

UPDyce DATE Academy

ISSUE NO.9

FEBRUARY '90

The cast of 'Holy Boy' which was performed on December 14th by the school's music groups.



COMMENT

The inspection is over now. Since November we in the school, staff and pupils, have been very conscious of 'being watched'. Not really in a nasty way. Her Majesty's Inspectors are, almost without exception, courteous, intelligent and perceptive, and have a lot of sound advice to offer.

They have had a lot of nice things to say about our school and most of their 'recommendations' - their polite word for criticisms - were anticipated. Some we are attending to; others we would like to attend to given the time and resources. They have told us what they think of us, but we will have to wait for a few months yet for the written report. This report will be widely circulated; every pupil gets a copy to take home.

Although it would be inappropriate to report their comments in any detail before the report is published, I think there would be no objection to passing on the compliments they paid the staff and pupils. Many commented on the pleasant, open manner of everyone they met and on the high level of co-operation they received.

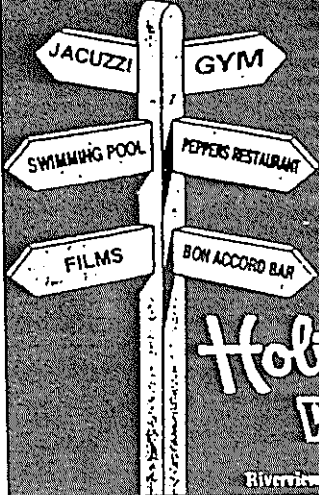
They said they enjoyed being with us. Let's hope we enjoy reading about their visit!

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
ABERDEEN
 Riverside Drive, Dyce, Aberdeen AB20AZ

DYCE ACADEMY SCHOOL BOARD

Dyce Academy School Board has now held two meetings since its formation in November 1989. One of the main aims of the board is to promote contact between the school, parents and the community and to this end, we would like to remind people that meetings are open to the public except in certain circumstances.


Copies of the agenda for meetings and the signed minutes of the previous meetings are available for you to view at the following locations six days before the board is due to meet:

Community noticeboard in Fintray
 Library in Newmachar
 Library in Dyce
 Noticeboard at the swimming pool at Dyce Academy

Anyone interested in submitting a relevant item for a future agenda can do so by contacting one of the board members 14 days before the meeting. In addition, if anyone has any queries about the operation or the functions of the school board please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 6th March at 7.30 pm in the Staff Centre, Dyce Academy.

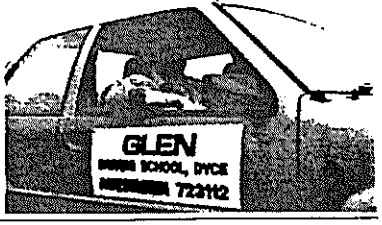
Susan Montgomerie, Chairperson
 (Tel. 724420)



GO with

GLEN

DRIVING SCHOOL



Proprietor: Ian McLean
 tel: 0224 723112

BURNS SUPPER

Lily Scott

At Dyce Academy on 19th January a Burns Supper was held as part of the Ten Year Celebrations. For the incredible price of £2.50 we were fed and entertained - a cheap evening, but one rich in entertainment. If you missed it, keep an eye out for future 'Ten Year' events.

Mike Taylor as Chairperson introduced each speaker with an anecdote or joke - he referred to the bargain price and firmly quashed all rumours that the food had 'fallen off the back of a lorry!'

The haggis, piped in by Joan Bruce (nee Brown), carried by Susan Alley and addressed with panache by David Montgomerie, was gobbled with gusto by the hungry crowd, some of whom had taugt with the smell of neeps wafting through the corridors, as soon as Mairi Steele finished the Selkirk Grace. The committee had worked hard to produce the traditional fare and deserve our thanks for the hot and ample helpings of haggis, neeps and tatties, supplemented by mince for the really-ravenous or the haggis-haters. Oatcakes and cheese washed down by your own favourite tippie completed the meal.

With 'bellies bursting' we sat down prepared to yawn away the 'boring' bit. But the invited speakers proved to be entertaining and original in their approach.

Stewart Philp, now Rector at Linksfield, delivered the Immortal Memory in the unique Daily Record style with ten "Did you know that..." facts about the Bard, which included the revelation that the family hailed from the Stonehaven area and changed from Burnes to Burns on moving to Ayrshire - whether because of bad writing, bad spelling or expediency I am unsure. Also - the real love of his life, Clarinda, was an unconsummated relationship. Maybe her home in Jamaica had something to do with it!

