

SCHOOL BOARD



The Dyce Academy School Board was officially re-established a few weeks ago.

Exactly the right number of members were nominated so there was no need for an election.

The parent members
are:

Elaine
John
Shirlee
Denise
Sally

The teacher members
are:

Grant
Hellen

Most of the parent members came to the school for a day recently to get a feel for how the school operates. They spent time with four classes and spent their breaks with the staff.

Once the Board gets going, Update readers will be kept informed of the matters discussed at Board meetings.

THE STUDENTS



Our postgraduate students (pictured above) have just left us after their six-week placement. They were complimentary about the school, mentioning the friendliness of both staff and pupils. Tara

(centre) originally from Canada, even mentioned the 'good initiation into Scottish language and culture' which she'd received!



MATHEMATICS MASTER CLASSES

The Royal Institution Mathematics Master classes for young people in Grampian Region are held on 8 Saturday mornings between October and February. The main objectives are “to stimulate the interest of the young people and give them good opportunities to broaden their knowledge

and experience in a relaxed and enjoyable fashion”.

After four classes so far, the following topics have been covered.

TITLE	SPEAKER	VENUE
Cryptography: codes and ciphers	Dr. Colin MacLachlan	Satrosphere
The Mathematics of Movement	Dr. Roger Clark	Satrosphere
Road Accidents and Mathematics	Sgt. Marco Venturini and Dr. Hugh Barron	Nelson St. Police Station
Taking Samples: from pebbles to embarrassing questions	Prof. Ian Jolliffe	Satrosphere

The school has been represented by Angela Campbell, Mark Flett and Lisa Howie - all pupils in second year. Some of their comments that follow provide a flavour of their experiences.

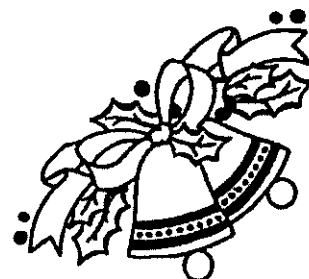
“Codes and ciphers - I enjoyed this activity. We were asked to break a code. We were then told to send messages to each other. We made up our own code.”

“Movement - We had to find out how fast the little wooden car was going. This one was pretty hard.”

“Road Accidents - We went to the exhibition centre and measured the skid marks the car made to find out how fast it was going. It was quite good.”

“Pebble Sampling - I didn’t enjoy this one because it wasn’t interesting.”

Overall impressions - “It was quite good, and the best bit was the free coke and the chance to go round Satrosphere for free.”



OXEAM ACHIEVEMENT

Some of our pupils
looking rather peckish on
fast day - only soft drinks
allowed!



Dyce Academy pupils - and the occasional brave member of staff - abandoned the school canteen and the local shops one Friday to experience some genuine hunger pangs for themselves.

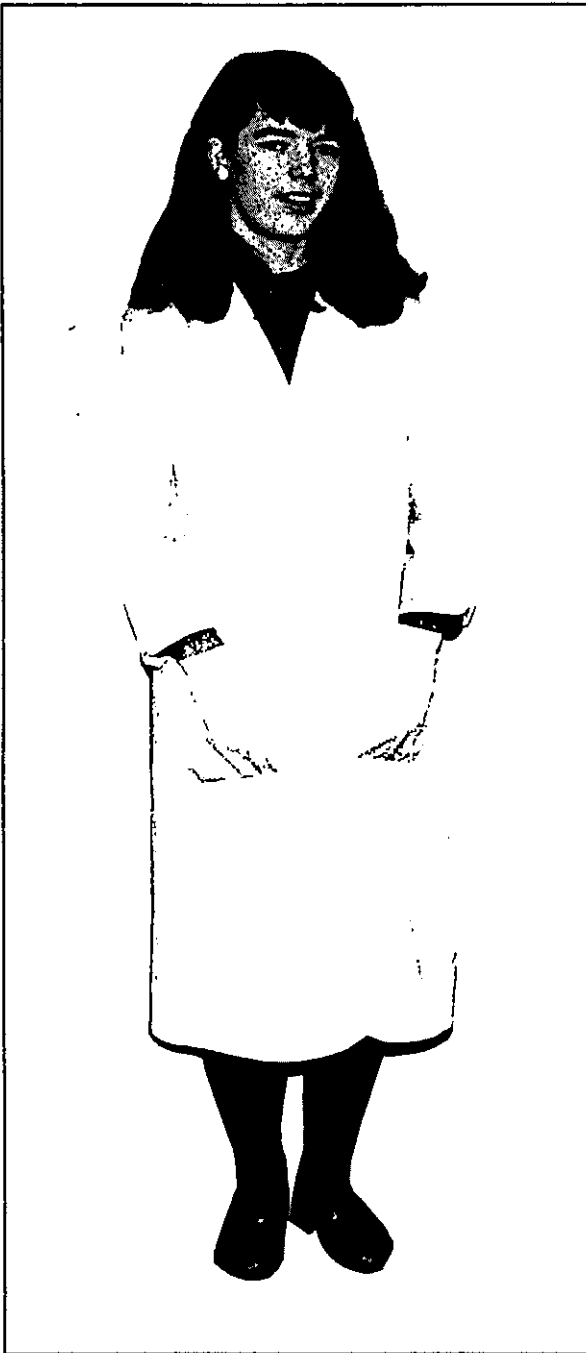
Snippets of conversation betrayed those sufferers:
"Liquids are allowed, so that must include

