

UP D Dyce DATE Academy

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A Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme group was started in Dyce Academy just over a year ago. Some of the first group of pupils gained their Bronze Awards just before Christmas and have now moved on to the next stage, the Silver Award.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme is designed to stimulate the enthusiasm and energy of young people between the ages of 14 and 25 by presenting them with a challenging programme of activities. The scheme was not set up as a youth organisation but rather as a programme of practical, cultural and adventurous activities designed for use by agencies with a concern for the development of young people. Participants follow their chosen activities, in their own time, with guidance from someone knowledgeable in each subject. Minimum standards of achievement are laid down and when these are met, the young people qualify for an award which takes the form of a badge and certificate. There are three separate levels of award, Bronze, Silver and Gold, and at each level participants have to fulfil the requirements of each of the four sections of the scheme. These four sections and their aims are :

Service - To encourage service to others

- Expeditions - To encourage a spirit of adventure and discovery
- Skills - To encourage the discovery and development of personal interests and social and practical skills
- Physical Recreation - To encourage participation in physical recreation and improvement of performance

There is no time limit within which the programme for each award must be completed but there are minimum starting ages for each award and minimum periods of time for which the chosen activity must be carried out. .

The group which started in the school about a year ago was, initially, made up of about twenty pupils. Most of this group have continued with the scheme and gained a great deal of enjoyment and benefit from it.

Pupils can join the Duke of Edinburgh's Award group in the school at any time; any interested pupils should see Mr Taylor for further details.



GO
with

GLEN

DRIVING SCHOOL



Proprietor: Ian McLean
tel: 0224 723112

COMMENT

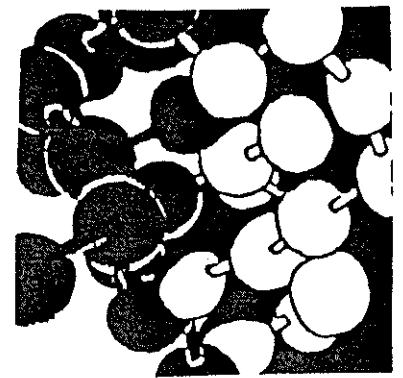
It was pleasing to read in December that evidence from the Assessment of Achievement Programme, sponsored by the Scottish Education Department, confirmed that most Scottish pupils are doing reasonably well in English. The programme is recognised as an accurate monitor of standards and the latest results reaffirm that pupils are continuing to benefit from their teaching in P4, P7 and S2, the years in schools from which samples were taken.

In reading and writing, no statistically significant difference in performance of pupils in P4 and P7, between 1984 and 1989, was observed. The findings did, however, show a statistically significant rise in reading scores and an improvement in extended writing in S2. There were no statistically significant changes in overall performance of P4, P7 or S2 in spelling and punctuation.

The results of these tests confirm the belief of most people who work with youngsters in Scotland that 'standards' are being maintained and in some areas are rising. We must, therefore, take care not to allow ourselves to be swallowed up in generalisations from England where such results are not obtained at present. We need, therefore, to do everything possible to ensure that we are not forced to adopt solutions to problems which exist only south of the border.

So far, the worst excesses of the English plans to raise falling standards have not been imposed upon us. Hopefully, evidence such as that given above will enable us to prevent this happening.

FOCUS ON SCIENCE

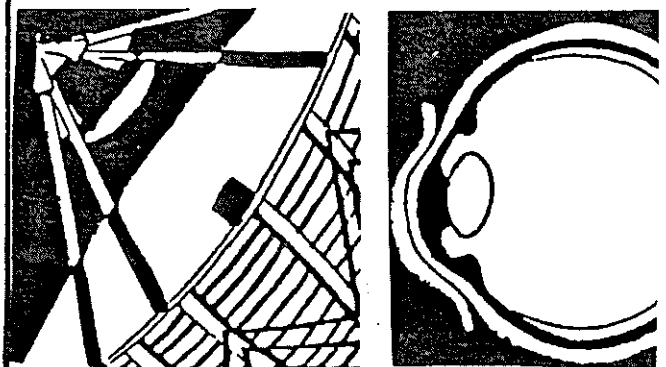


This is a good moment to be writing about the Science Department as the Principal Teachers have recently undertaken a revision of their remits. There are three Principal Teachers within Science - Heads of Biology, Physics and Chemistry - and each Principal Teacher is responsible for the organisation of courses in their own specialism in the upper school. Dyce Academy offers courses in all three sciences for Standard Grade, Higher Grade and Sixth Year Studies. To maximise the use of teaching time and to keep open as many options as possible, some of these courses are taught co-operatively with Bankhead Academy.

As well as individual science courses, however, the S1/S2 Common Course and the Standard Science course for S3/S4 also have to be organised. Working parties have recently been set up to undertake a review of Standard Science material and assessment procedures and to plan for the future. This review will lead to new developments in S1/S2 Science too.

The Science Department also contributes to the range of short courses within both compulsory and non-compulsory General Studies through Environmental Education, Science in Society and Electronics. Environmental Education has been strong in the school for some years now and there has been a great deal of collaborative work between the Science and Geography Departments.

S1/S2 Science is taught in an integrated way, with basic principles of Chemistry, Physics and Biology all featuring in the work that pupils do. The course also involves Information Skills and Computer-based investigation. The aim in S1/S2 is to encourage our youngest pupils to see science as an interesting and enjoyable subject, this is the best way to foster the uptake of science courses further up the school.



