

# UPDyce DATE Academy

Issue No. 3

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## GOLD STRIKE!

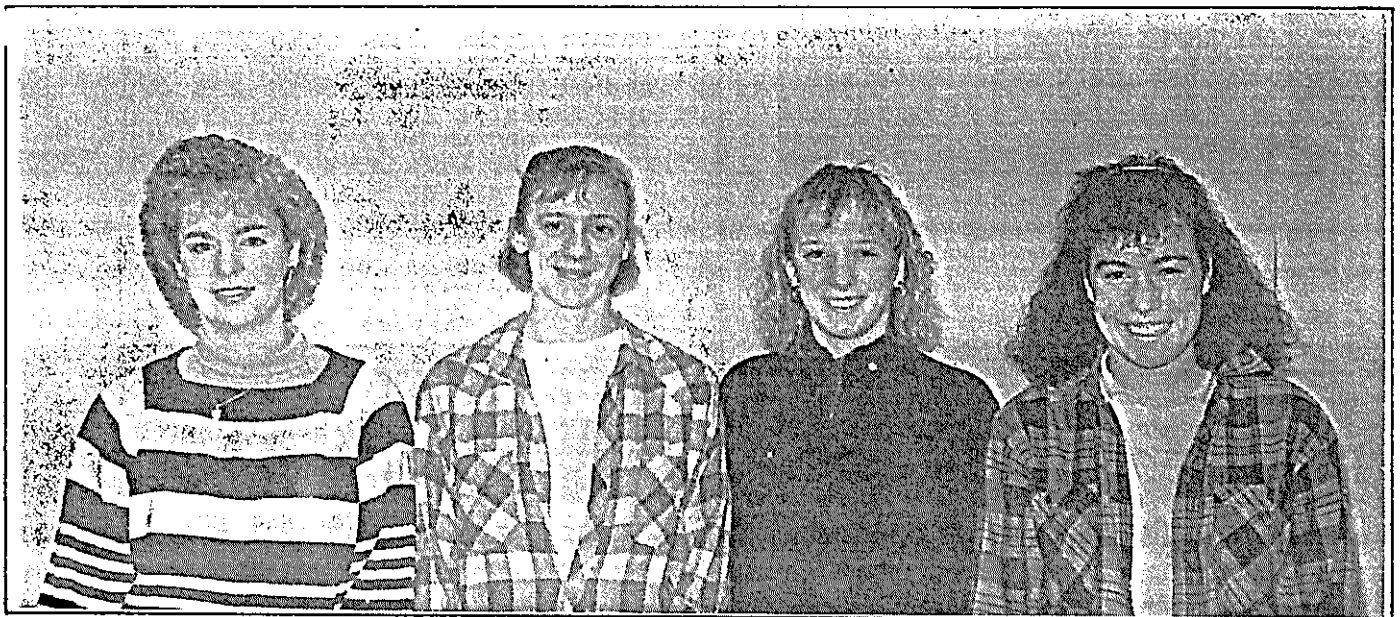
Last month we reported the success of some of our girl swimmers in qualifying for the National Schools Championships in Edinburgh on 11th February.

We are delighted to report now that the girls performed magnificently, with an individual gold medal going to Jackie Buchan (S6) in the 200m. Individual Medley for 19 and under. Ailsa Campbell (S5) won a bronze medal in the 100m. Front Crawl for 19 and under, while the Girls Relay Team, 17-19 age group, won a bronze medal in

their event. The team was made up of Jackie Buchan, Ailsa Campbell, Jennifer Mowat (S5) and Fiona Reekie (S6).

It should not go unnoticed that Claire McKenzie (S1) had a personal best time in her swim in the finals.

Our congratulations go to all the girls and, consequent to her fine win, Jackie Buchan has been selected to swim for the Scottish Schools team in an international match involving the four home countries at Bangor, North Wales on Saturday 18th March. We wish her all the best for the big day.



