

NEW HIGHER GRADE MANAGEMENT AND INFORMATION STUDIES

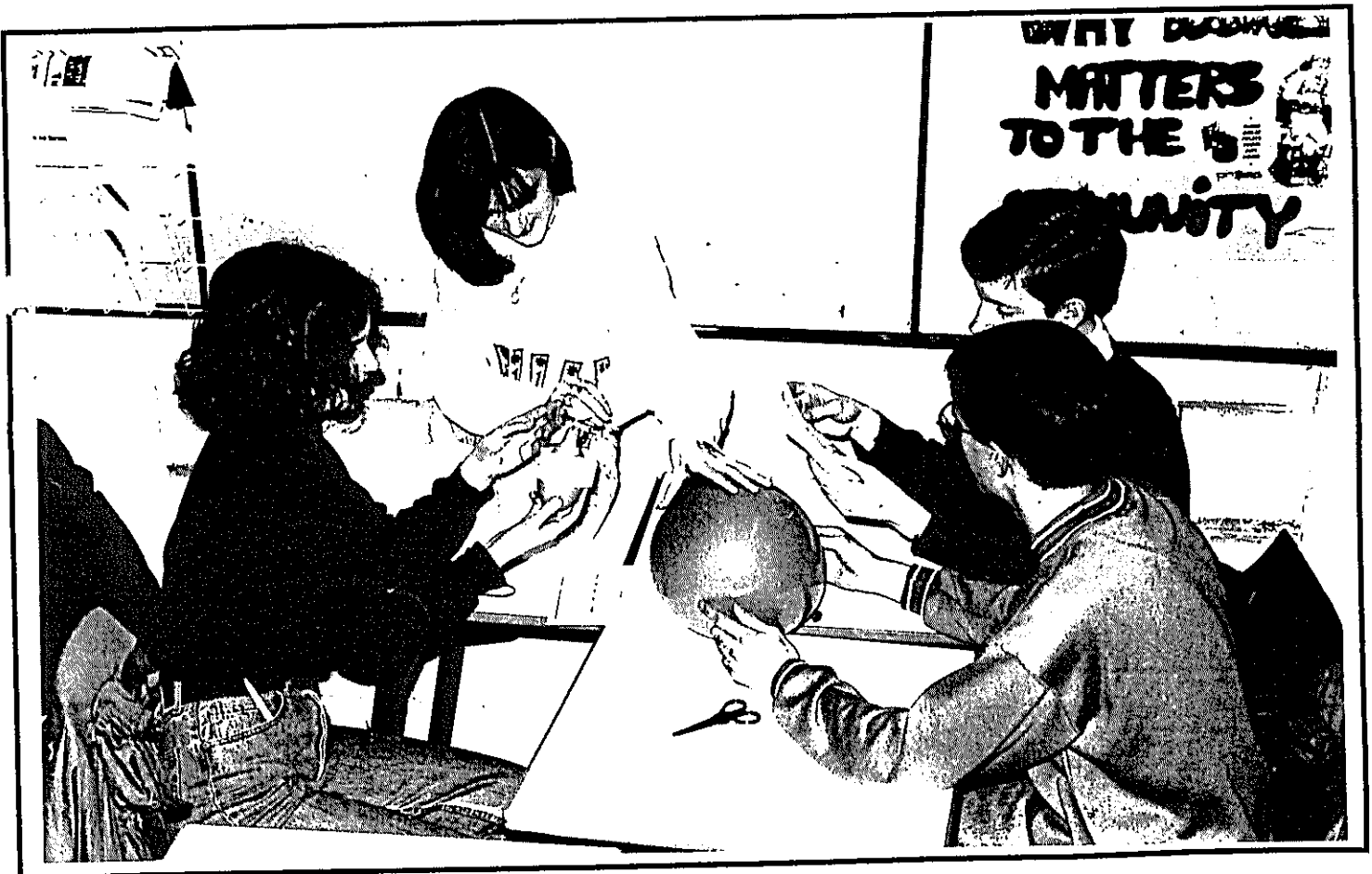
Gone are the days when employees were automatically promoted to top management positions within a firm as a matter of course. It is more likely that they will have had management training to prepare them for this type of work.

No matter what career you decide upon in the future, you will be affected by **MANAGEMENT DECISIONS** and sometimes these decisions can be very difficult to understand.

The Scottish Examinations Board has recognised these developments and has introduced a new Higher Grade Examination called **Management and Information Studies (MIS for short)**. MIS will be **ON OFFER IN DYCE ACADEMY** in the next School Year.

