

# UPDyce DATE Academy

DECEMBER 1989

ISSUE NO. 8

## DYCE ACADEMY SCHOOL BOARD

The recently elected board has had an informal inaugural meeting on Mon. 27 November and its first business meeting on Mon. 11 December.



Dyce Academy School Board:

# COMMENT

IS THERE ANYBODY OUT THERE?

'UPDATE' was launched about a year ago partly to stimulate parental and community interest in Dyce Academy. Readers have been invited to write to 'UPDATE' to express views about the school and its activities and to respond to articles and views aired in the newspaper. We've had one letter! This, after a number of editorials written to provoke response.

When the newly elected school board members were asked if people in the neighbourhood had taken much interest in their election, the answer was, "Not a lot."

Are people interested in education? Those of us involved in the production of 'UPDATE' really did hope that the newspaper would become a vehicle for the expression of views on education in general and Dyce Academy in particular. I'm sure those elected to the school board have similar aspirations for the board.

We really would like to get some kind of dialogue going through 'UPDATE' - even if only to indicate that someone reads our articles. Please write to us even if just to assure us that there is somebody out there.

## MOCK INTERVIEW PROJECT

In February 1990 all S4 pupils will be given the opportunity to apply for a 'job' with a range of firms and organisations - the Colleges, oil-related companies, small firms, catering establishments, etc. Pupils will then be interviewed for the 'vacancies'.

The entire exercise is designed to give the pupils the experience of applying for a job and being interviewed, in circumstances which are as real as possible.

In the past the 'employers' involved have processed the applications and carried out the interviews, usually on their own premises. Feedback was provided after the interviews so that pupils had an opportunity to learn from their performance before going forward to an interview for a 'real' job or course. Letters will be going out in December inviting previous participants to become involved again. If you have not been involved in the past and feel you could contribute to the Project, please contact Mr. Marioni (A.H.T.) at school. It is a worthwhile experience for all concerned!

## 'THE STUDENTS'



We, the above, being of sound mind and body, do hereby declare this to be our last will and testament.

After five weeks of mental torture battling against odds and the pupils, we would like to thank all involved for the help and assistance received over the course of our sentence, sorry, time here at the academy. Seriously, though, Messrs. Catto, Gordon, Lyon, MacKay and Brown would like to say a fond farewell to pupils and staff alike.

## ADVERTISING RATES

Rates are as follows:

£5 for one issue

£30 per session (7/8 issues)

