



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER
CHRISTMAS 2015

Hello,

Once again, thanks to the Advanced Higher Graphic Communications class for putting together this new style newsletter.

Concerts- dances- and a wee bit of snow have been foremost in the school recently and once again the young people of Culloden Academy have been excellent ambassadors for their school and their community. Unfortunately due to very low ticket sales we did not have a S3/4 dance but in all other ways- a concert for local senior citizens, a concert for the community and our school dances, we celebrated the season well.

January will see the focus shift with Prelim exams, course deadlines and assessments dominating senior school and choice of course or subject becoming an issue for many of our younger pupils. If you are unsure about what options are available for your child, please come to the appropriate information evenings (dates below). Invites will be issued about ten days before the event and if you could collect it from the bottom of your child's bag and return it, that would be much appreciated.

I wish you all a happy and relaxing holiday and a healthy and successful 2016. I hope that over the holidays our young people don't forget the messages they have had recently about safety - safety on the roads, safety online, safety when out with friends. Have a great holiday and we'll all meet again on Thursday 7th January.

Best wishes,

J Vance



Advanced Higher Graph Comm students, from left to right: Robert McCormack, Emily Eadie, Andrew Stewart and Finlay MacNeill.

RECTORS WELCOME



CULLODEN
ACADEMY

KEY DATES

Spring term begins	Thursday 7 January 2016
Parent Council	Monday 11 th January (7pm)
S2 Parents' Evening	Wednesday 13 th January
S3 Parents' Information Evening	Wednesday 27 th January
S3 Parents' Evening	Wednesday 3 rd February
S4-5 Parents' Information Evening	Wednesday 10 th February
Holiday	Monday 15 th and Tuesday 16 th February
In-service day	Wednesday 17 th February
S4 Parents Evening	Wednesday 24 th February
S5/6 Parents Evening	Wednesday 2 nd March
Concert	Monday 14 th March
Last day of term	Thursday 24 th March
Summer term begins	Monday 11 th April

A MUSICAL WEEKEND

Culloden Academy was well represented at the Aviemore Weekend with the following pupils performing:

The 'Aviemore Weekend' is an excellent opportunity for young musicians from across the Highlands to perform at a high level in front of a relatively large audience.

There was great musical variety at the weekend, with performances ranging from Coisir G, a Gaelic choir to the Highland Youth Big Band. Prior to the performance, the musicians have rehearsals for most of the day. All of the performers stay in the Macdonald resort overnight, and enjoy the trip away from home. Personally, I really enjoyed getting to meet more people from the Highlands that are into music as much as I am.

Playing in the Big Band was great fun, and the time spent rehearsing over two weekends during the year was definitely worth the effort because the end result was brilliant.

(Daniel Wilby, Head Music Prefect)

[Highland Youth Windband](#) – Johannah Murray (S3), Neil Crawshaw (S4), Bradley McBride (S6) and Kirsten Moss (S6).

[Highland Youth Choir](#) – Isabelle Huxtable-Smith (S1) and Kirsty Thomson (S3)

[Highland Region Youth Orchestra](#) – Mark Green (S4), Ainsley MacDonald (S4), Beth Mackenzie (S4)

[Highland Youth Big Band](#) – Ruairidh Jones (S4), Sam Cain (S6), Daisy MacGowan (S6), Rory Maciver (S6) and Daniel Wilby (S6)

[Coisir G \(Gaelic choir\)](#) – Kirsty Crawford (S1), Eilish Crawford (S2), Colla MacDonald (S2), Megan Scott (S3), Ishana Graham (S4) and Kenna MacDonald (S4)

[SNAS \(Traditional Group\)](#) – Mabel Green (S4), Craig Robinson (S6) and Ellen Stewart (S6)

MUSIC WITHIN THE COMMUNITY



Christmas just wouldn't be the same without carols, ceilidhs and choirs and so the staff and pupils have been hard at work taking their talents to the community.

We kicked off the festive season with an entertaining afternoon for the senior citizens from the local area. The school's windband led much of the afternoon with a rousing rendition of some of Queen's greatest hits followed by 'Simple Gifts' and music from 'The Polar Express' which left the audience with that festive feeling. The band also led a selection of Christmas carols which the audience sang along to. On top of that, there were performances from other senior pupils who entertained the audience with an acoustic cover and an original composition. Teas, coffees and home baking made and served by senior pupils were welcomed and it's fair to say the cakes were fantastic. It wouldn't be Christmas without some ceilidh dancing so the PE department led our audience in a St Bernard's waltz and a military two step. Organised primarily by Talia Bagnall, a sixth year pupil, the afternoon was a great event enjoyed by all.
(Daisy MacGowan)



Still to happen; the Madrigals, the school's all girl a cappella group, will be paying a visit to the RNI community hospital where they will be entertaining elderly patients by singing some Christmas favourites.