MIS does not follow on from any Standard Grade Course but will be on offer as a one-year crash.

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Fiona, Carol, Barry and Derek try out one of the problem solving exercises used in MIS. To everyone's surprise, they managed to drop a raw egg from a second floor window without it breaking.

Some of the fields of study in MIS include:

- ◆ Techniques used to train managers (eg problem solving and team building)
- ◆ Managers and the type of decisions they have to make and how they make them
- ◆ How workers can be affected by management decisions (stress being a major problem) and what can be done by management to help them cope with the pressures of change
- ◆ Use of information technology to improve business performance and its effect on the workforce
- ◆ Time management: for business - time is money - by managing time, better use can be made of this limited resource
- ◆ Marketing: the techniques used by businesses to make consumers buy their products
- ◆ Case Studies of firms having problems: you can become a Sir Harvey-Jones troubleshooting and offering a suggested solution to the situation.

- ◆ Modern methods in the management of human resources: know your rights as a future employer or employee

MIS has been on trial in parts of the Lothians and Strathclyde and has proved very popular with students with an increased uptake in this current year.

The comments from a local University indicate that first-year students, who have studied MIS, have shown they have a real insight into the functions of Management. This will prove to be useful as graduates of all disciplines will encounter business organisations and the complex ways in which they operate today.

However, if you have no intention of going on to further education, MIS will help you to manage your own personal affairs more efficiently through some of the techniques used in management. You may even come to understand some of the stress associated with being employed in the 1990s.

If you feel you may be interested in MIS please contact the **Business Studies Department** for more information or look out for MIS appearing on the Choice Form this year.

THE GRAMPIAN STRUCTURE PLAN

On Wednesday, 2nd December, 7 Dyce Academy pupils and Mr Jowett attended a meeting at Aberdeen Grammar School to discuss the Grampian Structure Plan, a document which sets out what the Grampian Regional Council intends to do over the next 10 to 15 years.

Consultations with the public had been held all over the Region with the general public. This meeting was organised by the Planning Department of Grampian Regional Council to

find out the feelings of the local youth to the plan. Dyce Academy together with Bridge of Don Academy, Hazlehead Academy, Aberdeen Grammar and other schools were represented.

The debate became quite heated at times with pupils from Bridge of Don very anxious to guarantee facilities North of the Parkway. Pupils from Dyce asked several questions, one from Tony Wells, enquired about a roundabout to alleviate traffic problems at

Parkhill. Another from Iain Brown was also connected with the problems of entering the City from that side, he asked about building another bridge across the River Don. Both of these seem unlikely according to Council representatives.

All of those who attended found the meeting to be informative about the future of the area.

Iain Brown

SCHOOLS

PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICE

There was a time when a psychologist working for the Child Guidance Service was a shadowy figure, not widely known to staff and pupils. But those days are over; the service has not only changed its name (it's now known as the Schools Psychological Service) but also the way in which it works, the aim being to integrate the service with the other kinds of support - Guidance and Learning Support for example - within schools. Every psychologist in the Region now has a 'patch' consisting of one or more secondary schools and their associate primary schools; all referrals of pupils in any of these schools are to the same psychologist, and this provides very good continuity of service throughout the school years to pupils and their families. It also gives the psychologist and the teaching staff within any school a chance to build up good working relationships.

Our psychologist is Val

Val's 'patch' is Dyce Academy, Bankhead Academy and both sets of associate primary schools and nurseries, along with Marlpool School, Cordyce School and the Language Unit at Dyce Primary. Far from being a

shadowy figure, Val can often be seen around as she visits all her schools on a definite timetable. Two of her regular appointments in Dyce Academy are the Guidance meeting on every second Friday and the Learning Support Department meeting, one week in four. At these meetings staff can raise issues with Val and also get feedback on how various pupils that have been referred to her are progressing.

Like all school psychologists, Val's own background is in teaching. After completing an Honours Degree in Psychology at Aberdeen University, she taught both infants and older children at a primary school in Fraserburgh and was then seconded for a year to Cordyce School before completing her two-year Post-Graduate training at Strathclyde University. She is now a Chartered Educational Psychologist and is in the second year of her appointment to the Dyce-Bankhead patch.



Val may be asked to see pupils for a wide variety of reasons. Pupils who are thought to have any kind of learning difficulty - intellectual, physical, social or emotional - can all be helped by the service. Often it's the Guidance Department or the Learning Support Department which picks up on a pupil's difficulties, but parents are also free to ask for help for a pupil at any stage in schooling from nursery to secondary. In the Academy, parents usually make contact through Guidance teachers.