# COMMENT

## SCOTTISH YOUNG PEOPLE ARE LEAVING SCHOOL BETTER QUALIFIED THAN EVER

Statistics recently issued by the Scottish Education Department point to a steady improvement in qualifications of Scottish school leavers. For example:

'81% of today's leavers have at least one SCE qualification - compared with 65% in 1975'

'33% of today's school leavers obtain Highers - compared with 18% in 1975'

One of the main conclusions of a ten-year study of 40,000 pupils in Scotland in the 1970s and 1980s carried out by McPherson and Whims of Edinburgh University and reported in 1987 was that:

"Comprehensive re-organisation has helped to improve standards of examination attainment."

Sadly, such factual information as this appears to be gaining less publicity than vaguely worded statements which have no evidence to back them, referring to a need to 'improve standards in education' or 'public dissatisfaction with the education system'.

Those of us who work in schools recognise the need to continually improve and update the education offered in our schools. We believe we are having some success and there is evidence such as that quoted above that we are. We do, therefore, understandably become angry at continually being subjected to a propaganda machine which appears to be determined to 'rubbish' our efforts, ignoring all the evidence to the contrary.

It is difficult to believe that the government is genuinely interested in providing a high quality education system for all. It would appear to be more interested in making changes for purely political reasons which are more likely to reduce than increase the quality of education, and particularly in spending as little as possible on state education.

In the North-East of Scotland most people would agree that we have a state comprehensive education system of which we should be proud. Don't let those powerful people who criticise the system, without looking at the evidence, change your mind.

The following article is by two Sixth Year Secretarial Studies girls, Denise Henry and Kim Lawson.

## SIXTH YEAR STUDIES VISIT CONOCO

Recently we visited Conoco (UK) Ltd at their premises in Rubislaw House, Aberdeen as part of our SYS Secretarial course to complete a report on communications within their company.

Over three half-day visits we had appointments with various people involved in communications within Conoco and were privileged in having a meeting with Mr. Ron Rutherford (a rather charming American gentleman) Head of Conoco's Northern Operations.

For part of our SYS course we are required to produce a dissertation and report (each!) both of approximately 2,000 words. Our dissertations are based on the theory of 'The Importance of Communication Systems', and the report investigates how far theory is carried into practice in the chosen organisation.

On day one of our visit we were introduced to our guide and mentor Margaret McCoy (whose invaluable ushering around helped us greatly).

We were then introduced to Mr. Rutherford who talked to us on the importance of good communications within Conoco.

Then, it was up to the Conference Room (and some very comfortable chairs!), where we met the Public Affairs Co-ordinator and a member of the Personnel Department who talked to us on Conoco's internal and external communications.

It was then down to the canteen/restaurant for dinner (a lot better than the average school dinner!)

Day 2 saw us in the Computer, Telex and Fax rooms with various members of the Data Systems team. (Day 2 was a very technical day, with copious note-taking and very obvious glazed expressions on our faces.)

Day 3 and we were back to the computers, with more of an emphasis on Word Processing - much to our relief. We spent some time with Mr. Jim Woodhead, Manager of Data Systems who talked to us on Conoco's future plans for communication. Fortunately, he managed to make sense of what seemed to be an extremely technical subject.

We spent the remaining part of our time there with Margaret McCoy (Data Systems Controller) who talked to us and answered our queries on various points and problems.

It was then time to end what had been an enjoyable (but tiring) few days. It was both interesting and valuable to see and compare communication theory as outlined in text books with actual practices established in a company.

Denise Henry  
Kim Lawson



**W**e continue our series of department spotlights with a closer look, in this issue, at the Home Economics Department.

During January and February two members of the department, Yvonne Dewhurst and Christine Blackhall, attended a six-day course on Technological Awareness and Applications as part of the department's aim to keep abreast of current developments in the subject. Christine is also a member of two recently established committees. The first is a School/Industry committee which aims to look at ways of further promoting links between education and industry. It is made up of representatives from industry and academy staff, and it is hoped that eventually parents will participate. The second committee includes staff from Dyce and Bankhead who are looking at whether the school day should be restructured.