ONLINE SHOPPING



Help raise school funds for new lighting/sound in theatre and big screen for the social area.

Please use our new shopping portal:
<http://www.schoolangel.org.uk/culloden-academy.html>.

1. Go to school angel
2. Find school Culloden Academy
3. Install 'Remind-Me'

Participating retailers give on average 5% of sales price to school. No registration, no login, no passwords, safe and simple. Amazon – Argos – M&S – Next – Debenhams – John Lewis – PC World and lots, lots more...



From left to right: Cameron Grant; Ben Docherty; Fraser Cameron; Rory Fraser; Maya Murphy and Chloe Innes. Other shifts on the stall were covered by Rhianna Bell, Scott MacDonald, Caitlin Kenley and Roddy Johnson.



The S6 Young Enterprise Team 'Cask' took part in the YES Christmas Trade Fair in Inverness on Saturday 12th December and they had a busy day of trading.

They braved the cold and set up the stall at 8.15 am. Their **tea light holders and book/tablet rests**, all made by the team from oak whisky barrel staves, sold out. Sales revenue was **£466.60**.

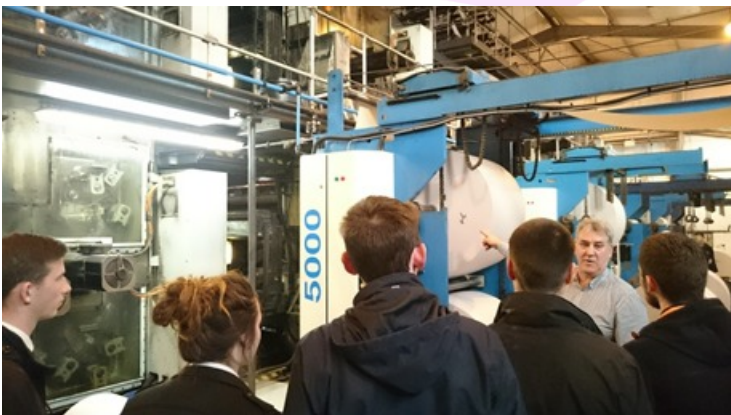
Well done Cask!

This year's S6 Young Enterprise team are Fraser Cameron – Managing Director, Scott MacDonald – Financial Director, Rhianna Bell – Sales Executive and Administration, Chloe Innes – Creative Director, Caitlin Kenley and Cameron Grant – Fundraising and Quality control, Roddy Johnson, Maya Murphy – Marketing and Advertising, Rory Fraser and Ben Docherty – Sales Executives. The team came up the name 'Cask' which relates to their product perfectly. They are upcycling the oak wood from whisky barrels to make clocks, book holders and tea light candle holders. On the 9th of November they all took part in a Dragons Den event in Nairn where they pitched their idea to four entrepreneurs. The Dragons gave them all constructive criticism and advice on next steps with their products. They were awarded £40 to help toward production of their idea. The whole event was extremely worthwhile and an excellent learning activity toward the process of running a business.

TECHNICAL

Advanced Higher Graphics

The Advanced Higher Graphics class were given the opportunity to visit the Scottish Provincial Press Printing Plant in Dingwall and were able to watch the newspapers, such as the Highland News being printed. Ronnie Moffat the printing manager gave us a tour of the building which provided us with a real insight into the workings of a modern large scale print works. We were also given the chance to see offset lithography in action, which will really help us to understand this area in our course. This trip was a fantastic experience which we were able to see everything from the articles being edited to the finished newspapers being stacked. We would highly recommend this trip to next years Advanced Higher students as it was really fun and worthwhile.



Property and Land Surveyors Visit

The Property and Land Surveyors came in to take a laser scanning of the theatre this term and we were able to sit in on them doing their scanning. They were able to demonstrate the laser scanning process and tell us all about the equipment they had brought with them. The scanners they were using were Leica Scanners and were worth a total of £150,000, the surveyors showed as some of their previous projects which included many familiar sites such as the Victorian Market and Inverness Castle. The process of laser scanning was very interesting and we were even given the opportunity to help setup a scanner. The surveyors visit gave us an insight into real world graphics in an architectural and engineering environment and will be very beneficial to the architectural section of our course.



