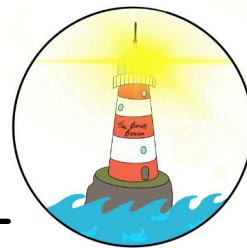




# BO'NESS BEACON

Bo'ness Academy Newsletter

January 2025



Happy New Year! I hope everyone has had a relaxing break. As we are ready to dive into another busy and exciting term this newsletter brings you a glimpse of the amazing activities, events and achievements that have taken place across the school since the start of the session. I am extremely proud to share the incredible work of our pupils and staff as we continue to foster teamwork and build strong relationships encouraging mutual respect and creating a positive learning environment for everyone. This edition of our newsletter is brought to you by our talented pupils who have taken the lead in pulling it all together and they have been supported by our dedicated staff team who have provided guidance and encouragement along the way.

Thank you for your ongoing support and I hope you enjoy reading about the amazing things that have been going on in our school.

*Catrina Reid*

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## Dates for your Diary

|                                                        |                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 30 <sup>th</sup> January 2025                          | – S3 Parents Evening (in person)                   |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> February 2025                          | – Curriculum Information Evening for S2, S4 and S5 |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2025                         | – S4/5/6 Parents Evening (in person)               |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2025                         | – Inset Day                                        |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2025                         | – Apprenticeship Evening for S1-S6                 |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> February - 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2025 | – Study Weekend                                    |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2025                             | – S1 Parents Evening (in person)                   |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2025                            | – Sports Awards                                    |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2025                             | – S6 Graduation and BBQ                            |

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## Careers Fair

On Wednesday 25 September we held our annual careers Fayre. We had over 60 stall holders in attendance with a wide range of apprenticeship providers, colleges, employers and universities. It was also really nice to see some of our alumni pupils back talking about their experiences and journeys so far. This gave an insight into a number of careers and pathways available for young people.

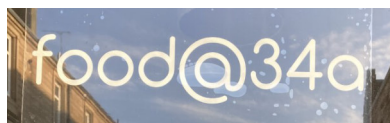
This year we had a few firsts:

Forth Valley College, Ineos and University of Stirling gave talks on entry requirements, applications process and opportunities available. This has proved extremely helpful for student's applications and interviews to date.

Our Barista Team- Hot Shots serving hot drinks on the night.

Based on the feedback from parents/carers, pupils, staff and stallholders, we have decided to hold this event annually and later on in the day from 6-8:30pm. We have also taken on board some of the industries missing and have contacted various organisations in the hope they can attend the next careers fayre. If you know of any organisations who could attend, please do not hesitate in letting us know.

We would like to thank the following businesses for their support with donations for the catering for the stall holders. Most of them are local in Bo'ness and Linlithgow.



ASPIRATION



MOTIVATION



RESPECT

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## Literature brought to Life

*Higher English Class Visit 'The Writer's Museum' in Edinburgh.*

Picture a dingy, old close. An ominous, dark door bows awkwardly in the narrow passageway. The fetid air from the close beckons you into the shadows but you feel a shiver run down your spine and turn away. Passing along the street you see a grand, looming town house with elaborate cornicing and a warm, inviting oak door. This looks like a much nicer abode... but what if I told you both doorways lead to the same dwelling?

Hard to wrap your head round, right? But this is, in fact, one of the most crucial plot points of the novel "The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde" by Robert Louis Stevenson, the novel that the Higher English Class are studying for their Scottish Set Text. The wicked and animalistic, Mr Hyde, is often seen exiting that creepy close, whereas the well-respected gentleman, Dr Jekyll, only makes his grand entrance through the decadent doors. But just as the two different doors lead to the same place, the novel slowly reveals that Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde are (spoiler alert!) the same man!

To go into the mindset of Stevenson's story, we decided to get into his home city and take a day trip to Edinburgh. This parasitic building can be a hard thing to picture, but it really exists within the opulent facades of old town, hiding a network of sprawling closes. The class got the chance to explore the city which inspired the foreboding atmosphere of "Jekyll and Hyde." After wandering the closes in the footsteps of literary monsters, we went to visit The Writer's Museum.

The Writer's Museum is a centuries old town house itself, hidden away down a secretive close. The narrow hallways and winding staircases display a whole host of information and artefacts connected to the city's most celebrated writers. There is a large collection linked to Stevenson, such as early editions of some of his books, letters, and paintings. The class were able to explore these exhibits, gain new knowledge, and put a face to the name behind one of history's most enduring literary mysteries.



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## Work Experience

The work experience placements for this cohort of pupils have been diverse, spanning multiple industries including education, healthcare, administration, marketing, and construction. The range of placements provided pupils with valuable real-world exposure, helping them develop key skills such as teamwork, communication, time management, and professional conduct. The placements were carefully selected to align with pupils' interests, allowing them to explore different career paths.

### Breakdown of Work Experience Placements:

#### 1. Nurseries

- Placements: Eight pupils were assigned to nurseries, where they were involved in supporting early childhood development, engaging with children in various activities, and assisting nursery staff with daily tasks.
- Skills Developed:
  - Childcare and development knowledge
  - Communication and interaction with children
  - Patience and responsibility
- Feedback: Pupils showed great enthusiasm for the placements, with many expressing interest in pursuing careers in education or childcare. They developed a stronger understanding of how to manage young children's needs and behaviour.

#### 2. Primary Schools

- Placements: These pupils worked alongside teachers in primary school settings, supporting classroom activities, assisting with administrative tasks, and helping students with their learning.
- Skills Developed:
  - Classroom management and lesson assistance
  - Administrative and organisational skills
  - Interaction with diverse groups of students
- Feedback: Many pupils found the experience rewarding and gained an appreciation for the challenges of teaching. The exposure to primary school education has sparked interest in pursuing teaching careers.

#### 3. NHS Forth Valley Hospital

- Placements: These pupils gained experience in various departments of NHS Forth Valley Hospital, assisting medical staff, and gaining an understanding of healthcare operations and patient care.
- Skills Developed:
  - Basic healthcare skills and knowledge
  - Understanding of healthcare systems and professional environments
- Feedback: Pupils expressed a heightened interest in pursuing careers in healthcare. The experience allowed them to witness the importance of teamwork and compassion in a medical setting.





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#### **4. Administration & Marketing Assistant**

- Placements: These pupils worked as administration and marketing assistants in various businesses, learning the intricacies of office management, customer communication, and marketing strategies.
- Skills Developed:
  - Organisational and time management skills
  - Communication and digital marketing techniques
  - Customer service and teamwork
- Feedback: The pupils found the experience invaluable, particularly those interested in business, marketing, and communications. They gained insight into how businesses operate and how marketing campaigns are structured.

#### **5. Building & Timber Merchants**

- Placements: The pupil assigned to a building and timber merchant company, assisted with stock management, customer service, and the logistical aspects of the business.
- Skills Developed:
  - Understanding of construction materials and processes
  - Customer interaction and sales techniques
  - Warehouse management and inventory control
- Feedback: They enjoyed learning about the construction industry and logistics. One of our pupils secured a permanent job from this placement.