Next in line came David Pyle, with his studied delivery of that old hypocrite Holy Willie. With his white

shirt unbuttoned - but his collar still in place - he was able to epitomise the fact that Willie was 'chosen' and therefore exempt from punishment.

Gordon Skinner, the only male member of the recently formed School Board, agreed that he had not been constricted to give the Toast to the Lassies but was happy to share his reminiscences of his associations with the fairer sex. His anecdotes had us all laughing, but the one about the over-warmed potty left a warm glow.

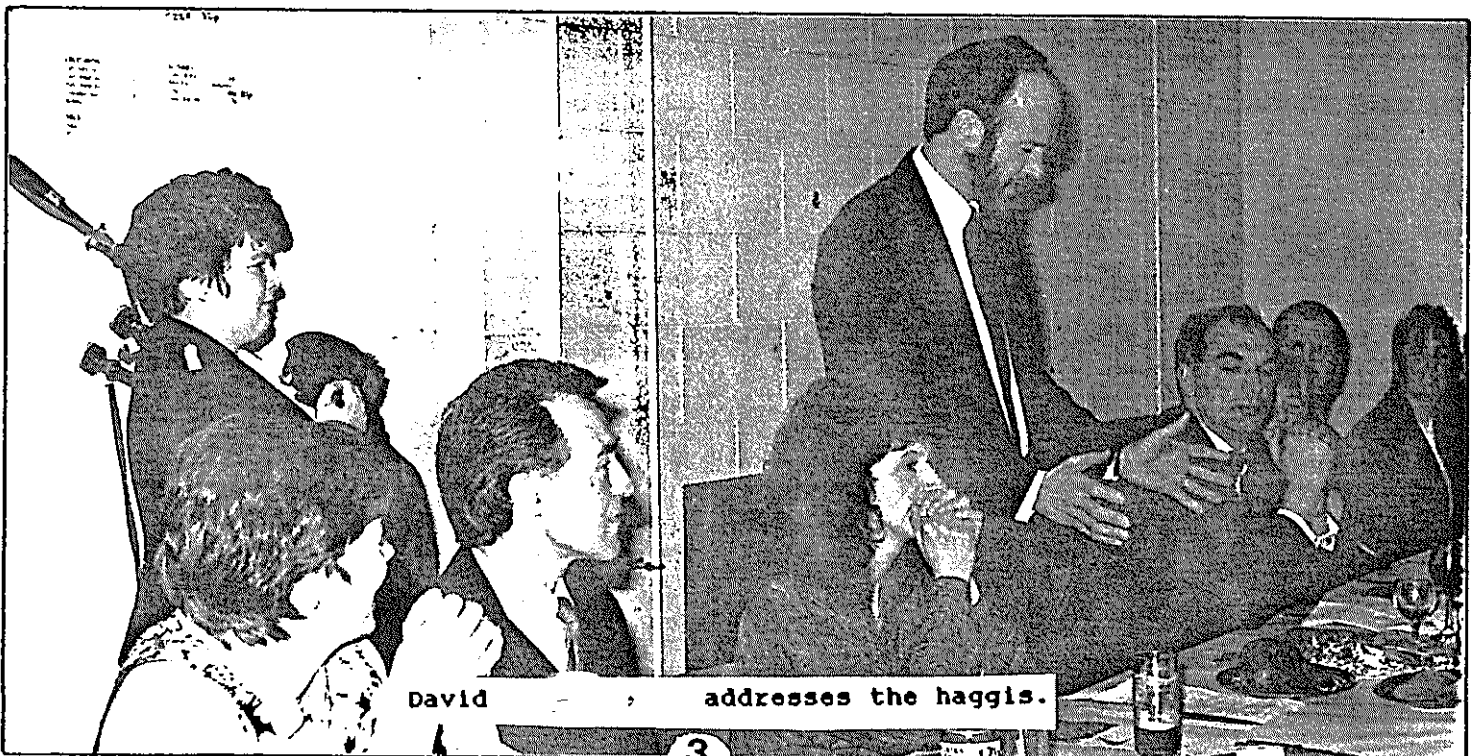
In her reply to the Toast, Val Moir showed she was a match for the preceding speakers, picking up on salient points and finishing strongly with the reminder from 'Green Grow the Rashes':

Auld Nature swears
The lovely dears
Her noblest work she classes o'
Her 'prentice hand
She tried on man,
And then - she made the Lassies o'!