Jenny Reid is working on a video with Lynda Bain (Librarian), Marjorie

MacDearmid (Learning Support) and Laurence Young (Drama) on aspects of Information Skills. This is to be piloted by Jenny and an S1 class (who feature in the video) and it will be built into the S1 Home Economics syllabus.

Marza Robertson is co-ordinating the S.E.B. short course on Parenting. This forty hour course promotes and exemplifies the learning and teaching approaches currently being recommended. Marza is also involved in one of the Compulsory General Studies courses, which has as part of it Project Business. Here she is liaising with a member of staff from Marks and Spencers: together they aim to give pupils some insight into the working of business in the U.K.

Principal Teacher Yvonne Dewhurst is at present on a full-time secondment as a Development Officer to initiate and support Regional Curriculum Development in Home Economics. During the months ahead she will be attending the Regional Higher Grade National In-service course as a group leader and will be one of this year's visiting examiners for 'O' Grade Food and Nutrition practical exams.

## SCAMP

**D**yce Academy is one of a number of schools in the region which are involved in SCAMP - School Computer Administration System. Basically it is a computerised system to help us handle much of the administrative information of a school which is presently held in standard files - class lists, admission forms, courses for year groups, individual pupil timetables, etc. At present we are inputting information on the type of courses that are offered in each year but we will soon be ready to input pupil information - this is

the information that parents fill in on the normal school Admission Forms when pupils join the Academy. In order to ensure that the data we use is accurate it will be necessary to issue all parents with a 'revised' form on which they will be asked to give relevant information. This will be done just before or after the Easter holidays, when forms will be sent out to you. Eventually, all the routine administrative procedures in school will be handled by the computer - pupil attendance records at the press of a button!

# BACK AND BEYOND

AN ART AND DESIGN PROJECT

D. Niven  
P.T. Art & Design



**T**his project linking Architects/Planners with schools was initiated before Christmas. The plan was to combine a study of traditional building with ideas of future development using new styles and materials.

We were fortunate in making contact with Mr. Ian Moncur, Depute Director of Planning and a parent and local resident. He was able to provide a wealth of information about the development in the area, both historical and future plans. Two main areas of study were identified as being suitable for further research. The most practical of these for immediate study was on the Glen Farm site, a ruin with a history and potential for future development.

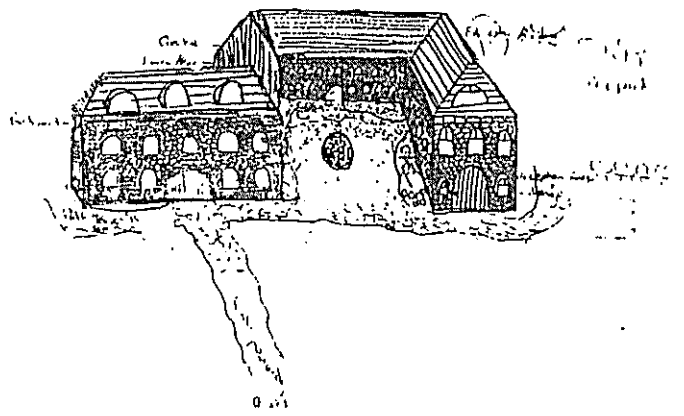
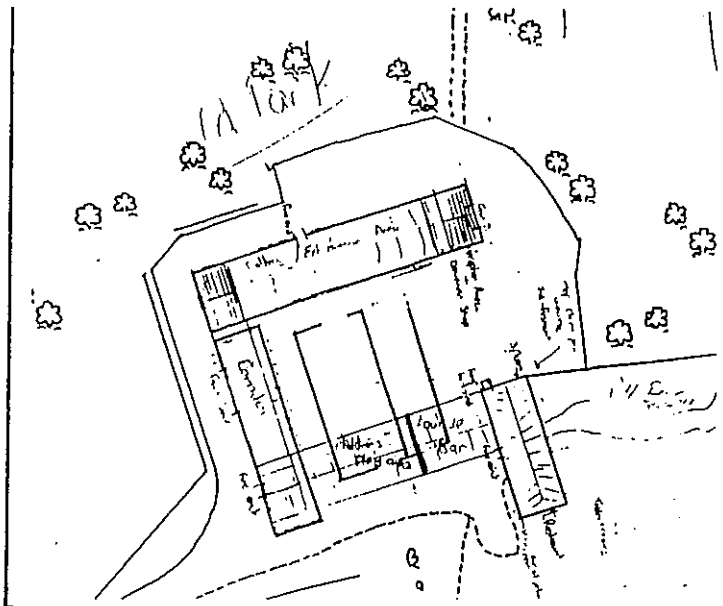
A group of Third Year Art and design students was selected to undertake this project, the initial stages being a series of drawings and photographs of the site.

