

Activities Week Special Edition

Welcome to



Dyce Academy Newsletter

Session 2022—2023

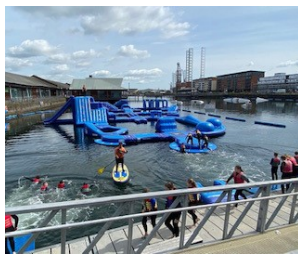
Issue 7

Headteacher Update

Welcome to the mid-term edition of our newsletter. This edition looks to celebrate the return of our Activities Days from 17-19th May, for our S1-3 pupils. These days require extensive planning and preparation and I am extremely grateful to the members of the Working Group, and to the trip and activity leads who made this happen for our young people. These experiences are a great opportunity for our learners to build confidence, develop their skills set and establish new friendships with peers. The feedback from our pupils has been really positive, and thoughts have already turned to what the programme might look like next year. I hope you enjoy reading more about the experiences that were on offer.

Wild Shore Dundee 17th & 18th May 2023

Over 2 days 60 pupils had a great adventure at Wild Shore on the water on a giant floating, inflatable playground giant floating playground. The sun shone over the Quay while pupils raced up climbing walls, bounced on trampolines, made their way along the monkey bars, slid down gigantic slides and jumped off the higher inflatables individually and in pairs. It was wonderful to see the bravery of our pupils throughout their time on the obstacle course. Pupils also showed great leadership skills when supporting others to follow them onto the harder parts of the course. They also displayed great encouragement when working together - well done! As you can see from the photos, pupils were delighted to be wild on the water for their activity experience.



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Trampolining - Friday 19th May 2023

Brilliant fun bouncing and showing a fantastic display of creativity on the trampolines. Pupils somersaulted most of the afternoon and learned new skills to develop and produce great routine work on our trampolines. Pupils smiled from ear to ear for the afternoon - well done everyone!

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Lochter Activity days

Everyone enjoyed the great weather and exciting activities at Lochter activity centre, they were encouraged by enthusiastic and patient staff to take



part in the activities. The fast paced racing in the go-karts was exhilarating for all. The climbing wall and leap of faith was a vertical challenge for those with a head for heights. During the Kayaking teamwork was supposed to mean you could stay dry, but most found out how cold the water really was. Archery required a dead-eye aim and

a strong pull on the bow string to hit the bullseye.

Fifa and Football "S1-3 pupils took part in a mixture of Fifa 23 indoors and 7/11 a side football outdoors. Great engagement and enthusiasm from all pupils was a joy to see, although many of our youngsters will need to brush up their Fifa skills if they hope to compete with the staff members next year! The football outside was a masterclass in skill and fairplay from all, with some excellent goals scored, tackles made and skills on show."



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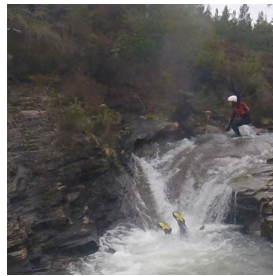
The Great Outdoors - Three Days of Adventure



On Wednesday morning, our brave group of adventurers were picked up by staff from Adventure Aberdeen and whisked off to the edge of the Cairngorms. We spent the day slipping, sliding and jumping around in the Lui gorge. All of

the pupils impressed the instructors (and themselves!) by sliding headfirst down whitewater rapids and jumping off cliffs.

Thursday was cool but sunny-perfect weather for a cycle! Mr Murray and Mrs McGarrity were blown away by the determination and resilience shown by the entire group who cycled a whopping 40km (all the way to Ellon and back!) for a picnic.



Highlights from Friday included building rock towers, collecting pine cones, setting up the emergency shelters and toasting marshmallows. These activities were very much designed to give the teachers a break from the relentless pace set by our team of hillwalkers! Despite this, we made it to the summit of Bennachie in record time. All of the pupils were delighted to discover that they could buy ice cream in the Visitor Centre at the end of the walk. Another wonderful day out in the sun for our energetic adventurers!

Ceramics We have some incredibly creative pupils at Dyce Academy who spent time during Activities Week experimenting with clay and making a variety of ceramic ornaments. A great time was had by all! Some of the pieces are now on display at the school reception



Alton Towers The pupils on the

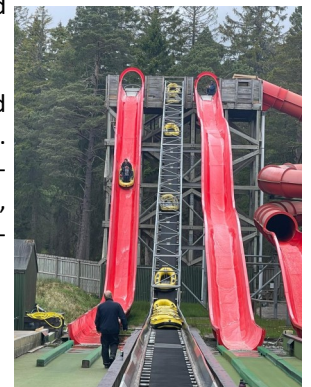


Alton Towers trip had an absolute blast. The roller coasters went down, and up and around, a storm. The favourite being the Smiler with its 14 loops. The pupils were very supportive of each other, helping those with apprehensions of going on the

rides overcome those fears, they even helped Ms MacDonal overcome hers. The pupils were very impressive with the way they helped each other navigate the park, made sure everyone got on the rides they wanted, and no one got lost. Well apart from Mr Duncan who got lost a few times but there was always a pupil on hand to help him out. They all arrived where and when they were meant to be. They were ready when they were meant to be, they nearly went to bed when they were meant to be. They showed the school ethos of Ready, Respectful and Safe during the whole trip.



