



NORTHFIELD ACADEMY



EASTER BULLETIN 2015

Head Teacher Update

This bulletin is packed full of more success stories from our pupils. It has been another very busy term, and for our senior students the next two months are going to be even busier. As a school we must continue to strive to improve exam results; last year saw significant improvement but continued hard work must lead to further improvements this year. Teaching staff have again been offering additional study opportunities and I am pleased to report that a number of pupils have been taking up these opportunities I would urge you to make sure your son or daughter is taking full advantage of these sessions.

I am delighted to report that we have made some excellent additions to our teaching staff during the last month. Miss Nena Imam (Biology), Miss Morag Lyon (Maths) and Mrs Charlotte Wilson (RME) will all be joining the school on permanent contracts from August 2015, following a successful probation year with us. Miss Lorna Reid will be joining our Art and Design Department in August 2015 from Robert Gordon's College. Miss Helen Stewart will be joining our English Department in August 2015 from Hillpark Secondary School. Congratulations must also go to Greg Tillman, who following a successful probation year will be joining Dyce Academy on a permanent contract in August 2015.

We wished a happy retirement to our Technical Technician, Alan Gabriel, who retired after 12 years at Northfield Academy. We also have to say goodbye and best wishes to Miss Rosalind Stevenson who is leaving us to take up a post at Aboyne Academy.

I am delighted to report that S3 pupils Jake Thain and Calvin Dunbar represented Aberdeen City at a national student conference – "Engage for Education". Both Jake and Calvin met a number of Government Ministers including the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon. Calvin was also invited to join the Scottish Cabinet meeting, a picture of which is below.

I would urge our senior pupils to continue to work hard in preparation for their exams and I hope to see many of them at our Easter Revision School on Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th April.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a good holiday and a very happy Easter.



Christmas 2015

Northfield Academy got festive this winter season and decided to do something out of the ordinary to raise money for charity. Although Mr Hendry is normally an advocate for proper school uniform, however for the last Friday before the Christmas holiday he let loose and got in the Christmas spirit. With the help of the Charities Committee advertising this idea, the pupils of Northfield Academy got to ditch the uniform and wear some Christmas jumpers for the day. It was great fun and added a joyous feel to our last day before the Christmas holiday. Everyone had a wonderful day and it was very different to our usual fund raising activities. After a hard working term, we ended on a high note whilst also raising money for our Charities Committee. We managed to raise an outstanding figure of over £300 kindly donated from the pupils and staff of the school. Overall, the day was a huge success. Two senior pupils, Neale Taylor and Matthew Farquhar, organised the school's own version of Band Aid. During the previous week they gathered teachers as well as prefects to create a lip synching video of the original Band Aid song *Do They Know It's Christmas*. The video also featured Ricky Warwick of Black Star Riders. It took the whole school by surprise at lunchtime, but everyone enjoyed the show. The hard work put in by the two pupils was portrayed through the quality and production of the video. It got over 4,000 views on Vimeo and 12,000 views on Facebook.



Go4SET Success

On Wednesday 11th February six S2 pupils won the Aberdeen City and Shire Go4SET competition. Since November Miah Allan, Jordan Cobban, Caitlin Scollay, Glen Christie, Kyle Worrall and Jordan Rait have been working in their own time to complete the challenge. The team was tasked with designing an Eco Hotel. They carried out research into where their hotel would be, what it would be built from and furnished with (that would be environmentally friendly), and how they would power their hotel. The pupils used this information in a formal report, as well as designing a model of their hotel and posters for a display. During the finale the pupils presented their design to the judges and faced ten minutes of questioning. The team received £250 for the school, a trophy, a framed certificate and is invited to attend the national final in Edinburgh in June. Each member of the team will receive a silver CREST award for their contribution to the project.

Rock for Wall

To raise funds for our rock climbing wall, Northfield Academy, in partnership with Balfour Beatty, organised a fundraising night at the Beach Ballroom. On the day, Ricky Warwick came into the school and got everyone up dancing and singing at lunch time, when he performed live on our stage. Even the teachers cut loose and were all there enjoying the music. He even played a bit of Britney Spears for the younger pupils. It was an addition to our lunch time and *Thin Lizzy* fans in the audience were over the moon. The fundraising evening included Ricky performing and a silent auction was held after a formal dinner. Amongst the wonderful prizes on offer was a caricature created by our art teacher, Mr Watt, which was signed by Ricky and then auctioned off. The room was filled with business partners of the school as well as people who have connections with Northfield Academy, past and present, which made it even more special. The Beach Ballroom staff organised a wonderful night with the help of our senior prefects. The event was a huge success overall, and we are ever closer to raising enough money to build our climbing wall.