Third year Design and Manufacture

The third year design and manufacture classes have just completed an innovative new project where they were asked to create a production line. The classes were split into “cell” groups and had to manufacture 20 identical parts each; all being quality assured and checked by their own team. When complete the team foreman collected the team payment for successful manufacture. An assembly line was created and a project that would have taken 9 weeks if built individually and 6 weeks including painting. This has been a great opportunity for our third year pupils to experience real life production and planning systems, working as a team and improving their accuracy and communication skills. Well done to all who took part.



RC Modelling Club

During next term we will be starting a RC Modelling club. The aim of the club will be to create and build radio controlled gliders and planes. The club will also fly the finished models. The school fund has awarded the club £250 which should go some way to getting the club started. However we are currently looking for any donations of any old Radio Controlled Models or Equipment, if so please pass this onto the Technical Department.



Computer Graphics Club

Due to the very keen S1 cohort working on graphics projects at lunchtime the technical department will be starting a formal lunchtime graphics club. Keep an eye on the notices for details.



DRAMA



Children's Theatre Showcase

All Culloden Academy National 4/5 Drama pupils participated in a showcase for primary school pupils in September. Pupils created their own performances from a stimulus and faced an entirely new challenge: creating something which would appeal to an audience of 7-10 year-olds! Our feeder primaries Balloch and Duncan Forbes each sent us an audience of Primary 5s and 6s who descended en masse to the Theatre here at Culloden Academy.

Our pupils did us proud – the shows featured dancing and acrobatics, monsters and aliens, magic waterfalls, a crown-decorating challenge, a giant rocket, high-speed chases and evil villains. Incredibly well done to all involved. The audience's words speak for themselves:

'Thank you for the show, it was brilliant, fabulous and amazing. My favourite was the space show. It was funny, exciting and imaginative.' (George)

'I really enjoyed all of it, but my favourite part was the dancing; it was amazing!' (Jasmine)

A Dragon in the Gingerbread House?

The Culloden Puppeteers continue their intrepid progress. Not content with creating a book trailer for a competition (watch on youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4iijm-nuzQ>), they moved straight on to our next project – a Christmas play, entirely devised by our pupils, scripted by Mrs Henderson and to be performed with marionettes (string puppets) to the Balloch Primary school P2s on 15th December.

Also, a quick heads-up: The manager of Waterstone's Inverness is keen for us to do a Saturday morning performance around Easter, based on picture books. It's likely to be a showcase of three plays, open to the public. We are very excited to be working towards this next!



BOOK TRAILER WIN FOR PUPPETEERS

A Culloden Academy lunchtime puppetry club has struck gold in a national book trailer competition. Multi-award winning novelist Teri Terry launched a trailer competition for her latest novel ***Mind Games*** in February, with schools and individuals invited to enter. With the deadline at the end of November, participants had ample time to make their entries original. A fabulous effort from everybody involved.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Culloden Academy was mentioned in the 2014-15 National DofE Achievement Report, on account of 100% completion rate last year, with all 42 of our first Bronze cohort completing in the first year of us running the awards. This year we have done it again! All Bronze level pupils completed, and many are now progressing on to Silver and Gold level. 35 of our now S5 pupils passed their Silver expeditions last term, trekking across the country from Ullapool to Croick, then Morvich to Plodda Falls. Two teams conquered the demanding 30 mile Achnashellach Circuit route for their qualifying expedition. 21 pupils have signed up for Gold in 2016. This session, Mr Airey is teaching the skills to a new group of 28 Bronze level pupils in S3; while Mrs Muirhead will oversee the Silver and Gold programmes. We already have one parent helping to lead Silver expeditions, which is fantastic. If any other parents are interesting in helping out in any way, please contact Dr Vance, or Mrs Muirhead.

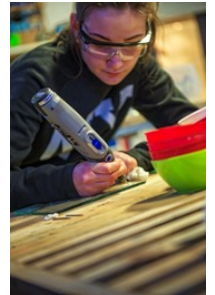


ART & DESIGN



AH Lunch with the Medics 17/11/1

Catherine the medical student from Aberdeen University shared a lunch in the department chatting about university life, personal statements and guiding some of the Advanced Higher with their “Anatomy” based folios. She completed her Higher Art & Design in S6 due to her workload with science subjects in S5. She commented on how her Art & Design qualification has helped her with the manual dexterity required in surgery.