BASKETBALL

Dyce Academy's Junior and Senior basketball teams were recently in action for the first time this session in matches against Ellon Academy.

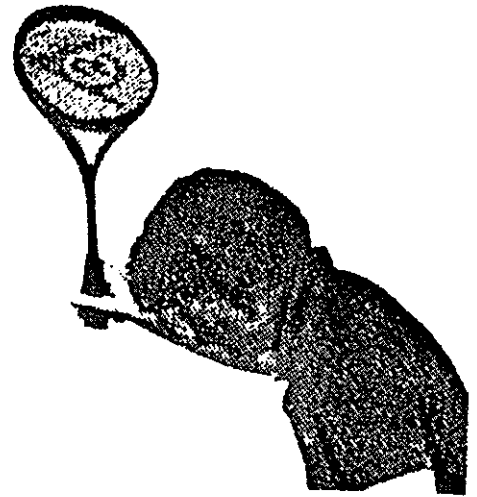
In the Junior match, Dyce's team - largely composed of first year girls - earned a very creditable 26-26 draw. This is especially noteworthy when one considers that most of the team only took up the game on coming up to the Academy.

The Seniors had a very physical game against a notably taller Ellon outfit but a last-minute basket gave Dyce an impressive 16-15 victory.



NB There are no schools' leagues at present so matches are in short supply. Any club wishing to play the school is invited to get in contact with the team coach, Anne McIntosh (Music Dept)

DYCE SHUTTLED



Over the Christmas holidays, a total of twenty Dyce pupils took part in the annual South Grampian Schools' Badminton Tournaments at the Beacon Sports Centre. Standards were once again very high including a sprinkling of Scottish Internationalists and, as a result, Dyce players managed to win only 8 sets out of a possible 58. Arguably, the best performance came in the U-16 boys' doubles where Gavin Pirie (S3) and Graham Orr (S3) fought back in their opening match from 3-13 to win 15-13. So, some encouragement but certainly room for improvement.

IT'S NAE FAIR..

Dyce Academy U-13 football team arrived for duty at Harlaw Academy playing fields keen to record what would have been only their second win of the season.

In a closely contested but sporting fixture Dyce twice went ahead through Peter Grieve but, despite bringing the best out of the opposition's goalkeeper, with minutes remaining Dyce were losing 2-3. However, a last-gasp equaliser from Chris Page saw the teams draw level.

All this excitement proved too much for one Harlaw parent who, as the teams made their way off the pitch, ran up to team coach, Raymond Littlejohn, accusing Dyce of unsportsman-like behaviour. His outburst centred around Dyce turning up with the regulation eleven players plus two substitutes, whilst Harlaw fielded only nine of a team. In his opinion, Dyce too should have played the game with nine! Raymond Littlejohn, who had sportingly substituted two of his best players, referred the parent to that afternoon's game at Pittodrie, asking whether Aberdeen would only field nine players if Motherwell turned up short of individuals. Obviously, it is not the responsibility of the other team if one team cannot raise the required number of players. Don't you agree?

DOWN AND OUT.

The only other game played since the last issue of Update was the U-15 Scottish Cuptie v Kincorth. A scratch Dyce side - missing five key players - performed bravely against a physically stronger team and were, indeed, unfortunate to lose 3-1 with Dyce's goal coming from Michael Stewart.



STAFF CHANGES

A few staff changes have taken place over the last couple of months.

Angela Beaton, one of our school technicians, left us to take up a post at McIntosh of Dyce.

Gina Clark of the Drama Department has left us, temporarily, to take up a secondment relating to the development of Standard Grade Drama. Her temporary replacement is Steven Gove.

Sue Muncer, Principal Teacher (Religious Education), left us at the end of January to take up a new post as Assistant Head Teacher at Kennay Academy.

Karen Yeoman joined us just before Christmas as Librarian.

Morag Forrest came to us at the end of January from Inverurie Academy as Principal Teacher (History).

SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations go to ex-pupil, Philip Lamb, who has recently passed out as top cadet from the Metropolitan Police Training College in Hendon. For this he was presented with the Andrew Croft Award. His year-long course involved him in various fitness and survival activities, as well as community service placements. Philip enjoyed being on duty for the Trooping of the Colour, though this proved a testing duty. Well done again!

CAREERS CONVENTION

A Careers Convention is to be held on Tuesday 12 March at Bankhead Academy from 7.00-9.00 pm.

It will be open to pupils from second year upwards (from Bankhead Academy and Dyce Academy) and their parents. A wide range of representatives from local industry and further education establishments have been invited, but the success of the evening depends upon the response from pupils and parents.

Further details will be issued to pupils nearer the time.

STAMPS!

Many thanks to all of you who donated your stamp to the Radio One 'Water for India' stamp appeal. Over the Christmas period we managed to collect 10,143 stamps; not quite the 25,000 we hoped for but a brilliant total anyway. All the stamps were collected, counted, packed and sent on their way to the Christmas Cracker collection depot. The stamps will be exchanged for money by the Christmas Cracker Organisation and the money will be used for buying drilling equipment to build ten wells all over India.

Thanks to all for your generosity.

Jacqueline McKay
Lesley Somerville



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REQUIRED.

Due to some 'technical' problems we have been unable to produce any photographs for this edition of 'Update'. We hope to be back to normal for our next edition.