S1 Great Scottish Scientists Project

Our S1 Great Scottish Scientists Project is now in full motion. In March we were delighted to welcome back our Patrons of Reading, Metaphrog, to work with S1 pupils in a series of graphic novel workshops. Pupils enjoyed working with Metaphrog over several periods and were encouraged to create their own comic strip of a famous Scottish scientist. Metaphrog also worked with Primary 7 pupils from Quarryhill Primary on an introductory workshop on graphic novels.



As part of the project a number of S1 classes also attended a workshop by Scottish author Allan Burnett. Allan gave an enthusiastic presentation on a theme of "Invented in Scotland" with numerous links to Scottish scientists. He has also written a book on the subject. He did a fantastic job of combining the history and the connection with where we are now, eg James Watt, steam and turbines and Napier, logarithms and computing. He had lots of new facts too, including informing us that the humble digestive is a Scottish invention!

Pupils are now finishing off their comics in Art classes before we move the project forward. These workshops are part of a wider cross curricular school project to research, plan and draw a short comic strip about a famous Scottish scientist. These will be showcased soon on the TV screens in school. Several comics will be photographed frame by frame and music composed to create short films.

Research Skills Course

All S1 Learn 2 Learn classes are currently visiting the library weekly to work on a new 10 week research skills course. Pupils will be developing research skills including fact/opinion, note taking, plagiarism, internet research, evaluating websites and bibliography skills development. After Easter, classes will then embark on a research project focussing on developing their skills further.

Pi and Aberdeen University

Saturday 14th March was a very special mathematical day. The 14th March is always referred to as π (pi) day since, in America, the date is written as 3.14, which is pi to two decimal places. Remember pi is the value you get when you divide the circumference of any circle by its diameter. A historical once in a lifetime moment happened on March 14th 2015 at 9 hours 26 minutes and 53 seconds and 58 hundredths of a second as it gave us:

3.14159265358, which is pi to 11 decimal places.

Northfield Academy is at present involved in a research project with the University of Aberdeen. The Improving Children's Mathematical Reasoning Project has invited primary 7 pupils and first year pupils from Aberdeen City and Glasgow to complete questionnaires. Their answers will then help to improve Mathematics education in Scotland. Thank you to the parents and pupils who have supported this project.

Creative Dynamic

Five pupils voluntarily gave up their day off during the in-service day on Tuesday 17th February at the Aberdeen Learning Festival to participate in Creative Dynamic. The project aimed to bring together Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Creative Arts through building a Rube Goldberg machine. A Rube Goldberg machine is where one event causes another to happen (like in the game Mousetrap). Pupils from across the city were split into sub teams and challenged to create the machine in 4 hours. Below is the completed machine:



The BBC 500 words competition

The BBC 500 words competition is back this year, and our very own Miss McCune and Miss Shaw are taking part, as judges! The competition is open to all 5-13 year olds across the UK. All they have to do is write a brilliant 500 word fictional story and send it in to the BBC. The stories can feature present day public figures and places, however everything else must be original. All judges will then be sent a number of stories and they have to pick their top favourites. They are then entered into a draw, the winners of which will be randomly selected. The prizes are tickets to attend the Chris Evans Breakfast Show on Friday 29th May 2015. The top 50 shortlisted entrants will be invited to take part in the final which takes place at St James's Palace in London. Good luck to all our S1 pupils taking part, as well as Miss McCune and Miss Shaw with their judging.

Spectra Light

Following on from its huge success in the past, the Spectra Light festival returned to Aberdeen and, this time, it came to Northfield. The festival draws on the history that ties Aberdeen to its neighbours, the Northern Lights. Inspired by the Aurora Borealis itself, the festival is designed to get creative minds going and lighting up the city. On the 19th February, Spectra came to Northfield and lit up our PE block. Pupils, parents, staff and guests from the community came along to watch as pupils from the school took a shot at lighting up the walls. The event was a huge success and everyone had a fun night watching the show.



Exam Help

It's getting closer and closer to the time when what we have been working towards looms in the not so distant future: it must be exam time! So, at Northfield, we've come up with a few strategies to make exam time a bit less stressful – and make sure you pass: of course. To begin with, don't leave everything until the last minute. If you do, all the stress you've avoided will catch up with you the day before your exam and your mind won't have the power to process all the information you need correctly. Try and do a little every day, even something is better than nothing. To add to that, don't set crazy goals such as going at it for ten hours straight through the night. Studies have shown that our brain's attention span is only around 20 minutes. You should study for around that time and then take a short break. Ditch any distractions such as Facebook and the TV. Make sure you have a quiet space to study with no noise pollution. Also, reward yourself after every session; it will give you something to look forward to. To finish, make sure you get the balance right between not stressing yourself too much, and still studying enough to pass your exams at the best of your abilities. Follow these tips and study hard. This is one of the most important milestones of your life so be ready for it and aspire to be outstanding. All the hard work will be worth it.

Under 15 football

The Under 15 football team have had a successful second half to the season. Despite the disappointment of being knocked out of the Gerrard Trophy semi-final by Cults Academy, the team continue to fight on in the league and are currently sitting mid-table.

Under 13 football

The Under 13 football team have also had a successful second half to the season. They were unlucky to be knocked out of the Scottish Cup in the third round. They are sitting mid-table in the league and are continuing to improve with every performance.

Giant Heptathlon

Fourteen S1 pupils represented Northfield Academy at this year's Giant Heptathlon. They competed in a series of different events from "overhead throw" to "30m sprint" to "standing long jump". The pupils worked extremely hard and performed very well in all activities. They competed in a relay event at the end and came third in their heat.



3rd Don Crossing Project

Three third year pupils - Rebecca Davidson, Brittany Galloway and Joe Johnston - have visited the construction site once a month since January 2015. The team has built a portfolio of images and videos archiving the construction of the bridge. The group have been meeting with Balfour Beatty Project Managers to ask them various questions and to monitor the progress of the crossing. Earlier in February, the group met with Project Manager, Ken Brown, who gave a detailed insight into the overall process of the crossing. The group will continue to monitor the progress of the Don Crossing and set out again to visit the crossing in April. At the end of term, the group will construct a nine minute stop-start motion film from their archived materials.

Sport and Recreation

This term, six of our Sport and Recreation National 5 pupils were involved in coaching sessions at Manor Park Primary School. The pupils planned and delivered sessions to the Manor Park Basketball team and assisted in helping with a competitive match against Broomhill Primary School. The pupils have thoroughly enjoyed their experience and several have committed to supporting the basketball team in the future on a voluntary basis. They will also support the team who are attending our upcoming primary school basketball competition which is being organised by our Sport Ambassadors.



Girls' Football

The Girls' football team took part in the SSFA Cashback 7's tournament at Garioch Sports Centre, Inverurie. The girls put in a good performance against strong squads from all over Aberdeenshire. They started off strongly with a draw against the group favourites, Banff Academy, and had 1 win and 2 losses. The girls had a great day and are determined to build on these results. Well done to the squad: Brooke Alexander, Rhianna Bryson, Zoe Constable, Laura Donald, Zoe Jones, Cara McGregor, Catherine Massie, Kiera Melville, Chloe Morland and Kayleigh Stephen.

Girls' football training is on every Tuesday lunchtime and new members are welcome...we even had 2 new members competing in the above tournament.

Loch Eil 2015

As in previous years the majority of our S1 pupils took part in the Outward Bound experience at the Loch Eil centre near Fort William. This trip was split in two and the first course ran from 2nd March until 4th March with Wallace house pupils along with some second year mentors. The pupils from Macbeth and Stewart houses, along with some S2 mentors, attended the second half of the course from 4th March until 6th March.

The focus of the courses for S1/2 pupils was challenge and developing a 'can do' attitude. Some of the activities pushed the youngsters to their limits and there were very happy faces when they achieved what they thought impossible. Some of the teamwork and support that was evidenced during the courses had to be seen to be believed.

A highlight for most of the youngsters was the 'jog and dip' into a rather cold Loch Eil, including the staff who had not previously had that experience. The height element of the Trapeze and Jacob's Ladder was a challenge for many and getting a real soaking when rafting or canoeing on the Loch was a lot of fun. The team leaders at Loch Eil are all very experienced and tailored the focus of the activities for the young people they were working with and the needs of the group.

