

A 'FANG'tastic end to the year!

By Heather Prentice



Forres Academy's FANG group for 2016/17 held their annual 'Press Awards' to celebrate another successful and productive year. A number of awards such as 'Top Story Spotter' and 'Star Journalist' were handed out to the class with the help of head teacher, Carol Stuart, and two former FANG Journalists, Jason Cameron and Heather Prentice. These awards recognised the hard work put in by the pupils and their achievements both in and out of school. Their stories, which are published weekly in the Forres Gazette are a great way of creating a link with the wider community. Classroom assistant and former FANG pupil, Jason Cameron, who is now an assistant with the class said: "It's been great seeing the development of all the pupils throughout their time at FANG and I'm really glad I could see the course have the same positive effect upon them as it had

on me." The Practical Journalism course aims to develop a variety of skills such as confidence, time management and literacy skills. This development was evident throughout the ceremony by the sheer amount of pupils being recognised in areas such as 'Interview Skills' and 'Most Tenacious Reporter'. Headteacher Carol Stuart described the pupils as: "A credit to the school" and informed the group about the positive feedback she has had from the community. The awards ceremony also gave the group the chance to reflect on some highlights, calling their recent interview with Judy Murray a, "fantastic opportunity", as well as commenting on donning hard hats and reflective jackets to pay regular visits to see how the new roof is progressing, and being able to write features for the Forres Focus Magazine.

FANG pupils are now on study leave and a new group will be ready to go when the new timetable starts at the end of May.

Debating Competition

By Lauren Bruce, Niamh Henderson and Christine Simms



Six enthusiastic members of the Forres Academy's debating club travelled through to Aberdeen where they entered the 'Auld Hoose' competition world of debating. The pupils, who were accompanied by RMPS teacher Paul Moore-Bridger and English teacher William McIntosh, joined teams from all over Scotland for this event. Although none of the three teams were placed they all had a really enjoyable time and it gave them a real taste of the world of debating. This was a big step for the teams as they had only held debates at their club sessions on a Tuesday lunch time but they definitely all found it worthwhile. Jenna Carty (S3) said: "It was a really enjoyable experience and it has really given me an idea about what politics is like in the real world especially because I know it's something I would be interested in, in the future. The experience was valuable and I can't wait to get more opportunities like this again." Mr Moore-Bridger added: "The students did really well and developed their confidence throughout each round and came back stronger every time."

Praise for the Students

By Kayleigh Bowers Amy-leigh Moody

Pupils from across the school attended special House assemblies for a Recognising Achievement Awards ceremony. Throughout the year pupils have been recording things they have achieved in all sorts of areas. Awards were given for: sporting success, musical achievements, and voluntary work, both in and out of school as well as for excellent school attendance. Each registration teacher was asked to nominate a pupil from their registration class who had stood out in some way and pupils were again recognised for their helpfulness, cheeriness and their general support within the class. Certificates were handed out by Guidance and House Heads and pupils were also given an opportunity to showcase some of their talent by singing or playing a musical instrument. Alice Meacher (S4) said: "It was a good idea to do this. There was a really supportive and good atmosphere in the hall and it was great to see and hear what other pupils have achieved."



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Following In Their Footsteps

By Jenny Mitchell, Jennifer Spencer and Eilidh McRitchie

The Badaguish Challenge which is held annually on the shores of Loch Morlich is a two day event which raises money for charity. This year's charity was the Speyside Trust which provides respite care and activity holidays for children and adults with special needs from all over Scotland. Each team which entered the challenge was asked to raise a minimum of £60 per team for this charity.



Four senior pupils: Lauren Cameron (S4) John and Alistair Bonsall (S6), Kathryn Barr (S6) attended this event and followed in the footsteps of previous successful Forres teams by coming 1st in this gruelling challenge. The team, who were under the supervision of Biology teacher, Jane Oag named themselves – King Harry's Followers, after Harry Hurst who won the challenge two years in a row. The competition consisted of teams from across Moray and Highland and set the teams some demanding challenges. The Forres team completed their 20km run through forests and mountains in the fastest time securing them the trophy. As well as completing the running/orienteering course, the teams also took part in additional activities such as zorbing, abseiling and a zip wire through the forest. "It was a brilliant experience," said Lauren Cameron. As well as achieving their goal of following in Harry's footsteps, the team also won a shield and some outdoor clothing. Team member John Bonsall said: "Anyone considering entering in the future should definitely go for it as, not only does it raise money to help children experience what the outdoors has to offer, but it is a brilliant and exciting opportunity."