Northland Creative Glass Centre – Portfolio Program 13th -16th November 2015

We took the highland coastal route up North to a weekend at the centre in Lybster, Caithness . This opportunity was open to all school in the highlands and only 10 pupils got accepted. We stayed in the onsite accommodation which allowed us to have 2 full days in the glass workshop. During these days there were a number of different artists; a jewellery designer, two visual artists and a sculptor, that worked close by. They spared their time to share their artistic journey, showing exhibited work to inspire us and looking at their place in creative industry. Some of these artists led workshops using their creative techniques which we as students had fun in experimenting with; adding new media to our portfolio of work. Many thanks to the Highland Arts Hub who funded this trip; we look forward to our return in April for the follow up weekend. Caitlin Kenley and Robert McCormack

Check out our updated - “Career Pathways from Art & Design”

www.cullodenart.wordpress.com/careers-page/



Highland Decorative and Fine Art Society - Advanced Higher Art & Design

This term we have enjoyed lectures on “The Art of the Passport” “War Artists” and “The Cuisine of Art and the Art of the Cuisine” down at Smithton Church Hall. The lectures have been interesting and open up topics and new areas to explore in our cultural heritage and that of others. The members of the society love us coming down and being part of the group. At the December lecture they had a raffle which raised funds for “The Young Arts” aspect of their work. We benefit annually from this with a sponsored, Life Drawing Class and then a printmaking workshop. We are really grateful for the opportunities that this link facilitates.

HDFAS Life Drawing 28th and 29th November 2015

Led by Dean Melville the class allowed 9 Advanced Higher students from Culloden Academy, Nairn Academy, Fortrose Academy, and Inverness Royal Academy to work together with a model over a 2 day intensive course. The resulting work will feature in folios for SQA submission and Art School entrance.



Fashion in Art & Design - Draping on the Stand Workshops 23rd 24th and 26th Nov. 2015

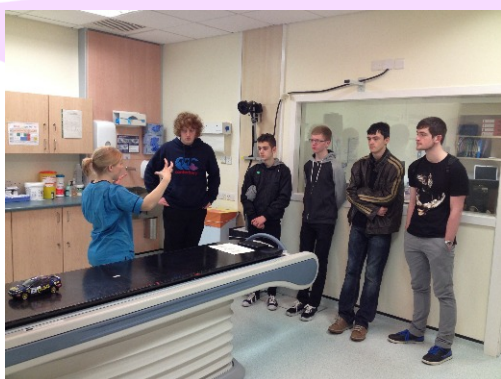
Thanks to Ms McCormack who shared her knowledge from a recent workshop in Dumfries House Ayrshire to allow our students work with fabric to reach professional standards. This will help for SQA submission and entrance to Art School.



PHYSICS



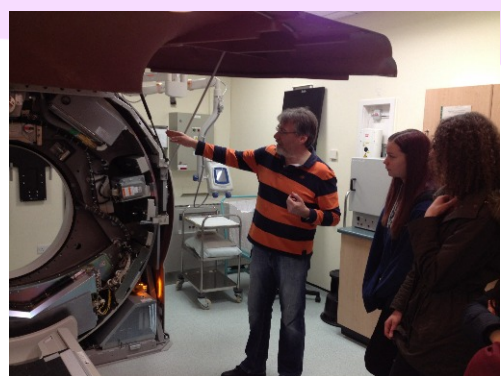
S3: As part of their S3 BGE physics course students have completed units on Electronics and Transport. Having studied the use of air bags in car safety, students were tasked with completing *the egg drop challenge* where limited resources were provided to protect an egg dropped from a height of 5 metres. The vast majority of eggs survived due to the ingenuity of the students.



Radiographer and former Culloden Academy student Emma Rochford explains the use of the CT scanner



Maureen Beange demonstrates how a patient is prepared on the LINAC



Ian Foster shows the internal workings of the wide bore CT scanner

S4: National 5 Physics students are working towards their prelim in January while National 4 are completing the unit on Electricity & Energy. All S4 Physics students were invited to spend the morning of Saturday 5th December with the Medical Physics Department of Raigmore Hospital to see radiography in action.

S5/6: National 5 students are preparing for their prelim in January. For Higher and Advanced Higher their prelim will be at the beginning of February.

BIOLOGY



The Advanced Higher Biology class have been gaining experience of fieldwork. In August we carried out surveys of invertebrates living in streams at Aigas Field Centre, looking at the effect of water speed, pH and oxygen level on their distribution. Last month we also gained experience of studying animal behaviour at the Highland Wildlife Park, using ethograms to study behaviour patterns in captive Japanese macaques and Amur tigers.

