

# UPDATE Dyce Academy

Issue No. 1

December '88

**W**elcome to the first edition of 'UPDATE' - the Dyce Academy newspaper. Those of you who come to school each day - pupils and staff - know how difficult it is to keep up with the news. Those of you working or living in 'our' community, who do not come to school, must find it even more difficult to know what is going on in your local school.

Hence this monthly newspaper. Our aim is to give everyone who lives or works in the Dyce, Newmachar and Fintray area an opportunity to find out about the school's achievements, activities and plans. We find the school an interesting place to work in; we think you will find it interesting to read about.

THE EDITORIAL TEAM



# IF IT'S TUESDAY, IT MUST BE BELGIUM!

The object of The Social Subjects field trip during the October break was to let pupils experience real-life examples of what they are studying, and to introduce them to foreign people and customs. This was achieved by sight-seeing trips on canal boats, visits to the trenches, excursions down vast caverns, on-site explanations of the workings of the E.E.C. headquarters, wine tastings, Rhine cruises, cathedral visits, the journey through the world's busiest port Rotterdam, and of course by meeting many different people in the hostels where we stayed.

It wasn't all work, though - just ask any of the pupils about these memories:

Thursday - the disco on the North Sea ferry  
Friday - Brussels at night and the Mannekin Pis  
Saturday - shopping, bowling and MacDonalds  
Sunday - tea in the Luxembourg hostel  
Monday - swimming at Lavamar  
Tuesday - the Rudesheim chairlift - in the rain  
Wednesday - Phantasieland Theme Park and the football, Cologne v. Antwerp in the U.E.F.A. Cup  
Thursday - Tropicana Fun Pool, chutes and ripped shorts!  
Friday - coming home!

S. Philp

# EDINBURGH FESTIVAL 1988

For the first time ever a party of Dyce Academy senior students spent a long weekend at the Edinburgh Festival. They experienced a wide range of events including the Lucian Freud exhibition, Jools Holland and the Hull Truck Theatre Co.

For most students, however, the highlight was a visit to Circus Oz. Billed as a non-sexist, non-animal, equal opportunity circus, Oz represents the very best in Fringe theatre. It was a pleasure to see blase 16 and 17 year-olds open-mouthed and grinning at the amazing skills and intelligent wit of these incredible performers. If you ever get a chance to see Circus Oz - take it! It's one of life's richer experiences.

In addition to theatre and gallery visits students also absorbed the Festival atmosphere. They ate in various bistros and cafes (even, very kindly, managed to take a broken down English teacher out for a meal), got familiar with the city and managed a walking tour of Edinburgh's historic New Town. During this last event, yours truly, while extolling the virtues of Georgian architecture to a rapt audience, managed to step on the calling card of a large dog. (Unless someone in Edinburgh has a pet yak). The students behaved in a typically restrained and sympathetic way - they fell about laughing and hurled appropriate abuse!

The party was accommodated in Pollock Halls (very comfortable) and it is very likely that the whole business will take place again in September '89.

M. Hardie

# GOODBYE MR PHILP!

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This term staff and pupils of Dyce Academy join in saying goodbye and wishing good luck to Stewart Philp, our Depute Rector. Stewart has recently been appointed Rector of Linksfield Academy and takes up his new post after the Christmas break.

Stewart, or 'Philpy' as he quickly became known to staff and pupils alike, joined our staff in 1981 as Assistant Head Teacher and succeeded Iain Watson as Depute Rector in 1983. His continued presence on the management team has been instrumental in making Dyce Academy the school it is today.

Things may be a whole lot quieter when he leaves, but his absence will be felt in all areas of school life: as friend and colleague as well as 'boss'; as an innovator, particularly in the setting up of the Environmental Education course; as administrator and teacher; as mentor (to staff, students, and pupils alike); as disciplinarian (watch those eyebrows!); as tour operator extraordinary (ask anyone

who's been on a 'Philpy Tour' - life's never the same afterwards as footballer and team manager; as weight trainer; as producer of our school shows; as a man of ideas and a man who can and has encouraged others to produce their own ideas and given them the space and opportunity to put those ideas into action.

What will he miss most in leaving Dyce? The people, the relationships built up over the years. And of course, the music from the 5th/6th Common Room! What will he miss least? 'The Pink Slips!'

What qualities will be most important in his new job?

As he sees them, the ability to communicate on a personal level with all staff, the ability to laugh at yourself, to have a good sense of humour. Certainly these are qualities he has shown to good effect in Dyce Academy.

Staff, parents and pupils will, we are sure, join with the Newsletter Committee in wishing him every success in his new post in 1989.