Forres Academy's Got Talent

By Cameron Stewart and Jack Rennie



The Pupil Forum has just held a Talent Show to raise money for Quarriers charity. Pupils were invited to come along to the Hall to perform in front of their peers and members of staff and to celebrate the wide variety of talent on offer at the school. Pupil Forum member Finnlay Simpson (S3) who helped organise and compere the show said: "It was quite a challenge and took a bit of organising but it all came together in the end."

Ten acts signed up and the audience were treated to a variety of acts including: a rock band, vocal and musical pieces, a comedy routine and a special treat from the S3 ukulele group who played one of Bob Marley's hits. Ukulele player Sam Thomas said: "I really enjoyed performing and it was a great chance for pupils to show off their talents." Jordan Sutherland, who has been a member of the Pupil Forum for several years added: "It ran smoothly and the acts were good. Although the audience was small they were very appreciative of the acts. Hopefully this is the first of many shows."

Arras Visit

By Alice Meacher, Chloe Shallicker and Eve Newlands



S3 pupils, Victoria Bell and Anna Pritchard represented Forres Academy to mark the centenary of the battle of Arras at which over 18000 Scots soldiers lost their lives. This

other pupils from Scottish schools along with descendants of soldiers for this commemoration which was held at the Arras Memorial. They also visited Thiepval memorial and also memorials of the Battle of the Somme. At one of the memorials Victoria and Anna laid a cross for the soldier from Forres, Mr George Nicol who fought and died in France while fighting with the Seaforth Highlanders.

battle is of special significance as it involved the highest numbers of Scots soldiers in any one WW1 campaign. Out of the 120 battalions who were involved in this battle, 44 of them were Scottish.

Victoria and Anna, who were accompanied by Principal Teacher of Social Subjects, Glen Logan joined

During their trip the two girls were in charge of the Forres Academy Social Subjects twitter page where they posted tweets tracking their trip and kept people back home up to date. All of the memorials were very heart-warming and Anna said: "It was incredibly moving and I enjoyed it so much."

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Game set and match for pupils

By Ruari Fraser and Jack Noel



A group of lucky Forres Academy students who are part of the 'Tennis on the Road' programme were given the opportunity of participating in a tennis session lead by Judy Murray the Mother of tennis superstars Jamie and Andy. The visit was part of the tennis 'On the Road' campaign where Judy and coach Kris Soutar travel around Scotland with a van filled

with tennis equipment giving pupils an introduction to tennis through fun games and activities. The programme is designed to show that tennis can be played anywhere even in places where a court may not be available. When asked about the scheme Judy said: "It is important in strengthening Andy and Jamie's legacy and improving the opportunities for young tennis players." She also mentioned its importance in getting young people involved as youngsters nowadays are more inclined to play video games rather than go out and participate in sport. A further 40 students had the opportunity to receive a tennis experience with Judy and Kris leading their session.

The scheme was also aimed at helping senior students, parents and teachers gain an introduction to tennis coaching as there is a void of tennis coaches in the Highlands area specifically but also in Scotland as a whole. Senior leadership pupils were given an afternoon session developing basic tennis skills through fun drills and activities. Jack Oxley (S5) said: "It was great to gain an introduction to tennis from someone with such vast experience in the sport and definitely will encourage me to participate in more tennis activities."

Judy also provided an insight into what it takes to be an athlete at the top level stressing that resilience is hugely important as athletes will have to endure many setbacks in their career before they accomplish their goals.

Mrs Rossiter, school lead for the School of Tennis and organiser for the 'Tennis on the Road' visit was absolutely delighted at receiving this workshop for the school and to have the two main instigators and driving forces behind Tennis Scotland's 'Tennis on the Road' Campaign at Forres Academy. "They are both passionate about the sport and have spent a great deal of time developing these skills based sessions demonstrating the progression and the variety of ways one can deliver sessions for all levels of ability making them fun, enjoyable, progressive and achievable to those participating. Such a lot was covered within a short space of time, there was great focus and much effort being put in by the participants. It was wonderful to see their achievements in mastering the routines so quickly. It is hoped that we will be able to offer a more focussed workshop in the future to identified students who will be going on to assist with the extra-curricular delivery of tennis, including the Young Tennis Ambassadors and also to support the delivery of Tennis through the curriculum."