HISTORY

The Lessons from Auschwitz Project

In September we took part in 'The Lessons from Auschwitz Project' which allows students like ourselves to further our knowledge and understanding of the world's most devastating genocide, the Holocaust, which is thought to have taken the lives of around six million people. There are four parts to the programme, an introductory seminar, a one day visit to Poland, a follow up seminar and a final project. This encourages us as Holocaust Educational Trust Ambassadors to disseminate what can happen if prejudice and racism become acceptable.

During the visit to Auschwitz – Birkenau we saw with our own eyes one of the world's strongest links to the genocide which took place there and at similar camps across Europe. Being a part of this project has taken great lengths in understanding the vast effects of the suffering that took place during the Holocaust.

One of the most important messages throughout the experience was to be aware that millions of lives had been lost but to truly understand individual loss and suffering. We found the effort made by the guides and group leaders to try to humanise the people we heard about, both the victims and the perpetrators, incredibly thought provoking and remarkable. From the first seminar this was a central focus, with an account from a Jewish survivor, Zigi Shipper, to allow us to hear from someone

who had lived this terror first hand. This instilled in our minds the victims of the Holocaust as human beings who are not to be lost in extreme figures. Zigi Shipper's testimony covers his time in the Łódź Ghetto, the escape of his father to the Soviet Union, never to be seen again, and working at a railway yard whilst imprisoned. Zigi was only 14 years old when he was sent to Auschwitz – Birkenau in 1944. Remarkably, Zigi then survived a death march to be liberated by British soldiers in May 1945. Following this he spent three months in hospital being treated for the effects of overeating which was common amongst surviving prisoners as they were very malnourished. Today, Zigi lives in England where he married and had a family after arriving in 1947. Something particularly remarkable from Zigi's testimony was the impression he created, he has not allowed his life to be consumed with hatred towards the perpetrators and this was useful preparation to our visit as it allowed us to gain in-depth opinions. We feel these lessons of humanity have had the most profound influence overall. Another beneficial topic, highlighted the roles of individuals and the difference those who chose not to be a bystander to the Holocaust could make. This was further explained to us by a rabbi who accompanied us on the trip.

After being involved with this project we agree that the Holocaust holds definite contemporary relevance today. The recent criminal trial of the Auschwitz book keeper highlights the question of the role of individuals as he claimed to not be responsible for the murders. In contrast, the British spy, Frank Foley is estimated to have saved 10,000 lives and is a heroic example of an individual who made another type of choice at this time of despair.

This shows that we heard the stories of the people from both sides, about incredible resilience and strength, and also about perpetrators who were able to be both kind and compassionate but also capable of participation in terrible atrocities. This was something that struck with us and demonstrated perfectly how important it is to view people from the past as individuals as they are capable of such contrasting actions with such complex motivations behind them. These examples of crucial lifesaving actions versus lack of intervene that took place at Auschwitz and other concentration camps have taught us the need to share these lessons of the Holocaust. Furthermore there is a need to



remember everyone involved in these events to prevent history repeating itself. Prior to our visit to Auschwitz – Birkenau we were very unsure of what sort of experience we would have and what to expect from the different sites that we would be visiting. However we had not expected to leave with more questions than we had before the visit. An estimated 1.1 million people were murdered at Auschwitz - Birkenau, it would be less painful to avoid it all together however we feel it is a very important life experience as ‘hearing is not like seeing’. Today, Auschwitz – Birkenau holds a mass of evidence including personal possessions, the prison cells of Block 11 and ruins of the crematorium. Yet being able to fathom the crimes against humanity committed there remains a grand task.

We agree that this experience has confirmed our aspirations of continuing studies in history and has created a goal to travel to other similar sites, potentially Holocaust related, as our time with ‘Lessons from Auschwitz’ has strengthened a passion in this subject. As the Holocaust moves further into history this only heightens the need to share its lessons and insure we are not bystanders to the world’s issues of today.

Article written by *Olivia Callum* and *Ewen Mearns*

HOME ECONOMICS

Christmas Textile Project

S1 and S2 had the opportunity to try out their sewing skills this term. This took the form of a design brief where they had the choice of creating a felt tree decoration, a Christmas pinflair bauble or a cross stitch card. Many pupils produced beautiful pieces of work which will no doubt take pride of place on their family's Christmas trees this year and for many years to come.