# SPOTLIGHT ON DEPARTMENTS

I'm sure as pupils, parents and teachers we're all sure about what the various departments in Dyce Academy are up to. I mean the members of each department teach their subject - don't they? Geography teachers teach Geography and Music teachers teach Music and.. so on and so on. But it's not quite as straightforward as that. Many departments are involved in all sorts of activities apart from normal day-to-day teaching. Subject development, educational initiatives and extra-curricular activities are an important part of the work of any department, but a part that often goes unnoticed. In future editions of UPDATE we hope to feature some of these activities in detail, but in this first edition we thought we'd try to give you an idea of some of what's going on.

The ART department has been invaded over the last few weeks by large sheets of hardboard. C.S.E. and Scotvec pupils, along with staff, have been turning these boards into scenery for the Christmas show. The department is also about to become involved in a project which will link an Art class with a working architect in order to develop a better understanding of architecture, past, present and future - who knows, we might even get a visit from a certain royal personage.

As a school we've always encouraged adults to take advantage of certificate classes. In Aberdeen City Division, we're now the most popular school with adults and this has been mainly due to the wide range of classes, of interest to adults, offered by our BUSINESS STUDIES department.

The DRAMA department has been chosen as one of only 21 schools in Scotland to pilot the new Standard Grade Drama course. This means that Dyce Academy pupils will have the opportunity to be among the first to embark on this course as from August '89. In their spare time, the members of the department continue to operate the school shop as part of the school's ongoing fundraising, and Laurence Young, the Principal Teacher, is becoming increasingly involved in producing 'in-house' educational videos for a range of departments.

In HOME ECONOMICS, Principal Teacher Yvonne Dewhurst is currently involved in the National Development Programme for Standard Grade courses and in the assessment of the recently revised Higher examination. The department has also been very busy this month with the production of costumes for the Christmas show. Next term, a new Health Studies short course called 'Parenting' will be offered to 3rd year pupils - another first for Dyce.

The MODERN LANGUAGES department, along with colleagues from Bankhead and staff from feeder primaries, is getting under way with a primary French Project and another trip to France with 25-35 pupils is planned for Easter '89.

**C**omputers feature prominently in any MATHS department but here in Dyce it's not just the case of showing pupils how to work them. As well as the department producing some of its own software, Principal Teacher Ian McLean has been working on a project to computerise 3rd and 4th year timetables, providing a more accurate record for the school and saving time into the bargain - no more laborious copying of numerous timetables for the pupils.

**T**he list of extracurricular activities offered by the MUSIC department is impressive. There's a Brass Band, Percussion Group, String Group, Community Orchestra, Choir, Guitar Group, Wind Band, Recorder Group and Scottish Folk Group. Principal Teacher June Smith would also like to hear from anyone interested in becoming involved in a Rock Group or a Pipe Band and Fiddle Society.

**T**he P.E. department is also offering a wide range of extracurricular activities staffed by Physical Education specialists and many other interested staff. There are clubs for Basketball, Netball, Running, Football and Aerobics for the pupils, and Swimming, Aerobics, Weight Training, Indoor Football and Running for the staff.

**T**he R.E. department has seen a change of staff recently as Principal Teacher Sue Muncer has been appointed as Acting Adviser in Religious Education for Grampian Region until next summer; such experience can only benefit the school on her return in August.

**J**im Cameron, Principal Teacher of CHEMISTRY is a member of the Grampian Chemistry Support Group and the Grampian Chemistry Trainers Group as well as being involved in the National editing of Standard Grade Chemistry material. Such work has many beneficial spin-offs for the school. Jim, along with Raymond Jowett, Principal Teacher of Geography, and four senior pupils will be representing Dyce Academy at an Environmental Education conference in Chicago in June '89. We're the only Scots invited to participate due to our established involvement in Environmental Education within Scotland and the E.E.C.

**P**incipal Teacher of HISTORY Val Moir is another of our staff involved in Regional Support Group work for Standard Grade, and she has also been working on the production of two videos with the Northern College of Education. One is on how to teach Local History, and the other is a factual video on the history of Dyce, and so could well be of interest to the wider community.

**M**ODERN STUDIES is very much concerned with topical events and so guest speakers are a common ingredient of department courses. Recently, pupils have had the opportunity to question Malcolm Bruce, our local M.P., and Laura Hutcheon, a local Regional Councillor. Principal Teacher Tom Ferguson is currently involved in writing Standard Grade materials one day per week at the Teachers' Resources Centre and his department along with the other Social Subjects departments is busy planning a trip to London in October '89.