Payable in advance to Dyce Academy

# SATELLITES IN THE CLASSROOM



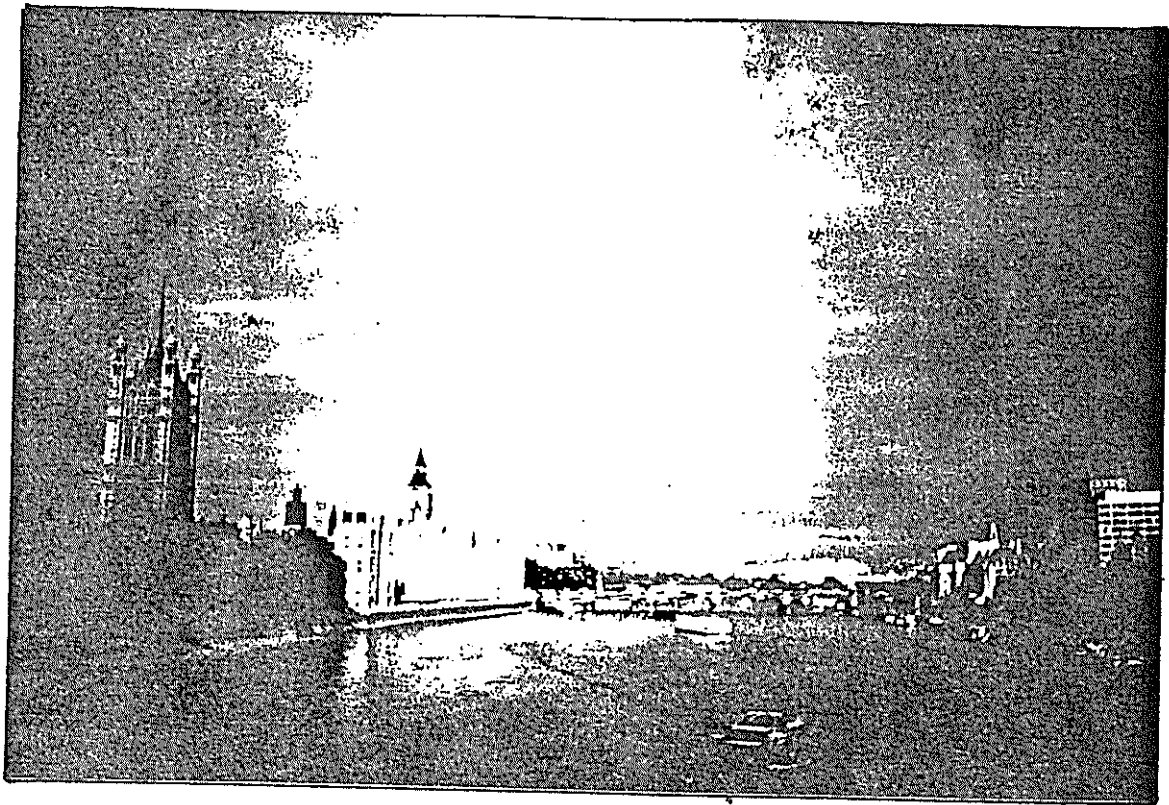
The school has recently acquired equipment which enables us to receive and process information transmitted to Earth from four orbiting satellites. The cost of purchasing and installing the equipment was met by a grant from British Telecom. The information which can be received includes weather photographs and data about the Earth's magnetic field. Pupils in the Geography Department are already benefiting from the equipment as they do work on weather observation and forecasting. The ability to produce up to the minute weather pictures in the classroom and to see how weather changes using a series of photographs is of great help in showing how the weather works. Forecasting the weather is a fairly complex topic for pupils but this new equipment should encourage pupils' understanding, as they are using real information about what is actually happening in the weather.

The equipment can produce weather pictures for the whole of Europe from as far east as the Soviet Union to as far west as Iceland, and right down to North Africa. The data which is received is transmitted to ground from satellites called NOAA 9 and 10 and OSCAR 10 and 11. The pictures are created in good quality colour on the computer monitor and can also be printed out in black and white like the example here from NOAA 10.

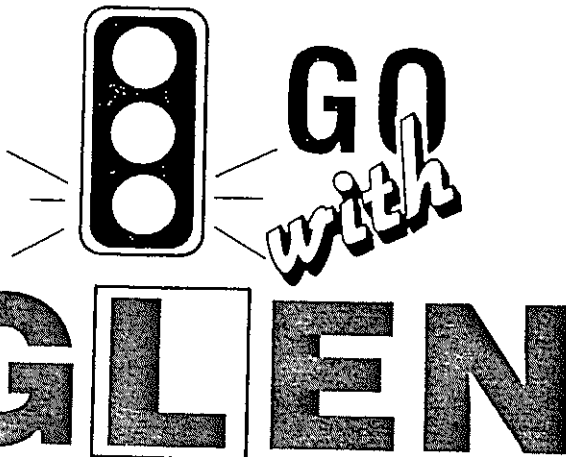
In addition to satellite equipment the school has had an automatic weather station installed on a trial basis. This enables pupils to record the weather conditions at Dyce and when compared with satellite pictures, they are able to see the connection between the local conditions and the general weather pattern over Europe. It is hoped that this automatic weather station will prove useful and eventually be installed permanently to complement the satellite receiver. Maybe the school will eventually be producing the future generation of BBC weather forecasters!