Sprinting for Success

Joely Beal and Lily Carmichael

Weather permitting, the four school houses will be competing for glory in the annual school's Sports Day on June 23. Last year was a great year for Altyre as it was their first win for eight years so they will be determined to win again. Every house needs as many competitors and supporters as they can get. Lots of pupils have put their names down for sporting events but we need more enthusiastic pupils taking part. There are many different events and it's enjoyable because even if you don't do an event, being part of the roaring crowd is just as fun. Deputy Head Mike Burchell said: "I am very excited for sports day and for Culbin and Darnaway to lift the trophy."

S6 v Staff Crunch Football Match

By Jack Noel

The last 11 a side school football match of year took place between the school staff team and the S6 pupils team on a cold, overcast Friday afternoon at the Roysvale pitches next to the school. The teams were ready and the game was set to start, with the staff team kicking off on the whistle of referee Damian Niedzwiedz.

The staff team started quickly with a goal from skill force leader, Alan Donnelly after a well worked corner routine. Despite the S6 team's hard graft and work rate the staff fired again. This time Craig Edwards (Social Subjects teacher) picked up the ball from a wider area and curled an excellent shot round goal keeper Ali Johnstone and into the far top corner. The teachers pilled on the pressure and then broke through again with well worked goals from Mark Riddoch (Maths teacher) and Stuart Robertson (Social Subjects teacher) to give them a healthy lead going into half time.

When the game restarted the teachers put another two goals past the S6 goalkeeper from Scott Fraser (PE teacher) and another from captain, Mark Riddoch. However the S6's put up a much bigger fight and were able to get two goals to their name. In the end the teachers were too strong and were able to win the midfield battle thanks to Man of the Match, Kirsty Deans (PE teacher).

Overall it was a well fought battle with some great football on display.



Budding author wins prize in top competition



S3 pupil, Hannah Cox has just returned from the Awards Ceremony of this year's IGGY & Litro Young Writers' Prize. Hannah loves creative writing of any kind is constantly looking for competitions to enter. She spotted this one when browsing on Facebook and thought she would give it a go. The theme was 'Memory' and was open to 13-18 from across the world. "I sent my entry away thinking no more about it and was amazed when I got an email telling me that I had been shortlisted."

Hannah was invited to attend an Awards ceremony which was held in The Shard in London. The winners were given the VIP treatment with mocktails and canapes before the ceremony. Although Hannah did not pick up the winning prize she was awarded a runner-up prize of £200 for her 'Collector' story which has been published alongside all other prizewinners. Hannah said: "This was an amazing experience and has really encouraged me to keep going with my writing. I will definitely be entering my work into other competitions that come up."

Dylan's tries pay off



Dylan Price has been playing rugby for the last eight years and plays regularly for Moray under 14s which are based in Elgin. He has just been awarded their best player of the year award by the team coaches and manager, which he got not only for his ability on the pitch but for his dedication to the team and sport. This is not the first time Dylan has been the recipient of this award and he was delighted to receive it yet again. He said: "I was surprised because we are a really good team with lots of brilliant players. Rugby is a game which I really love playing." He has been selected to be a part of the Grampian Development Camp which will give him the opportunity to get professional coaching and possibly move on to a more National level.

Pupils figure it out for themselves

Three S1 pupils, Isobel Howard, Ashley Donald and Magnus McGhee have just taken part in the Junior Mathematical Challenge which is run by The Scottish Mathematical Council. For the pupils, the challenge develops and inspires an interest in mathematics and improves thinking and problem solving skills. The pupils enjoy a sense of achievement in solving problems and gaining awards. Success can be included in personal profiles, university applications, etc. The pupils can be awarded a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award.

The pupils were given some tutorials from Maths teacher, June McIntosh who ran afterschool and lunchtime sessions with the pupils looking at the types of questions and problems they might face in the Challenge.

All entries to the actual Challenge had to be unaided and the pupils did extremely well. Ashley, who had already done the Challenge in primary wanted to see if she could improve on her results and was successful in gaining a Silver Award. Although Isobel and Magnus did not receive an actual Award they thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Isobel said: "It seemed like a bit of fun and I really love Maths." Magnus added: "I saw it as a chance to improve my Maths." Maths teacher, Ms McIntosh said: "The pupils are fired up by their success and are keen to enter again next year. They are aiming for Gold and want to start up a maths challenge club after school or at lunchtimes."