#### **Benefits of Work Experience:**

The work experience placements provided an excellent opportunity for pupils to gain insight into a wide range of careers. The placements were beneficial not only for the personal development of the pupils but also for fostering a sense of responsibility and professionalism. Many pupils are now better equipped to make informed decisions about their future career paths.

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## **Career Ready**

This year we have four new S5 pupils participating in the Career Ready programme. Career Ready is a social mobility charity that supports young people into positive destinations post-school. We have worked with Career Ready for many years with several pupils enjoying a very positive experience. The programme is mapped to specific learning outcomes, enabling young people to develop the skills, confidence, and knowledge for their future prospects. Pupils have a mentor from the world of work, take part in masterclasses, and have a four-week internship.

We are excited for the pupils taking part and look forward to their progress and to hearing about their summer internships.

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## **ECITB Apprenticeship Event with Forth Valley College**

In November as part of the National Careers Week, 25 senior pupils attended the ECITB Apprenticeship event at Forth Valley College. This was a great event with pupils engaging with employers and apprentices sharing apprenticeship and entry-level career information and discussing opportunities within the engineering and construction sectors. Pupils also took part in interactive STEM activities as well as exploring the college facilities.

**ASPIRATION**



**MOTIVATION**



**RESPECT**

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## SCQF Ambassadors

This year we began our SCQF Ambassador programme and 12 ambassadors were nominated, with pupils representing each year group (ranging from S2-S6). Through their hard work and outstanding teamwork, Bo'ness Academy have achieved our Silver SCQF Ambassador Award this November and aim to achieve our Gold Award in 2025. The SCQF stands for the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework and it is a national framework that sets out the different levels and variety of qualifications on offer in Scotland. The aim of our ambassadors was to raise awareness of the SCQF and the variety of qualifications available at Bo'ness Academy, to help our pupils to develop tailored learner pathways that will result in successful learners and confident individuals. To raise awareness of the SCQF our ambassadors underwent training, created promotional videos which were shown to classes, created an X account to share our progress, created a blog to share our journey and had a stall at the Careers Fair. They worked on compiling curriculum pathways from each department and conducting interviews with staff and pupils to receive feedback on the opportunities on offer. All of this hard work resulted in us being awarded with our Silver SCQF Ambassadors award, badges and plaque. There are exciting things ahead for our ambassadors as we have recently developed a partnership with Braes High School Ambassadors and plan to further raise awareness within the school and local authority to achieve our Gold Award.



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## UCAS

Pupils attended the UCAS discovery event in September to help them prepare for their UCAS applications and spoke with various employers and universities/colleges to discuss options. Pupils also had talks with Stirling University which gave them some hints and tips on considering their choices and personal statement prep. We have successfully submitted 39 applications to UCAS with a large number of pupils already having received conditional and unconditional offers to various institutions across Scotland.

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## LEAPS

Two pupils are successfully attending the LEAPS transition course at Edinburgh University, they attending in person and having online tutorials which will help them for transitioning to University. We also had over 20 pupils meet with the LEAPS team for 1-1 interviews again helping them consider options when applying to university and colleges. The end of January will see us hold a LEAPS assembly for all S5 pupils to identify those who may be eligible for the Transition course and 1-1 support for UCAS.

**ASPIRATION**



**MOTIVATION**



**RESPECT**

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## Science

### Science and Parliament 2024 Conference

At the Science and Parliament 2024 conference at Dynamic Earth on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November, former pupil Máté was awarded with the prize for Advanced Higher Biology for attaining the highest mark in Scotland in the SQA exam. We are all incredibly proud of his achievements and wish him well at university where he is studying Medicine

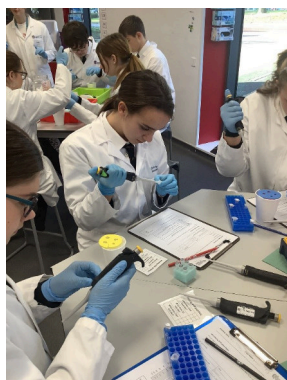
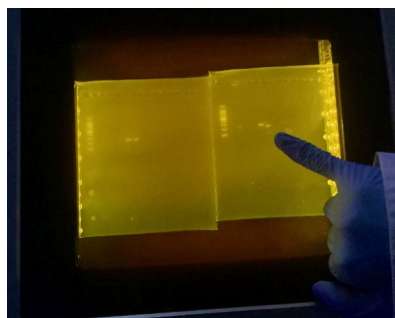


### Higher Biology Excursion to Easter Bush Science Outreach Centre

Do brussel sprouts really taste THAT bad? For some individuals the answer is YES! So, why is it that some people love them, some people hate them, and others could take them or leave them? Well, the answer lies in your DNA. November 14<sup>th</sup> saw Mrs Jones and Mr Caul accompany 22 higher biology students to the Easter Bush Science Outreach Centre (University of Edinburgh), to take part in a full day Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) workshop. Pupils learned about the various uses of PCR in everyday science and were able to get hands on with specialised scientific equipment, to genetically confirm if they were strong, weak or non-tasters of a bitter chemical compound called PTC.

Pupils extracted their DNA, amplified it through PCR and then separated it into fragments using gel electrophoresis, before reading their genetic make-up. Turns out we do indeed have a few students who are telling the truth at the Christmas dinner table, when they refuse the healthy sprouts!

Mr Caul and I had a great day out with the pupils as they were a credit to themselves, families and school.



ASPIRATION



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## Girls in Engineering visit

Senior girl pupils who have an interest in either Chemistry or Engineering as a future career had a tour of the O-I Glass Alloa manufacturing site on.

## Young WEIR: WISE: Discovering Engineering with S2 Girls

Congratulations to Beth and Stephanie who were both successful with their Young WEIR: WISE applications at the University of Strathclyde!

'Young WEIR: WISE is designed to inspire young female students to discover the excitement, opportunities and personal satisfaction behind a career in engineering through participation in team-based challenges.'

## CREST award

Funding for Engage Simply CREST application was successful; awarding the Science department £350 to spend on projects.

## Space to Learn

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December the UK Space Agency visited our S3 and S4 Physicists to deliver a 'Space to Learn' workshop on Astrophysics. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the practical activities on offer and wowed the presenter with their excellent knowledge of waves and space.

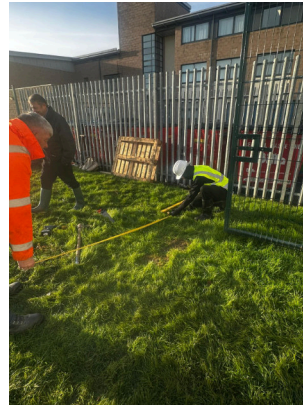
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## Rural Skills Academy

A group of 10 pupils from the school are undertaking a course at SRUC – Oatridge Campus. The pupils are currently going off site to the College Campus, with the longer-term aim for the course to be delivered in school. The course the pupils are undertaking is an SQA level 4 course called Skills for work – Rural Skills. The course is highly practical and essential skills such as numeracy, communications and working with others are embedded into the course. The practical skills the pupils will be gaining include paving, plumbing, fence construction, plant propagation and creating plant displays, as well as learning how to grow fruit and vegetables. The pupils will also be visiting various landbased industries such as vets, agriculture engineers and a golf course. This will give the pupils an insight into what each job involves and many think it is a career they may want to try or just as importantly, one that doesn't interest them. The pupils have applied for and have been successful in being donated over 700 trees that will be planted around the school grounds and fruit trees that will added to the current fruit trees already planted in the school grounds.







