



Inverurie Academy Bake Off

This edition The Academy Star decided to have another competition that would possibly appeal to other students who have a special talent in baking! We had several willing participants ready to get their cakes judged by Miss Reynolds. All their cakes looked lovely and smelt it too but when it came down to



Winning entry by Daniel Roberts Haritonov and Kieran Laird, S1

them getting judged, it was all about the taste, texture and presentation! Each cake got a score out of thirty (ten for each of the three categories).

It was really close when it came down to it, with two points between first and second place but Daniel Roberts Haritonov and Kieran Laird ended up coming out on top with a fabulous bake which was very well decorated!

What was so impressive about Daniel and Kieran's efforts was the imagination that went in to their Easter themed cake de-

sign. As well as that, all elements of their cake decoration were made by hand, even the little rocks and animals were all made one by one!

Kieran told us that, "Everything that we had done was worth it." Then Daniel said, "I was surprised that we won, because of how good the other cakes were!" Mrs Reynolds thought that their cake had very nice good texture, a nice chocolate flavour that wasn't too overpowering.

Coming in second place was Pippa Hall who came two points

behind the boys with 24/30 points. She didn't win but did really well for coming second place, with a 2-layer vanilla sponge which was well baked and a light texture with nice buttercream icing.

Emma Leith came joint third with Shelby Benzie and Emma had made an amazing pi-

ñata cake. When we cut it open, all the different mini eggs came tumbling out and it looked amazing!

Also the winner and the runner up were awarded with 250 house points for the winner, 100 house points for the runner up and 10 for participation. So it ended up that Selbie got 360 points and Davah got 20 points!!! Well done to everyone who entered.

By Ben Sharp, S2

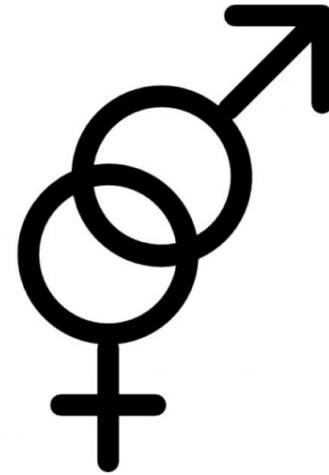
Inverurie Academy Bake Entries



2nd place entry by Pippa Hall, S1



Little Women? I Think Not



In the month which celebrates the role of women in society and the year which commemorates the centenary of some women gaining the right to vote, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect upon the contribution of women in the 21st century.

It seems almost unimaginable that women continue to face sexism and harassment in the workplace today. Yet it persists. As young people, we are growing up and making choices for the next academic year in a society which continues the notion of 'girl subjects' and 'boy subjects', a mindset which, in some cases, carries through to employment. In recent years, we have made significant progress in achieving the 'live and let live' ideal, with the legalisation of same-sex marriage being a case-in point. Yet, some young people

still face judgement from family, friends and others over the subjects they choose to take. This kind of casual sexism should not exist in society today. Period.

Which takes me on to my next point. Period poverty is a pressing issue in society and is one about which many are passionate. Some are campaigning for the provision of sanitary products in schools free at the point of need. This works in theory; however, the issue of practicality remains. With a move towards unisex toilets, it is understandable to have concerns over vandalism and destruction of dispensers, as a result of immaturity. Equally, some young women have said that they would not feel comfortable using such a facility for fear of bullying from boys, yes, but also other girls.

From a political perspective, women are on the front line. We have a female Prime Minister, First Minister, and, up until 2016, the three leaders of the major Scottish political parties were female. Now to a political idol of mine: Tricia Marwick became the first female Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament in 2011 and served until her retirement

from Holyrood in 2016. Hailing from the Kingdom of Fife, Marwick was the first PO to attend a state school, did not attend university and was disregarded by many as a consequence. She was elected to the Scottish Parliament in 1999 and was re-elected three times, ultimately representing her home constituency of Mid Fife and Glenrothes. She was a formidable Presiding Officer and took a no-nonsense approach to chairing parliamentary meetings. Not only does Tricia Marwick act as a role model to all aspiring female politicians, she shows all of us that academic attainment, although important, does not define you as a person. Instead, grit and determination act as key components in the quest for success.

