

# UPDATE Dyce Academy

ISSUE NO. 15

DECEMBER '90

## ABERDEEN AIRPORT ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT

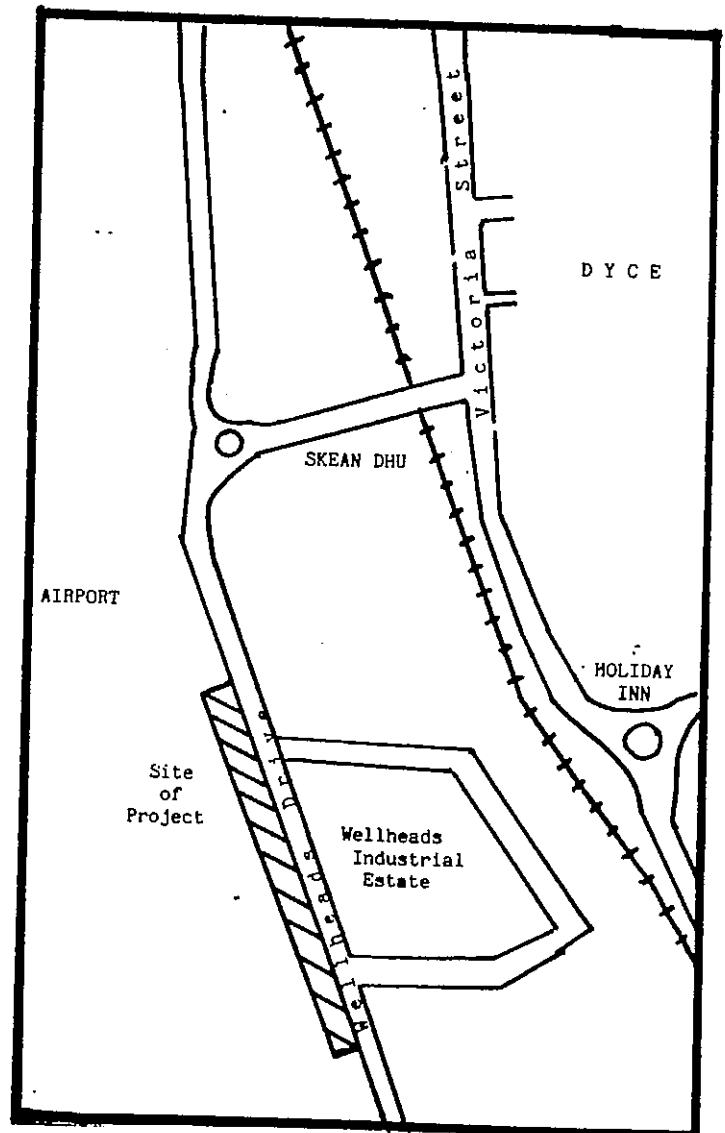
Last session two S4 Environmental Education classes were involved in a project to find out how 'green'some local companies and other organisations are. One of our contacts for this project was Aberdeen Airport. Three pupils (now in S5) went to the Airport to find out from the management about their environmental policies and practices. In doing so they learned a great deal about the practical difficulties involved in running a busy airport which is situated in a built-up area and were pleasantly surprised to discover how environmentally 'aware' the airport's operations try to be.

This session we are developing a follow-up project with the airport. This will involve pupils from the school helping to improve the environment of part of the airport perimeter. Mr George Sinclair from the airport has invited pupils to come up with plans to improve a fairly barren strip of land along the perimeter near to the flying school. This will be an exciting project for pupils and they will have the opportunity to make a permanent improvement to the environment of Dyce and the airport. Pupils' ideas will be backed up by finance from the airport and by the technical expertise of a landscaping firm.

The formal launch of this joint project took place recently when the three students who visited the airport last year were invited back to plant the first tree. During the course of this session many other pupils will have the chance to become involved in the development of the project.

Future issues of Update will describe the progress of this project - you may also see for yourself once changes start to take place along Wellheads Drive.

RAYMOND JOWETT



# LETTER FROM LENINGRAD

Thursday 18 October :

A bunch of bleary-eyed travellers descends onto the platform. The good weather of Moscow has been replaced by the dreich mists of Leningrad, a pity because it's obviously a beautiful city, built in Western style on the canals of the Neva Delta by Czar Peter the Great. As we drive to the Karelia Hotel, the domes of the Smolny Convent loom out of the mist. Unfortunately, it's another interminable wait to get to our rooms and a welcome shower. We have breakfast and lunch served in a huge, dark dining hall hung with large blue murals and depicting scenes from the history of the area. The food seems slightly better than that in Moscow.

