

up *Dyce Academy* DATE

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STEP

As more and more vehicles pour onto Britain's already over-crowded roads, learner drivers face an ever more daunting task in gaining the necessary experience to become qualified road users.

Dyce Academy runs a Schools Traffic Education Programme as part of General Studies to help alleviate some of the problems faced on modern roads.

Young people are encouraged to consider the responsibilities they assume on becoming a road user. Rules of the road, emergency

procedures and safe and considerate driving are among the many issues discussed with the aid of videos and worksheets.

Practical experience is gained with the use of the school mopeds to reinforce classroom work. Proper procedures for right-hand and left-hand turns, speed adjustments and vehicle control are just some of the manoeuvres emphasised during the course.

This programme is not only thought-provoking and very worthwhile for future drivers but is enjoyed by all who take part.

MUSIC GROUP - HOLLAND TRIP

We set off for Noordwiyk on the morning of 31 March. We were crossing from Harwich to the Hook of Holland. When we arrived at Harwich the weather was not at its best, but nevertheless we were allowed to leave dock. We were a little apprehensive about the impending journey, and believe me it lived up to our expectations. To say it was choppy was a gross understatement! We arrived in a 10 force gale. Some of the lighter members of the group were having difficulty keeping their feet!

Our visit to Amsterdam was not without incident: the boat for the canal trip was faulty, and we experienced the worst hail storm ever. We were totally soaked. A marvellous start to the trip.

Thank goodness our hotel was warm, the food was reasonable, and the staff were brilliant.

On day two we visited De Eferling - one of Europe's biggest theme parks. The kids enjoyed themselves on the various rides, some had five turns on the roller coaster. I'm just glad their parents did not see them! The weather was slightly better but it was freezing.

Our concert that evening was in one of Noordwijk's expensive hotels. We entertained their guests during dinner, playing to the vocal accompaniment of the resident budgerigars who were totally appreciative of our music!

On day three we visited a Space Expo in the morning with most of the kids pretending to be spacemen (not all under 18 either). The concert that afternoon was in another 'classy' hotel. This time we had to ask some of the guests to move so that we could set up. The performance was probably the best but we have yet to receive a 'thank you'. That evening we spent in our own place, enjoying the heat and hospitality. In a rash moment we agreed to play for one of the other groups on the following evening.

The weather on day four was appalling but we set off for the town of Delft to visit the Royal Delftware factory where we witnessed a fascinating display of pottery-making and plate painting. Unfortunately, the cost of the product was outwith our pockets.

With the rain still pouring we went into the town to discover that as it was Easter Monday most of the shops were closed. We left fairly sharply. Our first concert of the day was a beautiful old people's nursing home and the group enjoyed the attention of the residents. Our second concert was a much rowdier affair with the English group getting up to dance to some of the pieces. At the end of the concert the band and choir were plagued for autographs - famous for a night.

On day five we set off in very 'ify' weather to Duinrell, another theme park. When we arrived we discovered most of the rides were water rides and guess what - we all got wet! In the afternoon we went swimming, well, in for a penny in for a pound.

In the evening we visited another old people's home and this time they paid us for playing so it was cokes all round when we got back to the hotel.

Day six was our leaving day. We went to The Hague in the morning to visit the fascinating miniature of Holland and in the afternoon back to Delft to do some last-minute shopping. We left that evening from Rotterdam. The disco that night proved to be popular.

There were lots of tired faces next day as we travelled back to Aberdeen. Where to next? - Canada 1996? - We'll see.

JUNE SMITH

Understanding Industry

Thirty pupils took this opportunity to participate in this course which involved session leaders from a broad spectrum of industry telling us a bit about their background, their firm, what their particular job involved and getting us, the participants, involved in managerial decision-making and planning through various business simulation exercises. Topics covered included Finance, Personnel, Marketing, Operations Management and Small Businesses.

There was a strong local flavour to the course, with Mr Jess of the Bank of Scotland and Mr Swanson from Aberdeen Enterprise Trust being two of the session leaders. The local connection was continued as sponsorship of the course was again provided by BP, for which we are all extremely grateful, and they even sent along their own photographer for the above photo which subsequently appeared in their house magazine BPXpress.