Josh MacRae, S4, MSYP and columnist to *The Academy Star*

Uniform Update Ahead for Students



Inverurie Academy students are getting a new uniform. The reason the uniform was changed was that at a school council meeting, it was reported that students felt that our image wasn't as smart as the other schools' uniforms when they went to events. The other reason is we've had the existing uniform for 19 years and it is now considered to be old-fashioned so the school is ready for a change.

Mr Paterson, who has been overseeing the change, remarked that when Head teacher 'Mr Jones came to the school, he wanted to look at various things at the school that could maybe be updated or refreshed so he wanted me to have a discussion with the students about the uniform to see if that was an area they wanted to change and we discovered that it was.'

Mr Paterson also started a uniform group where students and staff could give ideas and have a

say on what the uniform would look like. This group decided that they were keen to avoid an all black uniform and so the decision was taken to inject some colour. A survey also took place for pupils, staff and parents to help make the important decision of which colour to choose. The results for the colour of the blazer were overwhelmingly in favour of Royal blue, with 80% of the votes from students, 82.1% from parents and 90% of the staff.



The new uniform will consist of the royal blue blazer, white shirt and school tie, Black trousers or skirt (not leggings or jeggings),

plain black shoes and with the option of the Inverurie Academy V-neck jumper or cardigan for added warmth.

To gain a really tailored fit, there will be fitting services in Inverurie Academy's assembly hall for the blazer, which can be purchased then. This will take place on the 12th of May for Selbie and Barra and the Crichton, Davah and Harlaw house fittings will be on the 19th of May, and for seniors 21st of March. The uniform will cost between £60 and £80.

It is clear that the royal blue blazer was a popular choice and so we hope that the new uniform will be embraced by students to update and modernise the school's image.

By Ife Akiode, S3, and Temi Akiode, S1.

Inverurie Academy Students go Head to Head



On the 9th of December the Inverurie Academy Debate Society held a debate on the issue of sexism in the United Kingdom. The hypothesis was "This House believes the United Kingdom is a sexist society", and the teams were Brodie Wylie, James Falls and Blair Center for the Proposition (The United Kingdom is indeed a sexist society), and Sam Weston, Emma Sutherland and Finnan Grant on the Opposition (The United Kingdom is not in fact a sexist society). Josh MacRae, President of the Debate Society, chaired and Amy Norval and Calum Leitch clerked the debate.

The debate attracted around 70 spectators and, despite a lively and very controversial debate with great input from both sides, the end vote showed a clear majority holding the belief that the United Kingdom is a sexist society.

In early February 2018 the Debate

Society held its Annual General Meeting to vote members into the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Josh MacRae, our long-serving Group Convener was appointed to the new position of President in an uncontested ballot. The current position holders are now Josh MacRae as President, Brodie Wylie and James Falls as Vice Presidents, Blair Center as Secretary, and Calum Leitch as Treasurer.

On the 13th of March the Debate Society returned with a debate on Scottish independence with the hypothesis of "This House believes that there should be a second referendum on Scottish independence." Due to the busy nature of this period, a third proposition member had to withdraw. Therefore, the teams on the day were Finnan Grant and Blair Center for the Proposition (There should be a second Scottish independence referendum), and Sam Weston,

Brodie Wylie and James Falls for the Opposition (There should not be a second Scottish independence referendum). Megan Stewart and Katie Grant clerked alongside Josh MacRae, who chaired.

The debate was extremely lively, kicking off the year's debates to a good start, with interventions and good use of material from both sides. However, even though the contest seemed very close throughout, there was a unanimous vote in favour of the proposition.

The Debate Society has received very positive feedback about both debates and there will be more information advertised about future debates in due course.

By Blair Center, S5

Aye, Aye, Captains!



School Captains, Jared White and Beth Thom

Since our last school captains article, our captains have moved on to pastures new after finishing S6 and we have now welcomed Beth Thom and Jared White into the role. Jared and Beth told The Academy Star about their experiences of being school captains this year.

Being school captains involves organising the prefects, parents evenings and lots of work with Mrs Fraser and Mr Jones.

However, the school captains main job consists of organising the school council which meets once a term to discuss school issues brought up in house councils. After receiving these issues they

then have to fix them by speaking to people like the senior management team or the janitors.

Another challenging task Beth and Jared are faced with is organising assemblies. They told the Academy Star that this is the only part of the job that they don't particularly like because it can be quite nerve racking and stressful.