In the afternoon our guide, Peter, who turns out to be a big improvement on Violetta, takes us on a city tour. Our first stop is the sobering Piskaryovskoye Memorial Cemetery which honours those who perished in the siege of Leningrad during World War Two. We find its mass graves and funeral music very moving.

From there we take a look at the views of Leningrad, the Fortress, the Aurora Cruiser whose guns signalled the start of the Bolshevik Revolution, the Winter Palace of the Czars, now the Hermitage Museum, the Smolny Institute, once Lenin's HQ and St Isaac's Cathedral. Each time we get off the bus hordes of young boys surround us trying to swop badges for chewing gum. They even want my STS tour badges. I feel guilty somehow, and saddened. Our affluent pupils buy T-shirts and Gorby dolls ... Gorbachov outside, and inside, Breshnev, Kruschev, Stalin and a tiny Lenin. That would not have been permitted a few years ago! Peter, our guide, is obviously no fan of Lenin or the Party and voices his disgust at the fact that Moscow's bleeding Leningrad dry. He wants to see his native city renamed St Petersburg and makes no secret of the fact. This must be another sign of the new openness.

Friday 19 October :

We embark on a marathon three-hour tour of the art treasures of the Hermitage. Peter explains every-

thing very well but it is pretty heavy stuff and the party gradually starts to shrink. Most of the Dycers manage to stick it out to the end and are rewarded with the marvellous Impressionists and Post-Impressionists. No-one can make much of the Picassos though. We stagger out into the palace square where the military are rehearsing for the Revolution Day Parade. A band of buskers are rather incongruously playing "God Save the Queen". Did they know we were coming?

In the afternoon we visit the Fortress of St Peter and St Paul where Peter the Great and other Czars are buried. We walk under the walls of the Fortress and admire the amazing vista of buildings across the Neva. What a pity the sun isn't shining.

At night we have a trip to the Concert Hall for an evening of Folk Dance. It's very colourful and beautifully done but lacks the excitement of live music and singing. We try to compensate for this on the way back to the hotel with our own version of "Kalinka". The driver, Oleg, is very tolerant!

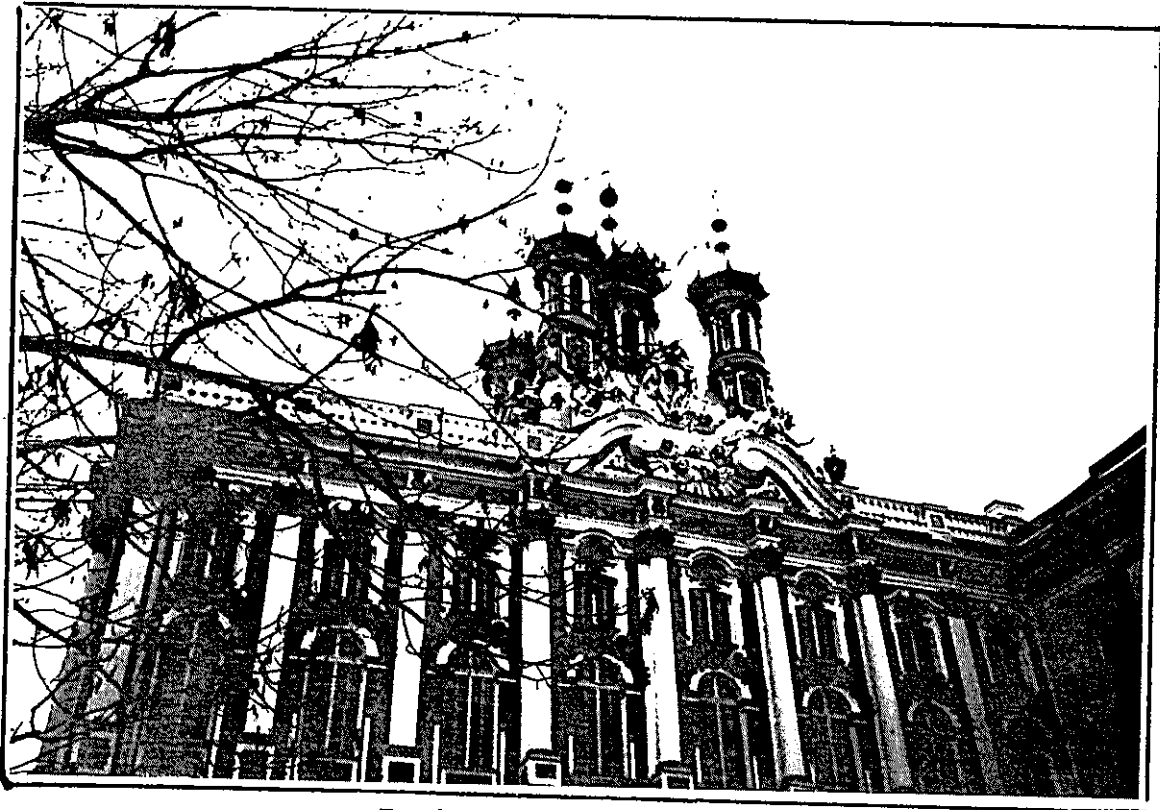
Back at the Karelia the other school parties, particularly one from a private boys' school in Ipswich, are running amok and their staff are nowhere to be seen. This causes us considerable hassle but we eventually get to bed at 3.00 am. It is interesting to note that our pupils, the only party from a genuinely comprehensive state school, are by far the best behaved in the hotel. Well done kids!

