



Northfield Academy Christmas Bulletin 2015

Head Teacher's Message

As we come to the end of 2015, it is fitting that this bulletin is once again packed full of so many successes and achievements from our young people. Our pupils continue to take advantage of the many different opportunities being offered at the Academy.

Congratulations to all the pupils who have been successful in so many different areas this term and thank-you to all the staff who continue to go the extra mile to support our young people through the curriculum and beyond.

I am pleased to inform you of four new appointments to the staff. We were very sorry to say goodbye to Mrs Sarah Coles, who has left us to take up a post in Aberdeenshire. Miss Claire-Gillian Watt is joining the Music department part time from January 2016. Mrs Nicole Goudie is joining us as a School Support Assistant. Mrs Moira Weir has joined our Pupil Support Team and Miss Jaki Fong will be joining the same team after the Christmas break. I am sure you will join me in welcoming them to our community.

At the time this bulletin goes to print, there is still a great deal to take place which cannot be included in this edition but please follow us on Facebook and/or Twitter @Northfieldaca to keep up to date. In the lead up to Christmas, we will be as busy as ever with the 12 days of Christmas offering a number of festive activities during the last weeks of term at lunch time and we look forward to welcoming pensioners from the local community to the school for our OAP Christmas Party.

On Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th December, we will once again host the Northfield ASG Christmas Concert which is always a fantastic evening for young and old.

Finally on Tuesday 15th December, we will be attempting to set a new world record for the longest chain of people pulling Christmas crackers simultaneously at a single venue. We will be joined by pupils from all of our associate primary schools. Many thanks to everyone who has donated crackers for this attempt.

As 2016 approaches, I would like to thank parents and the wider community for their continued support. Our focus remains very clear: increase opportunities and continue to improve exam results. With this in mind, please can I urge parents to ensure pupils are completing homework and studying at home in the months leading up to SQA examinations in May 2016. There is no secret to success, it's simply hard work.

Finally, on behalf of myself and all of the staff at Northfield Academy, I wish our extended community a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Next year will be a special year for Northfield Academy as we celebrate 60 years open. We plan to have a number of events during the year to celebrate involving pupils, staff, former pupils and members of the community.

I look forward to 2016 being another exciting year for Northfield Academy when we continue to aspire to be outstanding.

New Year Resolution 2016

Like so many people moving into the new year, we are going to work on a New Year resolution. The increasing amounts of sugary drinks, sweets and crisps being eaten by our pupils continues to be very concerning. From the beginning of next term, pupils will not be allowed to bring sugary drinks, sweets or large packets/tubes of crisps into the school canteen. Sugary drinks will also not be allowed in the social area/corridor during morning break and lunch. We urge parents to ask what is your child having for lunch every day - some of you may be shocked!

Go4SET launch event

On Tuesday 10th November, six S2 pupils attended the launch of the 2015/16 Go4SET challenge. The team Kacey Bruce, Joshua Currie, Kirsty Leslie, Lucia McDonald, Jake McGonigle and Hannah Milne took part in a number of team building activities, including building a balloon chair, and they selected a project which will see them research and design an Eco Classroom.



Northern Lights

The Northern Lights Programme aims to encourage S1 and S2 pupils to think about the future and consider University as a possibility. Now in its second year, we have twenty three S2 pupils and twenty six S1 pupils participating in a number of workshops throughout the year discussing skills and qualities they have and having taster sessions in a number of faculties at RGU. On Wednesday 25th November, the S2 group visited the Engineering department; they worked with breadboards to create circuits and learned how to solder to complete their own circuit which they got to take home. The S1 group had an Architecture taster session on Wednesday 2nd December. They were shown round by student ambassadors and did some very fiddly model making.



OAP Christmas Party

Monday 14th December will see the Northfield Academy Leadership class hosting an OAP Christmas Party. The event takes place from 2pm – 3.30pm in the main hall and will include fine pieces provided by the Byron Bakery, prize bingo and a Christmas sing-along. The class are organising this party as part of their SQA Leadership Award.

TechFest Maths in the Pipeline 2015

Neil Henderson, William Urquhart, Diana Pituc, Ryan Raitt and Elliott Watt were accompanied by Mr Gatehouse to BP Headquarters in Dyce to participate in this event. On arrival they were split up into teams to work with other pupils from Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire schools. Throughout the day they took part in various challenges which would help them in the oil and gas industry challenge event. In the afternoon, the teams were set to task with the business challenge of how to extract oil and gas and also the costing involved. Each team then had to give a five minute presentation. Congratulations to William Urquhart who was in the winning team. Well done to everyone as they were all complimented by the business professionals on their excellent presentations.



New 3G Pitch - Bill Burr Astro turf

Many of you will already be aware that we now have a new full size 3G Astro turf pitch on the school ground. The pitch was opened on Monday 7 December at a ceremony attended by elected members, Local Authority Officers, Parent Council members, invited guests, school staff, representatives from local football clubs and pupils. The pitch equals any in the North East and will be a fantastic addition to both the school and local community, with Bryon Football Club and Northstar Football Club using the pitch regularly - a local facility for local children.

Thorpe Molloy Art Success!

Keira Melville achieved a Certificate of Commendation for her sculpture entry in the Thorpe Molloy Recruitment competition. Keira made a 3-tiered cake style creation about her 'Future Aspirations,' featuring animal prints and patterns. Keira's work will be displayed in the ARI from the 3rd of December along with other winners. Well done also to the other Northfield entrants: Mercedes MacDonald, Tynn Angus, Kimberley Steele and Lucia Mytlewska-McDonald who received Certificates of Achievements.

The Children and Young People Service Awards

This event celebrates the outstanding achievements of Aberdeen's children and the people who work with them.

Northfield Academy was proud to highlight so much of its work at the awards ceremony this year at the Beach Ballroom. Congratulations to the group who came runners-up in the Integrated Working Award, Parent Carer Award, Raising Attainment Award and the Heathy Living Awards. Special mention and a huge well done must go to our Eco Group who won the Sandra Burnett Award for environmental awareness.



Lauren McQueen, Natasha Fraser, Lanya Porter and Christy McAllister receiving their award on behalf of the Eco Group.

Football

The Under 16 Football Team are currently enjoying the season. Each year they continue to grow and develop as a team and are currently playing some of their best football. The squad enjoyed a trip to Dingwall earlier in October for their Scottish Cup tie. Although the result was not in their favour, it was an excellent day out and the whole team were a credit to the school. #OnTheDingwall

This year has seen the re-instatement of the school's Under 15 Team. After a season out last year, the group have come back stronger and hungrier and are looking forward to a successful campaign. Despite losing their first game to St Machar, the squad are hopeful that results will improve.

A new S1/2 team has been formed and is beginning to show signs of real progress. With very narrow defeats to Kincorth and Albyn they are hoping to be competitive as they begin the Section B League Competition. There is still much to play for as they go into the New Year.

Girls' football had a very successful start with a good increase in numbers this year. The S1/2 girls' team have for the first time been entered into the Aberdeen Schools League. We are looking to kick off our fixtures in the coming weeks on our new Astro turf pitch. The senior girls' team are also playing in a senior girls tournament for the first time at Banks O'Dee and we wish them the best of luck in this tournament.

Lab Skills

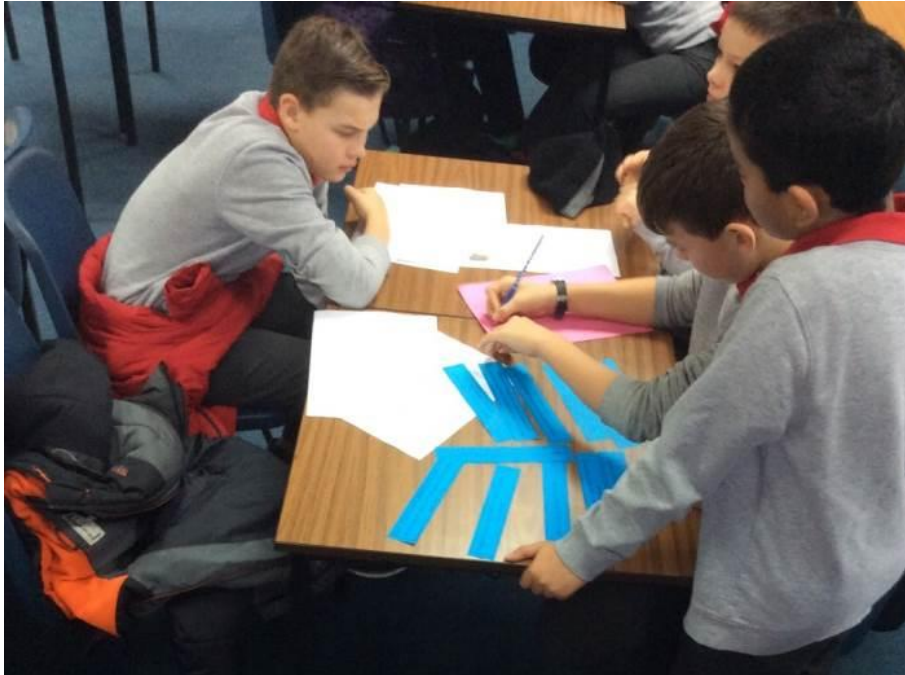
A group from school visited the MVScotia, Marine Scotland's research vessel at Matthew's Quay, Aberdeen on 17th September along with Mrs Matthew and a student teacher. The visit was an amazing experience for all. The group were shown around the whole ship including the laboratories getting ready for their next trip to sea. Pupils decorated polystyrene cups which were taken to the deepest part of North Sea, where the pressure shrunk them to a fraction of their normal size. Pupils will now visit the Torry lab in December and January to complete practical microbiology aspects of the course.

So you want to be a Doctor?

Quinie Berame and Diana Pituc from S4 attended the SYWBD hands-on workshop at Aberdeen University Medical School on 2nd November. Pupils were given an insight into the life of a Medical student and took part in interactive trauma sessions using state of the art 'Sim Man' technology. They were also given information and advice on preparing for applying and interviewing for Medical degrees.

Transition Update Nov 2015

In November Northfield Academy opened its doors to our primary 7 pupils. This was their first of many visits to the school as they begin to prepare for starting S1 in August 2016. The pupils enjoyed a number of lessons which included Music, Mathematics, PE, Geography, Business Studies and Art. Further primary events are scheduled to take place regularly throughout this academic year.



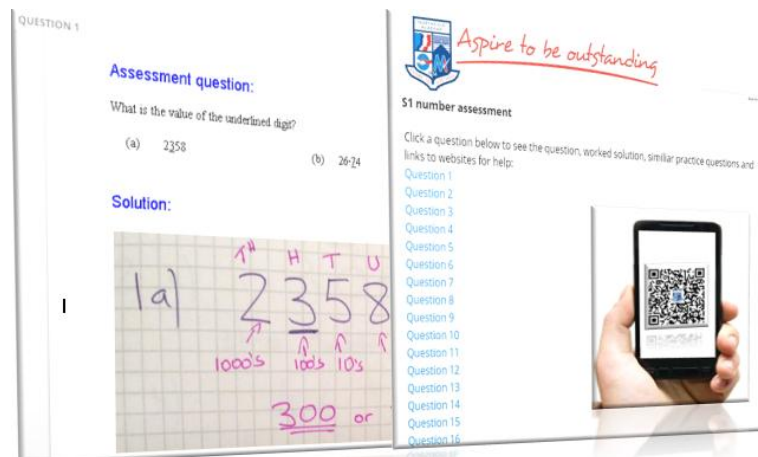
Support and Improving First Year Mathematics

Prior to the October holiday, all first year pupils sat a number processes assessment in Maths. After the October break, each pupil was issued with a personalised feedback sheet which had their individual marks for each question and also a link to an online post assessment revision tool. The pupils have been shown how to access this resource, but you can also try using the QR code on the picture or by following this link:

<https://sites.google.com/site/s1numberassessment/>

This is being trialled with the new first years and if successful, it will be rolled out for other year groups.

All pupils have access to the MyMaths site and this can be used for revision or further practise. The username is *northac* and the password is *triangle*.



RGU Pathology workshop

Six S4 Biology pupils took part in RGU Pathology workshop event at Garthdee Campus on the 18th November. Pupils were given the opportunity to experience the wide range of aspects that Pathology encompasses and used state of the art techniques and prepared their own histology slides.

Calvin Dunbar (S4) said: "I really enjoyed the visit to RGU, the experiments were very educational and I learned a lot throughout the day. The lab equipment is first class and it was great to see that there are so many different career options if you study science subjects at university."

Young Enterprise – Field of Favours

This year, our Higher Business Management students are taking part in the Young Enterprise Scheme and have created their very own business called 'Field of Favours'. Field of Favours have already had a very successful evening selling all of their stationery jars at the S3 Parents' Evening and will continue to sell at the school throughout the academic year. The business will be selling hand-made gift jars and print boards in various locations across the city. The students will also be selling their products at Thainstone on the 6th December and at Westhill on the 12th December. To keep up to date with the progress of the business please visit their Facebook page - 'Field of Favours - Northfield Academy'.



Free-Running

The school's free-running club continues to go from strength to strength and now has a regular group coming along every Tuesday lunchtime. Due to popular demand, another club will be running on a Wednesday after school, into the new year. The purchase of new free-running specific equipment has aided the growth of the club and the development of the individuals who have been coming along. Many personal achievements have already been met with pupils achieving more than they believed they were ever capable of. Lots of new skills have been developed and existing skills improved in more challenging contexts. The group continue to enjoy their training and are constantly developing their skill level and physical fitness.



ECO Group Shoe Box Appeal

Northfield Academy's Eco Group encouraged the school community to spread some joy this Christmas time. The generosity of pupils, staff and the community amazed us again this year, as sixty four shoe boxes packed with festive fun for children in need around the world were donated to the appeal.



S1/S2 Basketball

This year we hosted the first Aberdeen City Regional S1/S2 Basketball event at Northfield Academy. The play-offs for divisions were tough and Northfield Academy was placed into Division 2. After the second round of the tournament Northfield Academy are now top of Division 2 and looking at promotion. The team consists of Jake Hunter, Brandon Alexander, Josh Howie, Keilan Cook, Ben Stewart, Logan Pirie, Ashley Grant, Lewis McGregor and Scott Watson.



Beautiful Scotland Awards

In 2015 Aberdeen achieved a Gold Award in this year's Beautiful Scotland Awards. The award is a fantastic achievement and one which we are all obviously delighted with. Northfield Academy's Eco group are an 'In Bloom partner' and are very much part of ACC's Aberdeen in Bloom campaign by contributing in many ways towards this award. Christy McAllister (S5) was asked to present a speech representing the Eco group at a recent celebration of success at the Beach Ballroom.

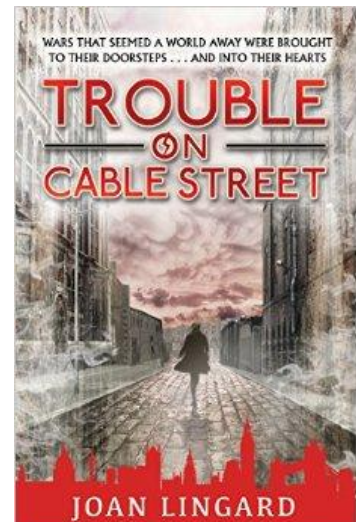
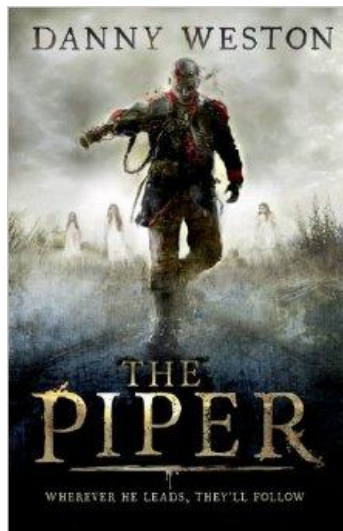
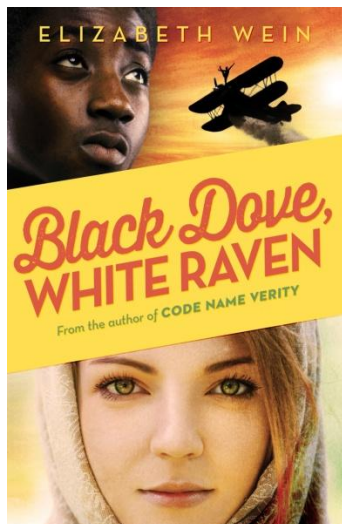


Scottish Children's Book Awards 2016

On Tuesday 10th November the Beach Ballroom opened its doors to Northfield Academy pupils, and others from schools around the city, for the Scottish Children's Book Awards 2016. The pupils were treated to a fantastic, intimate session with the three authors nominated for the Older Readers 12-16 category: Elizabeth Wein, Danny Weston and Joan Lingard.

Pupils were educated about the Ethiopian setting of Wein's *Black Dove, White Raven* and were given a whistle-stop tour around the author's explorations of the beautiful country and how it influenced her novel. Next up was Joan Lingard's publicist who spoke on behalf of Joan who was unable to attend the event due to illness. She took the pupils through Joan's writing process and gave them a taste of what to expect from Joan's latest novel *Trouble on Cable Street*. Finally, the pupils were thrilled by an extract of the spooky tale *The Piper*, written by Danny Weston (aka Phillip Caveney) who explained how he writes the perfect horror story and what inspired him to dream up the terrifying tale of the ghostly piper.

Pupils turned the tables and had their chance to ask the authors some questions of their own and pick their brains about the writing process. To the end of the session the pupils were also informed about The Pushkin Prize creative writing competition which is open to first and second years. Any more budding young authors who are interested should see Miss Craig in English for more details.



METAPHROG – BOOK LAUNCH

Patrons of Reading metaphrog gave a talk to more than 250 pupils about the launch of their new Graphic Novel *Red Shoes and other Tales*. Metaphrog's much anticipated new book, which includes modern day interpretations of two of Hans Christian Anderson's classic tales was published in the UK in November 2015. The talented duo gave an enthralling talk to pupils in P6 - S2 from Northfield Academy, St Machar Academy, Torry Academy, Holy Family RC School, Manor Park School, Muirfield School, Quarryhill School, Bramble Brae and West Park School. Pupils were taken on a journey through various forms of graphic novels before being given some hints and tips on how to create their own comics.

Two years into our school partnership with metaphrog we are really seeing the benefits of this fantastic partnership. John and Sandra are instantly recognisable around school with our visitors never too busy to chat to the young people about school and their aspirations for the future.

A book fit event the day before saw most pupils in S1 and S2 reading the new *Red Shoes and other Tales* whilst cycling on spin bikes.

Feedback from pupils was very favourable with the dark storylines a sure hit with our readers. Next year we will welcome John and Sandra back to work with the RME department on a project focussing on character development entitled Philosophers Island.

Book Fit

As part of Book Week Scotland the Library ran an all day Book Fit house competition for S1/S2 pupils. Pupils were challenged to cycle on exercise bikes whilst reading *The Red Shoes and Other Tales*, by metaphrog.

Each house group had their own spin bike which they were challenged to keep moving throughout the day. After an impressive start by Mr Hose (Guidance) and Miss Ross (Business Studies), Macbeth took an early lead. This was short lived though with a massive effort by Stewart House pushing them into the lead by an impressive 20km. Wallace house put in a last surge during Period 6 to reduce this lead to only 2km. A tense 30 minute finale ensued with Wallace and Stewart in a serious battle of the bikes. The final winner was Stewart House with an impressive recorded distance of 220km. Wallace were in second place with 216km and Macbeth 170km.



Pupils enjoyed reading *The Red Shoes and Other Tales* loving the darkness of the graphic novel.

Girls into STEM

On the 30th September, nine S2 girls were invited to Centrica to work with the STEMettes, a national organisation championing women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.

During the day, the girls met staff from both Centrica and the Wood Group who demonstrated what their roles were. They were shown how to prepare to go onto an oil rig, how to clean large oil pipelines and emergency protocols. The girls were also told how a company goes from suspecting oil or gas to be in an area to having a functioning rig set up. Various members of staff, both men and women, discussed their individual roles in the process showing how crucial it is to have a number of people with different skills on such a project. This gave the girls a great opportunity to ask questions about each role and think about whether or not they could someday be working on a similar project.

After a lavish lunch, the group were asked to design a theme park based on all they had learned. Each Northfield Academy pupil teamed up with one from the other

invited school and set to work. Once 3D models were completed on software, six engineers listened to each pair describe their theme park before picking their favourite. Each pupil also had a vote for the People's Choice award, won by Hannah Milne and her partner. The overall winners were Amy Forbes and her partner, who are each to receive a 3D printed copy of their model. Many thanks to STEMettes Anne-Marie and Takita from Centrica and the Wood Group for a fantastic day.

Northfield Total Place Pupil Participatory Budgeting

On Friday 20th November as part of Northfield Total Place our pupils took part in another first. All pupils were invited to vote to decide how to best fund activities to enhance the Northfield area for our young people. Aberdeen City Council allocated £30,000 to be used by local groups who could bid for funding using a video clip explaining how they would use the money if it was awarded to them. Once all pupils had watched the video clips they voted electronically for their favourite. Once the results were counted the following groups received funding:

AFC Community Trust - School of Football
Police Scotland Youth Volunteers - Litter Reduction
Bryon Boxing Club - Fitness Classes
SHMU - Young people call the shots

RGU Wider Access Graduations

Congratulations to all fourteen senior students who have recently graduated from a number of RGU wider access courses. All the students involved have been attending twilight sessions at Garthdee campus for between 8-12 weeks along with pupils from several other Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire secondary schools.

Roll of honour includes:

Nicole McQueen	S5	Art Design and Architecture (ACES)
Kate Goymer	S5	Computing
Charles Shand	S5	Computing
Emily Watt	S6	Computing
Robyn Connell	S5	Health Professions
Kyle Fraser	S5	Health Professions
Dean Wilkinson	S5	Health Professions
Luke Rodgers	S6	Law/Law & Management
Elisha Greig	S5	Life Sciences
Leanne Eden	S6	Management
Nyall Elrick	S6	Management
Rianne Gorman	S5	Management
Dylan Irvine	S5	Management
Lukas Miltenis	S5	Engineering

National Poetry Day

It was National Poetry Day on the 8th October throughout the UK. Northfield pupils and staff celebrated on the day by reading out poetry during Tutor classes and watching clips of poetry readings. Teachers also chose their favourite poems displaying them on the day, as well as incorporating them into lessons where possible.

The Library had displays of poems from the Scottish Poetry Library, a display of resource and it's very own Poet-Tree which featured poems nominated by staff, these included –

“Geordie Webster” by J. C. Milne
“The Raven” by Edgar Allan Poe
‘Nothing’s Changed’ by Tatamkhulu Afrika
“A dug, A dug” by Bill Keys
“Five Eyes” by Walter De La Mare
“Dulce et Decorum Est” by Wilfred Owen



First Year Dewey

In S1 mathematics after covering ordering decimal numbers, the pupils learned about Melvil Dewey, who was the founder of the Dewey Decimal system of library classification.

Each class visited the library and following an introduction by the librarian, they researched finding specific books using the Dewey classification. The class then returned to the library and worked in groups to play the “Dewopoly Game”. This year the pupils who had the highest scores in each group participated in a House final of Dewopoly. The winning house was Stewart, followed by Macbeth and then Wallace.

Lego Club

Lego Club started up in October after a successful bid from the Health and Wellbeing Sponsored Walk Fund. Meeting in the Library on Monday Lunchtimes, the pupils in S1-S4 have been using the Lego Storyteller kits to work on developing their story writing and Lego creation skills. As a fun first challenge pupils are busy working on recreating the John Lewis Man on the Moon advert using Lego. We will launch our efforts on our website and social media later in December.