Now everybody has a favourite, but for me the gem was Laurence Young's rendering of 'Tam O'Shanter'. Moving about among the audience he made me see, feel and hear everything encountered by Tam - from the warmth of the inn to the desperate gallop to safety. Robert Burns created a narrative masterpiece but Laurence Young brought it alive that Friday.

But the evening wasn't over yet - a ceilidh, provided by the Music Department aided by computer, enabled us to dance off our excesses and made us active participants in the evening's entertainment. Strip the Willow and the Eightsome Reel allowed for creative variations, the likes of which would have amazed Tam.

Everybody - parents, former pupils friends and staff seemed to enjoy themselves, and it's at this point that I want to shout out especially to former pupils, "Come and join us in the next open Celebration event."



David addresses the haggis.

LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION!

Technology, in its many forms, plays an important part in our children's education, although even educationalists cannot agree on a single definition of the word 'technology' - but then that's an issue for a separate article.

The piece of technology that I have found myself increasingly involved with over the past few years is the video camera or camcorder as the new generation of cameras and recorders, combined in one unit, have been labelled.

Most schools own at least one such camcorder and its uses are many. In P.E. and Drama it allows the children to view and comment on their own work, the Science teacher can use it to allow pupils to get closer to that difficult experiment, the outside world can be brought into the classroom and all teachers can find it a valuable tool to help with assessment.

At Dyce however we have gone beyond 'the usual' and are using the technology available to produce educational television programmes for our own and other pupils. We are not the only school in Grampian to do this but we do believe we produce more and cover a much wider subject range than other schools in the Region. Recent comments from the Inspectorate would seem to confirm this belief.

A whole series of videos have been made in conjunction with the Library and subject departments concentrating on different aspects of Information Skills: An Introduction to the Library, Finding a Fiction Book (English), Finding a Non-Fiction Book (Science), Careers and Subject Choice (Guidance), Using Encyclopaedias (Social Subjects), and Making Notes (Home Economics). This last one has been picked up by one of the staff at the Curriculum Development Unit and it could soon be being used in a number of other schools throughout Grampian. So popular and worthwhile has this series of 'in-house' videos been that we are starting to remake the earlier ones in order to bring them up to date, and this series has inspired at least one other school in Aberdeen to consider producing their own, while schools outwith the Region have requested copies.

Environmental Education has always been considered an important subject at Dyce and we produced a video record of our involvement in and commitment to European Year of the Environment. Again, this video had a wider audience than Dyce Academy in that it was shown to pupils throughout Aberdeen on the B P Bus and it was taken to an international conference on the environment in Spain.

Subject departments, of course, have many individual requirements and where possible we try to meet these. We produced a programme for Home Economics to be used with student teachers of the subject, and recently we completed a video for Standard Grade Geography:



Inverurie - A Rural Case Study. This is being used not only at Dyce but also at Bankhead and Bridge of Don Academies and once again there is the possibility that it may go further afield.

For Guidance, we produced a video about the litter problem at the Academy and after it was included in the Social Education programme, its message got across and there was an improvement in the situation. Maths, a subject more associated with computers than camcorders, is also moving into the video age and has already produced two in a series of self-study tapes.

Parents are not forgotten either when it comes to video production. Videos have been produced to explain subject choice, the S1 induction programme at Crathes and what happens on a school trip.

Pupils too at Dyce have the opportunity to produce video material. As part of the Compulsory General Studies programme every child completes a twenty week Media Education course in either S3 or S4, in which there is much opportunity, during two different projects, to present ideas on television. One or two of the optional General Studies courses also allow pupils access to video and one enterprising S3 group are at present producing a video: Introducing Dyce Academy, to be shown to P7 pupils before they come up to the Academy in August.

So what of the future? We intend to continue our series of Information Skills and Maths self-study tapes. Another Standard Grade Geography programme - probably about farming - is in the pipeline and we will produce a video about the new S1 induction course which is to be centred at Cullen. What can we do to improve our productions?