Saturday 20 October :

The weather has broken with a vengeance. The mist turns into rain which soon turns to sleet. Perhaps it's as well we are leaving tomorrow. In the morning we visit a street market and try to get rid of our last roubles but most of the traders only want foreign currency. It's the same in the hotel. Still, the market is near the Art College so a few of the group buy nice paintings to take home.



Winter Place Square, Leningrad



Tsar's Summer Palace, Pushkin

In the afternoon most of the group decide to stay in the hotel to save their strength for tomorrow's journey. Judy, Chris, Keith and Albert join Mrs Twine and myself on a tour of Pushkin and the Czar's Summer Palace. We have to wear felt slippers over our shoes to protect the parquet floors and all the gold leaf is a bit over the top but we are certainly seeing how the other half lived. The whole palace has been painstakingly restored after being vandalised by the Germans in World War Two.

Our last evening and the staff are invited to a champagne reception by Florian, the STS Guide. It's the most energetic thing he's done all week. Meanwhile the pupils struggle with their packing.

Sunday 21 October :

Farewell to the USSR. We have lunch at Leningrad Airport, which looks straight out of the 1930s, a big contrast with Gatwick. Our flight is delayed for twenty minutes but it's a newer plane and again we arrive safely. Our coach is there to meet us but gets lost looking for, and then held up for two hours on the M25. So it's a very tired bunch who eventually make it to Bankhead at 6.00 am on Monday 22 October. We've certainly enjoyed a trip of contrasts and hopefully will be willing and able to keep in touch with our new friends back in the USSR.

VALERIE MOIR

## CONGRATULATIONS

..... to ex-pupil Allison Harper who recently graduated B.Sc. (Hons) in Mathematical Sciences with Computing from RGIT. She shared the SCICON Award for the outstanding final year student, and won the IMA Award outright, the prize for the best final-year student in Mathematics. Well done!

## SCHOOL RESOURCES CENTRE

Our resources centre is very well supplied with a wide range of different types of material which are well organised and used a great deal by pupils. We are, however, always trying to improve the range of materials available to pupils in the centre.

One area where the demand is limitless is fiction, particularly novels. Also, the novels which are popular with youngsters get so well used that they wear out! It has been suggested to us that many households have books - especially novels - which they no longer want to keep; they wind up in the rubbish or at a book sale. We could use them in school.

We would be grateful to receive any books, which you no longer want to keep, to improve our library stock. They can be left at the school office.

# QUIZZES

## YOUNG CONSUMER OF THE YEAR

On Thursday 22 November a team of sixth year students represented Dyce Academy in the Regional heats of the 'Young Consumers of the Year' competition organised by the Institute of Trading Standards with the aim of raising levels of consumer awareness in young people of 14-18 years of age.