Pupils Find a New Meaning for May

By Kayla Spence and Laura Sutherland

S4 pupils from across the authority who were not entitled to study leave were, instead, able to take part in a three week programme of employability and skills development. The course included a week at Moray College in order to gain different skills such as CV writing and interview techniques. Students then took part in two weeks of work placement in order to gain skills for their future in the world of work.

Deputy Head Sandra McCulloch said: "As pupils couldn't leave until the end of May we wanted to give them an opportunity to do something meaningful at the end of the year and this programme was able to give them skills for work." One pupil who took part in this programme, Logan Ward (S5) added: "I enjoyed the work experience with Springfield as I got to participate in brick-laying and joinery."



Activities days prove a great success for years to come

By Rebekah Prentice

S1-3 pupils of Forres Academy recently took part in the annual Activities Days; a two day programme where pupils take part in the activities that they chose from a wide variety of in and out of school options. The school offers activities to suit every child's interests with the aim of giving the pupils a break from class whilst also developing personal and interpersonal skills. These days are beneficial in helping to build positive relationships with other pupils and teachers. The pupils who took part in these two days had endless amounts of fun and they would encourage others to get involved next year too. These days are primarily run by Depute Head Mike Burchell and office assistant Pauline Ballingall. Mr Burchell said: "It is wonderful to hear back from both pupils and staff about how much fun they had on their activities!"

A pilgrimage to the battlefields

By Katie Angell and Anna Pritchard



Around 40 Forres Academy pupils recently made their way to the battlefields of Northern France and Belgium. This trip has been running for several years and provides pupils with a humbling experience they will never forget. The S2 and S3 pupils visited the likes of Ypres, Thiepval, Poelkappelle Cemetry, Arras and a few other landmarks surrounding the areas where The Battle of the Somme and The Battle of Loos took place. Leon Giscombe (S3) said: 'It was a chance to remember those who didn't get to come home'. All pupils were deeply moved and felt that it would benefit them in the future if they were to take History in the future. Principal teacher of Social Subjects Glenn

Logan added: 'the trip was memorable knowing that it was going to be my last one'. He also stated that 'pupils were intrigued' and commended them for their focus and the great deal of respect they showed while on the trip. Mr Logan also felt that this trip had been more meaningful than previous ones, as he made an effort himself to investigate local men who had died during WWI. It was a pilgrimage that will be unforgettable to all.

A splashing time at Findhorn Marina

By Lewis Stevens and Cameron Smith



Pupils recently enjoyed a variety of water sports at Findhorn Marina as part of the annual activities days. Lorna Auld, a Drama teacher

at Forres Academy, was overseeing the group of pupils who attended this activity on the second day. She explained it was a good experience for pupils to have: "I think, generally, all the folks enjoyed themselves and the activities we did at the marina". During the day, a few different activities took place which gave pupils the opportunity to try lots of new things. The pupils were split into groups by the instructors at the marina to go out and enjoy their activities. Ella Robertson (S2) said: "It was a really fun day with friends and we all enjoyed it. There was a positive atmosphere and everyone was co-operating."

A splat of action

By Stan Whitmore and Dominic Abbate

A group of pupils recently headed out for some first-hand battlefield action during Forres Academy's activity days. The



Tazball team didn't know what had hit them when the schools pupils descended for some warzone experiences with paint. This rural activity centre, which is situated in the south of Inverness, challenges individuals to a range of thrilling and adrenaline-pumping sports. After their safety briefing, team captains were chosen, uniform was distributed and battle lines were drawn. Robert Oliphant (S4) who attended said 'I found the experience of paintballing enlightening and I have now tried something new that I will definitely revisit'. Callum Simpson, a Social Subjects teacher who also went, added that the 'pupils all had an amazing time and really enjoyed the outdoor objective based games'.

Cards crafted with care

By Cora Inckle-Sharpe and Lauren Bird

The Art Department at Forres Academy recently offered the opportunity for pupils to make their own cards as part of this year's Activities Days programme. Pupils who took part very much enjoyed having the chance to use different materials and to try out new techniques. Tegan Bath (S3) took part in the Wednesday session and thoroughly enjoyed being able to "let [her] creativity out". Ellie Logie (S3) also took part and, when asked what she most enjoyed about the activity, replied: "I mostly enjoyed getting to use new materials".



