



CULLODEN
ACADEMY

Newsletter



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Hello,

June 2015

I hope you find this snapshot of living and learning in Culloden Academy interesting. We continue to give pupils opportunities and experiences which will allow them to develop knowledge, interests and skills for later life. Below the dates and staff update we offer you a flavour of life in Culloden Academy between Easter and the summer.

Key dates:

Thursday 2nd July- School closes

Tuesday 18th August- School reopens for pupils

Friday 28th August- School Photos

Monday 7th September- Parent Council AGM

Wednesday 9th September- UCAS/SAAS information evening for S5/6 parents of pupils considering University

Monday 14th September- S3 Awards

Thursday 24th/Friday 25th September- School closed to pupils for staff training

Friday 9th October- Culloden Academy School Hike and last day of term

Tuesday 27th October- School reopens to pupils

Staff changes:

As you will be aware one of our staff- **Kirsty Miller**- died after a short illness in May. After the shock came the grief for colleagues and pupils alike. We marked her passing with a very short ceremony in the school car park and will look to design a lasting memorial to her after the summer. At this time, Kirsty's post has not been permanently filled but we have short-term arrangements in place for August until a permanent replacement is found.

Catherine Gordon will be retiring this summer from her post as PT Guidance which she has held since 1989. She will be sorely missed by staff, pupils and colleagues. **George Skinner** takes over as PT Guidance for Clava Picts and his English post will be filled by **Ian Weafer** who is joining us from Alness in August.

Margaret Walters also retires from the Maths department where she has worked since 1986. Parents and pupils have shared with me their appreciation of Margaret's dedication throughout the years and we wish her all the best for her retirement. Her part-time post will be filled by **James Brough** who will amalgamate Margaret's post and his own and resume full-time working next session.

Lesley Mackay also retires after more than 20 years of service to the school- 25 to be precise. We wish Lesley health and happiness in her retirement and the unenviable job of trying to follow Lesley falls to **Rebecca Young** who will be joining us from Galashiels.

Peter Crossley has recently been appointed as permanent Principal Teacher of Technical- replacing **Robert Johnstone** who was confirmed this term as permanent Depute Rector in this school. We hope to recruit a new Technical teacher shortly after the holidays.

Courtney Dow is also leaving us after two years to return to Dundee. Courtney has worked incredibly hard throughout her time here and her energy and enthusiasm will be sorely missed and will be replaced by **Gillian Gates** who is joining us from Grantown.

Similarly, **Michael Arthur** is leaving the Chemistry department this summer to return to his native Shetland. **Christine Fraser** will cover Michael's timetable in the new session. We are indebted to Michael for all the work he has done throughout his time here but most particularly in the last seven weeks since Kirsty's illness and death.

Finally, **Iain Dunbar** and **Alan Davis** are both leaving the PE department- Iain is moving to Inverness Royal Academy and Alan to Elgin Academy. Both will be missed by colleagues and pupils alike and we wish them all the best.

S3 Battlefields Trip 2015

The 2015 Battlefields trip to Belgium and France was a truly remarkable experience for those involved. Students had been eagerly anticipating the journey, not sure what to expect; how they would feel visiting the cemeteries and battlegrounds from 100 years ago. They did themselves proud and highlighted what an excellent group of young people they were that would make ancestors and soldiers who fought in the First World War, very proud.

Highlights of the trip

Langemarck German Cemetery, Day 2 Afternoon

Students visited their first cemetery, Langemarck German cemetery in Leper and were amazed by the different layout to British cemeteries, with black gravestones and trees creating a sombre mood.

Menin Gate, Day 2 Evening

Kieran Morison and Emma Morrison took part in the last post ceremony laying a Culloden Academy wreath in front of a respectful and large audience. To mark the hundred year anniversary students heard a story from a soldier whose name is on the Menin Gate.

Passchendaele Museum, Day 3 Morning

'Passchendaele was amazing' remarked numerous students after touring the museum and trenches. Marking one of the most significant and bloody battles of the First World War, the museum managed to encapsulate the futility and cost of the war.

Tyne Cot Cemetery, Day 3 Afternoon

Students were given a namesake or an ancestor to search for in the largest British cemetery in Europe. Initial responses to the vast amount of graves saw students able to visualise them as bodies each with their own story, family and dreams; and again highlighted the emotional intelligence of the group.



Black Watch Corner/Hill 60/Hill 62, Day 3 Afternoon

The crater left behind after the explosions of underground mines along the Messine Ridge created a shockwave and noise that could be heard in London and Paris. Students had the opportunity to visit the crater at Hill 60 and the battle that took place at Hill 62 and Sanctuary Wood. Here the trenches are a realistic interpretation of what life would have been like in the trenches, and the artefacts a testament to the war, each telling their own story.



France, Day 4

An early departure from the hotel allowed us to visit Vimy Ridge, a series of trenches and tunnels that were captured by Canadian troops. Students also visited the imposing limestone monument that dominates the landscape. Students were then taken aback by La Targette French Cemetery with its rows upon rows of crosses. The group then visited the Somme region of France, visiting a museum in Albert before visiting Beaumont Hamel. Here a wreath was laid by Carla MacLeod and Christina Hitchmough at the memorial for the Highland Division. With music provided by Mark Green it summed up the significance of this trip to everyone involved. Under the imposing Highlander statue, students were asked whether he would be proud looking down on all of us. The general response from guides, members of the public and the teachers was a resounding yes – well

done for making the Battlefields Trip 2015 such a brilliant trip.



Belewaerde, Day 5

On the final day students had an opportunity to let their hair down and have some fun on the rollercoasters. The weather was hot, the theme park was quiet and Culloden Academy managed to squeeze every last minute of fun out of the trip. When students arrived

back on the bus they had an opportunity to write their memories of the trip; here are some of their thoughts.

'It is something I will never forget, we have learned so much!' **Mark Green and Euan MacDonald**

'Memories I will keep for the rest of my life, thanks!' **Beth Mackenzie**

'This was by far the best thing I've done in school' **Calum Donaldson**

'It was nice to show our respects, the trip was AMAZING!' **Niamh Johnston**

'I have one of the best times of my life, and I don't want to leave! Thank you!!' **Anna Christie**

'The trip was emotional making me think about the efforts that are needed in war' **Jamie Carson**

S3 Biology

We are currently investigating methods used to sample organisms living in different ecosystems such as the use of quadrats to sample plant abundance, pitfall traps to sample ground-living invertebrates and kick-sampling in the stream to sample freshwater invertebrates. This has given us the opportunity to not only practice our practical skills but also allows us to get outside and enjoy the summer weather!



Supporting Learners Survey

It is important to us at Culloden Academy that we take on board the views of our pupils and parents as to how well pupils are supported at Culloden Academy, what we do well and where we can improve. Pupils are being surveyed in school and the purpose of this online survey is to gain the views of our parents/carers.

In this survey we will be looking at various aspects of Pupil Support including Universal Support, Targeted Support, Ethos, Climate and Relationships, Inclusion and Equality and finally the role of the Key Adult which for most pupils will be their Guidance Teacher or for some their Additional Support Needs Teacher.

The survey will take between 10-15 minutes and will give us really valuable information about what aspects of Culloden Academy are working well and where we can develop things further.

Your viewpoint would be greatly appreciated and if you can find the time to complete the survey, it can be found at the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/cullodenacademysurvey1>

Many thanks.

Rugby

The S1/2 Rugby team recently participated in the final tournament of the year at Highland Rugby Club in Inverness. There was a real festival atmosphere at the club as the tournament coincided with the Rugby World Cup road show. The boys had a great day, getting their picture taken with the Webb Ellis Cup and receiving some game coaching from ex-Scotland internationals Chris Paterson and Kelly Brown. It was a great way to end the season and celebrate a successful season of Rugby! Well done to all the boys involved.



Sports Day

Sports Day was the culmination of a hectic series of heats and finals for all years. Our Sports Champions were:

S1 Girls	-	Fiona Flockhart	LG
S1 Boys	-	Brodie Smith	KS
S2 Girls	-	Beth Maciver	DV
S2 Boys	-	Ronan McBride	LG
S3 Girls (Joint)	-	(Georgia Smith (Charlotte Hill	CP LG
S3 Boys	-	Sam Sculthorpe	LG
Senior Girls	-	Mollie Lisle	CP
Senior Boys	-	Alan Cruickshank	DV

Scottish Schools Athletics

Well done to S6 pupil Mary Flockhart who has been selected to represent Scottish Schools in the SIAB International Track and Field event at Grangemouth on 18 July.

Scottish Basketball

Congratulations to Mollie Lisle, S6, and Alix Henderson, S4 who have been selected to represent their respective age groups.

ART & DESIGN

On Saturday 7th February five of our S5/6 students: Robert McCormack, Susie Hay, Gerry Reid, Lewis Reid and Bea Gregg attended an etching workshop at Highland Print Studio. All work will be included in folios for Advanced Higher, Higher or Art School entrance. The Highland Decorative and Fine Art Society sponsored this event and we are really grateful for their support.



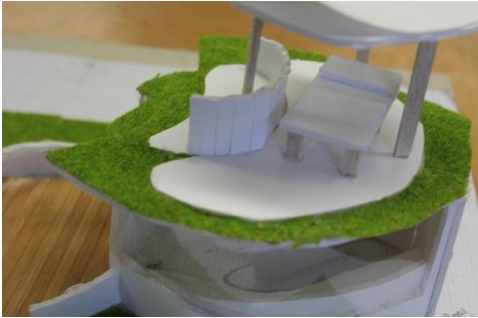




HDFAS lectures this term have continued to interest and intrigue our Advanced Higher students; Edouard Manet – The Rebel in a frock coat Julian Halsby, Revolutionary Russia – The avant-garde and visual culture Theodora Clarke, Ruskin versus Whistler, The Art of the Japanese Garden and Photography as Fine Art. Once more we must thank the Young Arts section of the society for their continued support and look forward to working together in 2015/16.

SQA SUBMISSION 2015

Last term work had been focused, for senior classes, on their folios - to be picked up just after the Easter Holiday. The work is not returned until late October so here is a selection.....



Chris Falkingham N5



Ryan Smith N5



Jake Hutchinson N5



Hannah Murray H



Ewan Calder N5



Rhona Martin N5



Chris Falkingham N5



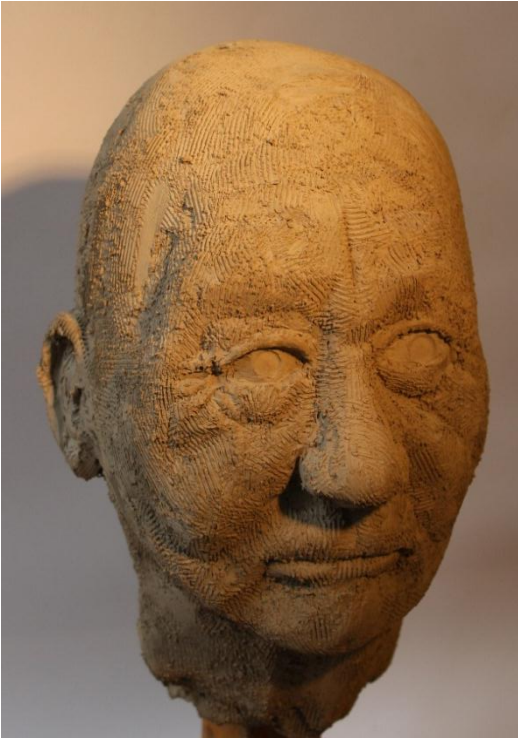
Elise Ross H



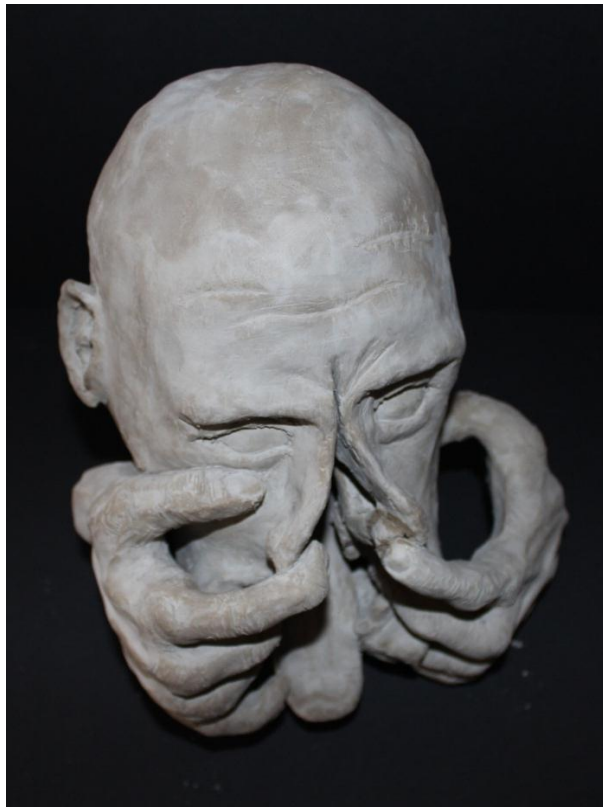
Mairi Macleod N5



Saffy Jamieson N4



Robert McCormack H



Calum Murray H



Shannon MacArthur H



Iona Anderson N5



Davide Cialucco N5

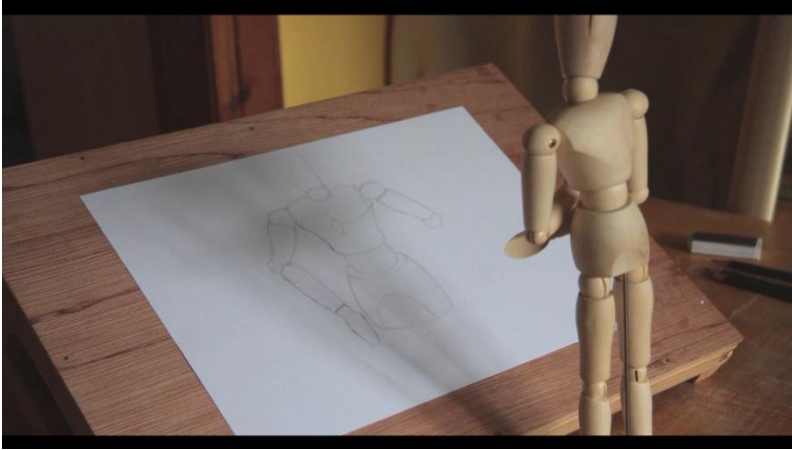


Finlay MacNeill H

A huge thank you to all senior students who have shown a commitment to making their folio work the best it could be by working outside class times for much of last term and Helen, our cleaner, for her continued tolerance of late night working and our creative mess.

Some Congratulations

Well done to **Bea Gregg** who won the Roddy Stewart Memorial Award with the film she is presenting for Advanced Higher Art and Design – “Inspire Others”. Bea intends to study film-making in Further Education.