Harlaw, Northfield and Turriff Academies were also represented in the knock-out competition and in the first heat Dyce was drawn against the strong Harlaw team. During the early rounds both teams responded well to questions on Consumer Rights, Legal General Knowledge and Consumer Safety. As they became more confident, however, the Dyce team gradually began to pull ahead through picking up several bonus points in questions on Money, Credit and Finance, Food & Drink and General Knowledge, eventually defeating Harlaw by 9 points.

In the final against Turriff Academy our team built steadily on an early lead and returned victorious to Dyce with a £100 cheque for school funds. An engraved Caithness Glass trophy and individual replicas for each team member will also be presented by Hawco & Sons Ltd, the local sponsors of the competition.

Well done ladies !!

The team will now represent Grampian in Inverness in March competing against other Northern Scottish regions for a place in the National final.

In recognition of the imminence of the Open Market in 1992, this is to be held in Rotterdam next summer and we wish them good luck in their efforts to further enhance the national and international reputation of Dyce Academy.



National Trust Quiz Team

As well as our Young Consumers Quiz Team (see separate article), Dyce Academy has fielded successful teams in two other competitions

Our S6 team made up of Neil Harper, Danielle Morgan and Ingrid Taylor came a close second to Bankhead Academy in the Dyce Rotary Club General Knowledge Quiz, beating teams from a number of local organisations. They won £75 for the school.

A team made up of Struan Park (S1), Laura Park (S3) Stephen Dempster (S5) and Ingrid Taylor (S6) beat a team from Linksfield in the first round of the National Trust for Scotland Jubilee Quiz - another general knowledge quiz. Teams from sixteen schools in Grampian competed in the first round and the successful eight will compete in the next round early in the New Year.

Well done everyone and the best of luck to our National Trust team in the second round!



Young Consumers

# INVESTIGATING IN MODERN STUDIES - THE INDIVIDUAL STUDY

Compared with most other subjects, we in Modern Studies have considerable experience in the Investigating element now commonplace in most S3/S4 courses. In the Ordinary Grade, pupils were obliged to investigate a topic and write a report which counted for up to 10% of their total mark. The CSE Social Studies course contained a similar opportunity for candidates to attain the same percentage before sitting more formal examinations.

This has not meant that the transition to Standard Grade has been entirely painless. There are some fundamental differences. Investigating now accounts for 33% of the total grade and is more rigorous in its demands than either of the 'O' or CSE courses. For example, topic choice is now limited to the seven key concepts of the course rather than any area of content. Pupils must now make sure that they use two primary (first hand) sources of information when collecting evidence. Continuous assessment is more important than terminal assessment and this is more time-consuming for the teacher who assesses the investigation. Whereas the old 'O' Grade was designed for 40-60% of the year group, Standard Grade Investigating is for all ability levels. Finally, consideration has to be given to the demands made on pupils from other subjects which also contain an Investigating element.

How have these problems been overcome? Taking the last problem first, we have tackled the new Individual Study from the beginning of S4 in June to the Christmas break. Within this time, pupils have to meet deadlines for each of the sub-elements of Investigating, ie :

- |                                   |                   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Planning                          | - late June       |
| Collecting evidence               | - early September |
| Selecting relevant material       | - late September  |
| Reporting findings - draft report | - October break   |
| - final copy                      | - Christmas break |

Pupils can use the Summer break, if required, to collect various forms of information as this is usually the most time-consuming part of the study. The latter part of the time allocated, ie October to December, should only be needed to make adjustments and 'fine tuning' so that the bulk of the work is done by October.

With regard to mixed ability teaching, the involvement of Learning Support has been crucial. In line with school policy, support has been given to pupils of all abilities. Quite often the help has been in communicating information but pupils have also been supported in the planning and gathering information stages of the study. Pupils can consult a Learning Support teacher on a one-to-one basis at least one period a week while the rest of the class continue with other course work.

Practice in investigating is essential and pupils are given several opportunities to gather information and to report throughout third year. At least one mock mini-investigation will be tackled before the actual Individual Study is embarked upon.