Well, more staff are gradually becoming involved in the actual making of the videos but with better editing and post-production facilities we could be producing even better results. At present we have to 'assemble edit'

using two video recorders (not a very accurate method) or try to find time to get access to the Region's editing suite at the Teachers' Resources Centre. Some schools have been given their own editing equipment - but then Dyce Academy is not considered to be in a deprived area. Nor have we won a video competition and therefore brought prestige to the Region, but then at Dyce we don't make videos for competitions - we make them to enhance the education of our pupils. So, if any business or benefactor out there would like to consider investing in the education of pupils at Dyce - give me a ring - I'm more than willing to listen.

Laurence T. Young

Principal Teacher, Drama.

STANDARD GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This is a new two-year course which will be offered to pupils moving into S3 in June 1990. It will be offered like most other Standard Grade subjects at all three levels, Foundation, General and Credit. It will appeal to most pupils but specifically to those who are particularly interested in the subject and have enjoyed the variety of work in S1 and S2.

The course will have a practical basis, but there will be a written component. It should therefore be not only physically challenging but academically stimulating. The course will involve pupils in activities which they may have already met, though these will be tackled from a new angle; completely new activities will also be undertaken. A range of activities will be covered: badminton, basketball, orienteering, hockey, swimming and water safety, and fitness, these to be covered in blocks of time varying between twenty and thirty hours. Pupils wishing to do Standard Grade P.E. should be reasonably self-confident, motivated and willing to work in co-operation with other pupils and members of staff.

Assessment will take into account practical abilities; an Assignment will have to be completed and there will be a written examination towards the end of S4, all of which will lead to an S.C.E. Certificate.

Job opportunities in this area are increasing with the opening of more and more leisure centres like the Beach Leisure Centre and Bucksburn Swimming Pool. Previously, often the only qualification required was proof of a keen interest in P.E. at school, but S.G.P.E. provides a nationally recognised qualification. Specialist colleges provide courses which extend such qualifications to degree level. The subject therefore has lots to offer every child in terms of enjoyment, a healthier life and career qualifications for the future.

R. Littlejohn

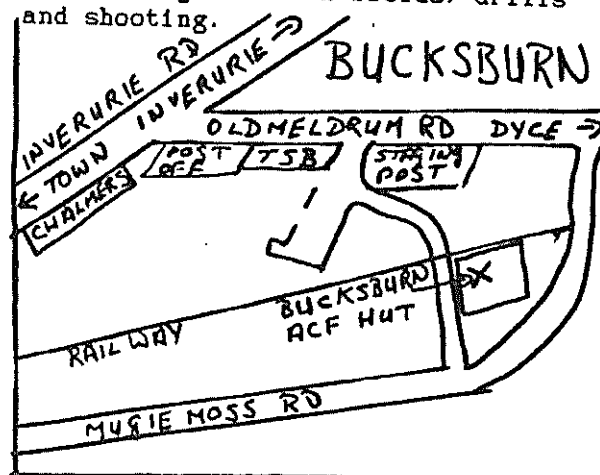
P.T. Physical Education



BUCKSBURN PLATOON
GORDON HIGHLANDERS BATTALION
ARMY CADET FORCE

The Bucksburn Platoon is your local ACF Detachment. We are open to boys aged 13 to 18.

Our activities are divided into two groups, Military and Adventurous. Under military, are activities such as Skill at Arms (taking weapons apart, re-assembling them and being shown how to use them safely), map and compass, fieldcraft (camouflage, sentrys, patrols, attacks, camping and cooking meals in fields) drills and shooting.



Adventurous activities are football canoeing, assault courses, abseiling ski-ing, rock-climbing, cross country and swimming.

There are weekends away approximately once a month, with other detachments, on our own and with the Territorial Army.

Weekends cost £1.50 except for TA weekends which are free.

Once a year there is a two week camp (this year from July 7 - 21 beside Blackpool and Morcanbe), camp costs approximately £32.00.

Joining the Cadets is free except for buying a pair of boots. You will be issued a set of Army Kit approximately 6 weeks after joining which you keep until you leave.

There are good promotion prospects right up to senior cadet level.

The detachment is also involved at all levels of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

If you are interested in joining, the detachment meets every Monday and Thursday evenings between 7.30pm and 9.30 pm.



SPOTLIGHT

The spotlight this time turns on Kennedy in '83, whose hobby is boxing.



Kennedy first started boxing at the age of 11. With no chance of getting into his school's football team, he decided to go along with a friend to Aberdeen A.B.C. which meets at Cummings Park Community Centre. The club at present has about thirty members, aged between twelve and thirty, and Kennedy boxes in the eight stone division. He trains three times each week, working with weights and the punchbag, and circuit training and skipping are also part of his schedule.