When a pupil is referred to Val, she will usually arrange to see the pupil individually and by talking, or in some cases using tests, she will arrive at some kind of assessment of the

problem. For some pupils with serious learning difficulties, Val's assessment will lead to the opening of a Record of Needs, which makes a statement of the kind of provision the pupil requires; but whether or not this is the case, Val will then discuss with parents and staff what might be done to help the pupil, and here there's a number of options.

Part of her job is to link pupils and their families with the many support services available in the Region - for example, the units which take pupils with more serious or more specific learning difficulties at Kaimhill, Kincorth or Linksfield, support units for pupils with behaviour difficulties, the Young People's Department and the Child and Family Psychiatry Departments at Aberdeen Children's Hospital, and so on. Val also links with, among others, the Home Tutor Service, Outreach Support teachers, and TASC which provides assessment and advice on computer-assisted learning for specific kinds of difficulty.

Val can also help pupils who simply have difficulties getting on with others, either by teaching them ways of 'charting' their own behaviour, so they become more aware of why they have difficulties, or by finding them a place in an after-school group of people around the same age where problems can be explored and discussed. Val also helps pupils and their families through counselling - talking things through together on a regular basis.

Those of us who have been around in schools for some time can see for ourselves the great improvements which the change in the role of the school psychologist has brought; the 'patch' arrangement helps forge much better working partnerships with families and teachers, but even more important perhaps is what follows - a new emphasis on giving support through team effort, calling on whatever help is suitable and trying to make the education service work to meet individual needs.

Val's hopes for 1993 are to build on what she already does by providing in-service training for teachers and becoming more involved with parents in the Dyce and Bankhead communities (through PTAs, for example) sharing her expertise so that we may all become more aware of children's difficulties and more skilled in responding to them.

CHRISTMAS SPELLING

TEST

Congratulations to the following whose perfectly spelled entries for the Christmas Spelling Test have won them valuable prizes.

S1

Richard Morrice 1A

S2

Lynne Stirton 2A

S3/4

Alison Edwards 4D

S5/6

Grant Thomson 5S

STAFF NEWS

Alison Angus, who has worked in the Social Subjects Department for a number of years, was recently appointed Principal Teacher (Social Subjects / Geography) following the promotion of the previous Principal Teacher, **Raymond Jowett**, to Assistant Head Teacher early last year.

Morag Forrest, Principal Teacher (Social Subjects/History), has joined the Update editorial committee.

Anne McIntosh of the Music Department has taken over the post of Acting Principal Teacher (Music) at Portlethen Academy. She will return to Dyce Academy in Summer '94.

Julie McLure, Senior Teacher (Mathematics) had a baby girl recently. She is expected to return to school within the next few months.

Isabel Masson, Principal Teacher (Religious and Moral Education), is involved in an exchange this term with **Don Hawthorn** from the Northern College of Education - Don is working in Dyce Academy and Isabel in the College until Easter.

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The School Show this year was about Cinderella with pupils and members of staff playing the various roles.

Mrs Teehan was the main organiser.

It was a similar plot to the fairytale version except rather than Cinderella doing the housework she went to Asda for the shopping.

Cinderella went to the ball thanks to the winning raffle ticket which was unwanted by the winner.

Mr Pyle and Mr Hardy were largely responsible for making the audience laugh. Assuming the rolls of the ugly sisters, they were hilarious. The most memorable features of their involvement were when they shaved their legs and at the Royal Ball when they chucked cream pies at each other.

Mrs Urquhart was a rich snobby kind of person who always wanted to be the centre of attention.

Cinderella being the nice girl she was did eventually marry the prince.

