is very beneficial and enjoyable for the S2 pupils as it is teaching them very useful skills that they could use later in life.



Dyce is Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!

This term, pupils have been working very hard rehearsing for the school show, Mary Poppins! Rehearsals are every Tuesday in the drama studio and the whole cast are excited to showcase their work next year!

Cast List:

Mary Poppins: Natasha Livingston

Bert: Graham Murray

George Banks: Callum Douglas

Winifred Banks: Kristen Forbes

Jane Banks: Carys Taylor

Michael Banks: Cian Murray

Katie Nanna: Ailidh Strachan

Mrs. Brill: Lacey Dunk

Robertson Ay: Ava Mccorquodale

Neleus: Ellie Rose Mowat

Bird Woman: Rebecca West

Miss Smythe: Taylor Ritchie

Chairman: Claire Douglas

Von Hussler: Arianna Hunter

Northbrook: Cara Stewart

Mrs. Corry: Rose Milambwe

Miss Andrew: Jodie Beaton

Policeman: Charlotte Barklam



Chorus:

Erin Mehigan

Chloe Parker

Kitty Richards

Katie Cifuentes

Jessica Rushton

Claire Douglas

Ellie Rose Mowat

Charlotte Barklam

Jodie Beaton

Rose Milambwe

Cara Stewart

Arianna Hunter

Taylor Ritchie

Under Studies

Mary Poppins: Kristen Forbes

Winifred Banks: Rebecca West