ASPIRATION



MOTIVATION



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## Library Highlights

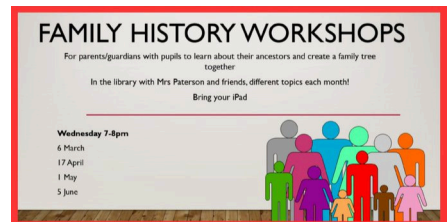
### Book Club

Through 2024 we have been running a book club for our pupils to attend with a parent/carer. It has been held from 7-8pm on the last Wednesday of the month. We would love to keep this going in 2025 and it would be great to see some more attend. It's a great chance to take time and read together.



### Family History Evening

We also started a monthly Family History evening where pupils and a family member could learn many different related topics and start their own family tree using Family Search.



### Falkirk RED Book Award

Our annual Falkirk RED Book Award was another outstanding success! Lots of great participation from the RED team to bring it all together. We are now underway for the next one.



### World Book Day

World Book Day! March 2024. Pupils wrote a book review before they were able to wear a book-related costume. We had over 150! Inkspot & Silverleaf book shop kindly provided a bookshop for us.



### Falkirk Pupil Library Assistant of the Year Award

Our first Falkirk Pupil Library Assistant of the Year Award held at Graeme High was a popular event. We are excited to be hosting this in 2025



**ASPIRATION**



**MOTIVATION**



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## Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award

Four of our pupils entered the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award and received certificates for their entries. Over 17,000 took part!



## Scholastic Book Fair

We held a Scholastic Book Fair in November for Book Week. Wonderful opportunity to buy a new book or gift. Our Reading Ambassadors manned this over the week.



## Primary School Christmas Activities

We had a Christmas story competition with Deanburn Primary school. Pupils were there to introduce it to them.



Pupils are also doing Christmas storytelling in Grange and St Marys Primaries during December.



ASPIRATION



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## Sports Report

### S1-6 Football Tournament at Little Kerse - 3rd October

On the 3rd of October, we had 34 pupils across all six year groups, competing in the Active Schools 7-a-side Tournament at Little Kerse. All 3 teams (S1-3 girls, S1-3 boys, S4-6 boys) competed well across all games and achieved strong finishes in the league tables.

The S1-3 boys' team, led by Miss Wilson, showed great team spirit and adaptability to compete with no recognised goalkeeper in the squad on the day due to illness. The team played attacking football and scored plenty of goals, whilst alternating their goalkeeper every game, on their way to a runner-up finish.

- MVP – James B
- Top Goal Scorer – Bailie M

The S4-6 boys team presented a leadership opportunity for senior pupils with senior school football team captain, Will S taking responsibility of team selections, substitutions and general control of the team. The boys competed well in every fixture, however they were narrowly defeated in vital games on their way to a 3rd place finish.

- MVP – Piotr K
- Top Goal Scorer – Taylor C and Tyler K

Our S1-3 girls, overseen by Mr Sinclair, returned to The Academy with this year's first piece of silverware. Captained by Jessica S, the girls played 7 games, drawing 1 and winning 6, maintaining an unbeaten status on the day. On their way to the trophy, the girls demonstrated brilliant resilience, to complement their attacking flair, to come back from losing positions and gain 4 vital points in 2 fixtures.

- MVP – Sofia H
- Top Goal Scorer – Rebecca H



### Boness Represented at Regional Level

We had three pupils selected for the Forth Valley football regional team at their respective level. Jay R (S2) was selected for the U15's squad, whilst Ben M (S4) and Will S (S5) were both selected for the U18's squad. Absolutely brilliant to see the lads progress through the extremely tough trial process and go on to have a positive impact on their team.



ASPIRATION



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## Girls Football

### 15's Girls

#### **13th November - The SPAR CUP Local Qualifiers:**

The S1 and S2 pupils from the U15's squad competed in the National SPAR Cup competition.

Excitingly, Bo'ness Academy will be represented at Broadwood Stadium on 26th February at both U14's and U16's level after the U14's progressed by achieving 10 points from 4 games to win their group and advance alongside their older peers!

The girls have had a very positive start to their campaign! Since winning the Active Schools Falkirk Cup in October, the girls remain unbeaten across three competitions.

#### **The U15's Girls East League:**

The girls got their league campaign off to a great start with a win, a clean sheet, and three points. They have three challenging league fixtures remaining after Christmas as they look to progress into the next phase of the competition. Their remaining league fixtures are:

Denny High School (A) on 15th January

St Mungo's High School (H) on 3rd February

Larbert High School (A) on 10th March

#### **The Stirling Albion Cup (Regional):**

After a terrific performance in the last 16, where the girls won 6-0 at home to Dunblane HS, the girls progress into the quarter finals where they will face McLaren High School away on Tuesday 14th January.

#### **Games Played – 2**

- Wins – 2
- Draws – 0
- Losses – 0

#### **Top Scorers:**

- Rebecca Ho – 6
- Holly Mc – 5
- Sofia H – 3

#### **Most MVP's:**

- Sofia H – 1
- Rebecca H – 1



### **Girls Football Tournament - 11th September**

The S1-3 girls football team participated in the first of a number of Active Schools football tournaments aiming to increase participation and school representation from girls within Falkirk Council. Competing in 4 fixtures at St Mungo's High School, the girls won 3 and drew 1 – again remaining unbeaten in games of a great standard.

- MVP – Holly M
- Top Goal Scorer – Rebecca H



### **Boys Football**

#### **U13's Boys**

Our Under 13's football team has played four fixtures this season but they are yet to pick up their first points as a squad this season. However, they have been competitive in all bar one match so far. Regardless of the results so far this season, Mr Caul's S1's have loved representing Bo'ness Academy and their motivation and enthusiasm has to be admired! After the Christmas holidays, the team has some fixtures against the teams next to them in the table, meaning there are still opportunities for some relative success this season.



#### **U14's Boys**

The U14's games have been stacked with plenty of goals and excitement – with a total of 40 goals scored within their 6 games so far. (22 of which were The Academy) Amongst all of the drama, the team have accumulated 6 points from a possible 12 in the FVSFA East league to sit second and have a fighting chance of qualifying for the next phase of the competition after Christmas.

#### **East Stirlingshire Cup (Regional)**

##### **Games played – 6**

- Wins – 3
- Draws – 0
- Losses – 3

##### **Top Scorers:**

- Robbie D – 12
- Kyle H – 4
- Elliot S – 2



#### **Scottish Cup:**

The boys managed to defeat St Andrews High School 4-3 in the first round, thanks to a dramatic last-minute volley from Kyle H, to set up a second-round encounter with Caldervale High School. Unfortunately, this would be the end of the road in the Scottish Cup for the U15's as they lost 4-2 in a closely contested fixture. They will now enter the Scottish Shield after Christmas.