Kennedy is at present North of Scotland Champion at his weight. He has had a total of 18 fights so far, losing only three of those. The fights tend to be held in some of the area's plush hotels - Kennedy has appeared at the Skean Dhu in Dyce, the Marcliffe and the Treetops - but Kennedy also holds a medal for a bout which was staged in one of our less plush hotels, Craiginches Prison! Away from Aberdeen, Kennedy has also fought in Edinburgh and Dundee.

He reckons that his hardest fight to date was when he won the North-East Championship on points. He is now looking forward to the Scottish Championships.

Although boxing is a hard physical sport, Kennedy has had few injuries and feels that the sense of pride and satisfaction after a good performance is well worth any bruises. Keep your gloves up, Kennedy!

HEALTH STUDIES

What is Health Studies?

In recent years, major changes have taken place in approaches to health education; the emphasis has changed from education about health, to education for a healthier lifestyle - being a 'healthier person'. From past experience we know that it is not enough to show young people a pair of tar-stained lungs to encourage them to stop smoking - the 'shock horror' approach doesn't work. We now know that we are more successful in our teaching if we place our emphasis on developing certain skills and abilities in the young person which will encourage the individual to take more responsibilities for, and be more in control of, his/her own actions.

In offering Health Studies courses, we are hoping to help young people:

- to acquire relevant knowledge and understanding
- to develop the personal and interpersonal skills which are needed to take positive action about health
- to improve their self-esteem and self-confidence
- to develop positive attitudes and feelings about health issues
- to take positive action related to their own health.

Four short courses will be offered, each lasting a total of forty hours, and each exploring a different aspect of health, to be selected from the following: What is Health?, Health and Food Choices, Health and Exercise, Parenting and Health, Health and Consumers, Health and Technology, Relationships and Health and Healthy Risks.

Each short course successfully completed will be included on that pupil's S.E.B. Certificate.

A considerable degree of interest and enthusiasm has been shown by teachers from various subject departments who wish to be involved in the teaching of these courses, and it is felt that pupils will find them equally stimulating and worthwhile.

B. Urquhart

P.T. Guidance

SPORTS NEWS

FOOTBALL FOCUS

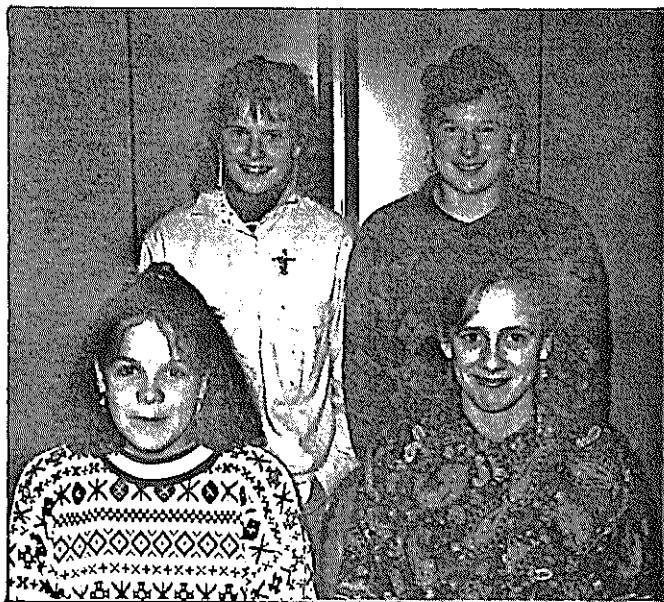
Further congratulations are due to fifteen year old Drew who, after narrowly failing to make the squad for the Scottish Schoolboys U-16 football team in November, has been signed on an 'S' form by Heart of Midlothian F.C. Following trials at Tynecastle during the Christmas holidays Hearts made him an attractive offer including the option to sign on as a full-time professional after his Higher exams in 1991. In signing for Hearts Drew has disappointed a posse of clubs such as Rangers, Leicester City and Sheffield Utd.

Raymond Littlejohn, P.T. of P.E. and coach, rates Drew very highly, not only with respect to his undoubted skill and seemingly limitless stamina, but also his attitude. He comments, "As U-16 captain, Drew takes his responsibilities seriously, encouraging his team-mates to make the most of their talents whilst being able to diffuse situations on the field of play. He has all the necessary requirements to make the grade as a professional footballer at Tynecastle."