All those who participated in the course would agree that the course was well worth attending, and achieved the main aims of raising our awareness and understanding of the importance of industry in all aspects of our lives and we would recommend other pupils to attend if it is repeated in the future.



Photograph reproduced with permission of BP.

HIGHER GRADE IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION



This year Dyce Academy is offering a Higher Grade Course in Physical Education. This is a 'performance led' course - pupils will be involved with their **OWN** performance and its improvement. A Higher is usually seen as an extension to Standard Grade but this is not yet a requirement at Dyce.

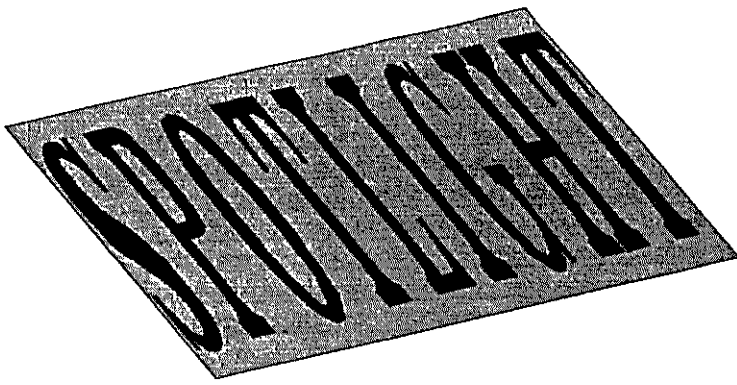
Pupils will be involved in improving their practical skills - their performance - endeavouring to understand and analyse performance and investigating some aspect of performance which lies within their own direct experience.

Pupils who opt for this course must be interested, enthusiastic, self-motivated and willing to work on their own and with others at skill development, personal training regimes and information gathering for their investigation. They must be willing to improve through understanding the principles behind performance and develop the skills of performance analysis to enable them to collect data, interpret information and make decisions.

Assessment is completed in three areas -

PERFORMANCE	is internally assessed but externally moderated
ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE	a written exam worth 40% of final grade
INVESTIGATION	20% of final grade, on a topic/aspect of performance which lies within their own direct experience

Will the course include Football? Will it be Gymnastics? This cannot be decided until after a process of consultation with the pupils opting for the course. Those who have already indicated an interest are presently considering whether it might be Basketball, Badminton, Indoor Hockey, Squash, Swimming or even Trampolining. Whatever is chosen it will satisfy pupil and staff interest **AND** pupil and staff expertise. Whatever activities are chosen the staff must feel competent to teach to Higher level!



Every now and again UPDATE likes to turn its spotlight onto a pupil who has an interest outwith school which we think our readers would enjoy hearing about. Stuart in 2B is one such pupil and his interest is Athletics. An UPDATE reporter managed to catch up with him (!!) to ask about his sporting interest.

Stuart first became involved in running when he took part in a Haddo House Cross Country Run while he was in Primary 5 and when he was invited by a friend to go along to Aberdeen Athletics Club, that was him hooked.

Aberdeen Athletics Club is one of the biggest athletics clubs in Scotland with hundreds of members ranging in age from 9 years to 80 year-old veterans. Stuart trains with the Club three nights a week at the Chris Anderson Stadium near Pittodrie.

"Many people think that athletics is only a summer sport but it's an all year round activity", says Stuart. "From February to October it's the track season and from October to February it's cross country."

The Sprint events (100m/200m/400m) are where Stuart's interest and talent particularly lie. Last year he took the Under-13 East District Gold for the 100m, the East District Gold for the 200m, the Scottish Gold for the 200m and the Scottish Bronze for the 100m.

Now that he has turned 13, Stuart is the first to admit that things will get a little tougher. "I'm in the Under-15 category now so I'm competing against a lot of older and much bigger lads but you can only go out and do your best."



According to Stuart it's a very enjoyable but not very expensive sport to pursue. "Training and equipment are relatively cheap. It's a great way to keep fit and it's given me the chance to meet a lot of really interesting people."