# THE LONDON EXPERIENCE

SOCIAL SUBJECTS DEPT. FIELD TRIP OCT 1989



River Thames



DRIVING SCHOOL



Proprietor: Ian McLean  
tel: 0224 723112

Does Mrs. Moir talk in her sleep? Is Ally Duncan's favourite item of clothing a loin cloth? Did Lisa Spalding really shout to Noel Edmonds "Gie us a kiss"? Why did Graham Brooks fall asleep on the London Underground?

None of these unrelated questions can be answered here but readers can send a s.a.e. with '10 enclosed to T. Ferguson Swiss Bank A/C. What can be revealed, however, is that 39 S4 and S5 pupils and four staff were counted out and miraculously all were counted back. The miracle can be explained that in a five day whirlwind experience where achievement depended on good timekeeping, the Ice skaters reached the departure train with only minutes to spare. Neither Mrs. Moir nor Mrs. Ledingham have been the same since.

From the above you will have gathered this was a field trip with an important curricular input - subject curricular, extra-curricular and hidden curricular! Yes, it was educational in the true sense of the word as visits to Houses of Parliament - inside as well, Westminster Abbey - brassrubblings included, Tower of London, St. Paul's Cathedral, London Dungeon, Guinness World of Records, London Zoo - environment related talk given, Maritime Museum amongst others will justify. Extra-curricular activities included a West End Theatre Trip to see Les Miserables - a highlight for many - and what splendid dresses, the Bermuda Triangle - on the Noel Edmonds' Saturday



Roadshow (recorded on Tuesday), Wembley Stadium - fulfilling a life's ambition to walk down the tunnel, climb up the thirtynine steps and hold the cup without getting near the hallowed turf and a river cruise on a day which reminded us of what summer used to be like. The hidden curriculum as mentioned earlier must remain secret, but it's enough to say that by the end of it all, everyone was absolutely shattered.

The memories come flooding back; everyone had their own highlight, but for me it was one great experience made principally by the first class attitude and sense of responsibility of the group of pupils - I can honestly say it was a pleasure to be with them for the best part of a holiday week.

T. Ferguson

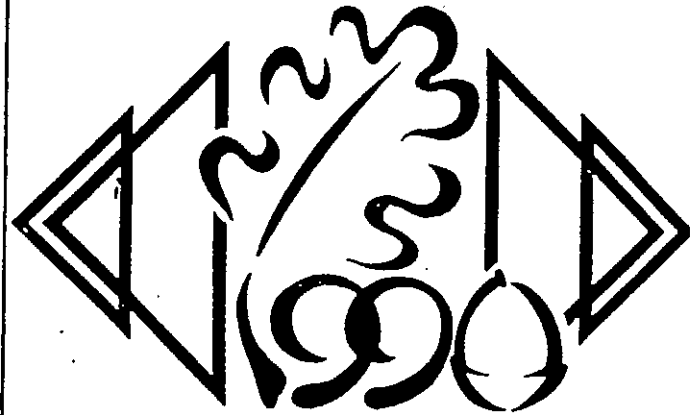


Lynn Tussaud's meets Dame Edna at Madame

Photographs by Emma Robertson

## CARETAKERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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4th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CHURCHILL, U.K.

The school will be taking part in an international conference organised by 'Caretakers of the Environment' in Bristol from 25-29 June 1990.

Any senior pupils interested in taking part in this conference which aims to "focus young people's attention on global environmental issues and ways of tackling them" should see Mr. Jowett or Mr. Taylor for further information.

Cost will be about '100, though some grants may be available to pupils who go to the conference.

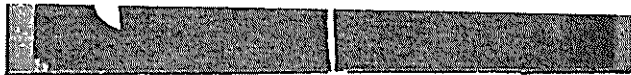
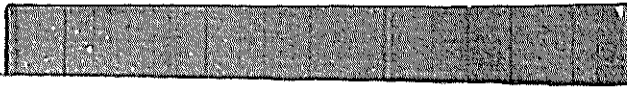
## WEST COAST TRIP 1990

There are still places available for pupils - from any year group - on the 1990 West Coast trip. This is a ten day expedition made up of five days walking and camping on Skye (16-21 May) and five days sailing off the West Coast in a 72ft. ketch (21-26 May). Pupils could come for the full ten days (cost '160-'180) or the walking only ('30-'40), or the sailing only ('150-'160).