vegetable soup", "Polos must be ok - you just suck them", "The teacher said we could eat barley sugar, otherwise we'll maybe faint".

A little bit of cheating? Who's to say? Anyway, it still meant the very impressive sum of between £800 and £900 was raised. So well done all those who starved and/or sponsored others.



THE CHANGING FACE OF TECHNOLOGY



In this age of equal opportunities, many women are competing successfully in the largely masculine world of Engineering and Technology. Quite a number of talented, young women are choosing Technical Education as a career, bringing a new, softer image to the subject.

Such are our most recent students, Lisa [redacted] and Sheelagh [redacted]. Lisa has now qualified and returned to Ireland but Sheelagh hopes to teach closer to home.

She is very enthusiastic about her first teaching experience. "I've really enjoyed my time at Dyce Academy," she says. "It's hard work but very rewarding to teach children as friendly and pleasant as they are here."

This fresh, more appealing approach to Technical Education is proving to be very popular with our pupils. Hopefully, it will encourage more girls to seriously consider Technology as a possible career.

Meanwhile, not everyone is happy with this change.

Like ancient dinosaurs facing extinction, older hands are suspicious of this female invasion of their territory. They have warned Sheelagh not to be seduced by the glamour of Technical Education. They stress the exhausting work, not only having to keep abreast of rapid changes in Technology but being aware of the current needs and interests of young people.

Quizzed about their knowledge of issues of concern to the young such as Aids, one veteran claimed to know all about it. "My friend has a hearing one," he said, "and she swears by it - especially when the battery is down a bit."

Wonderful!

BLUE PETER APPEAL

Don't forget there's a box in the foyer for the Blue Peter Appeal. Apart from the shiny papered leaflets and pamphlets, seemingly Christmas cards will be appropriate. So bring them in after the

New Year. Lots of those will surely be a big step towards an electric wheelchair for a needy child. Don't forget!

SCOTTISH YOUTH THEATRE SUMMER FESTIVAL 96

Scottish Youth Theatre's annual summer festival is the biggest youth theatre event in Scotland and anyone aged 12-21 can take part. Over 130 young people from all over the country will join together for an intensive 5 weeks in the summer, experiencing every aspect of the performing arts. Next year's festival takes place in Edinburgh from 8 July until 11 August.

During the 5 weeks, Summer Festival participants work alongside theatre professionals towards 3 main productions in the final week. Along with rehearsals for the productions, participants in all courses take part in a variety of theatre skills workshops, in rehearsals for a street event and in trips, visits, special performances, talks and other activities. The work is very intense - from 9.30 am to 9.30 pm every day of the week. The Festival comprises of courses in Acting, Stage Management, Directing, Music Theatre and Video.

To take part in the Festival, previous experience in Drama is not essential, although it does help. More important is commitment, enthusiasm and loads of energy. Auditions take place all over Scotland and supervised residential accommodation is available during the Festival for participants based outside the Edinburgh area.

Fees for Summer Festival tuition on any course are just £275 for the full 5 weeks. Residences, in

student accommodation with meals, cost extra. Exact costs for 1996 are not yet confirmed but in 1995 the cost of half-board was £80 per week. Grants and bursaries are available in most parts of Scotland from local authorities, trust funds and sponsors. SYT offer help and advice to all participants on raising money for fees and residences, so no-one should be put off by the cost.

Mr Young of the school's Drama Department, has application forms. If you apply, you are guaranteed a free audition/interview depending on the course you are applying for. Auditions and interviews will be held throughout Scotland during March. Applications must be received by SYT before Thursday 15 February 1996.