Pupils completed an evaluation at the centre which was very positive. The comments will be put in a report format with photos and sent to our bursary sponsors, NEXEN. This is the fifth year that they have helped us to make this experience possible for the pupils of Northfield Academy. The young people will get the opportunity to revisit some of the learning they experienced during their time at Loch Eil and be encouraged to apply it to their day-to-day engagement in school.

This year we also had a week long course involving some of our S3 pupils who were following a programme developing leadership skills. During this course the pupils also went on an overnight expedition and camped at the side of a hillside loch. One pupil commented:

"The best bit about the course was that we all had fun as a squad! We would recommend the experience to anyone given the opportunity."

This was another successful week thanks to the positive attitude of the young people and the staff who accompanied the 3 courses. We are already making plans for next year.



Northfield Academy Youth Room

Between September and December 2014, Northfield Academy and partners invested in developing the Youth Room in the school for use as a safe and structured environment for pupils to use at lunchtimes and as an informal learning space. Activities that are available are darts, pool, table football and air hockey.

After a short speech from Mr Hendry, the room was officially opened on Monday 15th December 2014 by Mr Charlie Penman, Aberdeen City Council's Head of Education Services.

Mr Penman rose to the challenge of taking on Mr Hendry in the inaugural game of pool in the room and demonstrated his misspent youth with a hard fought victory. Although saddened by the defeat of their Head Teacher, the students that were watching applauded Mr Penman's win. Mr Penman was awarded a small trophy for grinding out his win.

The Youth Room is open five lunchtimes per week and is staffed by a team of Youth Work and school staff and ably supported by members of the Prefect Team. There are volunteering opportunities available to senior students from which they can gain skills in working with people and these contribute to their achievement of a Saltire Award for volunteering. If this sounds like an experience you would be interested in please talk to Colin Lemmon from the Youth Work Team.

Home Economics Primary visit

January saw Quarryhill Primary visit Northfield Academy's Home Economics department with practical classes on their theme of Japan. The pupils were able to cook and taste traditional dishes. While in school the pupils also spent some time in the library where they continued the Japanese theme and tried origami, turning disused old library books into hedgehogs.



P6 Visit from Manor Park

Primary 6 pupils from Manor Park Primary discovered a wealth of careers in science available to them in a fun, hands on way last week, during a visit from My World of Work Live! This Skills Development Scotland pilot project allowed pupils to find out 'What makes me tick?' with the personality quiz on specially kitted out ipads: using the 'Magic Mirror' to try on science careers for size, and finding industry facts at their fingertips at the 'Info Wall'.

Techfest Statoil Heroes of Tomorrow

On Wednesday 25th February five members of the Science Club participated in 'Heroes of Tomorrow' run by Techfest. The pupils presented an area of Science which they found interesting to an audience of invited guests including parents, teachers and Gunnar Breivik the Managing Director of Statoil Production. Lennox Barnes, Calvin Dunbar and Kyle Shepherd's presentation was about time travel and they were given the Best Audience Participation award. Kate Goymer and Hannah Ross presented DNA and Fingerprinting and were awarded the Best Team Work prize. As a thank you for their participation, all of the pupils were given the opportunity to use the Aberdeen Snowsports Centre, a Statoil holdall and a signed Aberdeen Football Club football.



Sarah Chew, Managing Director of Techfest, said: "Statoil's Heroes of Tomorrow programme is closely aligned with Techfest's aim to engage young people in the four main STEM subjects. Statoil's aim is to encourage them to go on to follow a career which utilises these skills by demonstrating that they are fun as well as relevant in day to day life.

Gunnar Breivik, Managing Director of Statoil Production UK, said: "It is very important to Statoil, and to the wider oil and gas industry, that we attract the next generation of scientists and engineers. Through the TechFest Heroes of Tomorrow event, we're pleased to support these talented young people from Aberdeen and the north-east."

Students presented projects on a variety of topics, not just in relation to the oil and gas industry but also to geothermal energy, space and time travel, and DNA. Breivik added: "We hope this experience will encourage them to build on their passion and knowledge of STEM subjects and strive for future success in this area."

Cross-Country Championships

Sixteen pupils were selected to represent Northfield Academy at the "Albyn and Robert Gordon's Cross Country Event". All pupils made a great effort in their event and despite some tough opposition, lots of very competitive times were recorded. Top performers were Ryan Godfrey from 1W2 who finished 11th in his event, racing against over 100 pupils. Rhianne Sadler, also from 1W2, finished 10th in her event, again racing against over 100 pupils. The whole group were a credit to the school.