Columba 1400 Leadership Academy



The Northfield Columba 1400 Team with their Certificates

Northfield Academy again has demonstrated great partnership and vision with their approach to developing staff and students with a view to improving the school image and raising the profile of the school in the local community. Having had experience of the Columba 1400 Leadership Academy Northfield Head teacher, Neil Hendry, challenged Norman Drummond to raise enough funds to support a group from the Academy to undertake the six day course in Staffin on Skye.

Mr Drummond rose to the challenge and so the work began to bring a group of twelve S3 students and four adults together. There was an orientation and interview process for staff in the school that were interested in taking part and orientation sessions for the young people who put themselves forward. The final selection of staff included a member of the Youth Development Team, Colin Lemmon along with Carrie McCune, Cheryl McEwan and Joanne Ross. The young people who were selected were Emma Smith, Chloe Troup, Jade Lawrie, Shaun Milne, Enrique Ferrero-Lopez, Marcel Michewicz, Shannon Gibson, Keira Sleith, Natasha Fraser, Kyle Worrall, Leah Black and Colin Whyte.

The group met at Northfield Academy on the morning of Sunday 20th September where they were picked up by a coach and began the journey to Skye. Six and a half hours and some spectacular scenery later they arrived at Columba 1400 in Staffin. After getting settled in they had a meal around the table with a chance to get to meet some of the Columba staff. They took part in a sharing activity about possibilities then moved on to what would become a regular part of each day – journaling, when they captured the days learning and then finished the day with Talking Stick, a Native American activity similar to circle time. Everyone was in bed by 10.30pm in preparation for the coming week.

Across six days the group worked through the Columban values: Awareness, Focus, Creativity, Integrity, Perseverance and Service by taking part in large group discussions, small group work and presentations. There were more physically challenging activities during the week too such as Search and Rescue, hill walking and canoeing. Each activity was planned to enable leadership, teamwork and communication.

By the last Talking Stick session it was clear that the quieter members of the group had found their voices and the more lively members had learned to control their input and improve their listening skills. The group of loosely connected individuals had become something more – a team with a common purpose.

The week ended with a celebration meal and an award ceremony and the opportunity to leave an encouraging message for the next group and a long journey back to Aberdeen where the work really begins to focussing on efforts that will fit with improving the school image and raising the profile of the school in the local community. Watch this space for updates on what the Northfield Academy Columba 1400 team are doing with and in their local community.

Northfield Academy's Food Waste Transition Project comes up top in Eco city Awards

Our transition project came runner up in The Eco Learning Award, this award celebrates projects that have a significant impact on the environment and learning.

The transition project enables primary pupils to become more familiar with the academy. This project was designed to introduce the pupils to the concept of waste food, environmental problems and raise awareness of food waste and campaign to reduce the amount of waste.

Pictured accepting award from Councillor Neil Cooney are S1 pupils Lara Clark and Jamie McWilliam.



Culture Café

Supported by the Youth Work in Schools Team at Northfield Academy, a group of Prefects have started a Culture Café on Wednesday lunchtimes. The purpose of the café is to support vulnerable young people and offer them a safe environment which will help to enhance their transition into the school community. Culture Café also provides additional volunteering opportunities for the Prefects which will contribute towards their Saltire Award and help them to further develop a variety of core skills. Starting in September the Prefects have met on a Tuesday after school to prepare some home baked goodies for the following day. As well as selling home baking and hot drinks, the prefects also prepare a range of activities such as movies, board games, quizzes and crafts. The café has been very successful with approximately 25 – 30 young people of various ages dropping in during the lunchtime. It has also seen a good support from teachers in the school who often pop in for a hot chocolate. We are all excited to see what treats are in store for our Christmas sessions over the next few weeks.



A New Start

Hi there, I am Diane Birss, I would like to tell you about my experience as a new Youth Worker in the Northfield Academy Youth Work in Schools Team. I started before the summer holidays and at first I felt a bit lost as to where I would fit into the team. I must admit feeling a bit of guilt watching everyone being busy and me just watching.