Scottish Youth Theatre was established in 1977 and has held a Summer Festival each year in various Scottish cities. SYT is the largest employer of freelance theatre professionals in Scotland and in addition to the Summer Festival runs courses all year round, all over Scotland. Other events include a National Workshop Programme, a Young Playwrights' Course, SYT Productions and special projects. SYT owns the Old Athenaeum, Scotland's Youth Arts Centre, a Victorian Theatre in the heart of Glasgow which SYT is developing for young people's theatre.

CHILDREN IN NEED

Following a quick last-minute decision at the beginning of the week by the Senior School Pupil Council it was decided to have a collection for Children in Need. On the Friday, rushing around with some rather ungainly black buckets, the collectors managed to raise over £120 in an hour.

Mind you, maybe Mr Ferguson's trick of charging pupils to see this year's staff photo to raise some extra money for Children in Need could be extended for another year. Perhaps other members of staff might seek revenge by bringing in photos of pupils from school trips abroad? Any other suggestions? Perhaps parents could send in some interesting photos to Update?

LINDA'S GOLD



Tired and pale, Linda ... struggled back to classes clutching a gold medal. Those who have followed Linda's swimming successes in the past will not be surprised to hear about this one. She has just returned from a five day trip to the International Swimming Championships in Bremen in Germany - competing against other Scottish, English, Dutch and German teams.

The North District Swimming Squad of about 36 competitors, aged 13 to 20, came from all over the area from Shetland to Stonehaven. Linda competed in the 100 metre butterfly, the 100 metre breaststroke, the 100 metre front crawl, the 200 metre individual medley and the 100 metre back crawl, which is where she won first place.

Congratulations once again, Linda.

SPRINTING TO SUCCESS

At the end of another triumphant athletics season, Stuart ... will soon be enjoying a well earned rest. This year he has been competing in the Under 15 squad with a great deal of personal success. To everyone's delight he has trained so well that not only has he won the East District 400 metre sprint, but he has equalled the 400 metre Scottish Schools' Sprint Record, set way back in the '80s.

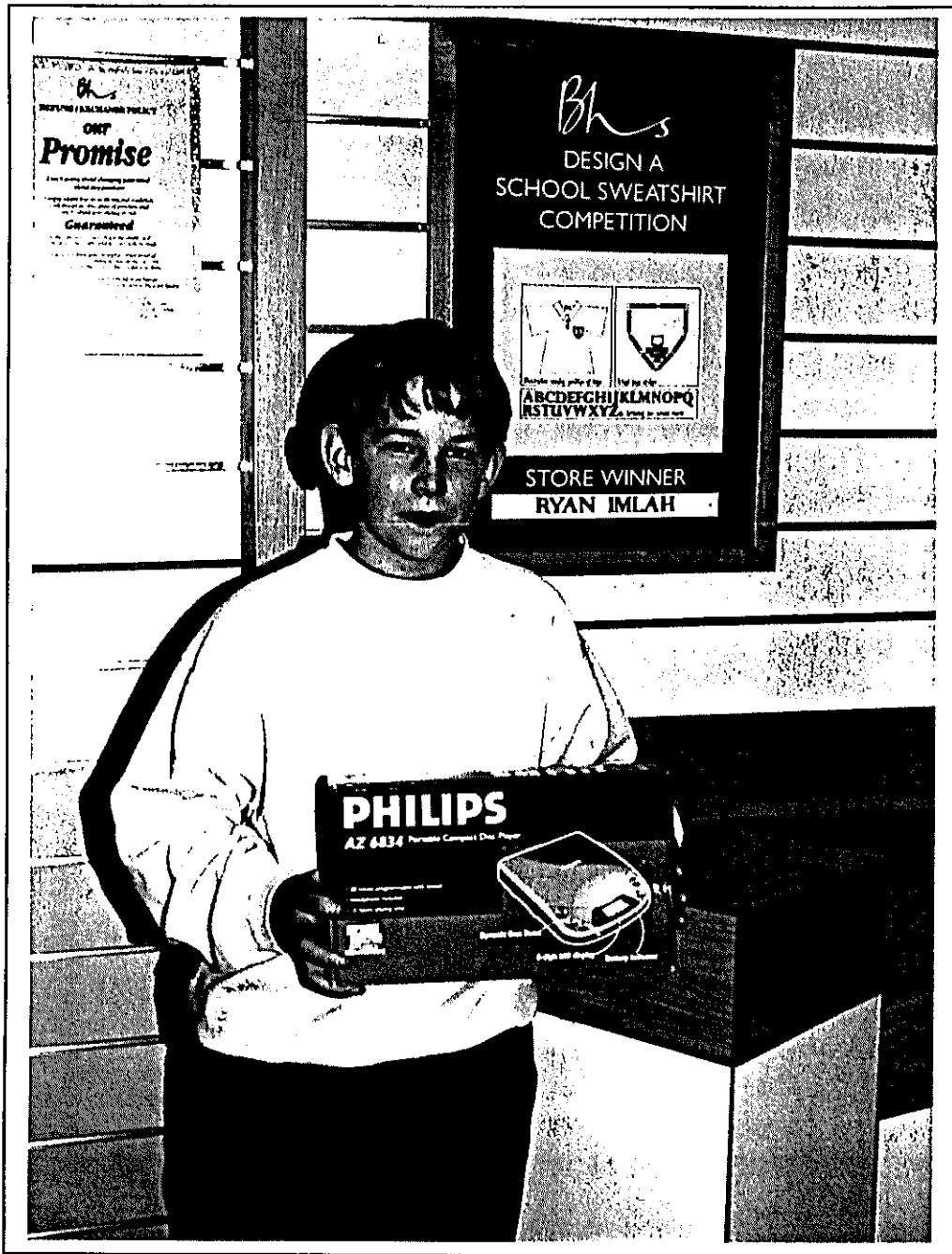
This year he is also amongst the top pentathlon competitors, coming third in the Scottish Schools Pentathlon. This included the 600 metre hurdles, the 200 metre sprint, the 800 metres, the long jump and the shot putt.

