

2022 - 2023

# ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS MEARNS ACADEMY



2022 - 2023

# SPONSORED WALK

Great weather and an enjoyable sponsored walk through Drumtochty Forest.



ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS

# Scots is more than a dialect, say award-winning students

by **Garrett Stell**

September 27 2022, 5:00pm

SEPTEMBER

## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT



Teacher Rosie Bircham and Mearns Academy students won the Scots School of the Year award for their work promoting and preserving the Scots language.

Mearns Academy has been crowned Scots School of the Year in 2022 for its students work in keeping Doric Scots alive.

## SOCIAL SUBJECTS DEPARTMENT

Great day for staff and pupils this week visiting the Scottish Parliament for First Minister's Questions.



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## OCT/ NOVEMBER

### PUMPKIN CARVING COMPETITION



### MEARNS MASTERCHEF



### REMEMBRANCE DAY

S1 pupils crafted and sold felt Poppies for Remembrance Day

2022 - 2023

# EXPRESSIVE ARTS SHOWCASE



ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS

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# CHRISTMAS EVENTS

The Christmas Fayre  
House competitions  
Christmas Dances



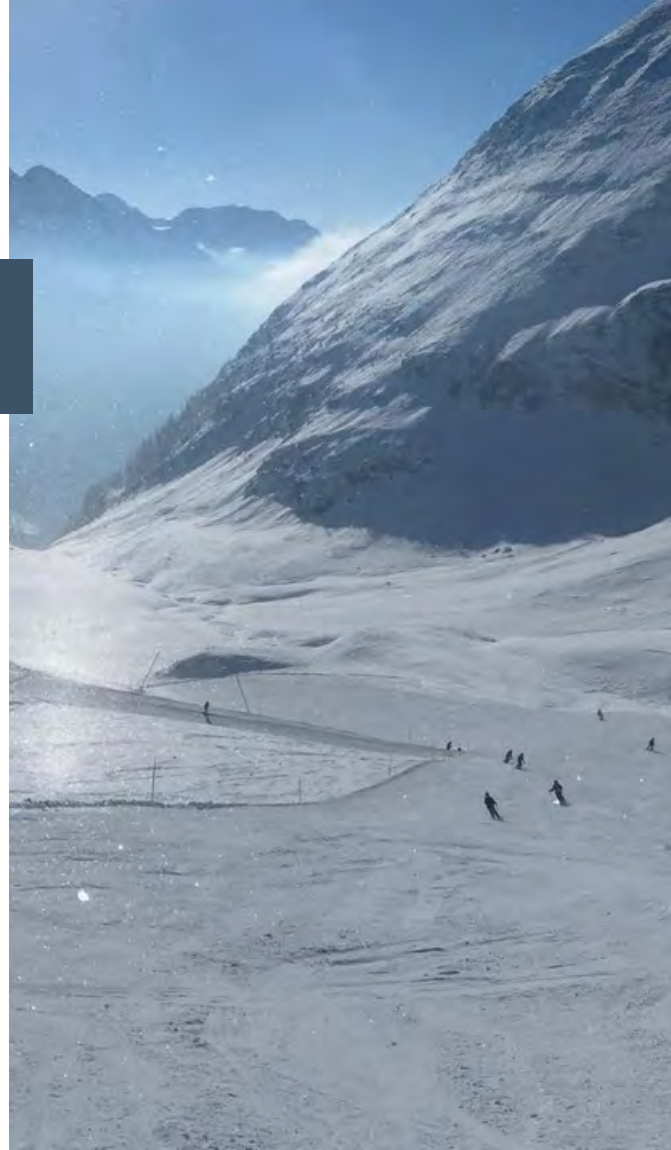
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# FEBRUARY