Nationals 3, 4 and 5

Each year we are fortunate to have some of Aberdeen University medical students come to talk to some of our classes. This year our National 3, 4 and 5 pupils benefited from talks on hand washing and food poisoning prevention. There is always a great deal of amazement and hilarity when they bring the "glitter machine" and the pupils realise that their hand washing leaves much room for improvement.

Special Occasion cakes

S3 tried out some product development. The pupils had to design, plan and produce a cake for a special occasion. They now have to evaluate the quality, effectiveness and appearance of their cakes. There was no shortage of decorative talent. In fact some cakes were so creatively decorated it seemed a shame to eat them.



Inverness Rotary Masterchef Competition

The Year of Food and Drink 2015 gave the Inverness area the opportunity to showcase local produce and provenance. It raised awareness of Scotland's restaurants, hotels, food producers, B&Bs, takeaways, cafes and visitor attractions. Food is an integral part of the tourism experience. Sampling traditional dishes and local produce is the second most popular activity undertaken by visitors to Scotland.

Not only did this competition encourage youngsters to take an interest in food, cooking skills and hospitality as a potential career, it also emphasises how important it is to source food locally, wherever possible, in order to minimise food miles and support local producers.

This competition was sponsored by Williamson Foodservice, the main theme running through the competition was the availability and use of local and Scottish produce.

In addition to the main sponsors, Williamson Foodservice, who supplied the vegetables free of charge, Coast and Glen supplied all the seafood required, also free of charge.

The final of this competition was held in the new UHI Inverness Campus in front of the public and invited guests on Tuesday 10th November. The school was represented by Erin Kelly 3DV2, along with her helper, Amy Innes 3DV2.

The final pupils had to produce a three-course menu, buy the required food and cook a meal for two top Scottish chefs, Mark Greenaway and Brian McLeish. Their score was combined with that of round three to form the final mark. In round three Erin spent a day in the Drumossie Hotel under the guidance of the chef and in the evening she cooked a two-course meal for two judges. She gained twenty four points out of twenty five.

Erin, aided by her adviser, award winning chef Alan Little of the Riverside Restaurant on Greig Street, Inverness, came up with this excellent 3 course menu:

To Start....

Pan seared Ardgay wood pigeon fillet served on a warm salad of wild mushrooms, Stornoway black pudding croutons and wilted rocket drizzled with an Arran mustard and cider vinegar dressing.

To Follow...

Oven roasted Scrabster hake finished with a brown shrimp butter, set on a parsnip puree with sauteed cabbage, spring onion and Great Glen venison and pork chorizo.

To Finish...

Wester Hardmuir bramble and raspberry cheesecake with apple jelly and homemade shortbread.

On any other day she would probably have won but she was narrowly beaten by an excellent candidate from Millburn



S2 WRITING COMPETITION

This term some pupils from S2 English, volunteered to enter writing competitions. Rachael Taylor, David MacLaren and Lily McGlennon entered the McCash Poetry Competition which challenged the pupils to write a poem in any variety of the Scots language. Rachael then went on to enter the Sir Walter Scott Competition along with Alex Wortley. Following the tradition of the great Scottish author, the girls were required to write a short story with a historical setting. Rachael set her story in World War 1 with a moving twist at the end as the story moved towards World War 2. Alex set her story in Roman times and made excellent use of realistic historical details.

We wish all participants the best of luck!

ROMANIA TEAM



Four of last year's team are travelling back to Marghita in December, to visit the children and help distribute shoe boxes. This shows fantastic commitment and willingness to support underprivileged children in an on-going way.

This year the children out in Romania produced beautiful handmade Christmas cards (quilling) which have been brought over to Inverness, and can be purchased from the school, to raise money for a class trip next summer for the special needs pupils in Marghita school.

If you would like to support this on-going work, please contact Mrs Muirhead.

Eight senior pupils are actively fundraising in order to run a camp for very poor and fostered kids in Marghita, NW Romania for the last week of June and first week of July 2016. So far they have climbed Ben Macdui and organised a very enjoyable Ceilidh night. Next events include a curry night at Smithton Free church on Friday 27th November as well as catering at the Christmas concert and parents' evenings. Please support these events if you can! We will have baking, teas, coffees and a raffle at the S1 parents' evening on 25th November. All the funds go to Blythswood care, who organise this trip.



**FROM EVERYONE
AT CULLODEN
ACADEMY
HAVE A SAFE
AND HAPPY
CHRISTMAS!**