UPDATE wishes Stuart all the best for the rest of this season and for his promising future in the world of athletics.

TESCO "COMPUTER FOR SCHOOLS '94"

Tesco is running the 'Computers for Schools' scheme again this year from 18 April to 12 June 1994. The 1993 scheme was very successful, thanks to the support of parents, teachers, families and friends in our local community. Although we didn't manage to claim a computer we did obtain some software and free discs.

The 1994 scheme offers us the same opportunity to claim free Acorn computerware. All you have to do is collect vouchers given away at Tesco stores. You can claim one voucher for every £25 spent in a Tesco store. You should then send your vouchers to us at the school to add to our collection. We have to return our vouchers to Tesco by 1 July so please let us have all your vouchers by 27 June.

We at Dyce Academy would be very grateful for your support.

COURT REPORT BASKETBALL UPDATE

Our teams have had mixed fortunes since the last report.

A number of promising players have emerged this year, including quite a few in S1 and S2. The Under-14 team won a very competitive and highly sporting friendly against Portlethen Academy by a narrow 21-19 margin. Top scorer in this match was Rob Morris with four baskets but another four players also scored points. At the time of writing they are training for another friendly against Oldmachar in preparation for the competitions of next session.

The Under-16 team have long since finished their fixtures but the Under-18s have been very busy completing a backlog. Their last two league fixtures turned out to be as difficult as predicted and the experience of the opposition told in the end as our side suffered 43-50 and 54-76 defeats against Mintlaw and Garioch respectively. These defeats both followed an impressive victory at home in a friendly against Kincorth by a 41-29 margin.

As if all this wasn't enough, they also competed in an Under-18 tournament at Inverurie Academy where mixed fortunes were again the order of the day and our sporting approach was extended just a little too far to allow inferior teams to beat us.

At the end of what has been a very busy and fulfilling season our thanks go to all who have helped make it the success that it was. We also say farewell to a number of stalwarts who have given sterling service over the years. Good luck to Gordon, Graeme and Desi - we hope to see you in the NBA in the not too distant future!

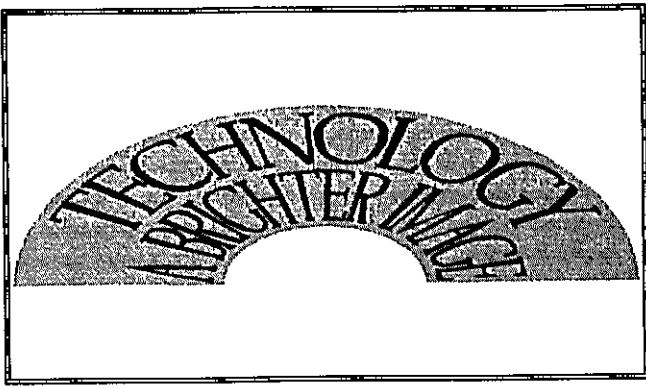
TOM FERGUSON

CAR BOOT SALE

Dyce Netball Club will be holding a Car Boot Sale in aid of club funds on Saturday 25 June in the school car park from 9.00 am - 2.00 pm.

It's a great way to earn some extra cash for all the hidden treasures you have gathered over the years. Cost per space is £5. Alternatively, if you would like to donate your treasures to Dyce Netball Club we will be grateful for anything.

If interested in booking a car space, or donating to the club, please contact Audrey Innes during school hours on Aberdeen 725118.



Until recently Technological Studies was taught in a converted science lab which was not really suited to this activity. As the specialist equipment increased, the working space became more and more confined and potentially hazardous situations reached an unacceptable level.

Something had to be done.

Now, a new technology workshop has been designed and is near completion. Computers, monitors and other machines have the cables neatly and less prominently arranged and sufficient space for other technological activities is provided on the new work benches. Low voltage and pneumatic outlets will soon be fitted at each work station so that a safer and tidier work space is provided.

Not only is this classroom safer and more efficient but a brighter and friendlier environment has been created for pupils to work in.

Technical staff will, of course, continue to be as friendly, helpful and as cheerful as always.