## SKI TRIP

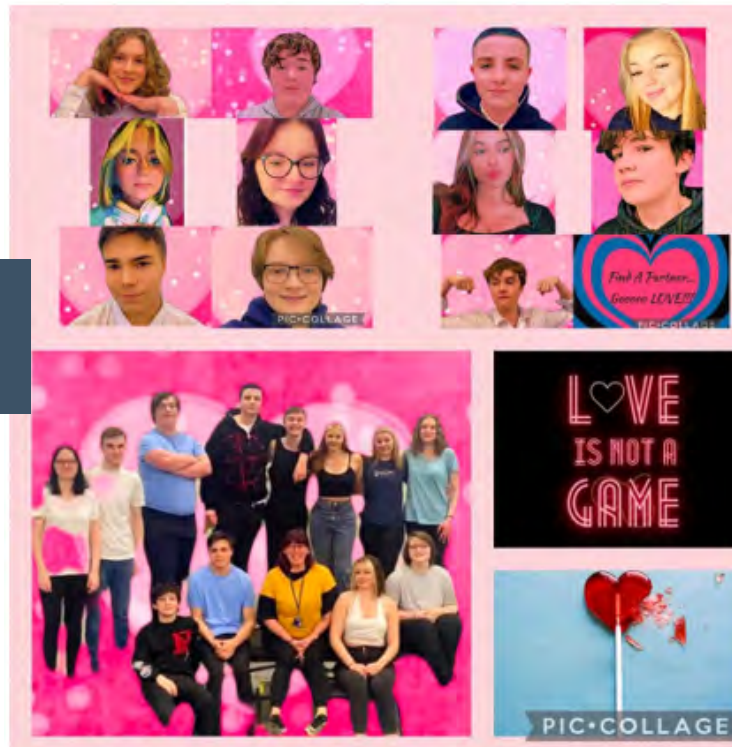
A record number of Mearns pupils and staff enjoyed a week skiing and boarding in the glorious sunshine in Gressoney.



# MARCH

## ADVANCED HIGHER DRAMA

Congratulations to the cast of Find A Partner who absolutely smashed their two performances.



## YOUNG MUSICIAN

Logan Forbes impressed the judges to win Young Musician of the Year for a second time.



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MAY / JUNE

## LAURENCEKIRK AND DISTRICT ROTARY GROUP

Great to see Local, Regional and National success for our young people. Congratulations to Isla Oag who was the winner of the Local Heat Young writer and Georgina Sives, the winner of Master Chef and the District final of the Rotary Young Chef competition. Thank you to Laurencekirk and District Rotary Club for their ongoing partnership and support.



## ABERDEEN LEAGUE AND CUP WINNERS

Our S2 boys football team sealed a league and cup double with a 4-3 win on penalties. With a large crowd in attendance the opposition proved to be the stronger team and took the lead at half time. Mearns equalised in the second half but at full time neither team could be separated so the game went to penalties.

The team spirit and resilience shown by our boys throughout this season has been a key factor in the success they've achieved.

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## GEOGRAPHY

Our Geography team in Aberdeen as part of the local heats for the world wide quiz. They competed against other teams from the North East at Robert Gordon's College.



MAY / JUNE

## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT SHAKESPEARE WEEK - AVON CUP RECITATION

Overall winner – Alec Barr  
Runners Up – Breagha Campbell,  
Keidis Stewart, Tom Hutson  
Shakespeare Costume Design – Ava Paton



## ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY

Great experience for some of our young people taking part in the Salters' Chemistry Festival at Aberdeen University.