Later in December he is travelling to Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, as one of Scotland's pentathlon representatives against England, Ireland and Wales.

We wish him all the luck in Glasgow and look forward to hearing about further glory in next season's Under 17 squad, where he will have the opportunity to compete more often in the international field.



RYAN'S DESIGN SUCCESS



In September, several S3 Art & Design pupils entered design ideas for a school sweatshirt competition sponsored by a national high street store. The design submitted by Ryan (3E) was adjudged by the local shop managers to be 'head and shoulders' above most of the competition.

For his efforts, Ryan won a portable CD player for himself - and a Philips CDi player for use in the Academy.

With such talent in the school, surely now is a good time to review and redesign our own logo?

COURT REPORT : DECEMBER 1995

In this the season of handing out presents, Dyce Academy's Basketball teams have entered into the festive spirit by gifting points in recent matches and ending up on the losing side.

It was no surprise that our Senior Team went down to Aberdeen Grammar School 31-16 as the opposition had a couple of excellent 'imports' from France and Germany but it was extremely disappointing to follow with a 21-14 defeat from Aboyne Academy who fought back after being behind. Defensive frailty, loss of possession and missed shots all contributed to the defeat but for me, the team seemed to lose heart at a critical stage in the match. At least we had the consolation of seeing Steven "Shak Attack" Wood making a scoring debut. Look out for Steven at "Rookie of the Year" Awards!

Our Under 15 Scottish Cup Team lost out in their final fixture at home to Robert Gordon's by 42-25. This must have been down to complacency as virtually the same side had recorded a narrow 24-22 victory a week earlier in a local S2/3 tournament. This earlier victory was a stirring performance that just could not be repeated the following week. This report is being written prior to the final S2/3 tournament of the year but if the team did well at

Kincorth on Tuesday 12 December, they won't be slow to let you know. New members of the squad have been gradually introduced - welcome to Duncan "Jordan" Brown, Craig "Longshot" Stratton and Stuart "Akeem" Wood. From the same squad, congratulations to Ray Wilson in being selected for the Grampian Regional Team which took part in an Inter-Area Tournament in Arbroath last month.

Our S1 team, who have very little previous experience, continue to make good progress and gave a very good account of themselves in a recent Festival held at Northfield Academy. Against teams from bigger schools and with more experience they played both competitively and smartly.

A series of lunchtime inter-class matches has been arranged for either side of the Christmas Holidays during lunchbreaks. In the next report you can read about who has the best class team of three in S1, 2 and 3.

Before signing off for the year, may I, on behalf of the players and coaching staff, thank Mrs Smith from the Technicians team for her care of the strips after matches.

TOM FERGUSON



MERRY XMAS TO ALL OUR READERS



AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR