

# FORTROSE ACADEMY

## JANUARY NEWSLETTER



**Please note that the Adverse Weather information line has been changed to an 0800 number. The new number is 08005642272 Pin - 041040**  
**For more information see the Adverse Weather page - on the Information for Parents tab of the school website**  
[www.fortroseacademy.co.uk](http://www.fortroseacademy.co.uk)

**The school has to check that the details we hold about your children are correct. This includes all phone numbers, email addresses, contact names, medical information and doctor's name.**

**All parents will receive a text message at some stage in the next few months asking for this update and we would appreciate your co-operation to complete this task.**

A Happy New Year to you all. I hope everyone had a good break and that you were able to recharge your batteries. It's as busy as ever at the school with the practice exams for seniors already upon us.

The weather has been challenging and we were forced to close on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January due to widespread power cuts. On Saturday we had to open the school as an emergency centre – very few people came in, probably because the power came back on – nevertheless it was a worthwhile exercise. It was difficult for the Council to communicate that there was an emergency because of the lack of power. I'm sure that the Black Isle community looks after its own in these situations.

Option choices are coming in and we have started discussions with the Authority on staffing and budget issues. We'll keep you updated on progress.

Please get in touch if you need to discuss anything

Donnie Mackenzie

Rector

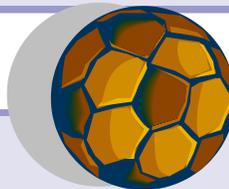
**Well done to the senior boys who defeated Portree High School 5-3 today in the second round of the North Of Scotland Cup.**

**Also, congratulations to:**

**Struan Ross for winning the Highland School Badminton U19 Boys singles tournament.**

**Struan and Robert Giddy For Winning the U19 Boys doubles tournament.**

**Struan and Joy McFarlane for winning the U19 Mixed doubles tournament.**



**January 2015**

## **Football**

The Senior Girls football team has qualified for the Semi Final of the North of Scotland Cup and the final of the Highland League Cup. In the North of Scotland Cup they will have an away fixture to a Secondary school in Aberdeenshire or Aberdeen. They are still undefeated for the 2014-15 season. The Senior Boys and U15 boys are due to play Millburn Academy in the next round of the North of Scotland cup. These fixtures will be played in the next couple of weeks.

## **Physical Education Participation**

Over the past few months some pupils have been using text messages to excuse them from Physical Education (P.E). We fully appreciate that sometimes pupils will be unable to gain a note from home on the night before or morning of the day they are due to have P.E. It is admirable that many pupils have the intuition to gain some form of information from a parent/guardian excusing them from Physical Education when they cannot get a written note.

However, in order to ensure our 'note' policy is applied fairly to all pupils, it is important that anyone using a text message to excuse them from P.E still takes in a written note from home on the next school day or next time they have P.E. All notes must be signed and dated accordingly.

## **Basketball**

The Senior Boys basketball team have qualified for the knockout stages of the Scottish Cup. They have been drawn away to Braes High School in Falkirk.

## **Sky Sports Project**

Following last year's success we are running the Sky Sports 'living for sport' project again. This year the focus is on S1 girls and developing their skills and confidence to be able to participate in a range of events at sports day in June. We are fortunate enough to have Commonwealth Gold Medallist as our mentor again this year and he will be visiting the school at various times over the coming months.

## **Upcoming Dates**

- Scottish Schools Indoor Athletics Event Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February
- Ross Sutherland Cross Country Meet at Alness Academy Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February
- North Of Scotland Cross Country Meet at Gordonstoun Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February
- S1 Seafood In Schools follow up events at Fortrose Academy Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> of February & Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> of March
- U16 Badminton Tournament at Dingwall Academy Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March

## **Twitter**

Please tell us about your sporting successes and experiences by following our PE twitter page @fortrose\_pe



## ENTERPRISE SUCCESS

### Highland Hospice Young Apprentice Final 2015

The Fortrose Academy Highland Hospice Young Apprentice team would like to thank staff, pupils, parents and members of the local community for the continual support we have received throughout the duration of the fundraising challenge.

The competition final was held in the Inverness Town House on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January where the team gave a 20 minute presentation to 3 judges about how we approached the competition. We were delighted to be able to announce



we had raised a fantastic **£4702.30** from 18 events organised and run over a 15 week period. The competition was judged on showing initiative, the quality of presentation and the total amount earned. We were delighted when it was announced we were this year's winners of the Highland wide

competition.

We were extremely thankful to Highland Hospice for making this opportunity available to us. We appreciate the support of the busy Business Studies department for allowing us to take up this enterprise challenge, and particularly Mrs Dawson for giving up lunchtimes to help. Through the process we were able to develop many different business skills including communication, team working, organisation and finance skills which we know we will be able to use in the future.

The prize for the competition was a team shield and individual medals and iPad minis for each team member.

*Jody Anderson, Kirsty Evans, Shona Gilmore, Keira Macleod, Isla Mackay*

**A massive thank you to all who donated items, sold and bought tickets for our Christmas Hamper – we raised £655. The winners were:**

**Miss C Stephenson, Ian Brown, Luke and Natasha MacNaught, Chloe Tuach, Mrs Sweenie, Sarah Miller, Jane Young**



#### German Exchange

We have had 6 very successful exchanges with our German partner school, the Welfen Gymnasium, in Schongau, Bavaria, and we would like to try to organise this again for pupils this session.

We are lucky to have a partner school set in such a beautiful area and with staff and pupils who are as enthusiastic about the exchange as we are. We are very keen to maintain this link and hope to have enough pupils interested this year to allow it to go ahead. The German school usually has about 70 pupils who express an interest but they will take a group of around 20. We need to have a minimum of 10-12 pupils to take to Germany and will look for extra host families as necessary.

The dates will depend partly on how quickly we can confirm numbers. We will plan to go to Germany in October (the last Friday of the holidays) and the German group would come here either in September 2015 or else in June 2016 if they are unable to book reasonably priced flights for September.

Pupils who have taken part in the exchange in the past have found it a rewarding and fun experience and many are still in touch with their partners. Parents have commented that it was a positive experience for the whole family and there have been several private family visits following on from the school exchange.

Please contact Miss Adamson or Mr Ferns if you're interested in finding out more.

## What is pupil voice?

Pupil voice is a group in Fortrose Academy made up of pupils from S1-S6. Our main aim is to represent the pupils by becoming their voice and giving their views to senior staff who can make a difference; we try to achieve this by holding drop in sessions in which we have one to one conversations with pupils who have ideas as to how we can improve the school, we are also planning on attending assemblies so we can further emphasise our need to represent pupils and make sure that they too have a voice. We also have a pupil voice notice board for up and coming events—it's located outside Mr Fraser's room and we highly recommend that you give it a quick look so that you are up to date on all pupil voice related events. Also if you have any further questions or enquiries then don't be afraid to approach any of us, there should soon be a list of members on the notice board if you're curious as to pupil voice and its members. Thank you and we hope to hear your views and opinions on the school.

### **Lost Property**

**All Lost Property will be on display opposite reception on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February – all unclaimed items will be bagged up and sent to RagBag**

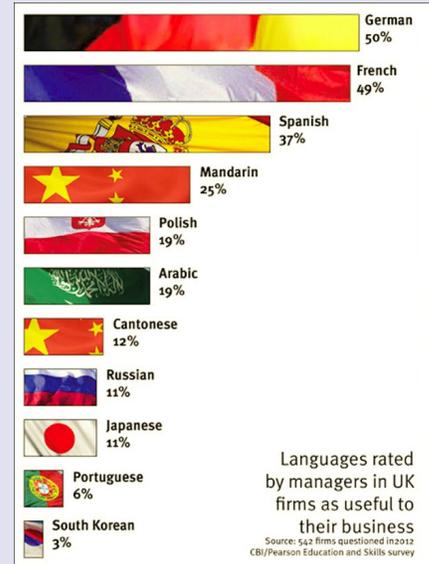
A few slides from the Assembly talk from SCILT – which promotes Modern Languages— presented to our current S3 pupils last term



**SCILT** Scotland's National Centre for Languages  University of Strathclyde Glasgow

- team-working
- oral communication
- problem-solving
- intercultural skills
- interpersonal skills
- presentation skills
- organisational skills
- time management

*By learning a language, you develop ALL of these skills*



**SCILT** Scotland's National Centre for Languages  University of Strathclyde Glasgow

**Fact or Fiction?**

- Everyone speaks English.
- 75% of the world's population do not speak any English at all.
- Scotland doesn't really need languages to improve its economy.
- Scotland is losing approximately £0.5 BILLION in potential income every year because we do not have enough people with language skills.
- 83% of 14/15 year olds in Sweden can cope (at a basic level) in a foreign language.
- In England it's only 14%.

If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart.



## REBOOT PROJECT

In December I took part in a two day 'Build your own and Take it home' computer course which run in partnership with Reboot and Fujitsu.

I learnt to re-build and program a computer and also about keeping safe online.

It also was an opportunity to meet with other Young Carers within the school.

By Teal Skinner 3C



### YOUNG ENTERPRISE ASPECT BRAVE THE COLD

Well done to our Young Enterprise team Aspect who won the 'Most Current Product Award' at the Young Enterprise Highland & Moray Christmas Market held in Inverness on 13<sup>th</sup> December. The team had a successful day selling their products and enjoyed the chance to sell to the general public. Thanks to all pupils, parents and staff who came along to support them. Please like them on Facebook (search for Aspect) to get updates on their progress as well as to keep up-to-date on next sales events.