At this point, an Art student on teaching practice in the Academy, Roy Fleming, became actively involved in the project, encouraging and advising the pupils.

The brief given was to arrive at ideas for the building complex which made use of the existing style of the stonework of the buildings, but incorporated modern concepts and materials. In addition, consideration had to be given to the needs of the local community in terms of leisure, recreation and socialising. The special qualities of the natural environment had to be given particular care in making the most of the scenic qualities of the river and the trees along and around the river bank.

A sequence of enquiries led to a link with Mr. Harry McNab, an architect with William Cowie and Partners, who has been involved with a variety of proposals and schemes for the Glen Farm site since 1977.

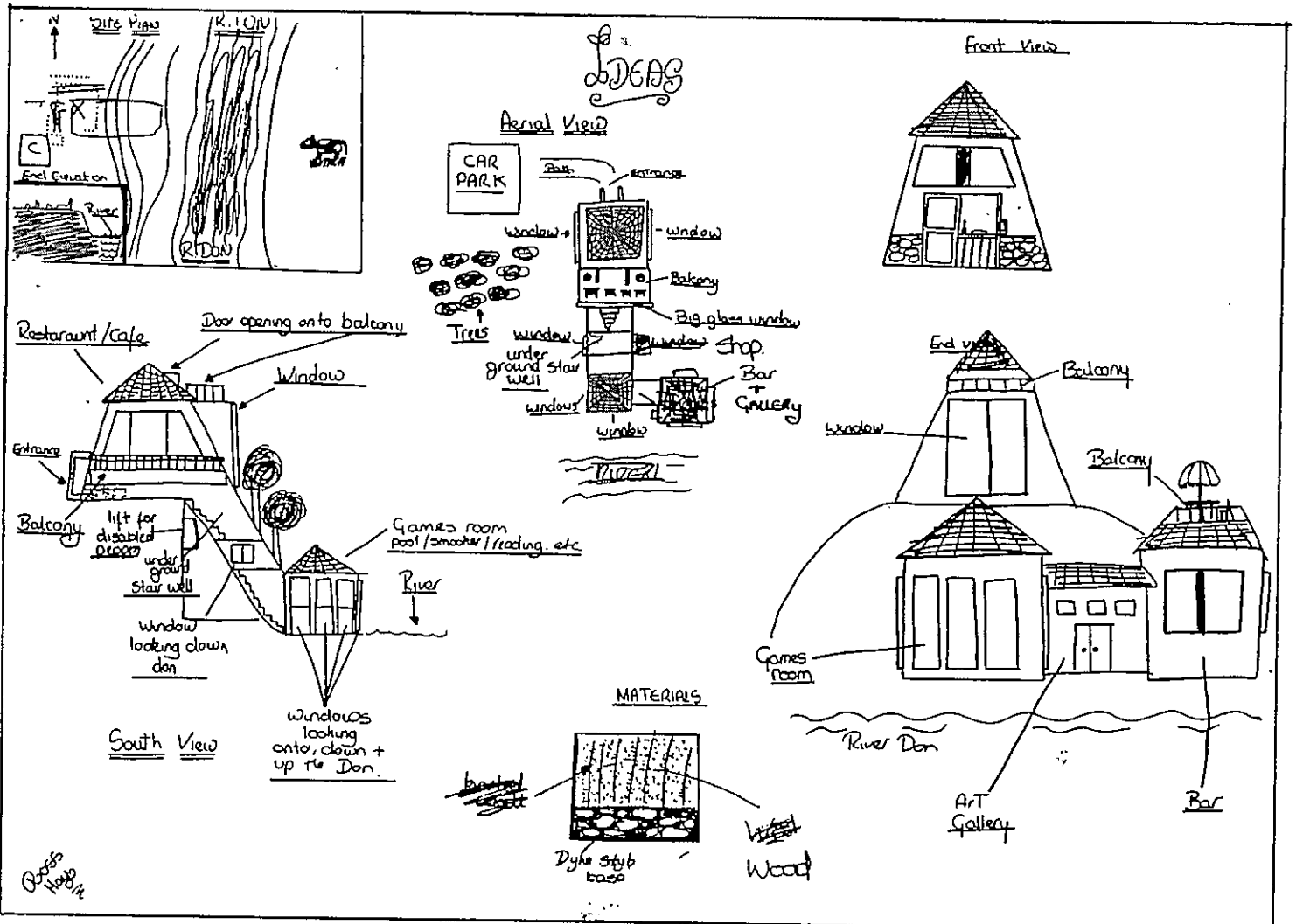
His visit to school in mid-February was particularly helpful and informative. The variety of plans of the many schemes and a study of the trees in the area were all of great interest. His comments and advice to the pupils about their schemes were encouraging and positive. In turn, he was most impressed by their imaginative ideas, as well as their ability to visualise and record ideas in three dimensions - something some professional architects do not find easy!