##### **Most MVP's:**

- Robbie D – 3
- Cameron M – 2
- Harvey G – 1

**ASPIRATION**



**MOTIVATION**



**RESPECT**

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## U16's Boys

Our U16's (combined S3 and S4) boys have enjoyed a positive start to their league campaign. Late goals in crucial games have them sitting top of the FVSFA East league after 3 games with a combined 7 points from a possible 9. With two league fixtures remaining, the boys have ambitions of progressing into the next phase of the tournament. *Let's hope they can get the required results to do so!*

### Scottish Cup:

It was a first-round exit for our U16's as they were defeated 5-2 away to Uddingston Grammar.

### The Stenhousemuir Shield (Regional):

The lads failed to progress into the later stages of the Regional cup as they were defeated at the first hurdle. An entertaining game in which Denny High School edged out The Academy by a 4-1 score line.

### Games Played: 5

- Wins: 2
- Draws: 2
- Losses: 1

### Top Scorers:

- Brendon W – 3
- John K – 2
- James H – 2





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## Senior Boys

The Senior boys have made a very impressive start to the campaign as they aim to follow in the footsteps of the 2023/24 Bo'ness Academy Senior team after they made history by becoming the first Bo'ness side to win the FVSFA U18's title in 62 years.

The team currently sit on 4 points from a possible 9 – leaving some work to do in their final 3 league fixtures if they wish to progress. After Christmas they face Denny HS, Grangemouth HS, and Falkirk HS where they will be aiming for maximum points.

### Scottish Cup:

Our Senior team have made it to round 3 of the national competition thanks to convincing and professional wins in rounds 1 and 2 against Craigmount HS and Ross HS respectively. Mr Attinasi's squad have a challenging tie penciled in for Monday 16th December at home against Queensferry HS. Good luck team!

### The Falkirk Cup (Regional):

In addition to a strong Scottish Cup run, our seniors have advanced to the Semi Final of the Regional Cup (where they will face the winner of Grangemouth HS or Alva Academy away from home) after Christmas.

### Games played – 7

- Wins – 5
- Draws – 1
- Losses – 1

### Top Scorers:

- Connor M – 13
- Taylor C – 10
- Joe A – 3

### Most MVP's:

- Connor M – 3
- Taylor C, James S, Will S, Piotr K – 1

## Girls Golf Lessons at West Lothian Golf Club

In June, Caimin Condren, West Lothian Golf Club Professional, agreed to lead 5 starter golf sessions for S1 Bo'ness Academy pupils with the hope of inspiring girls to participate in the sport. For the sessions, we had 6 girls involved – all of which had a great experience and finished the sessions with a positive outlook on the game of golf which was brilliant to see!



ASPIRATION



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## Rugby Team

Our Rugby Academy continues to offer S1 and S2 pupils the opportunity to participate in the sport within our school curriculum. Through their progression within the Academy, many of these pupils have represented the school as part of either the S1 or S2 rugby team and competed against others in the authority.

Both teams have competed in one game so far, both of which were competitive and full of quality on and off the ball against strong Falkirk High School teams. The S2 lads edged out Falkirk and won their fixture but unfortunately the S1's lost theirs; however, it was not for want of trying.

- S1 MVP's – Andrew M and Callum G
- S2 MVP's – Cody S and Finlay L

## Young Ambassadors

We are delighted to announce Macy D and Fraser H as the 2024/25 Bo'ness Academy Young Ambassadors. The pair attended the conference in September in Dunfermline alongside all the Young Ambassadors from Central Scotland where they participated in workshops developing their understanding of the Young Ambassadors responsibilities. We cannot wait to see them implement their knowledge here at The Academy as they plan, organise, and run an event after Christmas.



## Basketball Referee Training

Five of our senior pupils travelled to Denny High School for the Basketball Scotland refereeing course. This was in preparation for the Active Schools primary basketball tournament for all the primary's in the Bo'ness cluster.



## Football Referees

Four of our senior SCQF L7 refereeing candidates gained experience of being "the man in the middle" at the Bo'ness Primary Cluster football tournament at Newtown Park. This gave the pupils a great platform to gain experience within a leadership role through competitive 7-a-side games, which can be reflected and built upon when they return to the Academy in preparation for their theory and practical examinations.



**ASPIRATION**



**MOTIVATION**



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### Four Pupils Receive BATD Scholarship

Ruby B (S2), Imogen C (S3), Alice M (S3) and Daisy M (S3) were selected to participate in the British Association of Teachers of Dance Stage Scholarships in Newcastle. After completing BATD examinations this year, they were nominated by their examiner for their excellence in dance, in which only a select few are chosen each year from across the UK, allowing them to compete at the scholarship event. Ruby and Imogen received a call-back on the day. Huge congratulations to all four girls for this achievement!



### Central Schools Dance Competition

Our Senior and Junior dance representatives put on a great show at the Central Schools Dance Competition held at Larbert High School. Miss Fullard, Miss Aitken, and Miss Havlin entered The Academy to compete in the Junior Hip-hop team category, the Senior Hip-hop team category, and the Senior Soloist category. As always, our performances were superb and our pupils were a credit to the school as they scored highly in the competition rankings.



### Therapets Visit Health and Wellbeing

We had an exciting morning thanks to Janette and Jamie from Therapets as they came in to deliver a session with Miss Havlin and Miss Aitkin's Mental Health and Wellbeing class. Everyone in the class benefitted from the experience and enjoyed their down time spent with Jamie.



ASPIRATION



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## Staff v Pupil

### 27th September - Netball

We had the first fixture of the year in our rebranded Staff vs Pupils format. For 2024/25, there will be nine events where the Bo'ness Academy staff team will compete against all year groups within the school.

In the opening event of the year, the BA staff got off to a quick start in the 1st quarter and built up a strong lead. The points evened out over the course of the next three quarters, however, the fast start was enough to see the staff get over the line with a 15 - 6 win.

- Staff MVP – Mrs Moir
- Pupil MVP – Anna C



### 22nd November - Basketball

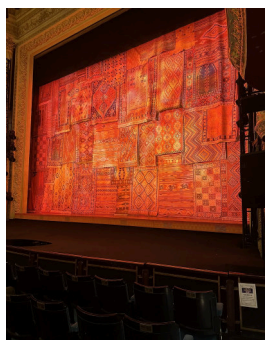
Our second Staff Versus Pupils event of the year ended in dramatic fashion. With event two being basketball. We challenged Robbie C, Max G, and Alister T to construct a team capable of challenging. After an open game in which both teams held the lead multiple times, the pupils earned their first point of the season with a late basket to level the game.

MVP - Robbie C

With the Bo'ness Academy Staff team still out in front, and the score being 2-1 in the season, attention turns to event 3 - Volleyball. Along with volleyball, by April, we will be 6 events down with 4 to play; as prisoner dodgeball, badminton, and short tennis all await before Easter.