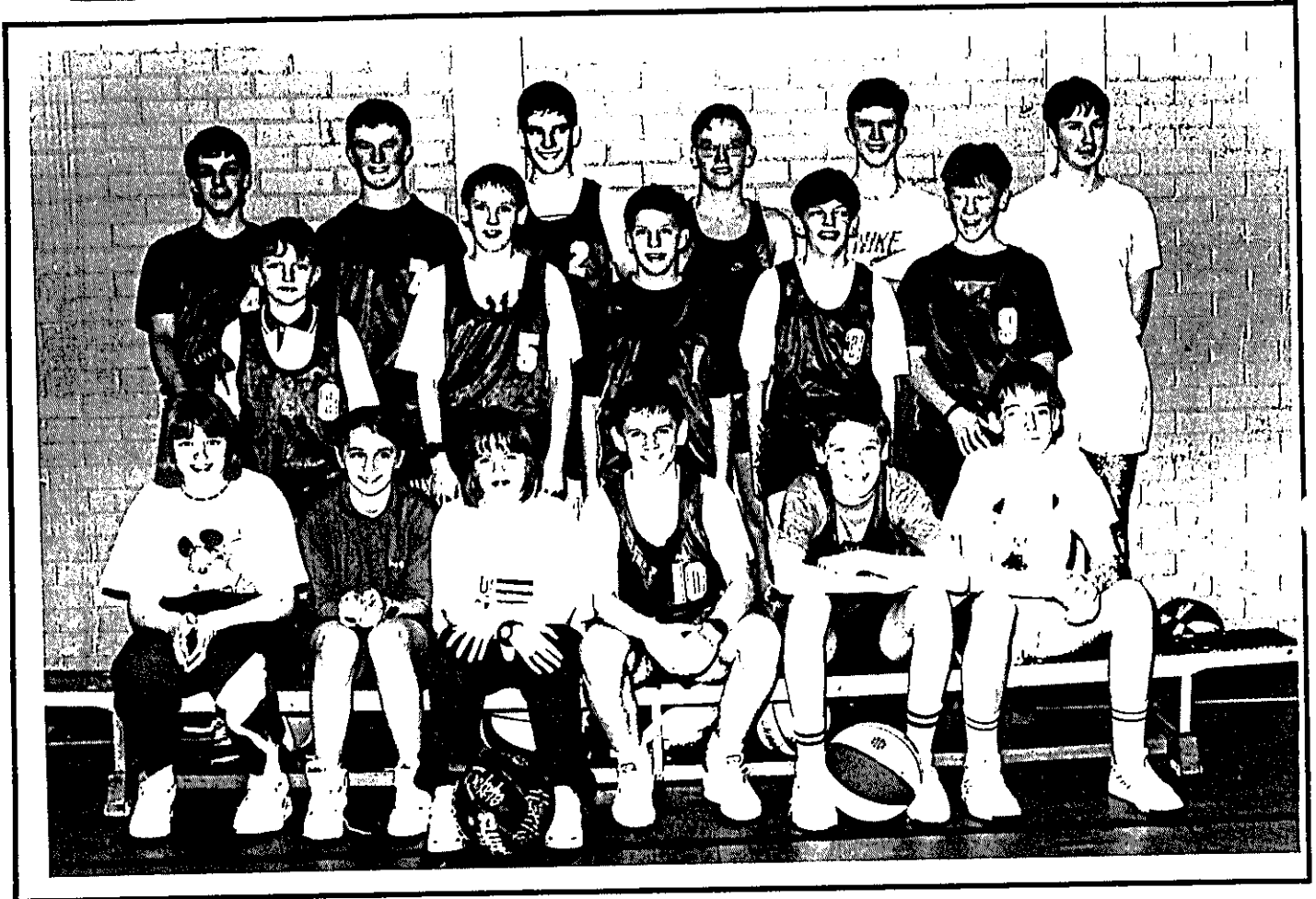
It was a memorable show which provided the audience with top class entertainment.

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Robert O'Donnell 1B

BASKETBALL NEWS



This session has been rather frustrating for our basketball teams. In between Mrs Anne McIntosh moving to Portlethen in October and myself taking over, the deadline passed for entry into this year's Under 15 and Under 18 Leagues. This is a great pity as I think both our teams would have done very well in each competition. There is no substitute for match practice to help improve a player's game and our players' skills development has been affected as a result. Nevertheless, a loyal group of around 14 would-be players meet on Thursdays after school for some 'rookie' coaching and a game amongst themselves. Most years and both sexes are represented and all are enthusiastic in their efforts.

We have been able to play a couple of friendly matches against Alford and Portlethen (both away). In the former match, lack of match fitness and team indiscipline were the main factors in a heavy defeat against a team whom we could have at least held our own against in normal circumstances. We were actually leading Portlethen with only a few minutes to go but slack defensive work led to the match being thrown away. Top scorers in the respective games were Gordon Orr and Graeme Veitch. It should also be pointed out that a moral obligation to play all of our players, including S1 and S2 boys, against older opposition led to our downfall in both matches but it is important to give everyone a game in 'frienalies'.

As for the future, it's mainly a case of 'hurry up next session', but between now and then we have to arrange a few more friendlies. As well as play in a cup competition, I am sure that we will have a couple of teams in next year's leagues who can complete with the best.

TOM FERGUSON