The beautiful cards produced all look very professional and were clearly crafted with great care. The pupils who took part all seemed to have taken an interest in making interesting designs.

H₂GO!

By Freya Paterson, Lucy Evans and Niamh Young



S3 pupils were recently given the exciting opportunity to experience two days in the local River Findhorn as part of the allocated school activity

days with the Ace Adventure Company. P.E. teacher Mhairi Henderson organised the excursion along with other members of staff to give all involved the chance to develop confidence and interpersonal skills through ranges of different water based activities. S4 pupils Emma Donald and Victoria Bell expressed their enthusiasm for the adventurous days when describing them as: "an experience which encouraged team building and promoted confidence". Miss Henderson also added: "it developed pupil-teacher relationships". During the trip everyone tried something new, whether it was tubing, abseiling, cliff jumping or canyoning. P.E teacher Hailey Currie added that, although these activities were challenging, they helped everyone to: "face their fears and improve confidence". She even admitted that she had "never been so afraid in [her] life!"



Highland Historians

By Sam Thomas

Fort George opened its doors to a group of pupils who enjoyed an informative tour around the museum and grounds. The museum then hosted an interactive WW1 study session which enhanced the pupils' learning experience by being able to handle some of the objects actually used in battle. The session also got the students thinking about the impact of WWI and what happened on the Home Front. Giacomo Innes (S4) said: "The visit was a great learning experience for me and definitely added to my existing knowledge". Overall the visit was enjoyed thoroughly by the pupils and many wish to go back in the future.



Pupils Give Badminton a Shot

By Liam Young and James Kennedy

The badminton enthusiasts were put through their paces by local coach Angela Bell who gave the pupils a chance to learn and develop new skills in the popular sport. Throughout the day pupils played in a range of activities which got them interacting and developing their teamwork as well as igniting their competitive spirit.

One pupil who enjoyed the session was Connor Anderson (S4) said: "it helped to improve my performance and techniques. It was a great day and my favourite part was playing Around the World." Peter Cannard (S4) added: "my favourite part of badminton was the doubles when I could play with my mates". Peter had attended the year before and went back this year because of how instructive it was.

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Musicians hit a high note at battle of the bands

By Lauren Buchan and Jami Moat

'Battle of the Bands' attracted the school's finest musicians which culminated in a final competition. Pupils were given the option to choose their groups (or go solo) and practise a song for the whole day to then perform in front of the other participants. One pupil who has been attending this particular activity for three years running is Laura Sutherland (S3). She spoke to FANG about how she "got into music after receiving a guitar for Christmas one year" and has "never looked back". Erin Harper (S3) also explained that her friends persuaded her to try something new and she ended up enjoying herself throughout the whole day: "the activity had a happy, positive atmosphere which was made even better by my group winning".



Students enjoy day out at Landmark

By Jenna Carty

The whoops and cheers of the many S1 students were heard loud and clear all over Landmark Forest Adventure Park, as were the groans as the same students suddenly realised that most of the rides didn't open for another hour. All S1 students have been treated to a day of fun at Landmark for as long as the organiser, Social Subjects teacher Chris Horton, can remember and this year was no different than previous: "I like getting to know the S1 students on this trip."

Obviously it's not just the teachers who enjoy it, though; all of the students were delighted to have a day of freedom with their friends, shooting down waterslides and screaming round the rollercoaster. Eren Duff (S1) told us that: "it was the best day of S1 because we got let loose and got to have lots of fun." Fellow student Ashley Donald (S1) added "I really enjoyed because we got to do what we wanted and had lots of fun with friends."

Stitching ideas together

By Lauren McLeod and Joely Beal

The sewing machines were put through their paces recently when Home Economics teachers Anne Rossiter and Hilary Anstruther along with a band of helpers offered pupils a chance to try their hand at Fashion and Textiles during Activities Days. Mrs Rossiter provided different types of materials which the pupils could choose from to make clothing. Abryanna Dominguez (S4) said: 'It was actually really fun, it's nice to know where clothes are coming from and learning about a variety of stitches.' Ellie Smith (S4) added: 'I like creating different clothing pieces that I used with my skills from S3. The activity itself was well thought through and was a success.' Modern languages teacher, Elizabeth McKay who helped out for the day was very impressed with what the pupils achieved in a short space of time: "The pupils brought their own skills and progressed quickly. By the end of the day some of them had created a complete outfit which they wore with pride."