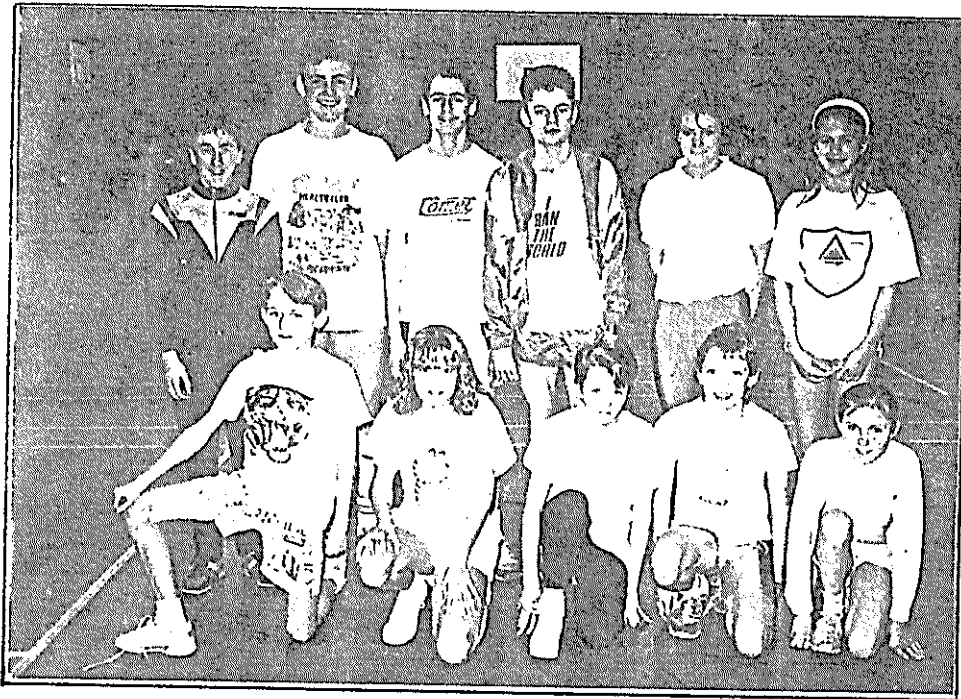
Further visits have been arranged for later this month when the pupils will see how an architects' office operates, with Computer Aided Design equipment alongside the traditional drawing board techniques.

