

# UPDyce Academy Date

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## NORTHSOUND SCHOOLS CHALLENGE QUIZ -



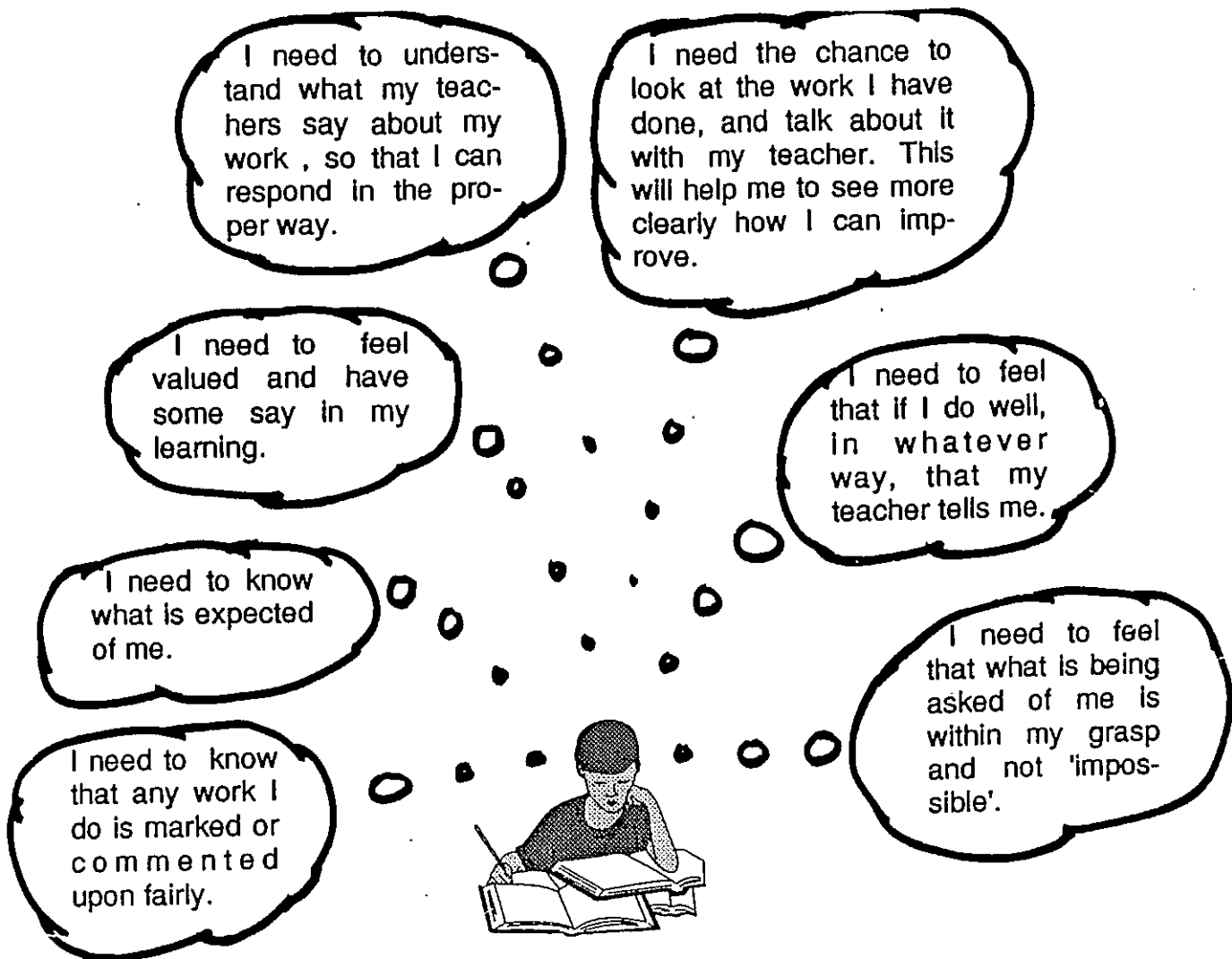
## DYCE REACH QUARTER FINALS

In late February, Dyce Academy participated in the heats of the Northsound Hydro Electric Schools Challenge Quiz. The team consisting of Alison (Captain), Scott, David and Nicki travelled to Inverurie Academy with supporters to give an excellent account of themselves. In the first contest, they were against the host team and after a shaky start, came on strongly to finish winners by a narrow 50-49 margin. They waited patiently while the other heat saw Oldmachar comprehensively defeat Banchory to set up a thrilling quarter final tie.

In an extremely competitive contest, Dyce just missed out. One question caused particular grief - the 'feelie bag' where the team were too intent on feeling and did not listen carefully enough to the spoken clues which led to the opposition gaining the margin by which they eventually won. I doubt if our team will ever manage to stare at a grapefruit again without bad memories flooding back! But our musical knowledge was superb - our anticipation, brilliant - our supporters, magic. It was a really exciting competition - but oh! that grapefruit still hurts.