Cadets sprint to podium positions at regional finals

By Jenna Carty



Forres Army Cadets took part in an internal competition a few weeks ago to see if anyone would qualify for the Regional Championships near Aberdeen. Maddison Major (S3), Lewis Barber (S4) and Cameron Stewart (S5) all made the grade and travelled to Aberdeen where Lewis won silver and bronze medals for his events. Although Cameron didn't make it to a podium position he was happy to take part. Maddison won bronze for relay and silver for high jump. She said: "I'm really happy with how I did as I had never done high jump before. It was a good experience because I met a lot of new people. I got into cadets because my big brother goes as well. It also helps me to prepare for my dream job – a dog handler for the RAF."

On Track to Record Times

By Freya Paterson and Niamh Young



Pupils performed exceptionally well at the North of Scotland Track and Field Championships held at Queen's Park in Inverness. David Scott (S4) was one of the successful pupils who took part, winning the Under-16 Long Jump by over a metre and also coming 3rd in the 200 metre final, which saw him gaining a new personal best. Pupils were accompanied by School Sports Co-ordinator Ann Rossiter and Active School Coordinator, Paul Rogan and they all came away with something they could learn from, as well as a range of new personal bests and medals to show off their expertise and skills. David said: "I feel I gained so much more experience and I now feel I know so much more about techniques and the precision and concentration it requires to become an athlete."

Pupil results add up to big success

By Lauren McLeod and Kirsten Blanche



Britain's largest maths competition took place in schools across the country in late April and former Forres Academy Maths teacher Chris Forshaw organised the competition for Forres pupils. This challenge included a variety of different mathematical questions including problem solving. The pupils who took part found it a difficult but rewarding task. Over 600,000 school students across the country took part in the Maths challenge and the majority of pupils interviewed said they would do it again. Mia Barrere (S2) won Best in School, Best in Year (S1) and Gold, a fantastic result. Mia said: 'I participated because I like to challenge myself with exciting things.' Alistair Darnley also won Best in Year (S2) and Gold for the boys. They all spoke very positively about the challenge and would encourage others to do it as well. Kerry Niven (S4) added: 'I was pleasantly surprised with my result, it encouraged me and it has given me the confidence to do it again.'

Aspiring goalkeeper on the ball

By Freya Paterson and Niamh Young

Aspiring footballer, Maizy McAfee (S3) recently took part in a National Training Camp for under 14's at Tulliallan. She, along with one other girl from Moray, represented the Northern Region. Maizy is a goal keeper and used this training camp as an opportunity to develop her skills and perfect the sport. She did this through various drills and matches which she feels has helped her with her end goal of becoming a professional footballer. Her team won their match against the East Region due to the extra training and pointers from experienced coaches. The young aspiring goalkeeper enthusiastically described it as a "good opportunity where [she] learned a lot."

Sun, Sea and Snorkelling in Spain

By Cameron Smith and Lewis Stevens

A group of pupils have reluctantly returned from sunny Spain where they thoroughly enjoyed a week of water sports in Cala Llevadó. Many activities took place on the beach, ranging from snorkelling to kayaking, sailing and paddle boarding. Pupils especially enjoyed snorkelling because they got to swim along the warm waters of the Mediterranean while taking in the beautiful aquatic wildlife. A day trip was also arranged to Barcelona and Water World in Lloret De Mar. Jenna Carty (S4) said: "It was a great opportunity and it really helped me get to know everyone. I enjoyed the freedom we got and the chance to try new sports."

BGE Brilliance

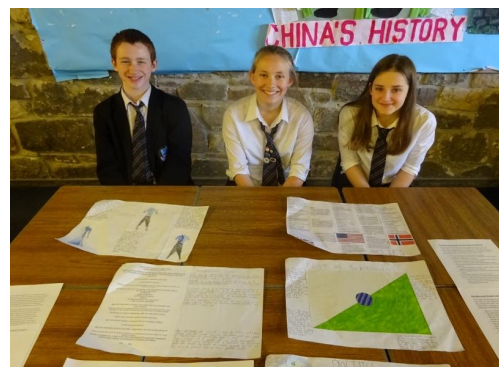
By Liam Young and Sam Thomas

To celebrate the end of their BGE experience and prior to entering into the senior phase of their education all S3 pupils were invited to take part in a ceremony where all their hard work was acknowledged. Certain pupils were informed of successes in particular subjects and all pupils received their pupil profiles which they had been working on throughout the year. These can be added to and used to create a CV. Depute Head Anne Smith said: "The Broad General Education (BGE) celebration is important for showcasing the hard work they have completed and the skills that pupils have improved. It's also very important for parents to see the work their child has done." Anna Pritchard (S4) added: "It was a very enjoyable afternoon. I was happy to be rewarded for my hard work in school."