High praise indeed which, hopefully, in the years to come proves to be true.



IN THE SWIM...



Congratulations to Rachael Ailsa Angela and Lyndsay who have qualified for the Royal Bank of Scotland Scottish Schools Finals at the Commonwealth Pool, Edinburgh on Saturday, 10th February. In the U-19 front crawl relay the girls go into the final as fourth fastest qualifiers with every possibility of a medal. Furthermore, Ailsa has a good chance of picking up an individual medal in the Girls 17-19 100m. front crawl, whilst first year pupil Rachael has done well to qualify for the 100m. back crawl in the 13-14 age group and has a chance of reaching the last eight against many older competitors. We wish them all the best.

FOOTNOTE : In the 4x50m. Front Crawl Relay, our girls won the Silver Medal. The team was Angela Barber, Ailsa Campbell, Lyndsay Davidson and Rachael Michie.

GRADUATIONS

Below are some of the degrees and diplomas obtained by past pupils, which have been notified to the school in the few past months. The list is by no means exhaustive - and we're always pleased to hear how any of our past pupils are getting on.

R.G.I.T.

David Tough : B. ENG.
Gail Anthony : HND Computing
Colin Beagrie : HND Computer Studies
Colin Campbell : B.Sc. Quantity
 Surveying
Susan D'Arcy : B. ENG.
Allison Harper : B.Sc. Mathematical
 Sciences
Glenna Hiley : B.Sc. Pharmacy
Stephen Lancaster : HND Computing
Paul Lawrence : HND Computing
Andrew Matthews : HND Hotel Management
Christopher Mutch : HND Computer
 Studies
Gregor Peter : HND Electrical Eng.
Athol Strachan : HND Electrical Eng.

University of Aberdeen

Lynn Brown : M.A.
Stewart Souden : B.Sc. For. (II.i)
Jane Robertson : B.Sc. (II.ii)
Heather Stewart : M.A.

University of Stirling

Neil MacLeod : B.Sc. (Hon. Econ.)

WHAT A RACQUET...

Over the Christmas holidays 23 pupils from the school took part in the South Grampian Schools Badminton Tournament at U-14 and U-16 level. The interest generated by the recently formed badminton club undoubtedly contributed to this number entering. The standard of competition was an unknown quantity but proved to be rather high, especially at U-16 level.

In the U-14 tournament Brian Dawson had the most success and won through his pool matches. Unfortunately, he came up against the Scottish No. 2, Stuart Rennie, from Kemnay - and his progress was promptly halted. At U-16 level the best performance came from Mhairi Troup who narrowly missed out on qualifying for the semi-finals.

Overall, the experience of playing against competitors of a higher standard could hopefully give our own players something to aim at.

STRIKE UP THE BAND

Saturday 24th March will see the annual concert in aid of Transport for the Disabled in Dyce and District being held once again at the Skean Dhu in Dyce. The Dyce Community Orchestra and Choir along with the Dyce Academy Brass Group, Wind Group and Choir will perform under the musical directorship of the Academy's head of music, June Smith.

Following last year's very successful concert, June promises that this one, being held in the school's tenth year, will be very special.

The first part of the programme will be a selection of music and songs from the worlds of film and television. Whether your preference is for 'Neighbours' or 'Jesus Christ Superstar', there should be something to suit your tastes. The second part of the concert is a musical story - Noah Jazz - in which headteacher Mike Taylor is to make an appearance as - the Devil!! Rumour has it that June Smith is still looking for someone to play God!

Following the concert there will be a supper dance in the hotel and tickets for either or both parts of the evening will be available soon. Further details can be obtained from Dyce Academy music department.

CALENDAR

26 Feb - 5 Mar : Ski Trip to France

Thursday 15 Mar: Meeting for S2 parents to explain subject choice arrangements

Monday 26 Mar : S2 Parents' Evening

VACANCY: MALE LOCKER ATTENDANT

DYCE ACADEMY SWIMMING POOL

For this immediate vacancy the rate of pay is £2.96p per hour and will involve approximately 15 hours per week. Applicants must be available from 12 noon to 4.00 pm on Wednesdays and be able to do some evening and weekend work for which enhanced payment is made. For further information contact the swimming pool.