### **Scottish Chamber Orchestra Workshop Concert October 2014**

Every year, all schools in Highland are invited to participate in a workshop run by the S.C.O followed by a narrated live performance of the piece featured in the workshop. This year the piece was a four movement work called Arktis Arktis, written by Karen RehnQuist. The piece was north of Canada. During the workshop, instrumentalists from the orchestra visited Fortrose Academy to work with S4, S5 and S6 students. Parts of the piece were discussed in detail, improvised, performed and recorded. The performance at Eden Court included a short narration to highlight a number of concepts found in the music, with details from the composer who was also present. Students had an enjoyable time at both the school workshop and the live performance and the Music Department look forward to welcoming the Scottish Chamber Orchestra back next year.



**Thank you for the Music!!**

**The Christmas Concert was a real treat—thanks to all of you who took part and to the Music team—headed by PT Alison Gilliland—who put this lovely occasion together.**

## Barcelona Interview

Barcelona was a highly enriching experience that I had the pleasure of enjoying with many people including Adam, Jason and Berwick. All three kindly took the time out for an interview to discuss the highs and lows of the trip:

### **Overall, how did you find the Barcelona trip? Was it as good as you anticipated it to be?**

**Berwick:** It was a great trip; I loved it. I'd go as far as saying it's my favourite trip that I've been on with the school. It really was just a great trip all round. I've been before but this time round it was much better – mainly because it was the second time and I wasn't so worried about getting lost. I could relax a bit more.

### **What was your favourite day/particular activity?**

**Jason:** My favourite day was the day we went on the cable car system because the weather was really nice and we got to see all of Barcelona from the sky. I remember getting a cup of coffee at a café at the top of the cable car which was wonderful.

### **How did you find the Spanish people? Did you cope with the language barrier?**

**Adam:** Did I cope? No! I don't know any Spanish so that didn't really help but, luckily, a lot of them spoke English. Anyone that didn't speak any English we had no chance with!

### **Barcelona has a reputation for being an area full of pickpockets – did you encounter any problems with this sort thing?**

**Jason:** There were a few situations when I could recognize pickpockets around us but it was just a matter of always being on top of it, always being aware of who was around you, and as long as you did that there was pretty much no way you they could get your stuff.

### **How did you find the accommodation? Were your roommates easy to live with?**

**Berwick:** I liked the Hostel. It's good for what you're paying for – it's a bed for the night. We were only really ever there for a bit of relaxation and some free time so it was all we really needed.

### **How did Barcelona compare to any previous school trips that you've been on?**

**Adam:** I went to Belgium last year. I think they were both the same in terms of enjoyment. I liked them both and would happily go on both trips again if I could. They are both very good trips.

### **Did you learn anything from the trip?**

**Jason:** I learnt a lot about living in a different environment and tailoring yourself to that environment. So things like getting on the Metro train at the right time, how to behave in certain places and when to pick the pace up. The experience of being by myself in a different country is the biggest thing I'll take away from this experience.

### **Is there anything you can take from the trip that could benefit you in the future?**

**Adam:** I guess the responsibility of things like having to get onto the right train and getting off at the right stop will help me. Constantly meeting deadlines and being given such independence and still managing to be responsible is certainly something I can take and use in the future.

### **Did you find things in Barcelona comparatively cheaper? Did using the Euro phase you in any way?**

**Berwick:** Yes, it's always cheaper in Barcelona than it is here. Everything seems to be cheaper. I actually enjoyed using the Euros, I prefer them. One thing that was difficult was the different sizes of the coins – in Britain we have clear differences in the sizes of our coins, but with euros it's not as easy to separate them so easily.

### **Were the teachers good fun? Did you win any prizes in the 'Barcelona 2014 Awards Ceremony'?**

**Jason:** The teachers were especially good fun – I felt that I connected with them much more than I ever could at school. I think we all formed this bond that stays with you in school when you get back, you just know the teachers are really good fun as well as being really clever and well-organised at the same time.

### **Would you recommend the Barcelona trip to anyone thinking of going on it in future years?**

**Jason:** I would absolutely recommend it and I think it's the one trip you should definitely consider if you're thinking of going away with Fortrose Academy.

**Adam:** Absolutely – its good to go on for the fun aspect but also there's an educational side to it so definitely consider going.

**Berwick:** Definitely, I would recommend it to anyone.

Thanks again to Jason, Adam and Berwick for agreeing to the interview.



**Some of the 1st year pupils who were presented with their Power Reader Certificates at the end of last term**