### Aladdin Theatre Trip

Our annual theatre trip this year took us to see Aladdin at the Theatre Royal in Glasgow. A fantastic night, organised by Miss Fullard, where the pupils were treated to an outstanding night of entertainment. The Academy pupils had a ball and represented their school remarkably.



ASPIRATION



MOTIVATION



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## Active Girls Week

To celebrate active girls' week in Bo'ness we ran a series of new extra-curricular sports clubs every lunch time Monday-Friday. These were girls only clubs to promote and engage all of our girls with new activities in the P.E department. The activities varied from Zumba to basketball and all pupils who came along showed great enthusiasm. The theme of active girls week this year was leadership, so our clubs were supported by lots of our female S6 Leaders. We also celebrated staff within the P.E Department and our head teacher by sharing their notable achievements in sport.



## Active Schools Falkirk Fitness Championship

Twelve seniors were selected to represent Bo'ness Academy at the Active Schools Falkirk Fitness Competition. This event challenged the pupils both physically and mentally to their limit as they undertook a series of high intensity workouts to win points for their school. Every pupil gave it their all – demonstrating incredible resilience and determination when the going got tough and gave a terrific account of themselves and the school.



## Netball Scotland Leaders Qualification

Five of our talented and enthusiastic S3 pupils completed the Netball Scotland Leaders Qualification. This group's dedication to participating and learning through sport makes them role models in our faculty; whether it is within our Physical Education curriculum or with extra-curricular clubs and opportunities such as this. They really are a credit to Bo'ness Academy!



**ASPIRATION**



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## Falkirk Netball Tournament

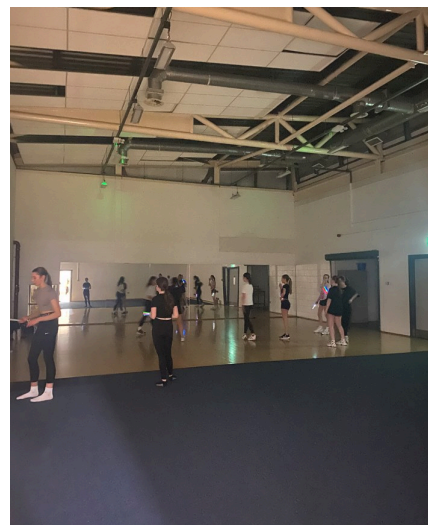
With netball being one of the best attended and rapidly growing clubs in Bo'ness (both primary and secondary), we could not wait for the girls to get the opportunity to represent the school at the Falkirk Netball Tournament. Led by Miss Fullard, both our junior and senior teams finished runner up in their respective tournament. This was a fantastic effort as they competed with some outstanding opponents and matched them all the way. Hopefully this is the first of many times these groups get the opportunity to compete and represent their school in netball.

In addition to playing, three of our Senior leaders were part of the officiating team for the tournament. Every one of them fulfilled their responsibilities in great fashion.



## Sportathon

We had over 100 S1-S6 pupils participating in our 2024 Sportathon. This annual event has become a staple in the Health & Well-being calendar and is always one of the most eagerly awaited events of the year. This year, as always, we had a variety of activities on offer including football, basketball, pool inflatable, clubbercise, table tennis, Bo'ness rugby and so much more. A massive thank you must go to our senior leaders (again!) for all of their support in planning and delivering sessions at this event. Additionally, a huge thank you must go to Miss Fullard and Miss Aitken for organising such a well-run and enjoyable event. I am delighted to say that we raised £700! This is a fantastic amount which will be used to further enhance pupil experience within the Physical Education Department.



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## Alternative Curriculum

Hi Everyone,

My name is Jordan, and I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Community Education Worker for Bo'ness Academy. Over the past few months, I've had the privilege of working with our fantastic young people here in the school, and excited to share some of the brilliant things we have been doing and what is still to come.

The groups have been focusing on some key areas to help build stronger connections and support the wider community. Specifically, we have been working on:

- Building Core Skills: through a series of engaging sessions and hands-on activities, we've been developing essential skills like communication, problem-solving and building relationships. These sessions are designed to help everyone, no matter their age or experience, grow in confidence and capability.
- Developing as a team and building relationships – team building and building relationships is at the heart of what we do as Community Education Workers. We've had some fantastic sessions designed to strengthen trust, collaboration, and creativity amongst the group members. Its been inspiring to see how everyone has came together to support and encourage on another.
- Community Safety: recognising the importance of safe and welcoming environment, we've also been working on sessions aimed at raising awareness about community safety. This has included discussions and role-playing scenarios.

We were also fortunate enough to work alongside The Volunteer Conservation Project at Kinneil Estate for a number of weeks. Here are some key highlights:

- Team challenges that helped us build problem-solving skills in a fun and active way.
- Nature focused activities like identifying plants and wildlife in the area to connect with the environment around us.
- Fire safety, the group learned the importance of building and managing a fire in a safe controlled area, even celebrated with some s'mores.

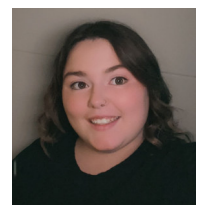
These projects are just the beginning, an I'm incredibly proud of how much enthusiasm and teamwork the groups have shown.

But here's the exciting part: there's something exciting coming soon that myself and the young people can't wait to share with you all! It's a project that will bring together our school, parents and the wider community in a truly and meaningful way. This project will be both inspiring and impactful. We are just putting together the final plans, so stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks. Trust me, you won't want to miss it!

I'm so looking forward to continuing this journey with all of you and finding even more ways we can grow as a community. If you'd like to get involved or simply want to learn more about what we're up to, feel free to reach out through the school office or stop me for a chat when you see me around. Here's to many exciting opportunities ahead!

Warm Regards,

Jordan Baird,  
Community Education Worker



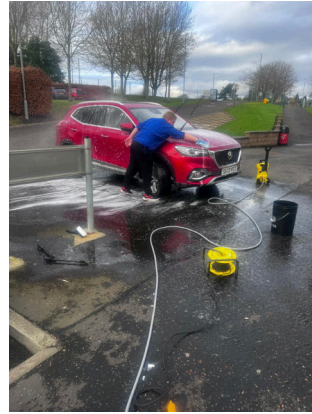
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## Outdoor Education

| Group                  | Activity  | Location        | Info                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Senior Captains        | Canoeing  | Loch Ard        | We looked at leadership qualities and requirements, problem solving, effective and efficient communication and covered aspects of the history of the area |
| Junior Captains        | Canoeing  | Loch Ard        | We looked at leadership qualities and requirements, problem solving, effective and efficient communication and covered aspects of the history of the area |
| Alternative Curriculum | Intro Day | Muiravonside CP | Intro session of getting to know each other and using problem solving activities to look at effective and efficient communication                         |
| Alternative Curriculum | Canoeing  | Loch Ard        | We looked at effective and efficient communication, resilience, coping with changing environments and situation out with our control                      |

All of these were linked into aspects of the Curriculum for Excellence advised by the school and would be allocated to groups as appropriate to their needs:

### Aims / purpose:

The aims of the programme were to enable the young people to develop and build confidence, resilience, trust and coping mechanisms

- To build an awareness of the outdoor environment
- To develop life skills
- To build resilience and develop emotional thinking
- To provide opportunities to collaborate, participate and build confidence
- To develop communication skills and vocabulary
- To experience different landscapes and to reinforce key skills in an informal setting

### Curricular Links:

Cross curricular links will appear regularly throughout the course of the session dependent on the activity. Outdoor education will link in with our priorities to improve health and wellbeing. Being part of this group will allow our pupils the opportunity to succeed and engage in activities that will help prepare them for life beyond school.