# ACTIVITY DAYS

## CAKE DECORATING



## WILD SHORE

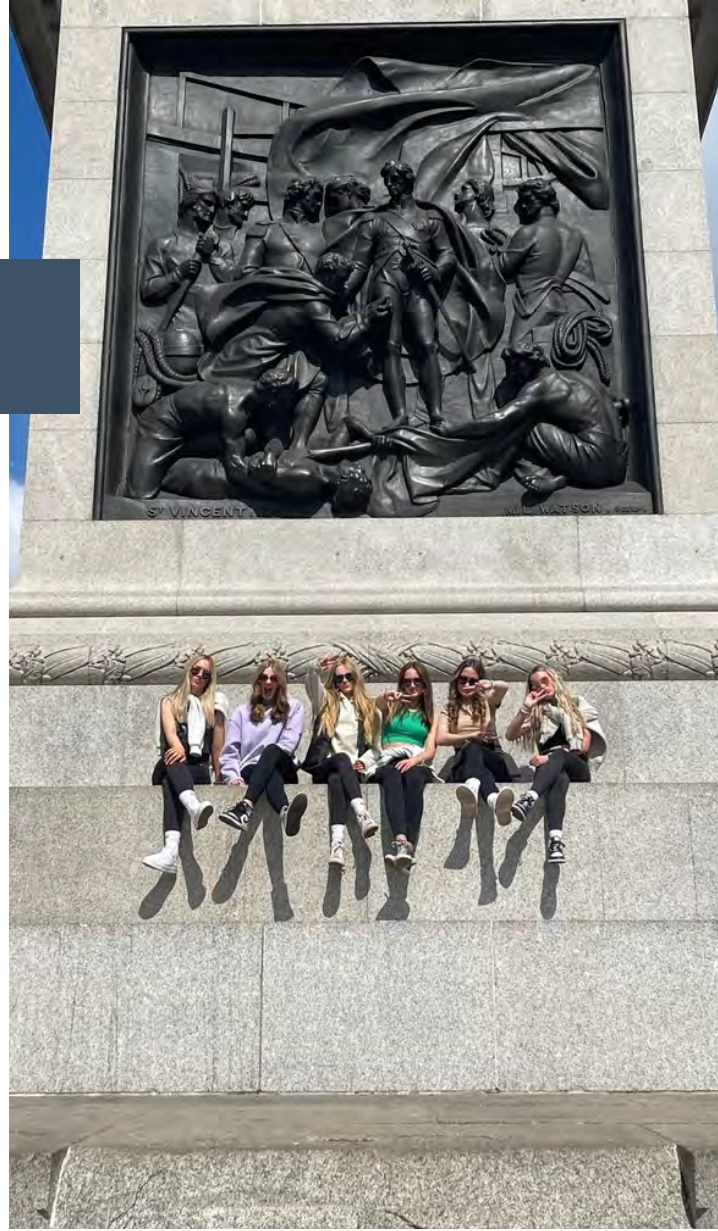
Wild Shore was a lot of fun. Despite the gloomy weather and squeezing into already wet wetsuits, pupils and staff all got stuck in plunging into the water. Wednesday's trip was nice and calm, however Thursday's trip was certainly more chaotic with wrestling and pushing into the water from all directions. The mix of physical battles on the inflatables, skill and balance on the paddleboards and adrenaline on the ringo made for a great day.



# ACTIVITY DAYS

## LONDON

We left Mearns Academy at midnight on the Tuesday and surprisingly the sleep on the bus wasn't too bad! We arrived in London at lunchtime and spent some time at Embankment, taking photos and watching street performers before going on the London Eye. After this, we walked by Big Ben, Parliament, Buckingham Palace, Trafalgar Square and then stopped at Leicester Square to visit the M&M World. We then walked to Covent Garden for dinner before checking in to the hotel. The next day was even busier! We were up early to head to Wembley for a tour. We were really lucky as we were there a few days before the FA cup final so got to see the cup – we weren't allowed to touch it though!



We then went to Westfield shopping and got a few hours with our friends. We then went for a river cruise, dinner and then off to the theatre to see Wicked. The next day we got up early and drove to Alton Towers. The rides were amazing. We then all got back on the bus and drove overnight back to Mearns. This was the best trip and we had so many laughs with our friends and with the teachers. We did so many activities and were so tired at the end of it but it was so worth it!