Anyone interested should see Mr. Taylor as soon as possible.

# SPOTLIGHT

A series of articles on youngsters at Dyce Academy who have made their mark in some way, perhaps in an area not directly related to school. In this issue we look at Susie Reid of S4.



Susie's interest is middle distance running, which takes in all distances from 800m. to 3000m. Susie also enjoys cross-country running, the farther the better - she enjoys the mud, the freezing cold, the driving rain, etc.

Susie joined Aberdeen Athletic Club some fifteen months ago in order to pursue her interest in running. Other members of AAC in school are Lynda Bain, the School Librarian, Heather Pirie, Duncan Taylor, Barry Flippence and Gillian Wilson.

Susie is now well into her winter training, which involves road running in Dyce as well as training with the Club at the Chris Anderson Stadium at Linksfield. In the past few weeks she has been involved in races at Pitreavie in Fife, in Glasgow and at Balgownie here in Aberdeen. Her races have been mostly over 1500 metres, but a few have been 3000m., which Susie prefers - she considers her best result to date a 10.43 for the 3000m, a personal best.

To date, Susie has an impressive collection of trophies to show for her efforts: six team trophies, three individual trophies, two medals and a plate, all gained since September '88.

Susie hopes to develop her distance running in the future, having already run a 10K race in around 40 minutes. Her next target is a half marathon, with the eventual goal of finishing a full marathon. Good luck, Susie - you're already leaving some of our runners on the staff well behind!

## I've started, so I'll finish....'

The evening of Friday 17th November saw the first event in the 'Ten Year Celebration' of the school's opening. Nine teams, each with three members, met in the school to be quizzed by the Bamber Gascoigne (or was it Bomber Gascoigne? or perhaps Jim Bowen?) of Dyce Academy, Laurence Young. The quizmaster was ably assisted by scorekeeper June Smith, resplendent in sequined tights and a woolly jumper.

Teams were left racking their brains as questions on the inner mysteries of the universe were fired at them - How many actors have played the part of Doctor Who? What does VHS stand for? What was the name of Demis Roussos' first group?

The evening, which started in an atmosphere of serious, thoughtful, contemplative competition grew more tense as it progressed, with cries of delight being heard as hopeful guesses turned out to be right. One competitor was heard to mutter, "It's like being at the Beach End during a big game." Pleas of "This buzzer's nae working properly, Bamber" were dismissed by Referee Young, and after closely fought rounds in both semi-finals and final, the winning team of Susan Alley, John Brady and Judy Palmer received their winning trophies, provided under a sponsorship deal agreed with our own School Shop.

In all, a good beginning to the Ten Year Celebrations, and it's to be hoped that future events will be enjoyed in the same spirit!



The Winning Team:

# SO NEAR, BUT...



As befitted the first week of November there were plenty of fireworks at Northfield Academy as the U-14 5-a-side team sought to bring the McKenzie Trophy to Dyce. The tournament was spread over five nights with a total entry of 21 teams. Each game lasted 10 minutes and Dyce qualified for the play-offs with a heroic 3-1 victory over a tousy Linksfield side being the highlight - anything less would have meant elimination.

Finals night arrived with important questions to be answered.... 'Would Dyce return with the trophy?' 'Would Keith Mathieson manage to get any shots on target?' 'Would Craig Cook get the bag of chips he so desperately wanted?' ...the answer was to be 'No' in each case!

On the field of play close fought victories over local rivals Bankhead and Bridge of Don were followed by a 5-0 thrashing of Portlethen. Dyce had won their section and in the final met Mintlaw. In a sportingly competitive match top scorer Derek Reid put Dyce in front and as the minutes ticked by the atmosphere became more tense. Would Dyce hold out? Last ditch tackles prevented the eager Mintlaw side from scoring but....with 10 SECONDS left.... 'Disaster for Dyce' (to paraphrase Arthur Montford)...the equaliser. The stuffing was knocked out of the team and extra time saw the newly-inspired country team rattle in a further four goals. Almost....