In planning their study, pupils are now more likely to experience initial disappointment when their choice of topic is rejected because it does not match one of the course concepts. The titles of topic which have been successful include :

Investigating the needs of a disadvantaged group in society, eg elderly, disabled, unemployed (concept of need)

Investigating the activities of a pressure group (concept of participation)

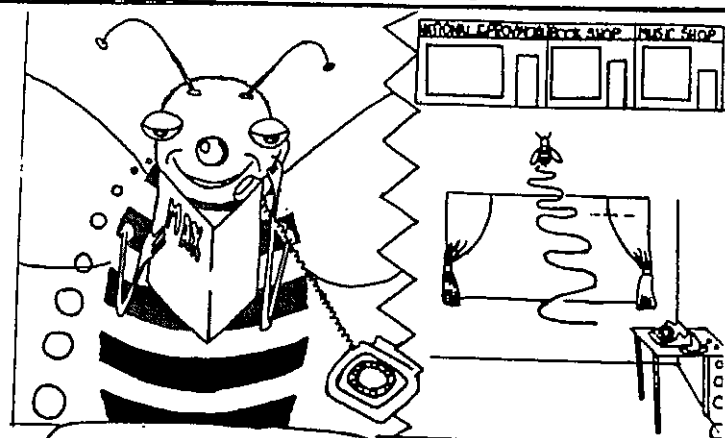
Investigating the work of a councillor, MP or trade union shop steward (concept of representation)

Investigating the differing political party viewpoints on policy issues (concept of ideology)

Pupils are given a free choice of topic within the course guidelines which, ironically, makes it more difficult for them to select a topic.

When gathering information, pupils must use two primary sources. Choosing one - normally a letter - is quite easy but the second has varied from visits to local businesses and institutions to a journey to East Germany! Pupils have also tried their hand at conducting interviews, surveys and questionnaires among the public. We have been struck by the generosity and willingness of local businesses and organisations in helping our pupils. They have received generous amounts of printed information. We also feel these investigations not only help the pupils develop skills in investigating but also enhance their understanding of the local community.

In conclusion, the transition has been largely successful. Problems have arisen such as occasional lack of response to requests, fluctuating pupils' motivation and even teacher confusion! At the end of the day, we can feel satisfied at getting through the first year of Standard Grade Investigating and, with evaluation to follow, look forward to building on the experience. T FERGU



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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE TELEPHONE ABERDEEN 644154 OR CALL INTO THE LOCAL OFFICE.

National & Provincial Building Society, 230 Union Street, Aberdeen AB1 1TL

MAKE A BEE-LINE TO M.A.P



# THE SEASON CONTINUES

On the football front, the advent of wet wintry weather has meant that only a handful of games have been played since the October break. However, in spite of the lack of school matches, two Dyce Academy pupils have won recognition in the past month for their football skills. Not only has Roy McBain represented Scotland at U-16 level (see report elsewhere) but Derek Reid played for Aberdeen City at U-15 level. Congratulations are due to both.

## Results (up to 2.12.90)

(L) U-13 v Linksfield	5-0	S Barclay G Balfour C Page (2)
U-13 v Mintlaw	0-8	
(SC) U-15 v Oldmachar	8-1	S Crabb M Hoggins M Laird R McGregor (3) P Matthews M Stewart
(SC) Seniors v Grammar	1-4	J Cossar

# SCOTLAND CALL-UP

FOR  
YOUNG  
PUPIL



Two years ago in Update we reported on having been signed on schoolboy 'S' forms with Dundee United. Now, in the last month, there has been further recognition of Roy's skills with his call up to the international ranks.

Firstly, there was a week long trip to Switzerland to represent the U-16 Scottish Schoolboys in two matches against the home country. Scotland won both games (1-0, 2-0) and Roy's role in midfield proved to be a significant contribution in each of the victories. The following week it was the turn of the U-16 Scottish Young team - comprising seven of the team who had played in Switzerland - to meet Poland at Somerset Park, Ayr. Unfortunately, the physically stronger East European side defeated the Scots 1-0. However, Roy's disappointment at the result was eased a little by the fact that he was able to keep his strip for posterity.

Further internationals may be in the offing but, with estimate exams looming in January, Roy's thoughts are currently directed to catching up on the school work he has missed through playing football. And what of the future? Well, Roy hopes that next summer on leaving school he will be able to go full-time with Dundee United and, if that's the case, perhaps in years to come we'll see him in the dark blue strip of the senior Scottish squad, following in the footsteps of such other illustrious Tannadice stalwarts as Maurice Malpas, Paul Sturrock and David Narey!

# OLDMACHAR DICED

Oldmachar Academy U-15 football team were well and truly routed in this first-round Scottish Cup-tie by a rampant Dyce side. For Roy McGregor in particular, Saturday 17 November will forever be a red-letter day as he blasted home an impressive hat-trick.