Despite the assemblies, there are some great aspects of this job: Beth and Jared enjoy having an input into how the school is run and the work with Mrs Fraser and Mr Jones. Overall it's a very good experience and is very enjoyable.

Surprisingly neither Beth or Jared expected to get this role; however

took the opportunity to get practice in interviews and give themselves a chance to gain valuable leadership skills for the future.

At the start of the school year, there was a lot to this job whereas currently they are dedicating a few hours a week to being a house captain which on top of their exams is an awful lot! Although they say it's good if you enjoy it.

Overall, Beth and Jared would like to say thank you for the support everyone has given them as it has been lots of fun and an absolute pleasure to represent the school.

By Luke Wraight, S2

Hip Hop for Leprosy



On Wednesday 14th March 2018, pupils in S1 and S2 took part in a hip hop workshop to raise money for people with leprosy. Leprosy is a disease which affects the peripheral nerves and can cause loss of mobility in arms and legs. Leprosy can be cured with a special treatment and it costs around £25 to cure someone from leprosy. Every day 600 people are diagnosed with leprosy and over 50 of those people are children.

Lepra is a charity trying to help people who suffer from diseases. Around 600 people are diagnosed with leprosy a day and shockingly, 50 of those are children. Lepra mainly works on helping people who have Leprosy. To cure some-

one with leprosy only costs around £25.00. We were set the challenge of trying to raise £25 or more each through the sponsored dance event. The money that we raise genuinely can make a big difference.

On the day, a hip hop instructor came in to Inverurie Academy to teach S1 and S2 the basics of hip hop. Mrs Jones, who helped to organise the event, said 'Most of the pupils, especially S1, seemed to really enjoy the hip-hop dancing, and took part with great enthusiasm! It's great that we as a school have been able to raise money to provide a cure for children and families suffering from Leprosy, and I'm thrilled that pupils from our school have been able to raise £760.'

Inverurie Academy supports a huge number of charities each year through excellent work by the charities committee and once again, our pupils have done themselves proud.

By Zoe Mackenzie and Pippa Hall, S2



Comic Strip by Hannah Reid, S3



Dance, Drama and Dungeons!



plied with "M..M...Mr C..C..Campbell!"

The dungeons then took everyone through a journey of tricks and scares which ended with a ride called "Drop Dead" and a very complex mirror maze.

Pupils were then given the chance to roam Princes Street and get some dinner before the seeing Hair-spray in the Edinburgh playhouse which really was an incredible show.

Recently a group a group of pupils with medieval props; however, from all years visited Edinburgh straight after this, everyone was along with Miss Stewart, Mrs Richardson and Mr Campbell. The trip allowed everyone to visit famous Edinburgh attractions, the Edinburgh dungeons and the Edinburgh playhouse.

8:00 am marked the beginning to the first part of the trip which was a drama work shop hosted in a dance studio in Edinburgh. The workshop contained an experience which practiced drama skills whilst having a laugh!

After this drama experience the coach left for the city centre where a chance was given to eat lunch in the Princes street gardens. Shortly after the lunch break, everyone made their way to the dungeons on foot (this took about 5 minutes). The Edinburgh dungeons began with everybody's photos being took

taken into the courtroom where 3 people were trialed. The courtroom was followed by a "witch hunt room" which finished with the floor spinning and being rushed into the torturers chamber. This room showcased the instruments used in the medieval methods of torture.

The torturer then sent you off on a pitch black boat ride through caves hunting for a cannibal giant; this was followed by being told a storey of this "Cannibal giant" by one of his followers.

The part of dungeons after this is where Mr Campbell had the fright of his life! Mr Campbell said that a woman appeared behind him which took him by surprise and made him scream at the top of his voice. The woman asked his name and he re-

The musical finished at around 10:00 pm which marked time for everyone to head back to the bus for the long journey home. On the three hour journey home, a lot of people slept however some continued reminding Mr Campbell of the dungeons and pestering him for secrets.

Overall, pupils enjoyed the trip and in my opinion was an amazing day out. Thanks to Miss Stewart for organising it and thanks to Mr Campbell and Mrs Richardson for coming along and making it even more enjoyable..

By Luke Wraight, S2



Goodbye Spring



It was Easter day. Daisy and her brother, Asher, were getting ready for their favourite Easter activity, Egg hunting.

"I'm going to find more than you!" Asher teased.