Landmark A great time was had by all at Landmark on Thursday. Pupils found themselves bamboozled in the Bamboozeum, bouncing around the new Net-



worX, zooming down the watercoasters, climbing among the trees, getting their faces painted, getting to know the butterflies as well as some more prehistoric creatures and so much more.

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Paddle Boarding

Pupils took to the water in a paddle boarding experience with Scot Surf.

At the mouth of the River Don, pupils travelled upstream and underneath Bridge of Don and Brig O' Balgownie, seeing seals and various birds along the way- all whilst managing to stay relatively dry!"



Codonas

During their trip to Codona's the pupils took part in a game of mini golf and safely collided with each other during their shot on the Dodgems. Afterwards, some raced as fast as they could around the Go-Kart track (even beating some members of staff) while some ducked and dodged during laser-tag before all versing each other at bowling.



Gowanbank

During 17th-19th May 10 S3 students (and 3 staff) attended a residential outdoor experience at Scripture Union Scotland's fantastically beautiful Gowanbank site.



During our 3 days there our young people undertook a series of team challenges (including building something to protect an egg from a 20-30 foot drop), conquered an abseiling challenge down a 20 metre sheer cliff face, undertook tree climbing and archery, an Escape Room experience and a campfire round which we enjoyed smores and marshmallows.



Each and every one of our young people represented Dyce Academy respectfully and admirably while we were away. They all impressed us with their confidence, ability to undertake new challenges, their teamwork and communication skills and it was wonderful to see them all enjoy the experience as much as they did.

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London Our trip to London began very early at 5:25am on Wednesday 17 May 2023. We were all very tired but also excited! When arriving in London we went straight to Madame Tussauds. It was very fun seeing all of the celebrities and famous characters ranging from Shrek to Queen Elizabeth to Mo Farah and loads more famous figures. At Hard Rock Cafe we enjoyed dinner and the opportunity to visit the Rock Shop



where we could buy hoodies, hats, drumsticks, t-shirts and loads more. That evening we went to the theatre to see Matilda the musical which was incredible - our view was amazing! On Thursday we went to the Warner Brothers Studio Tour to see the making of the Harry Potter films, finding out lots of secrets about how things were made and the illusions of the camera. My favourite part of the tour was Diagon Alley where you could see all the shops from the films and just how detailed the scene actually was. This was followed by dinner at Honest Burger and a performance of Mamma Mia which was amazing - everyone really enjoyed themselves! Some of us bought merchandise including t-shirts, keychains, pens, tote bags, teddy bears and water bottles. On Friday we attended a Matilda drama workshop where we also got to meet a member of the cast called Kerri who knows 16 roles from beginning to end! After asking some questions about the secrets of staging the show we had some free time to go shopping on Oxford Street before the long train journey back from Kings Cross Station non-stop to Aberdeen. I think most people slept on the train after such a busy few days in London!

By Alex Robb 3K1



Edinburgh



We all had a fantastic time on our Edinburgh residential trip and enjoyed a range of activities! We began our trip at Edinburgh Castle and enjoyed seeing the crown jewels as well as the stone of destiny! We then headed to Edinburgh Dungeons after a quick break in Princes Street Gardens in the sun. Edinburgh Dungeons was fantastically scary and everyone had a great time jumping out of their skin! We spent the rest of the first day having a short shopping spree and had an evening hike up Calton Hill to complete a scavenger hunt. This tired everyone out and many of us were asleep by eleven! The second day was spent at Edinburgh Zoo and the Rise Trampoline Park. We enjoyed wandering around the zoo seeing all of the different animals and a tour by one of the conservation experts. The Ryze Trampoline Park was also great fun and a fantastic way to end an exciting trip. Everyone joined in and had a great time jumping, running and flipping around!



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Paris The Paris trip was not only filled with French culture but with fun activities such as Disneyland Paris. One of the best parts of the trip as a whole was that we were given time to explore parts of the city on our own with our friends, we went into all the little shops and tried all French cuisine at the small corner cafes. We visited Notre-Dame and the Sacre-Coeur and saw the great views of the city. We had an evening meal near



the Arc De Triomphe after having time to shop on the Champs Elysees where there is every type of shop you could think of, ranging from 5 story Dior shops to 3 story Zara stores. The sightseeing was incredibly memorable as seeing the Eiffel Tower on a river cruise at sunset had everyone's jaw dropping and trying to get as many photos as they could. I think all our expectations for Disneyland Paris were not as high as they could be but I can tell you now that that was not the case when we arrived there. We stayed till the evening so we could watch the lightshow / fireworks and even though everyone was tired from the long day of thrilling rides it was still so captivating and mesmerising to watch. The teachers that were going on the trip were a big talking point between the pupils as we were hoping that the teachers won't be strict and restrict us of our free time. Part of the PE department including Miss Hosie that came with us on the trip and we couldn't think of a better selection of teachers to come with us, they were very laid back and let us have our fun but were able to step in, in times of need. In conclusion I think that everyone would agree that this trip couldn't have been better and was definitely worth the anticipating count-down.

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Boat Trip

SEINE RIVER, PARIS FRANCE

