

# UpDyce te Academy

ISSUE NO 24

MAR 1992

## CAREERING AHEAD

On the afternoon of Friday 6 March I, along with five colleagues and the entire fourth year of the school, boarded three buses and headed for the Aberdeen Exhibition Centre. It was to be an opportunity for our pupils to visit the Careers Exhibition 92. Apologies to the Standard Grade Geography pupil who thought he was going to find out about life in Korea in 1992!

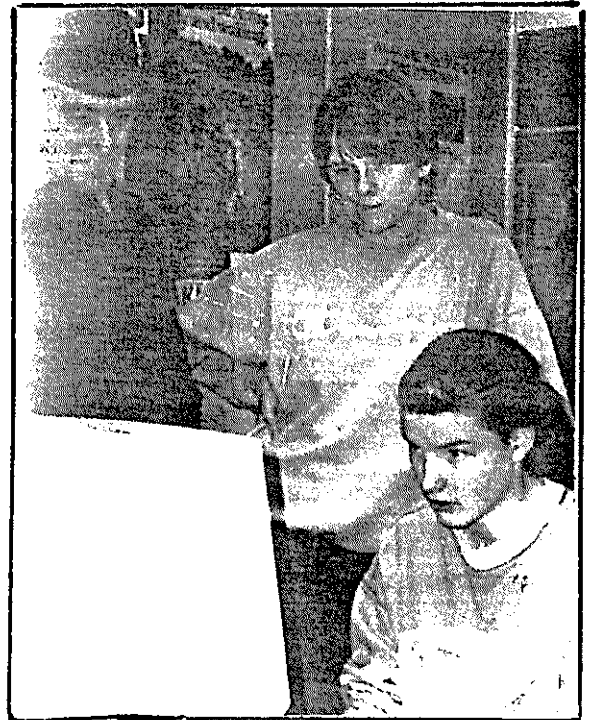
A large range of 'exhibitors' were in attendance dispensing bonhomie and expert advice to the pupils but, disappointingly for the staff, not much in the way of sherry and nibbles! From A C Yule to Young Enterprise - Grampian, there was certainly an abundance of information available on the ever-changing world of work and the employment, education and training opportunities open to young people today.

Further Education was certainly well represented at the event. As well as Scottish colleges and universities, there was a large contingent of representatives from seats of learning south of the border. The furthest travelled must surely have been the staff from the College of St Mark and St John in Plymouth. It doesn't seem that long ago that English universities were less than enthusiastic about admitting Scots due to our different examination system, but if this exhibition was anything to go by it would now seem that they are beating a path to our doors.

As usual at such events, the Armed Forces were well represented with the Royal Navy occupying the largest stand with a very impressive display - a range of computer terminals dispensing information, a stunning interactive video system which allowed the user to walk about and explore a ship, talk to crew members and use equipment (I flew a helicopter and launched an Exocet missile) and a slick multi-image promotional video. A lot of money had

been spent on all this to attract young people but it didn't quite square with the fact that we keep hearing about cutbacks in personnel and equipment in the armed services.

One of our lads, Mark Tewnion, was certainly very enthusiastic about the information he was coaxing from his computer terminal and obviously thought he'd found his future career until I pointed out that the WRNS was the women's branch of the Navy!



What does the Army offer me?

Obviously not wanting to be outdone, the Royal Airforce had a real aeroplane on show - a Hawk Trainer, as used by the Red Arrows, although our fourth years seemed more than a little sceptical that it brought back many memories and reminded me of my days with the Red Arrows before entering the much more stressful job of teaching - even although Mr Jowett assured them that he had seen the photos.

Many of our our pupils did, however, find the experience worthwhile whether

by obtaining their desired further education prospectus, by making an initial contact with a prospective employer, by obtaining advice on how to compile a CV and prepare for an interview or by being encouraged to think about an area of employment not previously considered.

There were one or two minuses, however. There were a number of surprising omissions from the list of 'exhibitors' including, for example, the Police Force. We certainly had a few pupils in our party who had hoped to find out more about this career at the event. Our own Regional Council also seemed to be trying to shoot itself in the foot. They had a large range of leaflets available covering a range of occupations. On reading the leaflet about secondary teaching we found that it contained important information which was out of date. When one of our staff queried this she was informed that many of the leaflets available to be taken away were in fact out of date but that this kind of exhibition was a way of getting rid of them. It doesn't seem quite the right attitude for a region that is supposed to be going places.

LAURENCE YOUNG

PS The sticky buns in the cafeteria were really fine!!

## IT'S ALL ON ICE

Two Dyce Academy pupils have recently been involved in Exhibitions of Free-Skating and Ice Hockey organised to mark the opening of the new Linx Ice Arena at Aberdeen Beach.

Hilary (3D) is a member of the newly-formed Linx Ice-Skating Club. Though she began free-skating less than two years ago, she is already taking part in National Skating Competitions.

In one competition for 11-14 year-olds in which she took part recently, she came 7th out of 54 competitors - not at all bad considering many of the other competitors had been skating since they were 5 years old.

Hilary first became involved in her hobby when the Ice Rink here at Dyce opened. At present she trains every weekend, spending hours on the ice both on Saturday and Sunday, though she hopes soon to be putting in some more practice on weekday evenings too.

Unfortunately, she says, because facilities for ice skaters in Aberdeen are such a recent development, she did not start at an early enough age to give her the practice and experience she would need to become a top class skater. But who knows - maybe we'll see her at the Olympics yet! In the meantime she's getting a lot of enjoyment and fun from her chosen hobby.



Hilary and Gary

Our second star of the ice-rink has involved himself in a hobby far removed from the grace of free-skating -

Instead, Gary (also of 3D) has taken up that very exciting and certainly dangerous looking game - ice hockey. If you've ever seen this on TV, you'll know it's not for the faint-hearted! A sort of American football on ice! And certainly, according to Gary, the clothing and equipment needed are very similar to those worn by American football players - and cost a pretty penny too, by the sound of it.

Gary was involved in an exhibition game, open to the public, which took place on 16 February this year.

He was attracted to the sport after watching televised games and began playing here at the Dyce Rink. He's been playing for about two years. He's part of the Under-16 section and trains on a Tuesday evening from 5.30-7.30, though he's hoping to get some more practice in soon.

Ice hockey is a game where speed and agility are of great importance and Gary is confident he has got these qualities - he is very confident of his ability as an 'attack' player and goal scorer! Just as well - in this game I would think self-confidence would be very important too! Gary certainly seems to have the necessary courage.

At the moment there is no league as such to compete in, though he hopes this will change next year. So he is involved just now in 'friendly' matches. He certainly seems to get a lot of enjoyment out of a very demanding hobby. He's got a lot of hard work in front of him, but it's the work he relishes.

RHONA SMITH

## REMEMBRANCES OF THE STUDENTS

"You'll love it or hate it" -  
"No uniform" - "Eating in class" -  
"6th year have a terrible taste in music" - were but a few of the comments bandied about the corridors of the Northern College. "Help! What were we letting ourselves in for?"

The first week was rather strange, getting used to the building, the staff, not to mention the most important people of all in a school, the pupils. "Levi 501's, NAF NAF motifs, trendy footwear" all gave the school an informal air to which we were unaccustomed.

Six weeks on, we have made our own minds up about Dyce Academy. Here are our views :

### Likes

- friendliness and helpfulness of staff
- openness of pupils
- school lunches
- Levi 501s
- Mr Pyle's interesting talks!
- Mr Young's Jumble Sale
- Mr Hardie's way with words
- 4.00 pm

### Dislikes

- double lessons
- 4th years on a Monday morning
- eating in class (pupils)
- Northern College Tutor visits
- Mr Pyle keeping us in his office until 4.00 pm on a Friday
- Mr Young's "you'll never win one" lottery
- Mr Hardie's humour

We are now going back for a three-week 'rest' at college during which time we will no doubt be asked "How was it?" and our reply? - "We love it!"

(Have the 6th year ever thought about listening to "Half Man Half Biscuit", "The Pixies", "The Senseless Things" or "Carter USM"?)

TERM 2 STUDENTS

## THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION

During my stay at Dyce Academy I have enjoyed the social and academic interaction of both the staff and the pupils.

Change is always a healthy sign of education and society in general, and education is undergoing a constant metamorphosis. However, change for change's sake in education without proper periods of time to evaluate and review the situation is highly unproductive for both the pupils and the teaching profession.

The education system is facing a crisis, inasmuch as the teachers and their pupils

are being constantly bombarded by new proposals and exam systems that in effect place unprecedented demands on both pupils and the teaching profession (Revised Highers, the Howie Report, etc, etc).

There appears to me to be an ideological shift stemming from central government and affecting the Scottish Office which in effect means that the comprehensive system of education is under attack. The 'market forces' ideology peddled by the 19th century laissez-faire doctrine of this present government has not only reached such institutions such as the Health Service but is now presently poised to make an onslaught on the State Education system. The opting out of some NHS hospitals (it may be argued) has brought within that implementation a 'two-tier system' of health care. We must now all be on our guard - parents, teachers and indeed pupils as well - to speak out against any such move that would turn our schools and education system into a 'two-tier system' of education. The truth about such a government that in any way undermines or threatens our present educational system is that it obviously knows the 'price of everything' (school vouchers, for example) but fails to appreciate the intrinsic value of our educational system and commitment to it by the teaching professions.

### TERRY PENNY

- Member of Grampian Regional Council Education Committee
- Student Teacher, Dyce Academy

## EDUCATION OUTDOORS

About 30 third year pupils have taken part this term in a pilot outdoor education scheme organised by Grampian Region Outdoor Education Service. In groups of eight, they will have had, by the end of term, two full days of outdoor activities accompanied by a qualified instructor. The activity is chosen by the instructor, on the day, from a wide range of possibilities - canoeing, cross-country ski-ing, climbing, hill-walking, orienteering.

The aim of the scheme is to give pupils the chance to sample some outdoor activities in the hope that they may then follow them up through the many opportunities available.

So far this term, the pupils have been climbing, hill-walking and orienteering. The lack of snow has ruled out ski-ing - but a strange snowman did appear outside school in January after the first group had been walking on Clachnaben.

The pilot is going well; the pupils who opted to take part in the scheme are enjoying the outings.

Pupils who do become interested in outdoor education, whether through this pilot or not, have a wide range of outdoor education activities to choose from without even going beyond activities organised by the school :

- a canoeing club meets after school every Thursday in the pool;
- a ski trip to France is organised in early March each year;
- the West Coast Expedition, a hill-walking/sailing trip, takes place in May/June each year;
- this year, a watersports trip is going to France at the beginning of the summer holidays;
- pupils involved in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme receive training and practice in hill-walking and camping skills.

Giving pupils the opportunity to sample activities through a scheme such as this is a very good idea. We would hope to be able to offer the opportunity to third year pupils again next session.

## HOSPITAL THEATRE

Drama Teacher, Steven Gove, writes about a recent visit to Aberdeen Children's Hospital :

"After almost getting on the bus which was going to the Careers Exhibition, doing a short detour to the Children's Theatre to collect part of the set and having a quick stop-over at a local shop to buy 'magic' bun, which I'd forgotten, we eventually arrived at the Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital.

Costumes, masks, sound effects and props in hand, we made our way to the Activity Room in the Lowit Unit where we were to present our show.

This was the end result of eight weeks' work for sixteen third-year pupils who had chosen 'One-off Productions' for their third block of General Studies.

The show was a mixture of mime, improvisation and scripted pieces in four sections, all devised by the pupils themselves.

The Finale of the show was the story of 'Sam and the Dream Gang', a completely original play scripted by the group. Sam was bored one day and decided to have a look up in the attic, where he discovered an ancient recipe for magic buns which would allow him to travel to Dream World. There he manages to rescue The Dream Queen from the baddies Krull Cheese and Slicer and everyone basically lives happily ever after.

The performance was well received by our very small audience. Both staff and children said how much they enjoyed the entertainment.

Despite the small audience, due mainly to many of the children going home for the weekend, and despite the name 'One-off Productions', the show still goes on as we venture to Dyce Primary School on Friday 13th. Unlucky for some maybe, but hopefully not for the Primary Fours who will be there watching."

STEVEN GOVE

## WHAT'S ON

Staying at home for the Easter Holidays? Never mind! Plenty to do in and around Aberdeen! Get out and enjoy Aberdeen's interesting places - PLENTY FOR FREE!

**MARISCHAL COLLEGE MUSEUM** - University Buildings, Broad Street - skeletons, shrunken heads, Egyptian Mummies, etc .. REALLY CREEPY! Open : Mon - Fri 10.00 am - 5.00 pm and Sunday 2.00 - 5.00 pm. Admission FREE.