Pupils model their countries

By Lily Carmichael and Joely Beal

At the end of last month, Modern Studies classes were set the challenge of creating and running their own country. Pupils were only given the population, geographical location, and the country's history so everything else was up to them to decide in groups. Modern Studies teacher Craig Edwards said: "The reason we do this task is because it is a great end of year activity, which is creative and puts the year's learning into practise. It is also an interesting and engaging way to summarise the year." It wasn't just the creative side Mr Edwards was looking for because the most important thing for him was how the groups linked each piece of work. Hannah Cox added: "The task was really enjoyable as most of it was left up to us and it was all our ideas and not the teachers."



A Promising Start for Probert

By Jami Moat, Kayla Spence & Laura Sutherland



Recently, the Physics department has welcomed a new student teacher called Tim Probert. In the new term he has been teaching some of the physics classes, helping out around the department and preparing pupils for their exams. He grew up in Cardiff and attended

Cardiff University where he got a Master's degree in Physics. Teaching was not his first idea for a career however as he originally self-taught himself

programming and went into software engineering. After moving up to Moray to pursue this career he had a change of mind and decided that teaching was the way to go.

He is now completing his PGDE at UHI and is looking forward to taking up a probation post at a school in Moray. He loves this area and finds it perfect for his favourite sports including cycling, rock climbing and sailing. He enjoys a challenge which is why he took up these hobbies. He said: "I love teaching and there are excellent students in Forres Academy." Principal Teacher of Physics Dave Baker added: "He has been very good for the students."

Students Blown away by Wind Turbine Success

By Jenna Carty

The Small Piece Organisation recently visited the school and allowed S2 students the chance to take part in a STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) challenge. The sole aim of this challenge was to get pupils to learn new things before putting that new knowledge into practice. They had to learn how a wind turbine worked before making their own with the materials supplied. Pupils also had the tough challenge of working to a budget, trying to make the best wind turbine as well as keeping the costs low. Pupils got to choose their groups to complete the challenge and the winning group from each category received a prize for their hard-work – a pair of headphones! One of the main organisers was Principal Teacher of Science Helen Higham who said: "The pupils had lots of fun and they enjoyed working on their own designs. It also links into the Physics topic of Energy that the pupils are currently working on." Cenedra Robb (S2) added: "It was a good experience. One of the best bits was watching the turbines go round really fast at the end to show that my hard work had paid off."



Engineering a Good Time

By Liam Young and Sam Thomas

Last weekend pupils from the Engineering Club travelled down to Edinburgh to take part in the Rampaging Chariot competition. The team were tasked to create a battle robot similar to those from Robot Wars. Their robot was built to endure rams from other robots. They also had to compete in events such as tug of war and a fight to the death. The team managed to win the tug of war and overall did quite well in the competition.

Engineering club member Isobel Howard said: "It was really fun and interactive" and senior member Kyle Cartmell added: "It was good fun" and that "It helps develop skills like teamwork." Isobel also commented on how the trip and the club in general: "Helps improve confidence and practical skills." Although the team didn't win they succeeded at having a good time and look forward to going on another trip that will be even more exciting.



School of tennis on the ball

By Rebekah Prentice and Lauren Buchan

Some remarkable teaching took place this week when Matthew Stephen (S4) and Ella Robertson (S2) took part in the 'School of Tennis' event to teach youngsters a thing or two about the sport. Matthew and Ella were just two members of the Forres Tennis Club who passed down their knowledge onto budding young players in order to further enhance their tennis skills. Matthew told Forres Academy News Group that his interest in tennis slowly developed over time from when he was around 6 years old due to having a very sporty childhood. He said: "I enjoyed helping the community and spreading awareness about how enjoyable tennis can be." Ella added: "It was very good to get involved and help others to get involved as well." Following on from the Associated School Group Tennis Competition, the Young Ambassadors organised the Moray Primary Schools Tennis Finals where Aberlour Primary School came out on top.