Colin Lemmon reassured me that work would come my way, it was just a matter of settling in and seeing where I would fit in to the team. At first my lunchtimes were spent in the Pool Room, observing my new colleagues at work. As time has gone past and my face has become familiar and I never get through a day without interacting with the pupils; whether it's a game of pool, a laugh around the murals at the Social Area Mural Project or a visit from pupils to the office. I now feel that I have started to fit into the team and find my days full.

Northfield Academy Columba 1400 Update

On Thursday 19th of November the Northfield Columbans (that's what we are called) invited staff from across the school to the launch of the Columba 1400 room at Northfield Academy. The purpose of the event was twofold; to raise awareness of the Columba 1400 Group and their mission of improving the school image and raising the profile of the school in the local community and to gather pledges of support from school staff.

Working as a team the students took responsibility for giving up their time to make sure the new room was representative of the time in Skye. This meant many trips up and down stairs to the buckets with old art resources and putting up all the flipchart sheets that recorded the work done at Columba 1400.

The event was opened with a powerpoint presentation of the group's experience in Skye and the plans for the future; keeping the community tidier by ensuring that there are enough rubbish bins between the local shops and the school and to organise and deliver a two day Summer Camp for P5 and 6 pupils from the primary schools in the Northfield Associate Schools Group in 2016.

The presentation was followed by an opportunity for staff to look around the Columba Room and find out about the work that was done while on Skye with the Columba 1400 team. The effort was self-evident in the sheer volume and creativity of the work around the walls.

The group would like to thank all of the school staff that came to the launch event and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Partnerships – BP and John Lewis

All our S2 pupils have had the opportunity to visit the BP Headquarters in Dyce. During their time at BP pupils found out about how fossil fuels are formed and the geology of oil and gas exploration. We then visited the HIVE where, through 3D imagery, the process of getting oil and gas is explained. The science, technology and career opportunities were all explained and future opportunities to work with BP will be available to pupils in S3.



The Senior Enterprise group have been lucky to have an enthusiastic mentor from John Lewis supporting their efforts. They have based their business on jars filled with stationery among other things, perfect for Christmas gifts. There will be opportunities to buy these gifts during school events such as the Christmas concert.

We also had a group of pupils making up Christmas kits for display purposes at John Lewis. These will be the models on the shelves displaying what the kit should look like once made up.



STV Children's Appeal

This year our Charities Committee have chosen two charities to fundraise for throughout the year. Red International and STV Children's Appeal are the charities that Northfield will be fundraising in aid of this year. Both charities are very worthwhile causes that help children within our local community and in India. The STV Children's Appeal is committed to helping children and young people affected by poverty in Scotland. Every single penny raised by the STV Children's Appeal stays in Scotland and 100% of donations are spent on the children who need it most.

When STV heard that Northfield Academy's Charity Committee chose the Children's Appeal, they invited members of the Charities Committee to attend the Live STV Children's Appeal launch night held in the STV studios here in Aberdeen. The committee were given a guided tour of the studios and had the opportunity to speak to news anchors and some famous STV faces. Pupils met with other charitable groups around Aberdeen and shared different fundraising ideas.

The First Minister Nicola Sturgeon appeared at the launch to speak about the Scottish Government's promise to match the fund up to the first £1m raised. The Charities Committee were thrilled to meet the First Minister and told her about their business plans for the upcoming year. They were ecstatic when they got the chance to take a 'selfie' with the First Minister herself.



The Charities Committee have lots of different fundraising activities during the month of December. Look out for the Candy Cane sales, Change for Charity Pots, Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Present Wrapping and the Guinness World Record Attempt that will be happening very soon in your school.



Dates for next term

Wednesday 6th January - Start of new term

Tuesday 12th January - S4/5/6 Parents Consultation Evening

Thursday 14th January - S1-S3 reports issued

Friday 15th January - P6/7 Parents Open Morning

Monday 1st - Friday 5th February - S4/5/6 Assessment Week

Monday 15th February - Mid Term Holiday

Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th - In-service days

Monday 22nd - Friday 26 February - S1 Consultation Week

Monday 7th - Friday 11th March - S1 Loch Eil

Wednesday 23rd March - SQA information evening

Friday 25th March - Good Friday

Friday 1 April - Last day of term

Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th April - Easter Revision School (details to follow next term)