**PROVOST ROSS'S HOUSE** in the Shiprow - model sailing ships, oil rigs ROVs etc. BRILL! Open : Mon - Sat 10.00 am - 5.00 pm. Admission FREE.

**FANCY YOURSELF AS A SCULPTOR?** - Giant puppet-building workshop at Westburn Park House 6 - 10 April. Book a place by phoning David Atherton at the Art Gallery (Tel 276276) FREE.

**PROVOST SKENE'S HOUSE** - off Broad Street. Old costumes, furniture, etc + video of Aberdeen history. Open : 10.00 am - 5.00 pm. Admission FREE.

**DINOSAURS ALIVE** (if you haven't been already - or want to go again!) - Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre. Open : Mon - Fri 9.30 am - 6.00 pm (9.00 pm Saturdays). Admission £2.00 ... WOW!

**SATROSPHERE** - Justice Mill Lane - THE HANDS-ON DISCOVERY PLACE! Open : Mon - Sat 10.00 am - 4.00 pm. Admission £2.75 / £1.75 ... AMAZING!

**WINTER GARDENS DUTHIE PARK** - parrots, goldfish ponds, palm trees - great for cactus freaks! Open : 10.00 am - dusk + Sunday afternoons FREE!

**JONAH'S JOURNEY** - life in a 2000-year-old village. Open : Mon - Fri 10.00 am - 4.00 pm. Admission 50p / £1.00. 122 Rosemount Place ... SOUNDS INTERESTING!

**HOORAY FOR SPRING**  
**UPDATE PROUDLY PRESENTS**  
**ITS**  
**BEST-EVER EASTER QUIZ**

Time to get all those sluggish brain-cells moving  
 Pit your wits for a never-to-be-repeated offer!  
 SEPARATE PRIZES FOR THE FIRST CORRECT ENTRY DRAWN FROM

S1 / S2 / S3 / S4 + S5 + S6

\*\*\*\*\*

The answers to all the following have something to do with Easter

1. Hops by, bearing gifts (6, 5) \_\_\_\_\_
2. Betrayed his friend at Easter (5) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Important final meal (4, 6) \_\_\_\_\_
4. Six weeks leading up to Easter (4) \_\_\_\_\_
5. First day of those six weeks (3, 9) \_\_\_\_\_
6. Traditional food for Shrove Tuesday (8) \_\_\_\_\_
7. Rolled down hills at Easter (4) \_\_\_\_\_
8. Not a bad day (4, 6) \_\_\_\_\_
9. Shrove Tuesday carnival (5, 4) \_\_\_\_\_
10. Tropical tree for a Sunday before Easter (4) \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **CLASS** \_\_\_\_\_

----- Cut Here -----

And while you're out and about (see "What's On" article), why not complete -

**UPDATE'S GREAT ABERDEEN WALKING TOUR QUIZ**  
 \*\*\*\*\*

- How many cats on Union Bridge? \_\_\_\_\_
- Whose statue opposite His Majesty's Theatre? \_\_\_\_\_
- How many gold flags on the front of Marischal College ? \_\_\_\_\_
- Name of sculpture on top level of St Nicholas Centre? \_\_\_\_\_
- Two streets near Golden Square named after precious stones \_\_\_\_\_
- Date when Bon-Accord Baths were first opened \_\_\_\_\_
- Large Animal outside the Cowdray Hall (beside Art Gallery) \_\_\_\_\_