Mr. McNab will also return to school to see the progress made by the pupils in the models they make of their own 'Glen Farm Complex'.

We all look forward to the completion of the project and to seeing the models and drawings produced by the pupils on display - and in time, who knows, the Glen Farm Complex will be rebuilt with a new purpose which will serve the community. It will be of particular interest to all those who have been involved in the current project.



# SPORTS NEWS



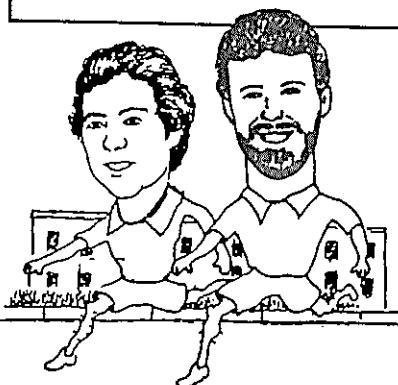
## ATHLETICS

Saturday, February 11th, was a day when some of our middle distance runners had to run for their lives; for if they hadn't, the wind would surely have lifted them off the ground and deposited them somewhere among the oil rigs 120 miles north-east of Peterhead. Yet, in spite of the gale, our cross-country runners did themselves proud in the Grampian Secondary Schools Cross-Country Meeting held at Balgowrie Playing Fields. Excellent performances were turned in by Alison McKenzie, 8th

in the First Year Girls race; Heather Pirie, who finished second in the Second Year Girls race; Susan Reid, 3rd in the Third Year Girls event, and Duncan Taylor, 8th in his Third Year Boys race.

All of our athletes showed such ability and determination that even Mrs Bain our Librarian, who helped organise the Meeting and herself a runner of international standard, couldn't fail to recognise the threat posed by our youngsters to those adults in the Academy that really fancy themselves as runners. Congratulations go to each member of the Cross-Country team.

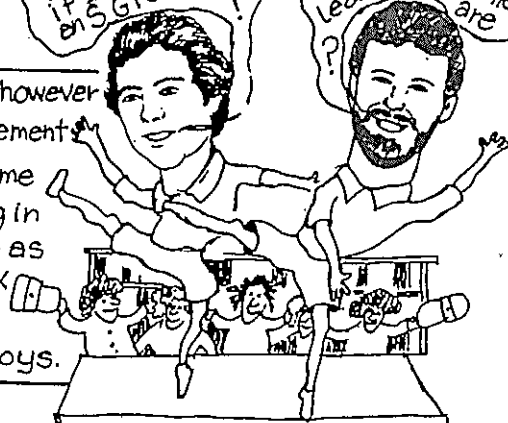
The staff and pupils of Dyce Academy innocently believe that Messrs McIntosh & Marion spend their lunch time jogging.



Secretly however they supplement their income by working in a low dive as Ken & Rick Golden Go-Go Boys.

\$25 an hour that's 120 cabbies-a profit of 12.5%. I wonder if I could make this on S.Grade investigation?

Not much group discussion here. I wonder what the learning outcomes are?



# FOOTBALL FOCUS

This month we feature the Dyce Academy Under-14 team who, like our Under-13s, have seen considerable success come their way so far this season. The team can boast some excellent individual stars who will surely grace the pitches of some of the country's senior clubs in years to come, but good all-round teamwork is certainly their hallmark.