# ACTIVITY DAYS

## SEWING

For activities days we did sewing and we learned how to use a sewing machine. On the first day we made a mug rug which needed a lot of fabric cut out. On day 2 we made a tote bag where we had to fold a handle inside out. It was difficult but I managed to do it. On the 3rd day we made a bucket hat which looked very cute.

Ellie Smith S2



## CYCLING

We couldn't have asked for better weather for our cycle days. The groups were made up of a range of pupils, some who cycled regularly and some who cycled occasionally.

We toured the Mearns area, using quiet country roads and travelled through some of the estate roads, passing both Fettercairn and Fasque Houses.

We also passed the site of the historic Kincardine Castle. Travelling through the Mearns area on our bikes allowed the group to visit some places that we routinely pass by. At the end of each day, some in our group had cycled longer than they had ever managed in one day. Well done to everyone.

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# ACTIVITY DAYS

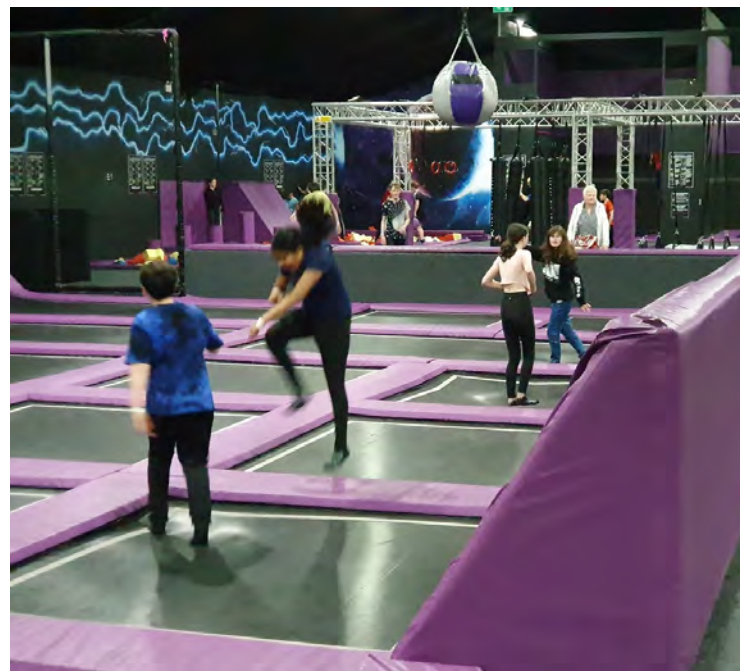
## LOCHTER

Our Lochter trip was fantastic. There were a lot of fun activities that we did. Our favourites were the go-karting, driving and zorbing. The staff were very helpful and reassuring.

Emily Smith & Mirren Murray



## RYZE



# ACTIVITY DAYS

## EDINBURGH

The Edinburgh Trip was a great success and enjoyed by all. We started our day at Edinburgh Castle where we were allowed to explore in small groups, we were lucky to see the 1 o'clock gun being fired. We then went to Pizza Express where we enjoyed a two course lunch, the pizza was delicious and the service was fantastic. After lunch we walked down the Royal Mile and Cannongate to Dynamic Earth where we spent time working our way through the various exhibitions, we really enjoyed touching a real iceberg and the 3d flight experience from the Polar regions to the rain forest. We finish our trip in the planetarium where we learned about super volcanoes.



## BLAIR DRUMMOND





## ACTIVITY DAYS

### FOOTBALL EXPERIENCE TRIP



### SHETLAND

"I really enjoyed Shetland. It was a great experience. We got to go to lots of interesting places – such as Mousa Isle for a midnight Storm Petrel trip and the Shetland Museum in Lerwick. It was a great experience and I hope this opportunity comes up again!"