**O**n the evening of Friday 2nd November, a charity quiz was held in the B.B.C. Social Club at 'Beechgrove' in Aberdeen. All proceeds from the evening have been donated to the 'Children In Need' Appeal. Dyce Academy was asked at the last minute to submit a team and so Susan Alley (Maths), Val Moir (Social subjects), and Laurence Young (Drama) went along as the 'Dyce Dunces' to compete with 22 other teams.

With quizmaster Jane 'Superscot' Franchi in charge our team fought their way to the final and were beaten into the runners-up position by only one point by a team of B.B.C. researchers. A good evening was had by all and money was raised for a good cause.

**A**s part of the 'Caretakers of the Environment' scheme, Principal Teacher of GEOGRAPHY Raymond Jowett is on the organising committee of a conference to be held in Bristol in 1990, and Alison Angus is organising the exciting West Highland hillwalking/sailing expedition which is now an annual event.

**T**he TECHNICAL department has been busy this month producing props and scenery for the Christmas show and the department's Roddie McKenzie is pioneering a 'comment-banking' system which could revolutionise our methods of reporting to parents.

**F**inally, a brief mention of one or two of the areas which our A.H.T.s are involved in. Ricky Marioni is in the process of restarting Primary-Secondary Liaison Groups on Language and Assessment, while David Pyle would like to hear from any parents interested in becoming involved in a School/Industry Committee which is just getting off the ground.

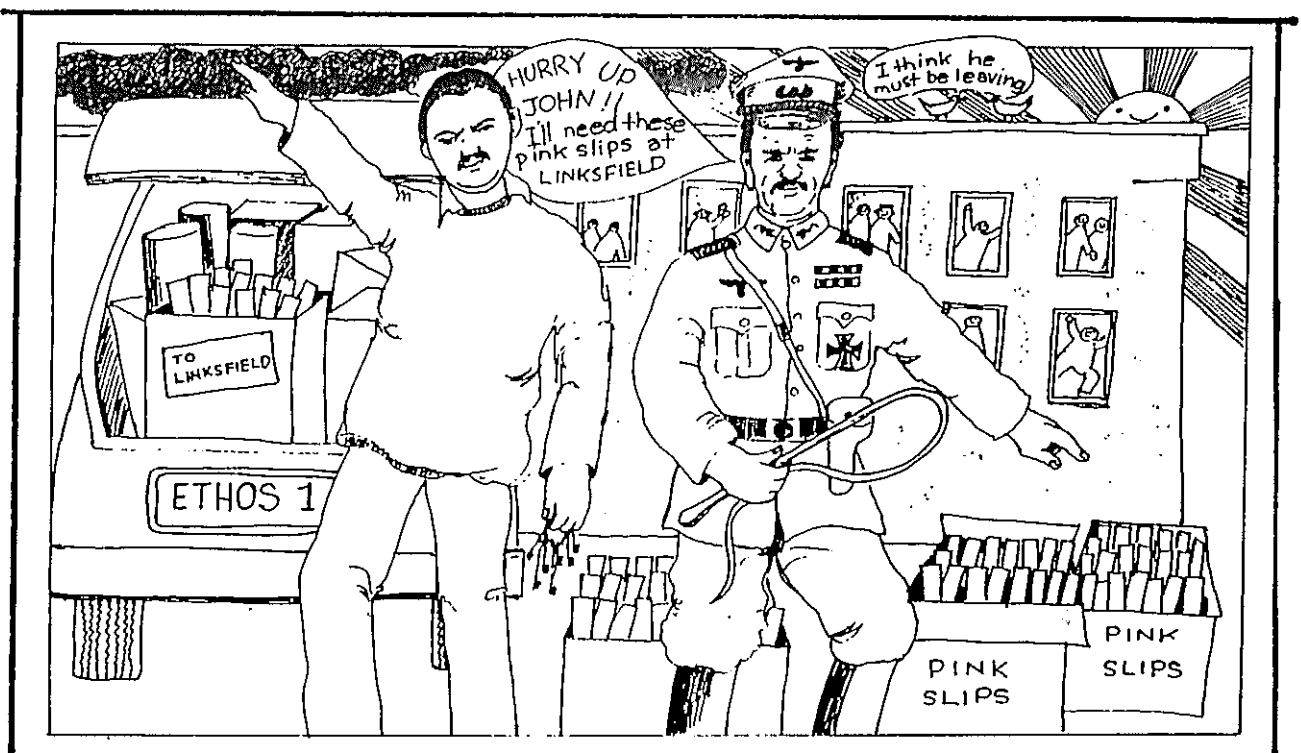
## OUR COMMUNITY

In various parts of the Region, and particularly Dyce, residents have been complaining about alcohol related litter, alcohol related damage and crime. Many youngsters aged 14-18 years are taking alcohol from their homes and, along with their friends, are having what they describe as a 'good time'. The resultant litter, damage and crimes are sickening to the whole community.