Well done to **Gerry Reid** who has been offered a conditional place at Glasgow School of Art to study Architecture. You might remember that Gerry won the national Competition last year to design a Maggie Centre. Her prize of a week long, work experience at Richard Murphy Architects in Edinburgh and her portfolio got her through the interview in early March.



Lewis Reid has successfully applied for Digital Art and Design at Edinburgh College – we wish him luck! Lewis has already had much success in the gaming field by selling his Graphic Design work online. Work has been featured in Counter Strike Global Offensive one of the most popular PC games around.



Developing ideas for game characters

Travelling Gallery Design in Motion 23rd April 2015

Students and staff were bowled over by this taste of the future in Design. The V&A Museum of Design, Dundee in partnership with the Travelling Gallery presented an exhibition featuring the work of designers who have used digital technologies in their work. We saw Jewellery, Architecture, Fashion, Product, Gaming, Software and Textile Design, all awesome and inspiring. With digital technologies becoming more and more affordable it won't be long before we see evidence of these in the classroom.

Art Club

An outstanding year for Art Club....our heartfelt thanks go to Robert McCormack who diligently worked with this group – even during study leave! He writes: “This year in Art Club we have explored various media and techniques over a variety of topics to help evolve the artistic talent of the club. We have undertaken a range of projects that include – sculpture, portraiture, stencilling, sketchbook development, still life, location drawing, landscape painting and Graphic Design. The club has managed to run all year and I feel it has been very successful in developing student’s skills. I hope that the members of the club have enjoyed themselves and will come back next year.”

Camera/Photography Club

In addition to Art Club for next year we have just secured funding to buy equipment to start a Photography Club. Mrs Hay and Ms McCormack will be starting this in the new term – watch this space!

Culloden Viaduct Sketching Trip 15th June 2015

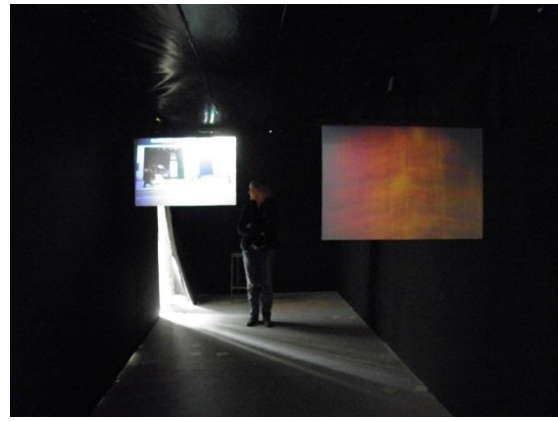
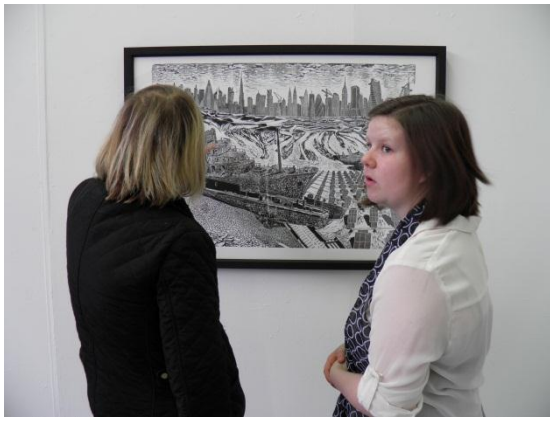


NADFAS Culloden Viaduct Exhibition 20th/21st June 2015 in Aid of Glasgow School of Art Restoration

Pupils and staff exhibited alongside local artists - sculptors, photographers, painters and printmakers - showing the results of the sketching trip and the exhibition was very well received. Over £5,000 was raised for the GSA restoration.

Gray's School of Art, RGU Aberdeen 23rd June 2015

Our annual venture to touch on creative life after school once again inspired and intrigued our students. “I enjoyed looking at the variety of works and techniques. It was also good to see what is involved in doing a degree at an Art School.” Neil Crawshaw. “I think it helped me to see the kind of level that I’d need to get my art work to if I wanted to consider going to an art school.” The Advanced Higher group enjoyed a private tutorial with Craig who discussed their chosen themes and gave guidance on how to progress their folios with University entrance in mind. The students got a flavour of behind the scenes and the lead up to the degree shows. A scheme to link with RGU throughout the year getting advice as folios develop helped our former student Clare Black who has just completed her first year at Gray’s studying Fashion Design. This link has been offered to this year’s crew if they wanted to apply to Gray’s at RGU.