Primary School visits in February

The teachers of Northfield Academy opened their doors, welcoming pupils from all our associated primary schools in February. Primary pupils took part in lessons in PE, Music, Business Studies, History and Spanish.

Scan the QR code



to see what they were up to in Business Studies.

The primary pupils will now be looking forward to their next series of visits after Easter when they will begin work towards the Food Waste P7 Transition Project.

Creative Industries House Quiz

As part of the Creative Industries course, the class have to plan and implement a class project. The class decided to organise a House Quiz for staff and pupils. The quiz consisted of 5 rounds which included: Film, Music, Guess the Teacher Baby Photos, Sports and Literacy.

The group started planning the Quiz after the Christmas holidays - this gave them plenty of time to make sure everything was organised and ran smoothly. The class organised the House Captains to go around tutor classes asking pupils and teachers to join their team.

The class thoroughly enjoyed working on the Quiz. It was a successful two days and the feedback from staff and pupils was excellent.

The Winners of the quiz were:

1st Place- Wallace House
2nd Place- Stewart House
3rd Place- Macbeth House



Eco School News

Northfield Academy's Eco Group has spent the start of the year making bird feeders to encourage birds to visit the school garden. The Eco Group also painted them with bird friendly camouflage paint. Bird boxes and feeders have been placed in and around the school Eco Garden.

The group are now making preparations towards this year's annual spring clean event with a litter awareness week at the end of April. This year's litter pick aims to be a community event with the focus on anti-littering and making Northfield sparkle.

BBC News Report

For BBC School News Report this year, the group travelled all the way to North East Scotland College so that we could use some of the technology they have to help us throughout the day.

Our Team this year consisted of: Erin, Caitlin, Rachel, Hayley, Lanya, Jordan, Amy, Josh, Joe, Rebekah, Brittany, Cameron, Nicole, Jake, Mr Rae, Miss Darroch and Miss Smith. Fiona Stalker from the BBC came back to help us this year and many students from North East Scotland College helped out too. The staff and students allowed us to use their television and radio facilities, which was a great insight into the college courses, as well as enabling us to produce good stories to publish on the day.

It was a jam packed day with news coming from Pittodrie, Aberdeen City Council and even from Alex Salmond's car! The day was full of events which kept us busy, although it was a rush to get things done: just like a real news room. BBC School News Report was a huge success this year and being able to use the equipment at the college made a huge difference to the day.

The day was a great success!



Mathematics Masterclasses

Each year, TechFest run a series of Mathematics workshops for S2 pupils across Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire. This year, five of our second years, Glen Christie, Adam Abdullah, Shaun Milne, Dean Castle and Alicia Beattie, were fortunate to gain a place. They spent seven Saturday mornings between November and March, listening to various speakers talk about how they use Mathematics in their work and then working on the topic activities.

The speakers included a forensic biologist who had pupils analysing blood spatter patterns, an epidemic specialist who had pupils investigating the spread of ebola and how it could be prevented, an astronomer who discussed how mathematicians mapped the skies and a collision investigator who had pupils, and their parents, calculating the speed of vehicles from their tyre tracks. Not to mention our very own Brenda Harden discussing different types of numbers and their magical properties!

These masterclasses have given our pupils the chance to see how relevant the Maths they have been learning is and how it can be used and applied to expand their knowledge.

Construction Assembly

On Tuesday 24th March we welcomed Steve Petrie (Balfour Beatty), Catherine McKeonn (BDF Architects) and Stewart Milne (Stewart Milne Group) to Northfield Academy. The assembly was planned to promote career opportunities in the Construction Industry. All three of our guests shared their own career story which inspired all in the audience.



Dates for Diary

Monday 20th April – Start of New Term
Tuesday 28th April – SQA Exam leave begins
Friday 1st May – In-Service Day
Monday 4th May – May Day Holiday
Monday 18th May – S2, S3 and S4 change of timetable
Thursday 28th May – Sports Day
Friday 5th June – SQA Exam leave ends
Saturday 6th June – Summer Fayre
Monday 8th June – S5/6 Pupils return to school
Thursday 11th June – P7 Induction Day 1 – P7 Parents Evening
Friday 12th June – P7 Induction Day 2
Wednesday 17th June – Celebration of Success Awards Evening
Friday 3rd July – Last Day of Term