If you have a teenage son or daughter, keep your alcohol in a place where it is not readily accessible. By doing this you may be helping to keep your child and his/her friends on the right side of the law.

Local shopkeepers are aware of the under-age drinking problem and are co-operating with the local Police.

A second edition of the book 'Practical Ways to Crack Crime' has been published. This book is full of useful advice on all aspects of home and personal security. Copies are available, free of charge, from Dyce Police Office.





DYCE ACADEMY PRESENTS  
**OLIVER**  
 DYCE ACADEMY M.P.A.  
 WED · DECEMBER · 14<sup>TH</sup>  
 THURS · DECEMBER · 15<sup>TH</sup>  
 FRI · DECEMBER · 16<sup>TH</sup>  
 7:30 p.m.  
 TICKETS £1.50  
 (Times pie, coffee (gruel) etc.)  
 Book, music & lyrics by Lionel Bart  
 Produced for the Broadway stage by  
 David Merrick and Donald Albery  
 By arrangement with Minskoff Limited  
 and Stage Music Limited of New York



**O**nce again Dyce Academy is a hive of activity preparing for its Christmas show. This year we shall be presenting the musical 'Oliver', with public performances from Wednesday 17th December to Friday 19th December. In addition there will be daytime performances for all Academy pupils and primary 7 pupils from Dyce, Newmachar and Fintray.

**A** cast of over seventy pupils have been rehearsing, under the direction of Stewart Philp and June Smith, for the past five months, whilst a team of 5th year students

have been working in the Art, Technical, Home Economics and Drama departments - building and painting scenery, making costumes and learning about other aspects of backstage work as part of their Scotvec modular course on Theatre Arts.

**W**e hope that everyone's enthusiasm and hard work will be rewarded by a full house at each performance and that the audience will enjoy an evening of music, drama and fun for all ages. Tickets are on sale now at Dyce Academy - price '1.50 (including refreshments.)

# RUBBISH!



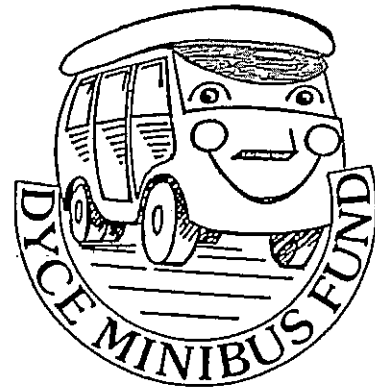
**F**or some time now, both staff and pupils have been aware of a worsening problem of litter in Dyce Academy. With this in mind, the Drama and Guidance Departments have collaborated to produce a video to highlight the amount of litter dropped in and around school.

The video consists of interviews with staff and pupils and includes many interesting and thought-provoking shots of the extent of the problem.

**T**he film is due to be shown shortly to all pupils in Social Education classes. It is hoped that it will make us all more aware of how the thoughtless disposal of litter by what is, after all, a minority, affects each one of us who have to work and learn in the building.

Compared with many in the U.K., and indeed, the city of Aberdeen, we are fortunate to have a relatively new school which is extremely well equipped. Let's appreciate what we have and treat it with respect. After all, an untidy building reflects badly on all of us.

John F. Brady (P.T. Guidance)



## SWIM INTO SPRING - AGAIN!

**I**n 1987 Dyce Academy College Council ran an amazingly successful fund-raising event under the title of Swim into Spring. This 24 hour sponsored swimming event involved local scouts, brownies, youth clubs teachers, Rotarians, doctors, playgroup members, nursery pupils, etc., etc. It raised some '2000 for Dyce Community Bus, the minibus used by schools and community groups in the area. It also raised an equal amount for the funds of the groups and for charities.

**W**e intend to run Swim into Spring II between 1.00 pm on Friday 17th and 1.00 pm on Saturday 18th March 1989. Information will be circulated to local groups shortly but everyone in the catchment area of Dyce Academy will have the chance to take part or to sponsor someone who is taking part. Make sure you don't miss out!!

Any community groups requiring information should contact:

David Mongomerie, Community Education Office, Dyce Academy.  
'Phone 725118



# SPORTS REPORT

# DASHING DOMINIES

## TEACHERS TRIUMPHANT

With youthful enthusiasm and foolish pride getting the better of them, members of the Academy Junior Basketball Club decided to accept a challenge thrown down, perhaps too readily, by equally enthusiastic and foolishly proud members of the teaching staff: a basketball match was going to take place in October. Stripped of their working clothes, the teachers looked and played like a 'Masters of the Universe' first team, and the select few from S1-3 were easily swept aside by a well-oiled machine programmed for victory.

In spite of some truly wonderful passing and shooting from the Juniors, most notably from Geoffrey Taylor and Graham Robb, dazzling footwork from Sue Muncer and swarthy no-nonsense defence from Yvonne Dewhurst blended well with the hypnotic back-and-forth of Tom Ferguson to see the teachers safely to a 42-12 win.

Grateful for having had the chance to play against such sporting legends, the pupils warmly cheered the victors as they hirkled from the court, tongue at ankle, to the nearest glass of water, or something like that.

Teams: Juniors - A. Digweed, J. Ritchie, J. Lees, M. Harvey, L. Munro, G. Taylor, S. Milligan, P. Chapman, M. Hoggins, S. Thompson, G. Robb.

Teachers - S. Muncer, A. Cattnach, Y. Dewhurst, J. McLure, B. Urquhart, M. Taylor, K. McIntosh, T. Ferguson.

On the 12th December, four of the Academy's most lithe and fleet-footed teachers took on the best of the North-East's middle distance runners in the annual Aberdeen University Hare and Hounds Club Road Relay Race.

The race involved teams of four running alternate 2.5 and 4 mile stages along the length of Aberdeen Beach prom. Blustery wind and a basic inability to run fast saw the Dyce Dominies hirkle into 14th place, out of 17, but spirits were raised as personal best times for each team member were recorded, and bags of sweets were given to each teacher as spot prizes.

Dyce Dominies Team:

Ian Campbell (2.5m) 15:07mins.

Ricky Marioni (4m) 23:16mins.

John Brady (2.5m) 16:24mins.

Kenny McIntosh (4m) 23:12mins.

It is hoped that in next year's race, the Academy will be able to field several pupil teams as well as the formidable staff team of this year.

## ABERDEEN SCHOOLS DAVID WILKIE SWIM TROPHY

Venue: Hazlehead Pool 21.9.88

Each school in Aberdeen was invited to enter its four fastest swimmers, male or female, for a four 50m. individual medley relay. Our all-female team of Jackie Buchan, Lyndsay Davidson, Ailsa Campbell, Fiona Reekie came a creditable 4th. Our senior girls are currently training hard to defend their Scottish Schools relay title won at East Kilbride in Feb. 1988. The girls involved here are Jackie Buchan, Ailsa Campbell, Jennifer Mowat and Fiona Reekie. Jackie Buchan will also start as one of the favourites to win the senior girls 200m. individual medley.

I. Campbell

# DIARY UPDATE

- Dec. 15th : Christmas Maths  
Lecture for senior  
students in the Nat.  
Phil. Theatre,  
Aberdeen University
- Dec. 14th, : Evening performances  
15th, 16th of 'Oliver' at 7.30
- Dec. 19th : School Disco (tickets  
available)
- Dec. 20th : Youth Club Xmas Disco  
7.30 - 10.00 pm Free  
raffle, 50p for  
members, £1 for  
visitors
- Dec. 21st : Term ends
- 1989
- Jan. 5th : Term begins
- Jan. 9th : Estimate exams begin  
(end 20th Jan)
- February : The U14 and U15 indoor  
5-a-side football  
teams have qualified  
for the national  
finals, which will  
probably be played at  
the Bellahouston  
Sports Centre.
- Feb. 10th : Occasional holidays  
and 13th
- Feb. 14th : School Inservice day  
(school closed to  
pupils)

The UPDATE logo is based on a design by Murray McKay of the Third Year.

# AN INSPECTOR CALLS

Every few years schools receive a visit from HMIs - Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools. It's Dyce Academy's turn in February 1989.

The school was involved in a partial inspection - of the first and second years only - in 1983 but this will be our first full inspection.

During February, the inspectors will visit a wide range of classes throughout the school and speak to staff and pupils. They will visit again in April to discuss the management of the school. Just before or after the summer holidays their report will be published.

Obviously, nobody really looks forward to being checked up on, but we are quite looking forward to getting the chance to show the inspectors what we are doing.

## POSTBAG

We are hoping to feature a regular 'Postbag' in UPDATE and invite you to respond to any of the articles in this issue. We shall also be pleased to receive your queries and comments on other topics concerning Dyce Academy or broader educational issues. Address your letters to: The Editor, UPDATE, Dyce Academy, Riverview Drive, Dyce.