The results this season are impressive:

OPPOSITION	FIXTURE	SCORE
Inverurie	Regional Cup (1st Round)	8-0
Linkfield	Regional Cup (2nd Round)	1-2
Northfield	League	5-5
Oldmachar	League	2-2
Mintlaw	Scottish Cup (1st Round)	4-1
Bankhead	League	5-1

Kincorth	Scottish Cup (2nd Round)	8-5 a.e.t.
Mintlaw	Sportsman's Trophy (quarter final)	2-1 a.e.t.
Oldmachar	Scottish Cup (3rd Round)	4-2
Eastbank	Scottish Cup (4th Round)	1-6

The Scorers' table is as follows:

Derek Watt : 16	Steven Bjorkvoll : 2
Ivor Nicholson : 8	Benji Rance : 2
Roy McBain : 5	Brian McBeath : 1
Andrew Findlay : 4	Richard Cantlay : 1
Kenny Holmes : 1	

We wish the boys good luck in their remaining matches of the season.



## POP 10

On Saturday 4th March at the Holiday Inn, Dyce an intrepid band of four Academy lads took part in 'Pop 10', a new pop quiz to be shown on cable television.

Tony Wells (S2), Brian McCallion (S3), Derek Gibb (S4) and Bruce Henderson (S5) did the school proud and put p a brave fight against Albyn at the quarter final stage, but the Albyn girls moved ahead during the last two rounds and despite the cheers and encouragement of our supporters, our lads were knocked out of the competition. Everyone agreed though that it was good fun and an enjoyable experience.

## FORMER PUPILS!

Are you an ex-pupil of Dyce Academy? Perhaps you have an older brother or sister who once attended this school? Some ex-pupils are interested in forming a club - to exchange news, to keep in touch, perhaps to meet annually. If you are interested in forming or becoming part of such a club, let us know at UPDATE, Dyce Academy.

# SCHOOL BOARDS

By the end of 1989, School Boards will in place in schools throughout Scotland. The following information on School Boards - based on a pamphlet issued by the Scottish Office - may be of interest to you.

In Dyce Academy the School Board will be made up of five parents (elected by parents), two staff members (teachers elected by their colleagues) and two co-opted members (chosen by all the other board members to represent the community). Board members will serve for four years and half the parent members will come up for re-election every two years.

People other than the members above will be able to come to board meetings; the Education Authority's Director of Education can nominate someone to attend, the local regional councillor has the right to attend, and the Head Teacher has the right to attend. None of these people will, however, have a vote on the board.

The list of the Board's basic duties and functions is as follows :

- keeping in touch with parents' views and reporting to the parents
- encouraging links between the school and parents
- receiving reports from the Head Teacher and the Education Authority, and making representations to them
- taking part in the appointment of senior staff in the school
- approving the Head Teacher's plans for buying books and materials
- helping to set dates for occasional holidays and arranging the use of the school outwith normal school hours.

If the Board feels ready to take on more functions, they can ask the Education Authority to give them new powers and responsibilities.

Boards will be expected to report at least once a year to parents and parents will have the right to demand an open meeting to question the Board if they want to. These are the basic details about School Boards. Apparently, there will be more information in newspapers and on television during the spring and summer and as the time of the first election approaches, notices will be sent directly to parents to let them know about arrangements.

## WELL DONE!

Dave Pyle was appointed the new Depute Rector of Dyce Academy after interviews held at the end of February.

He has been a member of the staff since he school opened in 1980, initially as Principal Teacher (English) and as Assistant Head Teacher since 1983. He started life in Aberdeen and took his degree at Aberdeen University. Between finishing university and starting at Dyce he did, however, travel around. He started teaching in Uganda in 1969 and returned to the U.K. in 1972.

Dave is well-known to staff, pupils and parents, all of whom will be wishing him well in his new post.

## DIARY DATES

MARCH 17/18	: SWIM INTO SPRING
MARCH 24	: GOOD FRIDAY HOLIDAY
MARCH 27	: S2 PARENTS EVENING
MARCH 31	: TERM ENDS
APRIL 3rd-10th	: TRIP TO FRANCE
APRIL 17	: LOCAL HOLIDAY
APRIL 18	: TERM BEGINS
APRIL 28	: S.C.E. EXAMS BEGIN
MAY 1	: MAY DAY HOLIDAY