We also were able to support Outdoor Education in their assessments by supporting them with participation in a wide range of activities. Outdoor Education passed their accreditation and we received a lovely email thanking our young people and their enthusiasm and support.





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## MVP

A number of senior pupils were involved in a 2-day MVP training programme at the end of August. This programme provides pupils with an understanding of gender stereotypes and gender-based violence. In smaller groups, the mentors created PSE lessons for BGE classes focusing on a theme of gender-based violence. The team are in the process of delivering these lessons in PSE. S3 pupils engaged well with their lessons and the groups did a fantastic job delivering lessons. We can't wait to see the rest of the groups delivering their lessons to S1 and S2.

In October, mentors Eilidh A, Lisa G and Molly F attended the Equally Safe open day in Falkirk. The girls had the opportunity to speak with survivors of abuse and workers from agencies such as Bernardo's that support victims of abuse. The open day highlighted red flags in relationships and the support available.

The mentors launched *chat and craft*. This club runs in the Hive every Tuesday at lunch time. The attendees enjoyed talking to the mentors and making Christmas cards.

We look forward to seeing what else our mentors do in the New year!



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## RAF Talk

During Scottish Apprenticeship Week, we were very lucky to secure Paul 'Dinky' Davies in to the school. Dinky is the Warrant Officer for the RAF focusing on Careers Engagement across Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Dinky completed a talk with young people about the various roles available within the RAF which includes medical staff, vets, engineers, police and cyber experts to name a few. This was followed with a Q&A session.

Young people also had the opportunity to try on some of the equipment which is used by the RAF. This included a VR head set which allowed you to fly a helicopter into the desert.

Dinky has supported the school with a wide range of events and opportunities since August 2023 and we are greatly appreciative of his support.



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## Meal Prep Mondays: *Cooking Up Success at Bo'ness Academy*

At Bo'ness Academy, we believe that learning extends beyond the classroom, and our **Meal Prep Mondays** initiative is a shining example of how education can bring families together. This engaging family learning programme, aimed at S1 students and their families, has been running in five-week blocks, offering a unique opportunity to cook, connect, and create delicious meals.

Every Monday after school, students bring a family member—be it a parent, grandparent, or sibling—into the Home Economics department to prepare a meal for four. From spaghetti bolognese and macaroni cheese to sweet and sour chicken and homemade pizza, these sessions are as tasty as they are educational. The grand finale for this block? A festive yule log to kick off the holiday season!

But the learning doesn't stop there. After each session, families take home ingredients to recreate a similar meal at home, building confidence and reinforcing the skills learned. So far, students and their families have tackled everything from chilli con carne and lasagna to fajitas and even their own homemade bread.

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## The Benefits of Family Learning

Meal Prep Mondays are about more than just food—they're about fostering connections, building essential life skills, and making lasting memories. Here's what makes this initiative so impactful.

- **Strengthened Family Bonds:** Cooking together provides quality time to bond, communicate, and collaborate in a fun and relaxed environment.
- **Practical Life Skills:** Students learn essential cooking techniques, kitchen safety, and nutrition basics, equipping them with skills they'll use for life.
- **Boosted Confidence:** Successfully preparing a meal builds confidence in young learners, empowering them to take the lead in the kitchen.
- **Promoting Healthy Eating:** Families are encouraged to try new recipes, making balanced and nutritious meals a regular part of their routine.

## Looking Ahead

The positive feedback from participants has been overwhelming, and we're already looking forward to starting our next session at the end of January! With more exciting recipes and opportunities for families to connect, the programme continues to grow in popularity.

Meal Prep Mondays prove that when families learn together, everyone benefits. We can't wait to see what the next group of budding chefs and their families will create. Stay tuned for updates—and don't forget to save room for seconds!

## - The Meal Prep Mondays Team



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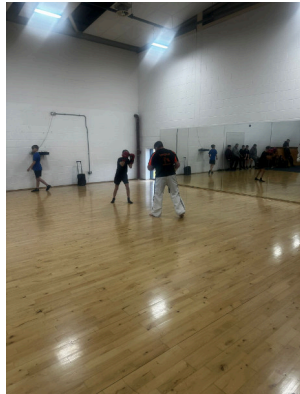
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## Martial Arts

By bringing Martial arts in to the school, we are bringing a focus for students to strike pads, work on flexibility training, participate in light sparring, and work on fitness sessions while teaching the discipline aspect of what I already teach in my Taekwon-Do & Kickboxing schools. To bring the best out of each and every student from Bo'nness Academy that participates in our sessions.



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## November 11th 2024

As it's known, Remembrance Day is to commemorate the dead of the First World War and the Second World War. It is to grieve those British and Commonwealth defence forces killed by tyrants determined to bring injustice and destruction. However, despite this day which stands as a reminder of the sacrifices and desolation that war brings, it now represents much more. From the conflict in Gaza and Israel, to the war that has followed the invasion of Ukraine, it is clear to us today that we must learn from our mistakes and stand up to those that pose threats to peace.

The act of laying a wreath symbolises a vow to remember the past while striving for a better future, proving to both of us that we are proud of the good that we have seen since these tragedies. We strive to bring resilience in the face of adversity and aim to demonstrate the unity and change we want to bring to our school. It is a moment to reflect and to learn of the ongoing struggles for freedom and justice the world sees today. We hope we can continue to support our community and fight to warn of the consequences this day symbolises.



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## Rotary Young Technologist Competition

On Thursday November 7<sup>th</sup>, four S1 to S6 Bo'ness Academy teams, fought it out (on home turf) in a bid to be crowned champion in the annual Rotary Young Technologist Competition. They found themselves up against teams from the Falkirk cluster secondary schools in addition to Winchburgh Academy. The basic, intermediate and advanced teams were set the challenge of planning, sketching and building a drawbridge, judged by our visiting Rotarians and industry engineers. During the process their problem solving, creative thinking, communication and team working skills were really put to the test, as well as their ability to use a years supply of hot glue sticks!!

What were the results you ask?

Winners of the S1/2 'basic' category – St Mungo's

Winners of the S3/4 'intermediate' category – Braes High School

Winners of the S5/6 'Advanced' category...drum roll please... Bo'ness Academy

Congratulations to all pupils involved.



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## Tea and Toddlers

Here are our pictures from our Tea and Toddlers Christmas party! The Tea and Toddlers group is organised by Pupil Support and runs each Wednesday from 10am - 12pm by Miss Martin and our fantastic pupils. We would welcome any parent/carer along! The group starts again on Wednesday 15th January 2025.