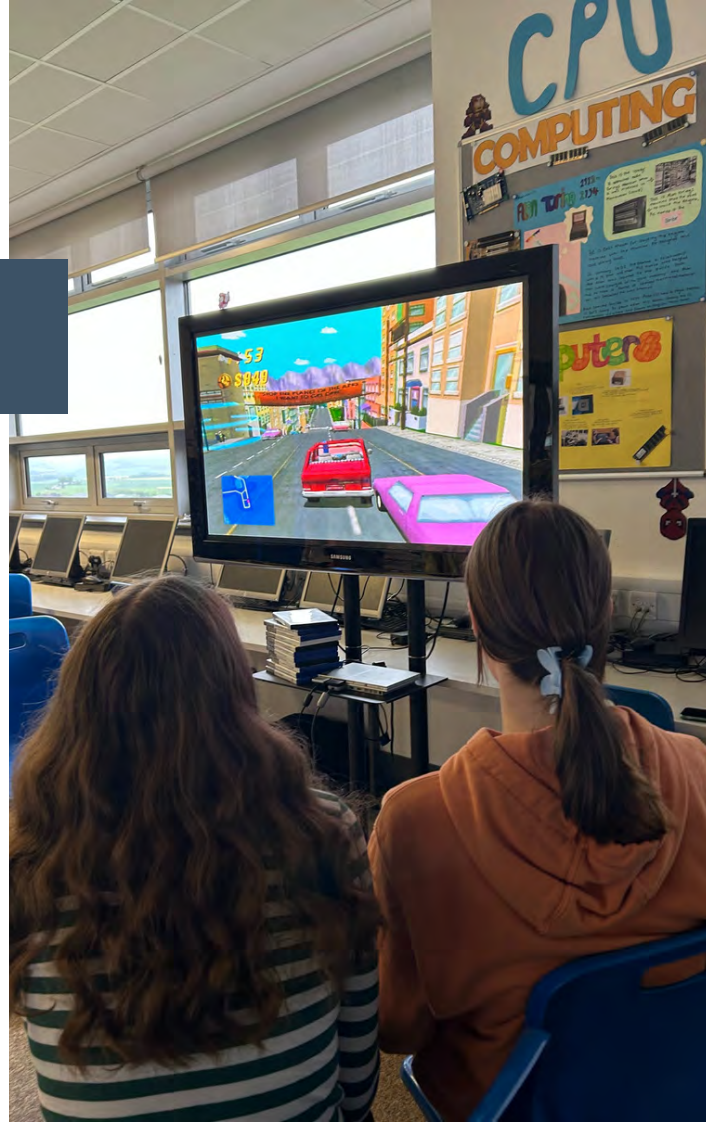
Tom Hutson S1



# ACTIVITY DAYS

## GAMING

Pupils played games old and new with competitions entered and lots of chocolate won – from the NES to the virtual world pupils enjoyed games spanning the last 40 years.



## BOOK BUYING

We took the train up to Aberdeen, enjoyed a sun-drenched lunch in Union Terrace Gardens, and then visited Waterstones Aberdeen to choose books for the school library (and came back with a few sneaky pocket money choices, too!).

It was a great way to spend the day. Here's what pupils liked:

·"FUN! I liked having more choice and the diversity of books, especially the range of Manga."

"It was really fun and I would want to do it again. The best bit was going through Waterstone's and finding all the books ."



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## SPORTS DAY JUNE 2023

On Friday 16th June 320 competitors, supporters, helpers and parents made their way to Aberdeen Sports Village for our annual Sports Day. The sun was shining and it was great to see everyone represent their houses with a smile on their face.

Throughout the day the atmosphere was electric and the performances on the track and field were of the highest standard. Johnston house were the overall winners.



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# SPORTS DAY JUNE 2023



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JUNE 2023

## PRIZE GIVING

Over 120 pupils received awards at our annual prize giving event.



## BIG HOP HARE TRAIL

This year Mearns Academy are taking part in the Aberdeenshire "big hop" sculpture trail. This trail raises awareness for Clan cancer support and Mearns Academy will have their own Sculpture on display at Stonehaven Library.

The sculpture was designed and painted by S3 pupils Olivia Albiston, Scarlett Stubbs and Eilidh Dunn.