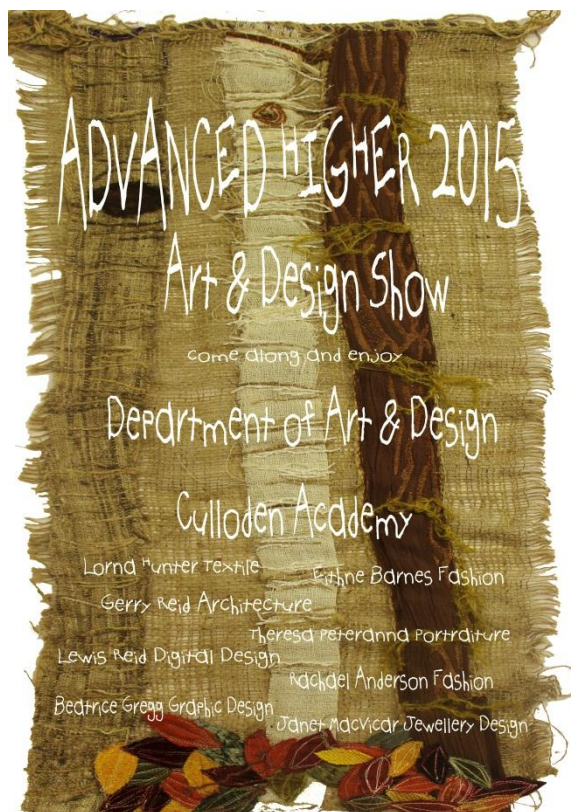


Hairspray Artwork



A real privilege to work across the school with teachers and pupils from other departments on set, props, costume, Graphic Design and publicity – hard work and great fun – what a brilliant show!

Annual Advanced Higher show



We wish all these students good luck in their future endeavour!

Senior School Induction Week

S5 & 6 took advantage of some great opportunities during our Senior School induction week from 8th-12th June. The week has been designed to support our students in their preparations and next steps for when they leave school, whether it be for Higher or Further Education, Jobs & Apprenticeships or a GAP year. Eilidh Lamont, a former pupil at Culloden Academy kicked us off with a talk about Project Trust – A GAP year organisation. She did a fantastic job in highlighting how beneficial a GAP year can be and she left a room full of inspired students thinking about how to sign up! Project Trust are a great GAP year organisation and we have had a number of past students complete a year with them. All have had an enriching and thoroughly useful time, which has enhanced their skills sets and made them more employable in the future. We also had Strathclyde University deliver a seminar to our S6 pupils about the UCAS application process and what to do over the summer in preparation for applying to University. Fiona Dowell with Skills Development Scotland spoke to our students about their next steps and decision making processes. Towards the end of the week, 40 of our S6 pupils completed their Buddy Training and it has to be said that they were an absolutely delightful group of young adults!! We are certain they will be outstanding buddies and role models for the new S1's and the rest of the school. For the second year running, we delivered our Careers Morning for S5 pupils at Smithton Church. The event is designed to give pupils an idea of the jobs on offer in Inverness and it is delivered through short 10 minute sessions. We had 35 local employers enthuse our students about their professions and many have kindly signed up to be part of the follow-up Interview process, which we are running through our PSE lessons after the summer holidays. This was a fantastic event and we are very hopeful of running it again next year with the current S4 pupils. The week was very successful and all of our senior students should be congratulated on representing themselves and the School so well.

Golf

Rory Franssen is enjoying an outstanding golf season. In recent weeks, he has amazingly had a hole in one at Brora and then another the following week at Nairn in the Club Championship 2nd round. Luckily for Rory he was not old enough to pay for the drinks!

For the first time in Nairn Golf Club's history two juniors made it to the Final of the Senior Club Championships. They put on a fine display of golf on a testing night playing from the blue tees. Rory finished runner-up to Sandy Scott of Nairn Academy who successfully won the Championship.

The pair both went on to win the Scottish Boys Team Championships at Murrayshall in Perth. Rory Franssen scored 73/68 and Sandy scored 77/67. Rory was runner-up in the individual championship and Sandy tied 5th. Jamie Mackintosh and Hamish McColm both worked really hard to get their handicaps down to 5 (Category 1) to enable them to qualify for the Championships.

Rory and Sandy have both been selected to represent Scotland in the 6 man team at the European Boys Team Championship in Finland next month. Good Luck to the Boys and the rest of the team.



Home Economics

During the recent P7 visit pupils timetabled to the department were introduced to the type of work that they will be doing. The teachers made delicious mixed berry smoothies for the pupils to taste. It was explained that the smoothies help meet the Dietary Goals for Scotland.

We are delighted to announce that we will be re-introducing fabric work to the curriculum for S1 and S2. This will take the form of a design brief and pupils creating a small fabric item in time for Christmas.

We have two competitions which we would like you to encourage your children to enter. Tourism and Hospitality is the single biggest employment sector in both the Highlands and Scotland. Learning about food gives pupils a flying start to jobs in this sector and they would learn valuable life skills. It helps develop their culinary talent and informs them about entry routes into the hospitality industry.

Rotary Masterchef Competition is organised by Inverness Culloden Rotary Club. The five Inverness Secondary Schools will take part in the competition which will take place between 14th September and 13th November 2015 and a chef will be attached to each school as an "adviser". The winner will be presented with a trophy and a certificate and this competition is open to all year groups. Each school puts forward 4 candidates for the competition.