"Last year, you couldn't even find one egg," Daisy snapped.

They went to the Forest. The sun was shimmering.

"Why don't you work as a team?" their mum asked.

2 hours later, they had 50 eggs.

"I can't wait to eat all of these," Asher said.

"No, we're sharing them," Daisy said.

"No way-"

Suddenly there was a wind so strong it made the trees break. They fell back. Freezing cold snow spun around them. Then almost as quickly as it started, it stopped. Asher got up. He was cold and scared. He was shocked at what he saw. There was snow everywhere. Icicles on trees and snowflakes falling out of the sky. It was no longer spring. It was winter.

3 years later, the snow was still there. The whole year the weather was snow, all around the world. The sea froze into a giant ice rink. People called the storm infinity winter. The scientist couldn't work out what caused it, or how to stop it. Food was running low. A Lot of people had the flu. Egg hunts were cancelled. It was the third Easter day of the infinity winter.

Asher sighed, 'The storm gets worse every year.'

'Everyone has given up on stopping it. Soon, the whole world will be frozen!' Daisy sniffed.

'Well, if they aren't going to stop it... then we will,' Asher said determinedly.

'What can we do?' Daisy sighed.

'They say the storm started in the woods, maybe we could look there for

clues on how to stop it.' Asher answered.

'There's no clues!' Daisy said frustrated.

They were in the forest. The snow was up to their waist and very cold. They had been walking for 4 hours.

'Keep looking,' Asher said.

'I have the flu...' She sniffed.

'What's that!' Asher pointed at a humongous egg. It was glowing and multi-coloured.

They rushed towards it as fast as they could, which was difficult because of the snow.

Goodbye Spring Continued

When they got to the egg, it was glowing. They reached out to touch it. The egg went a bright yellow. They felt the world go blurry.

Daisy woke up. The air was warm, and she felt better. This shocked her. She got up and looked around. There were green trees and a huge green castle. A sea of pink flowers was all around her. A beautiful river

flowed in front of the castle.

'It worked!' Asher shouted.

'No, Asher' Daisy got up and looked around. 'I think we... teleported, this isn't the forest!' Daisy said.

They walk towards the castle and knocked on the door.

'This isn't possible,' Daisy muttered to herself.

The door creaked open.

'I don't think we should go in...' Daisy said.

Asher strolled in and Daisy reluctantly followed.

The inside was bright and colourful. On the wall there was a gold sign saying, 'THE EASTER BUNNY'S CASTLE'

'Wow!' Asher gasped.

'The Easter bunny is real?' Daisy said shocked.

'Hello?' A voice said.

A tall bunny walked towards them. It had bunny legs and human arms,

a bunny head and a human voice.

'Hi!' The Bunny said cheerfully. 'May I help you?'

Daisy couldn't believe what she was seeing. 'We were looking for clues... to stop the infinity winter... and we teleported here.'

'Infinity winter?' The Bunny said confused.

'Yeah, the world is going to freeze.' Asher said.

'Oh no... the Ice Queen must have escaped...' The bunny gasped. 'I have to find her.'

The bunny thought.

'She must have gone home; that's the only way she could use her powers!'

'How do we get there?' Daisy asked.

'We will use my teleporter to get there,' He replied. 'This is dangerous... are you sure you want to come?'

'Yes!' Asher said.

'We want to save the world!' Daisy said.

'Let's go!' Bunny led them to a small egg. They teleported to a place that was extremely cold. The three of them walked towards a blue ice castle. Asher noticed something.

'The door is open,' he said.

'Looking for me?' a cold, high pitched voice said.

They turned around, and there stood the Ice Queen. She was small and wore a frozen blue dress.

'Come with me now!' The bunny said sternly. 'Let's not fight, I'm stronger than you.'

She sighed, 'I was jealous of the other seasons, I am always seen as the bad guy.... So, I felt like I needed to act like the bad guy...'

'You don't need to be the bad guy.' Asher said. 'You can save the whole world by ending the infinite winter.'

'Yeah,' Daisy agreed. 'You can be who you want to be.'

The ice queen thought for a while then she said, 'Okay...I'll come with you.'

After that they were teleported home. The whole world was celebrating the return of spring. Daisy and Asher told people what had happened, but nobody believed them. So, they ran into the warm forest to egg hunt.

By Ife Akiode, S3

Temí Akiode, S1