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## Maths Week

September brings us Maths Week Scotland and this year classes took part in various activities. Maths Zines were created, classes participated in online competitions such as Times Table Rockstars and we also submitted entries to the national competition "Maths Wi Nae Borders" which really tested our thinking skills.

Along with all these exciting activities we also hosted a Maths Relay with all of S1 and this was organised and run by our amazing STEM leaders. There was a real buzz in the hub and the games hall as S1 groups raced to answer questions and worked together to problem solve. Pupils from the winning teams all gained valuable house points and Forth house came out on top. Our STEM leaders really showcased their leadership and organisation skills and the event was a huge success which our S1 really enjoyed.



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## Exploring Opportunities: Bo'ness Academy Visits Bakkavor

Staff members from Bo'ness Academy had the privilege of visiting Bakkavor's impressive factory in Bo'ness. This visit marked the beginning of an exciting new partnership aimed at strengthening ties between our school and one of the area's key employers. The visit offered invaluable insights into the opportunities available for young people right here in our local community.

The afternoon began with a warm welcome and an overview of Bakkavor's operations. We were introduced to the different departments within the business and learned about the wide range of roles that keep the factory running smoothly. A guided tour of the factory gave us a behind-the-scenes look at how the many products made on-site are created, showcasing the intricate processes that turn raw ingredients into the delicious items found on supermarket shelves across the country.

We also had the chance to meet with Bakkavor's General Manager, their Early Careers Talent Manager, the UK Lead Product Development Manager, and current apprentices. These conversations gave us a deep understanding of the company's dedication to nurturing talent and fostering innovation. The apprentices enthusiastically shared their journeys, offering a glimpse into the possibilities Bakkavor presents to young people starting their careers.

One of the highlights of the visit was learning about Bakkavor's apprenticeship programmes, which cater to a variety of interests and career aspirations. Whether students are interested in technical roles, product development, or management, the company offers pathways to success.

Another fascinating aspect was exploring Bakkavor's product development process. From conceptualizing new recipes to creating and refining products, the level of creativity and collaboration involved is truly inspiring. To top it off, we even got to sample some of the products made on-site—a delicious reminder of the talent and expertise within the business! This visit was more than just a tour; it was a step toward creating meaningful opportunities for the pupils at Bo'ness Academy. By building this relationship with Bakkavor, we hope to offer our students a unique chance to explore career options, engage in real-world learning experiences, and consider the many exciting opportunities available right on their doorstep.

We are excited about the potential of this partnership and look forward to working with Bakkavor to provide our pupils with access to workshops, mentoring, and perhaps even hands-on experiences in the future.

The visit has left us inspired and optimistic about what's to come. Watch this space for updates as we continue to develop this valuable connection!

**- Bo'ness Academy Staff Team**



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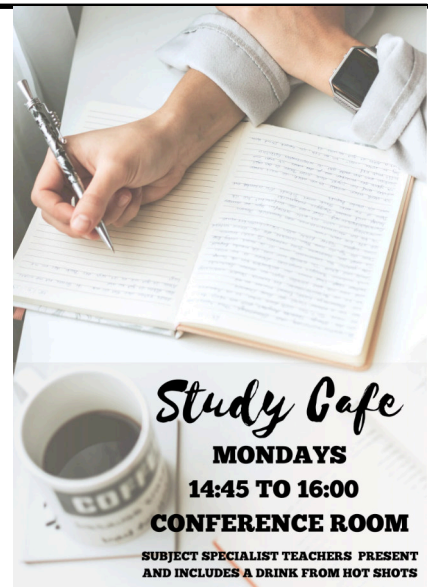


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## Study Café

The study Café runs after school every Monday in the Conference Room for pupils in S4 -S6. Pupils can access a range of resources to help them study and staff are there to support. As well as studying they can work with a Pupil Support Teacher to learn different study techniques to try. Hot Shots is open at this time so pupils can buy a drink to enjoy when they are working.



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## P7 Transition

On 4th September we welcomed primary 7 pupils and their families to the P7 open evening. Attendees enjoyed seeing various curricular areas across the school and meeting staff.

Our P7s enjoyed their first transition visit to Social Subjects and Expressive Arts. We look forward to seeing P7 again in February for their next visit.



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## Duke of Edinburgh

In September, Silver participants took part in a three-day expedition along the Fife Coast where they enjoyed walking, camping and a coasteering activity (pictures attached).

Sign up for this year's awards is under way. We have had thirty-eight S3 pupils sign up to complete the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award and eighteen S4 pupils sign up to complete Silver. They will undertake a range of different activities to achieve their award, which includes physical exercise, learning a new skill and volunteering within the community. They will then train for and take part in a two- or three-day expedition depending on the level. Training for the expedition is held weekly. Over the last couple of weeks pupils have been registering for the online eDofE system and learning how to upload evidence to prove they are completing their activities.

To celebrate last year's participants achieving their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award, a small gathering was organised with pizza and fizzy juice, where we presented certificates and advertised the Silver award (pictures attached).



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# Recyke-a-bike

## Week 1

We met all the groups at the school and set up some skill zones that would be progressive and help the riders when we got to Kinniel. We worked on some core skills such as braking, balance, cone of movement. The riders really enjoyed the session, got stuck in and challenged themselves when the skills got harder. It was great to see them achieve this, working together and encouraging each other.

## Week 2

We had to change our plans for this one and stay inside for a maintenance session. We started the session talking about a time when they crashed/fell off, it was brilliant to see each of them stand up in front of everyone and tell their story. I felt that this brought the groups closer together.

We then did a maintenance session, showing them how to check their bikes and fix a puncture, it was great to see how engaged they were.

## Week 3

We met at Kinneil to use the pump track and we worked on the skills that we learned in week 1. We gave them some free time and it was great to see the riders trying to use some of the skills we learned. We then added in some coaching to help them progress. All the groups had loads of fun and continued their learning.

## Week 4

This week we progressed from the pump track to riding some of the trails around the estate. We focused on more advanced skills and it was great to see the riders encourage each other and have so much fun.

Group 3 ventured to a trail called Red Bull, and we worked on their jumping technique. Conner even rode some advanced trails which was brilliant to see.



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## Effectivenow

Effectivenow LTD are working in ten schools in Southeast Scotland to support the employability of young people, and to help businesses recruit young people with the necessary skills for the modern-day workplace. Effectivenow have created Business Partnerships with local businesses to support the delivery of their programme in schools, and also to create strong relationships with the young people to allow them to gain experience of the world of work.

Every Monday, Effectivenow LTD have been working with a selected group of senior students from BA on a Meta Skills programme to develop their CONFIDENCE, RESILIENCE and COMMUNICATION. This programme focuses on different Meta Skill modules each week.

The activities are based on problem solving tasks that require different skills to be used to be successful.

So far, the group have worked on -

- Communication
- Collaboration & Teamwork
- Innovation & Creativity
- Strategic Thinking & Problem Solving
- Negotiation & Conflict Resolution

The group are using skills the businesses we work with value and want to see in their staff. These Meta Skills allow young people to learn industry specific knowledge more quickly and have the confidence to adapt to the demands of the role in their job.