FutureChef forms part of Springboard's high-profile national schools programme and is a four-staged nationwide culinary programme helping young people aged 12-16 to learn to cook. The programme encourages the next generation of young chefs and one talented student will be crowned FutureChef winner! There's something for everyone at each of the four stages of the FutureChef programme. In addition to the experience and skills gained, there are also fabulous prizes and benefits for all entrants, their family, teachers and schools. (See the website for further details of all stages of the competition www.springboard.uk.net)

- Win fantastic prizes such as holidays, cash and kitchen equipment
- Work with well-respected industry and celebrity chefs
- Develop invaluable cooking skills

The programme is open to all 12-16 year olds resident in the UK and who must be no more than 16 years of age at the date of the National Final on 21st March 2016.

The competitions aim to:

- Develop young people's understanding of food, culinary skills and key life skills
- Provide opportunities for practical work experience across all sectors of the industry

- Highlight the skills needed to become a chef whilst showing the variety of jobs, careers, and entry routes
- Build relationships between industry partners and schools
- Raise the profile of cooking in schools whilst supporting the food related curriculum

You do not have to be taking Home Economics to enter either of these competitions.

For more details and an entry form please speak to Mrs Macdonald or Mrs Patience. In school the heats for both competitions will take place during the last week of August. This gives entrants time to perfect their culinary skills over the summer holidays.

In common with almost all areas of the public sector, there are ever more constraints on school budgets. Consequently we have to reduce the number of practical cookery sessions during years S1 – S3. We would therefore ask if anyone has surplus produce from their gardens that they would pass this on to the Home Economics Department where we would make good use of it.

Similarly, if anyone has textiles or other sewing / craft materials in general that they no longer need, we would be very grateful for any such donations.

The Youth and Philanthropy Initiative Scotland

This year at Culloden the RMPS and English department teamed up for some interdisciplinary projects. The Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) is a structured curricular programme designed for secondary schools centered on youth voice, youth action and youth philanthropy. Pupils compete in groups by producing a presentation about a local charity they are passionate about in the hope of winning a £3000 grant to give to their charity which they will spend on important initiatives in our local community.

In RMPS pupils formed teams, and researched social issues in our local area. Pupils then investigated a number of charities, and how they are targeting these social areas. In order to raise awareness of this project and to encourage links within our community Culloden Academy arranged a charity fair where we had over twenty local charities setting up stations in our social area. Pupils had the opportunity to roam around and meet the charities that they had personal interests in, and the opportunity to ask more in depth questions as part of their research. We would like to take another opportunity here to thank all those involved in making the charity fair a success, as many parents were integral in arranging for charities to attend.

With lots of new information, pupils returned to class to pick a charity they felt passionate about. Pupils worked for a month researching their charities further by e-mailing, telephone interviews, and setting up appointments and volunteer opportunities on their own accord. Over 70 pupils in S3 undertook essential volunteer experiences and fundraising to enrich their knowledge on their charities and spend quality time with volunteers as well as the various people who receive help.



The English department put on a number of sessions about conducting research, and what makes a good presentation to aid pupils in their delivery. The next stage of the YPI process included class quarter finals where pupils performed a well-organized and structured presentation in groups to convince their peers of the importance of their charities work in our local community.



Twelve groups made the semi-final, with a further five progressing to the final which was held in our school theatre with over 250 people in the audience! All five groups were outstanding and captured their audiences with creative elements such as movies, documentaries, 'présis' and drama performances. After a tough decision our panel of judges concluded that the £3000 grant should be

awarded to 'Team Hope' who represented a local charity called SPEAK who offer young people critical support with mental health problems, an issue the girls felt was not given enough attention. Well done to Ainsley McDonald, Megan Wilson, Sarah Byers, Mabel Green and Rebecca Smit who won the first ever YPI competition at Culloden Academy.

The girls joined Miss Johnston from RMPS at the National YPI event in Perth in June to celebrate their success where they learned more about the programme, heard inspiring speeches from famous Scottish philanthropists, and watched performances from up and coming bands, as well as X Factor finalist Matt Cardle!

"Those of us that want to make a bigger difference now have the skills and the contacts to do that. We are setting up our own charity group here at Culloden to help make a difference."

"It allowed me to talk about something that means a lot to me. I felt that SPEAK deserved to be a part of YPI, even if we didn't win, at least people know it's out there and that's enough for me."

"It was a great experience getting to know the charity on a personal level. We learned a lot and gained more confidence and would love to do more charity work."



Fairtrade

Culloden Academy pupils have been working on Fairtrade projects in RMPS and Social Subjects. In RMPS pupils have been investigating the morality behind our food, and the incredible journey it makes to arrive in our homes. Pupils researched Fairtrade products from Malawi, South Africa, Thailand, Vietnam, India, Peru, Bolivia and Ghana and looked at the impact the Fairtrade logo is having as part of learning for sustainability.

In social subjects pupils spent one month learning about Malawi from historical, geographical, moral and political perspectives. Part of this unit encompassed Fairtrade. To link the two projects together a group of pupils helped Miss Johnston and Miss Dow launch the Malawi Rice project, where pupils sold 90kg of Malawian Fairtrade rice on behalf of NASFAM farmers who operate in the northern Karonga region of Malawi. The rice was £3 a bag and £270 is the approximate cost to send a Malawian child to secondary school for an entire year. Thanks to Culloden Academy pupils a Malawian child has a guaranteed place at a secondary school next year.