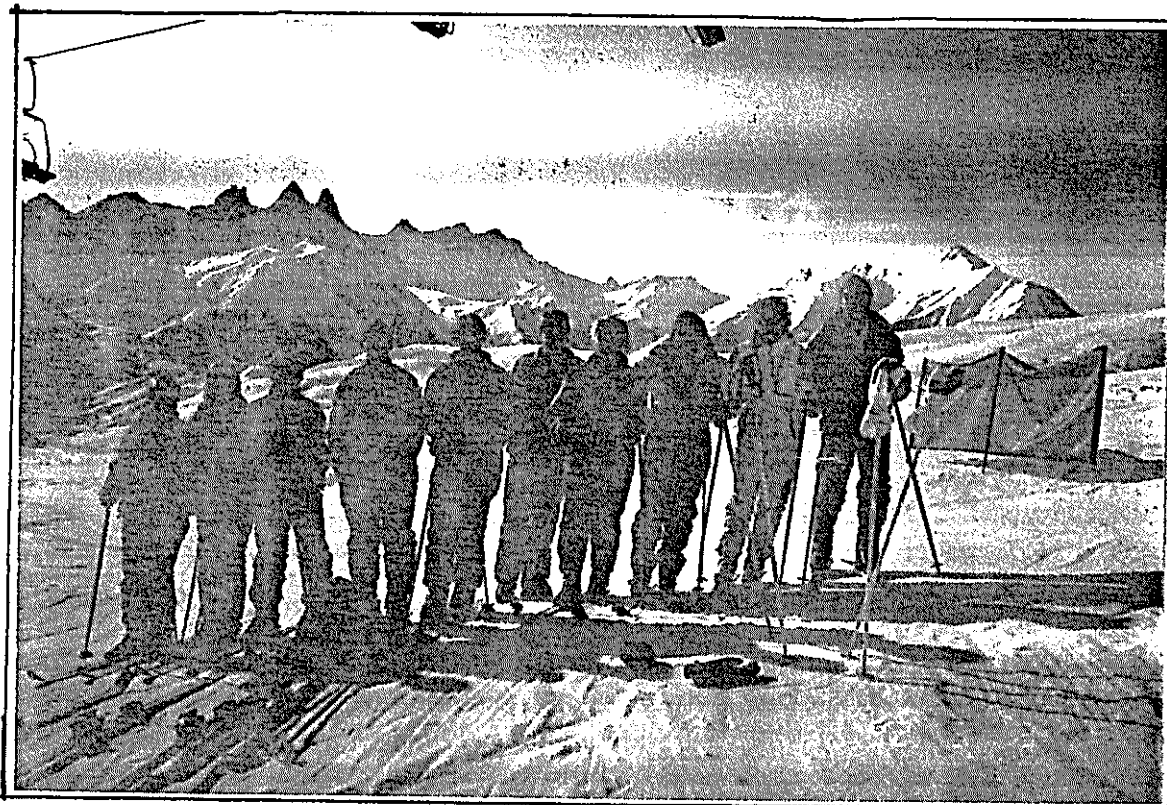
**VALUABLE PRIZES AS USUAL**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **CLASS** \_\_\_\_\_

Entries for both quizzes to be handed in to S15 after the holidays

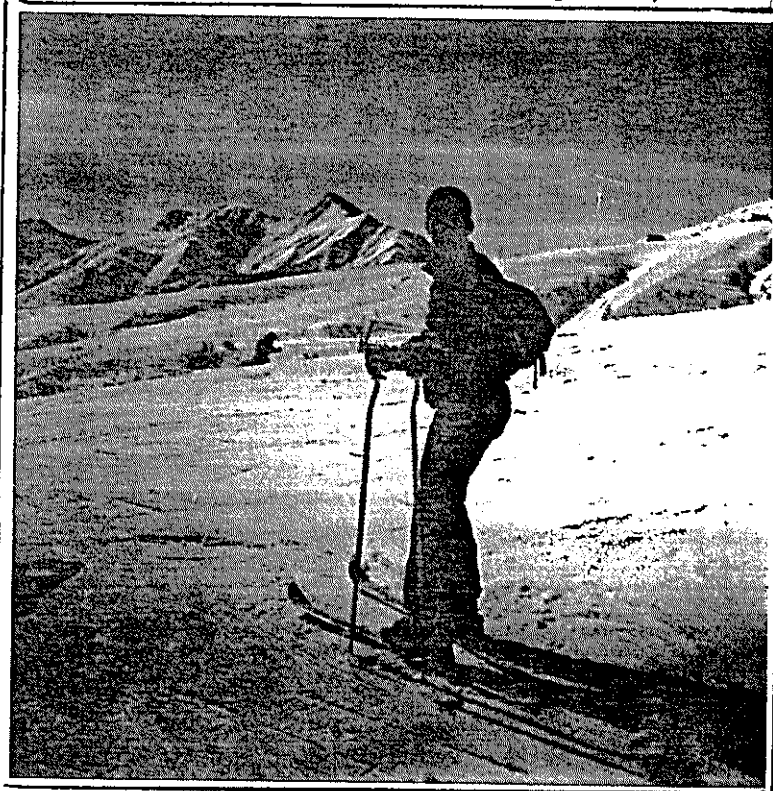


# SKICAPERS



On 28 February, 21 pupils from Dyce, 18 from Bankhead and 5 assorted staff left behind snow-starved Scotland and headed for the slopes of France on the school's annual ski trip. Thirty-one hours (and 17 videos) later our bus pulled into Le Corbier, deep in the Alps of Haute Savoie and surrounded by spectacular snowclad peaks. Six action packed days followed which severely tested everyone's stamina, but I am pleased to report that there were no drop-outs,