# PROFILING OF PUPIL ACHIEVEMENT

Most departments in Dyce Academy are involved in the Profiling of Pupil Achievement of S1 pupils. Although one or two departments have previously profiled pupils in S1 to S4 on an informal basis, session 1993-94 is the first time that Grampian Region has given staff in Dyce Academy more time to develop departmental profiling materials for use with their pupils.



## What is profiling?

Profiling is the process whereby teachers and pupils use a variety of methods to help pupils evaluate their own learning and then record their progress.

This means that pupils are given the chance to think about the work they have done in class, at home, during practicals or in tests and then discuss this with their teacher. Pupils discuss with teachers what they think is going well (strengths) and any areas of work that may be causing them difficulties (weaknesses).

If a pupil does identify some problem areas in their work, the next stage is to agree some targets with their teacher which will help them improve their learning.

### What is a departmental pupil profile?

One of the results of the profiling process is the completion of a PROFILE which is a picture of a pupil's achievement and progress in a particular subject at any one time.

### What does all this mean for the Parent/Guardian?

As more departments in Dyce Academy become involved in pupil profiling, departmental profiles which will outline your child's progress in that subject and make you aware of any agreed targets, will start to appear home. Please note that some of these require a parental signature and comment where appropriate.

### What about normal school reports?

These will still be sent home as before. For example, S1 parents will next receive reports at the end of May. What is likely to happen is that teachers will start to make reference to any agreed pupil targets set earlier in the session.

**GRANT BRUCE**  
Profiling Group Convener

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# SPORTS RESULTS

Congratulations to the following pupils for reaching the finals of the Royal Bank of Scotland Scottish Schools Swimming Championships:

Linda McGregor	2B	13/14 age	100 m Backstroke
Scott Shand	2D	13/14 age	100 m Butterfly
Carole McKenzie	4B	Open	400 m Freestyle

Scott and Carole did well to reach the final but Linda did exceptionally well to win the Bronze Medal.

**Raymond Littlejohn**

# Modern Languages and Work Experience

On 25 January the Department of Modern Languages organised an afternoon's pre-work experience in the Marriott Hotel. I took the third year short course German class out of school at 2.00 pm for two hours.

We prepared thoroughly for our visit, which was to include a guided tour. Having completed a unit on restaurants and snack bars, we prepared a questionnaire with 27 questions we were going to ask Kath Findlay, the Personnel Manager on duty, who very kindly took us round the entire hotel. We started in the administration office where five staff were very busy on computer terminals and in one hour we managed to see the swimming pool, the kitchen, laundry department, staff cafeteria and two rooms. After that there was time for questions and discussion.

We found out that there are lots of people working to make the hotel run smoothly. Apart from obvious jobs like waiter/waitress, barman/barmaid, chambermaids, receptionist, chefs and managers, there are four accountants, four marketing specialists, numerous staff in the kitchen and the laundry department. The hotel has its own maintenance staff such as painters, joiners and plumbers.

We all liked the swimming pool and leisure facilities which non-residents may use with a leisure pass and staff can use on certain days.

We were impressed with the large conference suites for up to 300 people and we admired the luxury rooms. We wanted to know what the bills amounted to and were quite shocked that the hot water alone was £12,000 per month.

Languages are a definite advantage for working in one of the many Marriott Hotels that exist worldwide. French is traditionally used by the chefs for certain dishes and many recipes and we found quite a few French words on the menu.

The Marriott Hotel employs people from European countries and send their own staff abroad to work in other Marriott Hotels. Some knowledge of Japanese, however, is the best way to get a job with the Marriott Hotel. The hotel is mainly catering for business people and many guests are visitors from abroad, attending a conference or meeting, often oil-related. Staff working at reception, in one of the bars or restaurants with internationale cuisine and in marketing, often need a foreign language - French, German, Spanish, for example.

Training for managers is two years after a degree course in Hotel Management, six weeks for a receptionist. All the staff work very hard, getting 3-4 weeks off per year, starting work at 7.00 am - the Personnel Manager worked officially from 7.00 am to 3.00 pm but more realistic was 5.00 pm. The Marriott Hotel is training people from scratch but take on quite a number of graduates in Hotel Management, Accountancy and European Studies.

In the follow-up discussion back at Dyce Academy two girls showed an interest in working in a hotel like The Marriott. Maybe they will do their work experience in fourth year there.

We all enjoyed our visit and think it was a very worthwhile experience.

SIBYLLA McLEOD

## STAFF INFORMATION

Lindsay Drummond who worked in the Drama Department for a year or so had a baby girl a few weeks ago. The vacancy for a Technical Assistant has been filled on a job sharing basis by Sylvia Barron and Anne Fulton.