Pupils gave up their lunch times to make posters to advertise the Kilombero Rice, and set up a stall in the social area during Fairtrade Fortnight to promote the product. They even created various recipe cards which customers received with their rice to encourage some creativity in the kitchen.

NASFAM farmer Howard recently visited Inverness as part of a Fairtrade tour, and passed on his many thanks to the pupils at Culloden who have been involved in the project.



After now completing various units of work throughout S1-3 on Fairtrade,

Culloden Academy now has two Fairtrade awards to recognize our effort at embedding Fairtrade into the curriculum and we hope to gain the third and final award in the new session. Well done to all involved!
#globalcitizenship

Bees by Jed Russell

During the summer there can be between 60,000 and 80,000 bees living in a hive. They all communicate through a series of movements called the "waggle dance" and this can be used to relay the precise location of a food source. The honey bee will travel up to 4 miles every day just to collect a supply such as nectar, pollen or propolis. Nectar has a big impact on the honey we eat as it affects the colour, flavour and consistency. This honey that the hive produces is their food supply for the winter and as such when it is collected by the beekeeper the bees must be fed a sugar solution called ambrosia.

These are all things I did not know before I began my Silver Duke of Edinburgh award, 6 months ago. Prior to that I had never had the opportunity to look inside a hive or hold a frame of bees. I had no idea how interesting the internal working of a colony was and I would never have guessed that, in just a few weeks, I would have my very own bee suit and the skills to perform an inspection of my very own bee hive in my very own garden.

Across the world bees are very important. They pollinate flowers, plants and crops and receive very little thanks. It is estimated that one third of the food we eat would not be available if it was not for bees. Few are aware of how much their lives rely on the work of these tiny insects. However, the number of honey bees is declining and as beekeepers it is our responsibility to ensure that this magical creature remains in our fields. In many ways bees are the perfect pets; they do not require walking, cleaning and you only have to feed them a few times a year. Then at the end of the year to thank you for all this hard work they produce a nice fresh jar of honey which you can eat knowing that it was your bees that produced it.

Romania Trip by Talia Bagnall (Team Romania 2015)

This time last year, a small group of fifth year pupils were selected to travel to Romania with Blythswood, to run a holiday camp for disadvantaged children. After a busy year fundraising, we are now raring to go!

It does not seem that long ago since we were anxiously waiting outside the interview room, but it's amazing how fast time has flown by. We grew closer as a team through various fundraising events, such as climbing Ben Nevis, hosting a ceilidh, and putting our culinary skills to test with a curry night. It was hard work but always enjoyable, and we are grateful to all those who helped with our efforts.

Recently the team had a fantastic afternoon at Drummond School, helping with their sports day. We had an excellent time, meeting brilliant students and staff, to whom we are thankful for allowing us this experience before our trip.

It has been an excellent year working with each other and our terrific teachers, Mrs Muirhead and Mr Skinner. We leave on the 27th June and we're all incredibly excited to be spending two weeks in a new country, hopefully to make a difference to the lives of the people we meet there.



Peru Trip

Fifteen months ago we were told we were going. Now, on the 23rd June we are less than a day away. Nervous? Slightly! Excited? Definitely! We are all so grateful for all the effort and tireless hard work put in by Mr Kerr, Ms Burgess and especially Mrs Nicolson. We would also like to thank all of our supporters, friends, family and the generous general public without whom this trip would be impossible. Thanks again to all those involved and we will try to keep everyone updated whilst we are in Peru and be sure to share stories and photos when we return home. Best regards, **Peru Team**.

Silver DofE Practice Expedition by Calum MacPherson

"We arrived in Ullapool in high spirits, and before long we'd set off on our expedition. Day one was a slightly more demanding walk than we'd previously expected. However the whole group made the 17km to camp on time...but tired! The weather then took a turn for the worse and the morning of day two was extremely damp and windy. We also had the longest day ahead of us. With waterproofs and woolly hats, we continued to walk in driving rain, but nobody's spirits were deterred thanks to some questionable singing from the girls! The weather was much kinder to us on day three, however we had stopped for lunch too long, meaning we had to speed walk about 5km to make it to Croick on time...which we did...with ONE minute to spare! The practice expedition was a challenging yet enjoyable experience, and we are more than ready to now take on the greater demands of the qualifying expedition in August!"

35 of our new S5 pupils took part in this expedition. The qualifying routes in August are from Morvich to Plodda Falls, and the tougher Achnashellach Circuit.

21 pupils have succeeded at Bronze level, and a small group of S6 pupils are tackling Gold level, through the Open group. Well done to all DofE participants: the weather this expedition season has been awful but character-building!

Scottish Schools' Young Writer of the Year

Advanced Higher English pupil Rachael Simpson recently reached the final of the inaugural Scottish Schools' Young Writer of the Year competition. She was one of twelve entrants invited to attend the award ceremony in Glasgow on the 12th June. Rachael's review of a performance of the musical Cats was commended by the judges. Well done Rachael for this achievement, and good luck in your future career.