Although only 2-0 up at half-time due to fearless Roy roving in front of goal, the game was virtually over 10 minutes into the second-half as first Michael Stewart and then Roy again made it 4-0. By this time Paul Matthews, the self-styled Baggio of the Dyce midfield, was controlling everything and it was no surprise when Scott Crabb and Mark Hoggins increased the scoreline to 6. Interspersed in this totally one-sided display, Michael Laird's Schumacher-like challenge on a diminutive Oldmachar forward, resulting in a duly converted penalty, was a minor distraction. Perhaps in order to redeem himself - or maybe because he was feeling lonely - the erstwhile goalkeeper swapped places with Michael Stewart, promptly went upfield and scored number 7 with a rasping right-foot shot. Finally, Paul Matthews - with his sixth chance of the game (at least) - headed home the 8th goal.

It will no doubt be much harder against Kincorth in the next round.



U-15 Team





# FINGERPRINT

Young Enterprise provides a practical experience for young people normally 15-19 years of age to learn about business. It has been in existence since 1963 during which time over 230,000 young people have taken part. Through forming and running their own production, service or retail companies, Young Enterprise helps them to lift the skin off the business process; to make discoveries about themselves and their abilities to work with each other and to learn the principles of how business works through doing it by themselves.

This year, our company is called Fingerprint and is run by five young people from school. Our advisers come from the company Caleb Brett in Dyce Industrial Park. Our main concern is in printing headed notepaper, but we also produce whiteboards.

Fingerprint began way back at the end of the summer of this year. It started with seven members but now consists of five -

Andrew MacCormack (Managing Director),  
 Stephen Barclay (Finance Director),  
 Graham Anderson (Company Secretary),  
 Neil Coutts (Production), and  
 Mark Duffton (Personnel).

Fingerprint's final choice of product was headed notepaper. After investigating prices for this around the city, we soon realised we could offer much better value to our customers than was being offered by large print firms. Our laser-controlled sophisticated printing was a match to theirs to the layman, and we could offer this at sometimes a third of the price. We use only high quality paper and envelopes from Wiggins' Teape and we can produce your text in a variety of styles. So far we have supplied many happy customers within and without Dyce Academy.

Because of our recent success, and to ensure continued success, we have now diversified into whiteboards. These are plain white noticeboards which can be written on with appropriate markers. We can supply both for our customers, in another value-for-money package which knocks the spots off the opposition.

At the Christmas Trade Fayre on 8 December we had sales of over £100 and enjoyed meeting the other Young Enterprise companies there. ANDREW MACCORMACK



# GO with GLEN

## DRIVING SCHOOL



Proprietor: Ian McLean  
 tel: 0224 723112

## BYRE THEATRE

The Byre Theatre Company from St Andrews recently visited Dyce Academy with their production of "The Bubble Boy". The play deals with a boy kept in isolation in hospital for sixteen years after contracting a mysterious illness. The play touched on several 'difficult' themes and the general feeling of the large third and fourth year audience was that it was an enjoyable and thought-provoking experience. After the performance the actors held a workshop in which many of the play's issues were examined in an interesting and unusual way. The cast were delighted at the response they got from the pupils and stated they were pleased with the range and depth of questions and responses. We can now look forward with real interest to a return visit from The Byre Co when they bring their own version of "Macbeth" to Dyce Academy. MYLES HARDIE



# RIKKI'S DREAM JOURNEY



If you fancy a night out on Wednesday 19 December, you could do a lot worse than popping along to the multi-purpose area at Dyce Academy for a good evening's entertainment. A cast of twenty-five S1-S4 pupils will delight you with a performance of Peter Carwell's "Rikki's Dream Journey". The show is one of a number of musicals which offer an alternative and modern telling of the Christmas Story, this one having an Irish Gabriel and some rather 'hip' shepherds. Head of Music, June Smith, is the Musical Director, assisted by Anne McIntosh, also of the Music Department, and the show has been produced by Ruth Teehan of the English Department.

In addition to this version of the Nativity, there will be a short concert by the Community Orchestra, the Recorder Group and the Keyboard Group, as well as the opportunity to join in some carol singing.

Tickets priced £1.25 for adults and £1.00 for children / senior citizens are available from the school and at the performance. Ticket price includes some light refreshment.