

An Emotional Journey Back in Time

By Heather Prentice

S6 pupil Tegan Gregory has just returned from a once in a lifetime trip where she represented the UK on the 2017 Vimy Pilgrimage Award. Tegan's interest in WW1 was initially sparked when she studied the novel 'All Quiet On The Western Front' for her N5 English. "I found this book amazing and it left me wanting to find out more about this dreadful war". So when the exciting opportunity to visit several historical attractions in Belgium and France came about she was extremely enthusiastic to take part. This enthusiasm carried Tegan all the way to success through the tough application and selection process in which she had to prove her contribution to the community in order to gain a place on this trip. Volunteering in after school clubs as well as her participation in the S6 leadership programme made Tegan a prime candidate, allowing her to become one of two people representing the whole of the UK.



During her trip, she visited several memorials, laid a wreath at the Ypres first post ceremony and attended the Vimy 100 ceremony which was also attended by Prince William, Prince Harry and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Her group were also given access to private areas by the Durand group. Tegan described the trip as a: "once in a lifetime experience", saying she was, "grateful to have been chosen". The trip also allowed for international friendship, with Tegan forming several relationships with Canadian and French students. She said: "I have met some amazing people and made some great friends! I also feel my interest in history has been fully encouraged and furthered through this fantastic experience". The trip was opened up to European students for this year due to the 100th anniversary of the Vimy Ridge battle. However, there is possibility for European involvement in the future and Tegan's fantastic experience should encourage any budding historian to look into this opportunity.

Builders add the final touches

By Jennifer Spencer and Eilidh McRitchie



The school will soon be saying farewell to the group of workmen who have been with the school since last summer. Their job, repairing and upgrading the school roof is almost complete and they are now on the final part of the building. Their final section, which was above Music and (ironically) the Drama departments, provided them with quite a bit of drama as they encountered problems with the materials they were using. As smoke and dust was being released into the rooms and corridors they had to abandon their blowtorches and adopt another method of attaching the new materials. Since doing this the work has now gone smoothly and they are now ahead of schedule. Work is due to officially finish on June 8 but they hope to complete the work before this date. Depute Head, Sandra McCulloch said: "It's great that the work to the roof is now reaching completion and that we will be watertight once again. Site Manager, Billy MacLeod has worked very closely with school staff to ensure minimum disruption to teaching and learning and we have really appreciated this support".

Spelling Bee Champions

By Kayleigh Bowers and Amy-Leigh Moody

Four pupils from S1/2: Kerry Niven, Eren Duff, Mia Barrere and Joshua Britain attended the Moray Inter-school Spelling Bee Championships which was held at Speyside High School in Aberlour. Although Keith High School came first, Forres Academy came a close 2nd. The competition which was organised and run by the Speyside Librarian Mr Fernandes, set the questions based on the British Championship Final questions. Pupils were faced with different challenges involving dictionary work and on the spot spelling. None of the questions were easy and had the adults present scratching their heads. With words such as hypotenuse, phosphine, habanero, semaphore, patronymic they were quite relieved they didn't have to spell them!

The pupils were accompanied by Library Assistant, Shirley Munn who said: "All four pupils did extremely well and were exemplary ambassadors for the school."



FORRES ACADEMY NEWS GROUP - FANG

Football team compete amongst the area's elite

By Ruari Fraser and Jack Noel



Ten girls recently ventured to Nairn Academy to represent the school in the end of season girls' football tournament. The girls qualified by finishing third in the Moray schools S1-S3 league allowing them to compete in the end of season tournament, which consisted of the top three schools from the Highland and Moray leagues. The games were played in the seven a side format with the Forres team finishing the tournament in third place. This was a great achievement as they were playing against the best teams in the Highlands and Moray. One of the players, Maizy McAfee said: "It was a really fun day and was great to play against really good players."

The team are coached every Monday by S6 pupil Katie Owen and PE teacher Kirsty Deans to help improve their skills and knowledge of the game. The tournament concludes the current season for the footballers who have to wait till the next academic year before the league starts again and the challenge of qualifying for the tournament starts all over again.

Pupils smash comp

By Eilidh Fraser and Christine Simms

Junior students have smashed the Moray Schools Badminton Competition. Four students from S1 to S3 took part in the competition which was held in Elgin Academy. The students played in doubles and singles against the four other teams taking part. Emma Donald (S3) who has been playing for six year and brought plenty of experience to add to the team said: "We worked well as a team and I was very surprised when we won as the games were very close and we had to play hard".



Malawi Day

By Niamh Henderson and Lauren Bruce

The school's annual Flag Malawi day was a huge success this year. The aim was to not only dress in African clothing and raise money but to get everyone involved in donating books to be sent to the children of Luchenza. The books are going to benefit the children of Malawi in many ways. Some of the books will be used to set up a small library in Sani village for the 150 orphan children who have never had access to a book. Other books will be used to help with the education of children in schools. Member of the Young Enterprise Group Ellie Pearce (S6) recently won £100 book token as a second place prize for her work on this year's enterprise and has generously donated it to the flag Malawi group to spend on enormous amounts of useful books. The group are very thankful for everyone's donations and are looking forward for all these books and donations making a big difference in Malawi. The dress down day raised £569.33 and this money will pay for freighting the books to Malawi.



The loons are fair trickit wi themselfs

By Chloe Shallicker and Eve Newlands

An S4 National 4 English class have just successfully completed the new Scots Language Level 4 Award. This course has just recently been added by the SQA and pupils can study Scots Language from Level 4-6. The pupils were tasked with doing research about the history of Scots language and to create a timeline of how the language has been used and changed through the centuries. They also looked at the poems of Aberdeen poet, Sheena Blackhall and analysed her poems which were written in Doric. The boys created their own Doric dictionaries to help them produce their own short stories which have been displayed on the walls along the English corridor. English teacher Jacky Davidson who teaches the class said: "It was a great success and we thoroughly enjoyed playing about with the language. The boys were very surprised that they have a greater knowledge of Doric than they thought". Pupil, Euan Robson, added: "It was quite fascinating learning about the dialect from this part of Scotland and fun learning how to say certain words and phrases in that dialect. It was also nice to bring it back home as quite a few of my family spiks Doric".