Commended
Rachael Simpson
Culloden Academy, Inverness



A theatre review with a great intro – the hilarious account of a doomed first scene.
Well-observed experience.

Double Winners

The Senior Boys football team completed the league and cup double, winning all 12 of their league matches and triumphing 5-4 in a pulsating League Cup final against Lochaber.

During the season the team were commended by a number of opposition coaches and referees for their attitude, conduct and skill. Well done to all the squad for being such a credit to Culloden Academy.

Final League Placings	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Culloden Academy	12	12	0	0	49	11	36
2. Lochaber HS	11	8	2	1	34	13	26
3. Dingwall Academy	11	8	0	3	37	15	24
4. Millburn Academy	11	7	1	3	30	19	22
5. Kingussie HS	11	5	3	3	22	18	18
6. Charleston Academy	11	3	4	4	34	33	13
7. Fortrose Academy	9	3	0	6	22	26	9



The Culloden Puppeteers Hit the Road - Two Weeks. Three Plays. Five Primary Schools. Seven Performances:



Culloden Academy's intrepid puppeteers are certainly not afraid of a challenge! Armed with their brand-new club t-shirts, they were ready to face the nurseries and Primary ones of our catchment area.

What they said:

Jessie: It was fun going out of school and going to the park.

Rachael: It was a good experience working with younger children. When we were in the park afterwards, a woman walking home with her kid came over to thank us saying 'my daughter really enjoyed the puppet show.'

Noor: I think the kids really enjoyed it as they were laughing, giggling and they were really curious about the puppets at the end.

Aimee: Great fun. I loved improvising around the script and making it a little bit different every time.

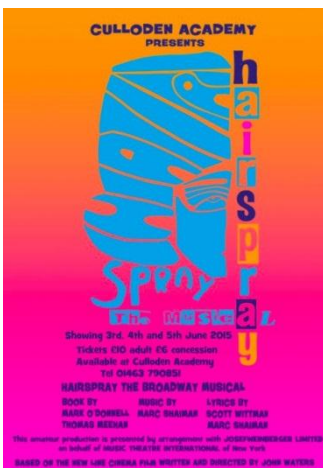
Rachael: We improved a lot: it was better to go and perform in front of an audience because you learn how to be more interactive. Our volume was a lot better towards the end of the tour.



The Big Boss, a tale of jungle rivalry; **The Paperbag Princess** and **The Birthday Party** (written by the pupils especially for this tour) went down well with their young audiences. Alison Hendry of Smithton Primary emailed: "Just wanted to say a big Thank You to you and your team of puppeteers. The children really enjoyed the shows, and were chatting about it when we got back to nursery. The shows were great, and you can tell that everybody has worked extremely hard on the production."

Hairspray- the Musical

Standing ovations at school productions are *not* the norm, so the fact that the audience were on their feet at **every** performance of **Hairspray-the Musical** speaks volumes about the quality and sheer energy of our committed cast.



Over three nights, leading lady Phoebe Heap (S3) sang her way into the hearts of the audience as lovable teenager Tracy Turnblad – a big girl with even bigger dreams.



As the first Musical Theatre collaboration between the Music and Drama departments, the Hairspray team comprised staff from every department in the school and pupils from every year group, making it a genuine whole school production. Local businesses also got involved, with hairdresser Carly Meldrum from *Gorgeous Hair and Beauty* (previous page) deserving a special mention for her gravity-defying Sixties hairstyles.



S2 Sports champions



S3 Sports champions



S4 Sports champions



Senior Sports champions



Culloden Academy's Young Enterprise team 'Charge' all passed their Young Enterprise Scotland Business Exam with the University of Strathclyde Business School.

Special congratulations to Harriet who achieved distinction and was also one of the top ten students in Scotland – well done Harriet!

S6 pupils above: Harriet Dixon, Karolina Huryn, Beatrice Gregg, Jessica Wan, Robyn Cockcroft and Eilidh Combe.

Well done and congratulations!

Christina Hitchmough 4CP2 won the book cover design category in the Project Remix competition run by the Children's Laureate, Malorie Blackman and the Book Trust. The web address for the press release is <http://www.childrenslaureate.org.uk/news-and-blog/news/99/>

Christina Hitchmough 4CP2 won the junior division handicap competition of the Inverness Field Archery Club.

Iain Crush 6KS2 scored a hat trick of tries playing for Highland Rugby Club during the Caledonia Bowl Final and helping to ensure their victory.

Lucy Burnside 5LG2 was named top student at a recent training course held at the Boddam Cadet Training Centre.

Charlotte Hill 3LG2 competed in the Spitzbergen 10k race on 6th June.

Former pupil **Anya Martin** who is part of a team of visual communication students at Inverness College who designed branding logos for the Castle Roy Charitable Trust.

The Advanced Higher Art pupils who took part in an exhibition of works inspired by the Culloden Viaduct to be exhibited at the Culloden Battlefield Visitor Centre in support of the campaign to raise funds for the rebuilding of the Glasgow School of Art.

Jude MacDonald 3KS2 will take part in a racing weekend at the Kames circuit in Ayrshire on 4th and 5th July.