Footnote: Following on from their runners-up position in the McKenzie Trophy, the U-14 5-a-side have qualified for the National Finals in March after winning the Grampian/Highland/Tayside area final on 5th December. There were only six teams represented in the competition and Dyce's comfortable passage concluded with them defeating St. Xavier's High School in the final. Even Keith Mathieson scored!

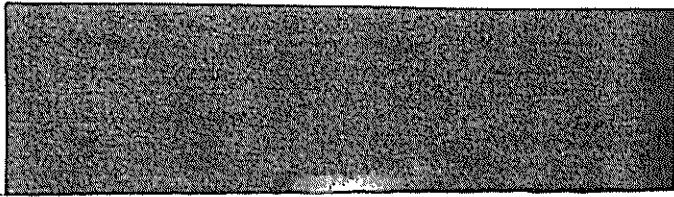
## SCOTTISH CUP FOOTBALL

After the good wins recorded by all three teams in their respective first round matches, the progress of both U-13 and U-14 teams came to a sudden halt at the next stage with the former losing 5-1 to St. Machar and the latter 2-1 to Kincorth.

The U-16s, however, still carry the banner aloft and are now into the last 16. Bridge of Don were defeated 3-2 with goals from Andrew Fraser (2) and Derek Watt, which led to an away trip to Bannockburn. In what was by all accounts a thrilling game, Dyce overcame their opponents despite being at one stage 2-1 down in extra time. True to the scene of other great battles, the boys exemplified the spirit of Robert the Bruce: "Try, try again!" Scorers on the day were Drew Weaver (2) and Roy McBain. The whole team were very sportingly complimented by Bannockburn High School.

The fourth round sees Dyce play Musselburgh at home on Monday, 18th December.

## LOCAL BOY MAKES GOOD



Congratulations are the order of the day for sixth year pupil, Barry Gray, who has been selected for the U-18 Scottish Schoolboys' Football Pool. After trials at Stirling University last month, Barry was chosen to join the squad of 16 for the series of internationals against Eire, Wales and England. Following the estimate exams in January, Barry will travel to England to train with Sheffield United.

## CALENDAR

- Thurs. 14th Dec. : 'Holy Boy' - a Christmas concert by Music Groups
- Thurs. 21st Dec. : School closes for Christmas holiday at 3 p.m.
- Mon. 8th Jan. : Term begins
- Mon. 8th-Wed. 24th Jan : Estimate exams S4/5/6 pupils on Exam Leave

## BURNS SUPPER

'T he night drave on wi' sangs an' clatter,  
And aye the ale was growin' better...!

You'll read elsewhere in 'UPDATE' about our first 'Ten Year Celebration' event - the staff quiz night - but now news about our first 'do'. We're holding a Burns Supper in the school on the evening of Friday 19th January for staff, parents and students in 85/6. You bring yourselves and your own refreshments and we'll do the rest. For the bargain price of '2.50 we'll serve you up traditional Burns Supper fare, few witty speeches and entertaining recitations and top it all off with a ceilidh, courtesy of the Music Department.

It's rumoured that Mike Taylor has already started peeling the tatties and Head of English Myles Hardie is out trying to trap the required number of haggis. We are limited as to the number we can cater for, and so it's first come, first served for tickets. They're on sale NOW and money (or cheques payable to Dyce Academy) should be given to Mrs. Margaret Martin in the Maths Department.

## What are you doing this weekend?

If the prospect of mowing the lawn on Saturday afternoon and washing the car on Sunday morning doesn't exactly fill you full of anticipation, why don't you give yourself a well deserved break.

With either a "Family Weekender" where children under 19 stay free,\* or "Two's Company," where couples can enjoy a romantic "get away from it all" weekend. Just imagine one or two nights accommodation in a four star Holiday Inn with full breakfast. Plus use of all the facilities and entertainment offered by Aberdeen's leading hotel.

\* Children stay free if they share your room. Maximum 2 adults, 3 children per room.

# Holiday Inn® Weekender

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