either from ski-ing or apres ski-ing. Some ski lessons were taken by Fabienne and Stefan from the French Ski School but school staff provided most of the instruction. Beginners came on in leaps and bounds (initially leaping onto heads and bounding along on bottoms) and by the end of the week were coping with long and difficult red runs. Advanced and in-betweens also made remarkable progress and looked almost up to Olympic standard bombing about on the black runs. Susan's "wipe-out" was definitely of Olympic proportions when she fell on the steepest, iciest slope and "skited" for about 50 metres, putting the wind up everyone but fortunately only grazing her cheek. The only other injury sustained (apart from sunburnt, scabby noses) was when Claire fell out of her top bunk in the middle of the night and split her chin.



Apres-ski was judged "ace" and "brilliant" and consisted of ten-pin bowling, bum-boarding, a pool competition, a quiz night, watching a torchlight ski procession, ski medal presentations and a disco in a night club. Needless to say that the 44 bodies on the bus home were rather lifeless and there was much relief that the only effort that was required was to press the buttons on the video.

Comments on the trip include - "Great hotel with good food and friendly staff" - "Super weather" - "Enjoyed making new friends" - "Everyone got on really well" - "Marvellous location of hotel, near shops and ski slopes". However, everyone voted the highlight of the week to be the ski-ing itself - a truly exhilarating experience.



Some of the Basketball Squad

## **THEATRE CLUB**

The Dyce Academy Theatre Club, affectionately named 'The Culture Vultures' sound very high-brow but has really been formed to allow people who enjoy theatre a good night out.

We meet in the Drama Studio on Friday lunchtimes to find out what's going on in the area theatre-wise, to plan theatre visits and organise trips.

'The Culture Vultures' is a relatively new group, but already we have been to see "Frankenstein the Pantomime" and have organised a trip for S1/2 to see the BFG at His Majesty's. This term we are organising a trip for senior pupils to see 'Shirley Valentine' at His Majesty's again.

The theatre trips we have been on have been very enjoyable, but at the moment we are a small, select group and we are sure that there must be other culture vultures out there in need of pleasant company and culture. Anyone interested should come along to a meeting on a Friday lunchtime or give your names to Miss Smith (English) or Mrs Fennell (Drama Department).

FIONA FENNELL

## **CONGRATULATIONS!**

..... go to ex-Dyce pupil, Kara Inray. Recently she has been awarded the following during her studies at University of Aberdeen :

Society of Advocates' in Aberdeen  
(Williamson Fund) Law Prizes -

Public International Law  
Private International Law

## **Basketball**

Since Christmas, we have lost various players for one reason or another - some have left school to find work, one has left the country and some are, unfortunately, too old to play in the U-15 league.

Dyce are leading the U-15 league by 2 points from Portlethen, both teams having played the same number of games. We have one game left to play, against Beacon Bulls, which is still to be arranged.

We have also entered the U-15 Basketball Cup and played our first game on Saturday 7 March against Alford BC. The final score was Dyce 44 - Alford 42. We now meet ASA Blue in the quarter-finals on Thursday 12 March.

Top scorers so far this session are Craig Wilson with 76 points, followed by James Caird (Captain) with 58 points. A complete list of scorers will be published in the next issue.

## **Netball**

In their games so far this season, Dyce Academy have got off to a promising start. After a minor hiccup in their first game, against Westhill, which they lost 18-23, they notched up wins against Ellon (29-6), Torry (31-11), Hazlehead (18-11) and Newmachar (22-18).

Team : .

G Aitken, B Anderson, E Golder, J Gray, S McDonald, L Nicol, L Park, J Stewart, A Valentine

## **Athletics**

At the recent Grampian Schools Cross-Country Championships held at Balgownie, Heather (S5) was 3rd in the Ladies Race. Well done, Heather.



Congratulations to all our athletes and teams - keep up the good work!

ANNE MCINTOSH