Pupils Have a Blast in Vienenberg

By Kirsten Blanche and Lauren McLeod

Principal Teacher of Modern Languages Emma Harris recently took three pupils on an educational trip to Vienenberg. This trip was organised to rebuild the connection between pupils from Vienenberg and Forres as the trip hadn't been held for fourteen years and over the past few years both schools have been working hard to reconnect. All three pupils who went thoroughly enjoyed staying in the little town of Goslar. Over the five days they were there, they participated in many different activities such as exploring the Rammesberg Mine and climbing the Brocken Mountain. Max Macfarlane (S3) said: 'It was very interesting witnessing other cultures and it was good experience different people and ways of life.' S4 pupil Rebekah Prentice added: 'I enjoyed making new friends as it helps create connections across the world.' Each pupil had their own exchange student and they visited their houses and families whilst in Vienenberg. The German pupils are coming to Forres Academy next year and our school will make lots of effort to make them feel welcome.

Times to tell

By Anna Pritchard and Katie Angell

Drumpelliar Park in Lanarkshire recently hosted the Scottish Schools Orienteering Championships where a keen group of orienteers from S1 to S6 were chosen to represent the school at this event. Forres Academy came out on top, with nearly all participants gaining a place on the podium. S1 pupil David Spencer, already renowned for excelling in orienteering, found himself going for gold with a terrific time of eleven minutes and fifty four seconds. He said: 'I didn't know what to expect but I felt pretty confident and was pleased at how well I did.' Scott Perry (S1) added: "Competing was a great experience and I was happy with my time of thirteen minutes and one second."

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A Taste of the Academy Life

By Dominic Abbate and Katie Angell

Excitement and nerves filled the school as Primary 7's got a taste of what was to come when they start the academy after the summer break. Pupils from schools around Moray were able to meet their new teachers, create their house mascot in groups and have a tour around school. Anna Park from Dallas Primary School said her favourite part of the day was the tour around school and said: 'I'm nervous and excited for what's to come'. Mrs Lynne Riddoch PSE teacher for Culbin added: 'It is my favourite time of the year and it is a good opportunity to create a relationship with not just the pupils, but the parents too.'



Scrievin Awa'

By Freya Paterson, Lucy Evans and Niamh Young



Scot's author and poet, Matthew Fitt, recently offered an opportunity for young writers to show off their Doric writing skills. He extended an invitation to youngsters across Scotland to submit their work with a chance of it being published on the ScotsHoose website. English Teacher, Jacky Davidson, worked on the Level 4 Scots Language Award with her previous S4 class and submitted ten short stories that her pupils had written. Mr Fitt got back to her saying: "These are superb – sae honest, sae human. 21st century laddies telling it like it is. Excellent storytelling. And high quality use of Doric." Mr Fitt has agreed to publish all ten. Euan Robson (S5) showed off his talent by creating a story with a simple storyline in fluent Doric. Euan enjoys writing in the language and hopes to take his talent further later on. Mrs Davidson added: "I am fair chuffed at the loons gettin' their screivin published."

Tennis Players make a racket at Gordonstoun

By Cameron Smith and James Kennedy

Talented young tennis players from across Moray recently partook in the Moray Secondary Schools Tennis Competition. We spoke to two pupils from Forres Academy who are a part of the Tennis Young Ambassadors, a team consisting of eight pupils from Forres Academy. Millie Fraser (S2) achieved a fantastic result with gold said: "It was a good experience with lots of match play which I looked for in the day."

The team played well throughout the day with Millie Fraser winning first in the S2 Girls and Matthew Stephen and Matthew Douglas winning gold for the S3/S4 boys competition. Matthew Douglas added: "The event was quite relaxed. Everyone got on with each other and did well." The team performed very well, co-operated with each other and took home a couple of wins.



Winning wicket

By Stan Whitmore and Dominic Abbate

Last week in Cooper Park, Elgin, S1-3 pupils participated in a Moray-wide cricket competition. Rachel Mitchell (S2) was part of the team who were handpicked to represent the school by School Sports Coordinator, Ann Rossiter. The group batted against Elgin High School and Milne's High School, winning one match. All pupils who were selected to be a part of this all-star team are, or have been, involved with a cricket club outside of school; therefore they knew what they were doing. Jenny Mitchell (S5) said: "It was a new experience because I have done cricket before in primary school but never in secondary, so it was good to play with skilled people in a bigger event."