Sylvia



Anne



Back Row: Kirsteen , Elizabeth , Samantha  
Front Row: Andrew , Grant , Rosalyn

**Grant Bruce, PT (Chemistry) our Student Regent with some of the students who have been in Dyce Academy this term.**

**STUDENT**

# COURT REPORT

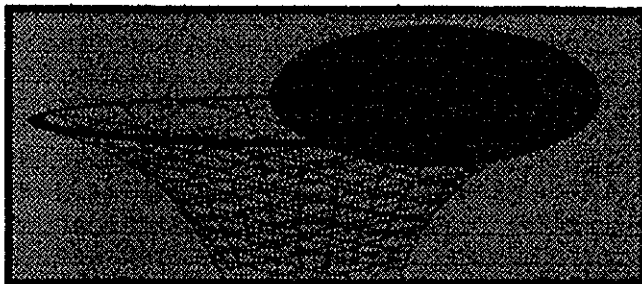
friendly match on a full court against Portlethen at the end of term.

Our Under-18 team continue to have mixed fortunes - not surprising given the number of S3 pupils in the team. The experience gained this year will be of great benefit if they continue to play next session. They managed to win their first game in January away to a technically superior but younger American School who tired towards the end of the game. In a nailbiting finish, Dyce almost threw away the lead they worked so hard to gain but held on for a narrow 42-36 victory. That made up for a 28-22 home defeat one week earlier against a strong Garioch team. Lastly - and best forgotten - was a heavy defeat (I won't mention the score!) away to Beacon who really are a class apart in this league. Even though the opposition was superior, our team did not help itself by careless shooting and needlessly giving the ball away. We also suffered through unavailability of one or two key players and our cause was not helped by two individuals being fouled out long before the end of the game. If anything should be remembered, it will be Peter's last second long range throw for three points. If only the shooting had been that good for the rest of the game. However, our most recent match at home to Robert Gordon's College produced an excellent 49-37 victory. The team should be complimented on some extremely fast break play in the second half. Top scorers so far have been David Ross and the rapidly emerging 'rookie', Stuart!

The Under-18 team have been frustrated in their efforts to play this term. Opposition call-offs have meant no games until March. If they win their remaining matches, they will be Champions of the North section but let us take nothing for granted as remaining matches are against stronger opposition. A friendly against Kincorth has been arranged as a warm-up to the Mintlaw and Garioch games.

Our thanks go to Craig Howie who usually referees our home games and Angela Cheyne for score-keeping.

Finally, your correspondent has to note with regret the dearth of girls at Dyce taking part in Basketball. Basketball is for both boys and girls and it would be pleasing to see a greater balance of the sexes in matches. Practices take place on Thursdays after school until 5.30 pm.



It is pleasing to note that all six years have participated in basketball tournaments this term.

A group of ten pupils represented Dyce in the Grampian Under-14 Basketball Festival at the American School's prestigious games hall at Milltimber on 21 February. The emphasis of the Festival was more on participation than winning but our group managed to succeed in doing both! Only a narrow defeat at the hands of the much more experienced host school team took the edge off an excellent team performance. Our congratulations go to all participants and their coach, Gordon (S6), for a sportsmanlike approach. For the record top scorers were Stuart, Rodi, Rob and Miguel but almost everyone else managed to get his name on the scoresheet. They now await a

# DUNDEE REPORT

On Wednesday 2 February, four pupils from each of the classes in second year met at Dyce Train Station at 8 o'clock to catch the train into Aberdeen. From Aberdeen we would catch the train to Dundee where we would visit the Discovery, the ship in which Captain Scott explored the Antarctic in his 1901 expedition.

The four pupils from each of the classes were chosen to go to Dundee, so that we could find out information about the ship and then present our final piece in a play, radio broadcast or a normal speech to the rest of our classes.

When we arrived in Dundee an hour after leaving Aberdeen we had to walk from the train station to the Discovery which is situated just next to the Olympia Leisure Centre. We had an opportunity to take photographs of the Discovery, or of the building, the Discovery Point, where we were to go next.

Inside the Discovery Point they had set up different rooms and visual aids where we could see what it would have been like long ago onboard a ship. We could also gather our information from here, because there were stands and the guide gave us all of our information.

We gradually made our way through to a room with folding seats and a big screen. Here we watched a film about the crew members onboard the ship and voyaging in the Discovery. We saw how the Discovery was stuck in ice and couldn't get out and how another ship had to come and rescue them.

We then had a guided tour of the Discovery Ship. We found out about the different parts of the ship. We went down into the engine room where we saw bags and bags of coal that were to be put in the engine to keep the boat moving.

We were shown the cabins where the sailors slept and the food stores where the small amount of supplies were stored.

This report put together by -

NATALIE  
LINDSAY  
2B

ERIKA  
MICHELLE



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