



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

From the office of Stephen Gethins MP

Ms Carol Ann Penrose
Rector,
Bell Baxter High School
Carslogie Road
Cupar
KY15 4HY

4 September 2019

Dear Ms Penrose, pupils, staff and parents involved in The Polar Academy 2020 expedition,

I am writing to congratulate everyone at Bell Baxter High School involved in The Polar Academy expedition. I am sure it is a very exciting time especially for the pupils and staff directly involved, and I am delighted that Bell Baxter was chosen from hundreds of other schools which also applied to take part.

This is a tremendous opportunity for all of the young people and I know that it is one which will have many challenges ahead of the trip next Easter. As well as the fitness training involved – which sounds incredible! – I am aware that there is a great deal of fundraising needed to finance the trip and that this in itself will be a huge task. It is good to hear that so many parents have been proactive in helping pupils organise events and to hear that so many individuals, local businesses and organisations have also shown their support. If there is anything that you think I can do to help, please just get in touch.

As you will well be aware the Polar Academy is designed to benefit young people who may not otherwise get to take part in such an experience. The whole ethos of The Polar Academy is fantastic and I am sure that pupils at Bell Baxter High School who take part as well, as those who have been supporting them, will grow in confidence and go on to inspire others as a result.

In recognition of this, I put down a parliamentary motion and enclose a copy here. It can also be found at <https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/53244/bell-baxter-high-school-selected-to-work-with-the-polar-academy>

I wish you all the very best and please do not hesitate to get in touch if I can help at all.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Gethins MP
Member of Parliament for North-East Fife



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

From the office of Stephen Gethins MP

**BELL BAXTER HIGH SCHOOL SELECTED TO WORK WITH
THE POLAR ACADEMY**

Early Day Motion 2689
Tabled 3 September 2019
2017-19 Session

That this House congratulates pupils and staff at Bell High School, Cupar, Fife for being selected from hundreds of schools to work with The Polar Academy; recognises the enormous task for pupils, the school and their families of raising £75,000 ahead of the 2020 Arctic Expedition; notes the Bell Baxter High School Polar Academy group's hard work has already generated a great deal of support from individuals and businesses across North East Fife; further recognises the tremendous opportunity the expedition and rigorous ten-month fitness and training programme offers in terms of increasing confidence, instilling self-belief and the ability to overcome challenges; and wishes the pupils and trip leaders success for the Easter 2020 expedition which involves a ten day self-guided 100km trek pulling 45kg sledges over frozen lakes and mountains at temperatures of minus 20 degrees, challenging their mental, emotional and physical stamina, and ultimately transforming their lives and inspiring others.

Stephen Gethins MP
Member of Parliament for North-East Fife