We look forward to developing the programme further and strengthening the partnership with Bo'ness Academy and the local community.

Bruce Aitchison  
**Director**



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## Technologies

### Parental Engagement Evening 30 October

After the October break, we welcomed nearly 60 families to our Technologies Parental evening, where we talked about all things Technologies and how to boost our young peoples' potential in their different subject areas. Parents/carers were given the opportunity to engage with course materials, online supports and experience some time in each subject area to better help support their young people at home. We are very grateful to all the families who attended, and who took time to give us such positive feedback to ensure our next session in January/February will be equally as successful.

### Saturday & Sunday Master Classes 16th November, 8th December

After successful completion of block one of our master class sessions, which had excellent turnout, we are looking forward to block 2 in February. We are exceptionally proud of the dedication the pupils have shown to their Technologies studies giving up their time at the weekend to work on developing key skills to support them in their final examination. Pupils were able to access specialised materials and software to help them reach their potential

We have a second session running on the 8th December to help support pupils work on areas for development from their recent November assessments, and practice exam strategy for their upcoming FABs in January. We look forward to welcoming them all again on Sunday, and as always snacks will be provided.

The next block is 8<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> February



### Future Assets

Bo'ness Academy's Senior Future Assets Team were invited to spend time with their competition coach, Julie Cluely at Baillie Gifford in Edinburgh. The team were given a tour of the premises and spent time working through the financial part of their research report. The team also enjoyed hearing from a female Baillie Gifford employee, who studied Philanthropy in university but wanted to try something different, so undertook a Graduate Scheme at Baillie Gifford. Before coming back to Bo'ness, the team stopped by Lululemon to interview the George Street Team Leader, which will be included in their elevator pitch which supports their research report.





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## Visit from local businesses/Women in business

Over the last few weeks we have had inspirational women from the finance & business industry come in to discuss with our senior pupils' possible pathways available to them. This included starting their own businesses, attending university for investment and economics to modern apprenticeships available at some of the biggest invest firms, for example Baillie Gifford. Our pupils had the opportunity to find out about the wide variety of pathways available to them after they finish their time here at Bo'ness Academy. The pupils were also able to find out about what these business owners and business women have previously studied when they were younger and identify the transferable skills they are building whilst in Technologies.

## S2 Girls and Non-Binary into STEM

A group of twelve S2 Girls attended a STEM event at Edinburgh Napier University's Craiglockhart Campus. They participated in a series of workshops learning about careers in STEM including hearing about Formula student and the design of F1 cars, sport science reaction testing, encryption, bridge building, paper prototyping for UX design and sensors used in self-driving cars. The girls were a credit to the school, and we had a great time.



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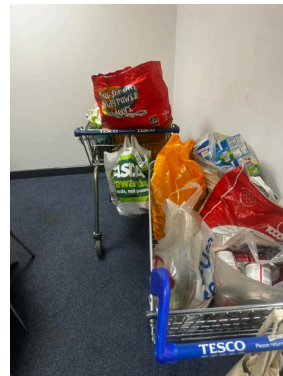
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## Foodstore

We had another successful year supporting the local foodstore. On Thursday 19 November we took the school mini bus with over 700 items down to the warehouse. This also allowed our young people to see the warehouse, how it is organised and how food is distributed to those in need.

We look forward to supporting the Foodstore again next year.



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## Rewards Trip

On Tuesday 16 December we took over 400 young people to Fountain Park in Edinburgh. They participated in a wide range of activities including, trampolining, bowling, mini golf and laser tag. Everyone had a great day out and the bus staff commented on how polite our young people are getting on and off the buses- they had never had so many thank you's! The pupils were a real credit to the school.







## First Aid

Over November and December a majority of our S4 and S5 pupils participated in First aid Training. Young people had to complete a wide range of practical activities including bandaging wounds, completing CPR and placing people in the recovery position. This is an extremely beneficial life skill to have as we unfortunately never know when we might need to know and use these skills.

This is accredited by First Aid Certificates and is a Level 6 (Higher) qualification. Through having this qualification, a number of employers offer employees an increase in their salary or hourly pay.

The young people who participated will all receive their certificates in the next few weeks. Well done to all our first aiders!



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## Careers Advisors

Hello from the career's advisers at Bo'ness Academy. We are Jillian Faughnan and Lorna Maclaughlan and we work for Skills Development Scotland. We are based in school 4 days a week and primarily work with those who are leaving school as well as pupils who have some barriers to progression. However, we also offer a universal service and deliver groupwork from S1 and around key times, E.g. S2 subject choice. Pastoral teachers identify pupils who may need our support, but any pupil can request an appointment by using the QR code on the career room door in the library. We also attend parent's evenings and other careers-related events and are always happy to speak to parents. Please contact us if you have any questions. For Kinglass house please email [jillian.faughnan@sds.co.uk](mailto:jillian.faughnan@sds.co.uk). For Forth and Avon please email [lorna.maclaughlin@sds.co.uk](mailto:lorna.maclaughlin@sds.co.uk). We look forward to meeting you or your young person at some point in the future.



*Jillian*

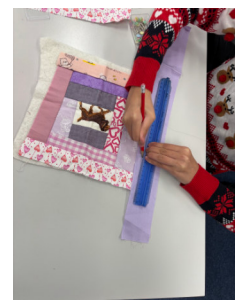


*Lorna*

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## Sewing Skills

Some of our pupils in Pupil Support have been working on their sewing skills as part of our well-being curriculum. Our pupils have been working hard to perfect their pinning and stitching by making iPad covers, cushion covers and even working on some quilts! We are so proud of their efforts and the fantastic items they have created!



**ASPIRATION**



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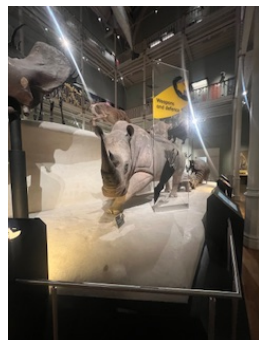
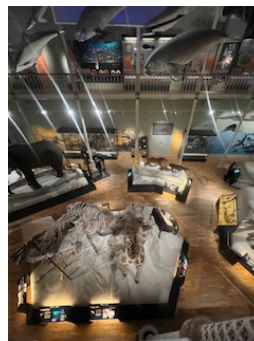
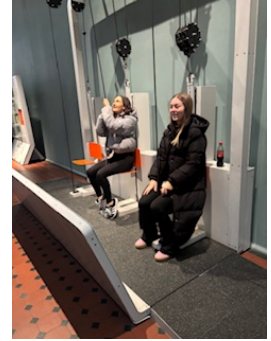
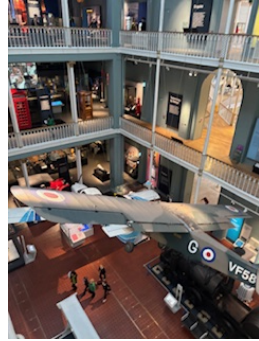
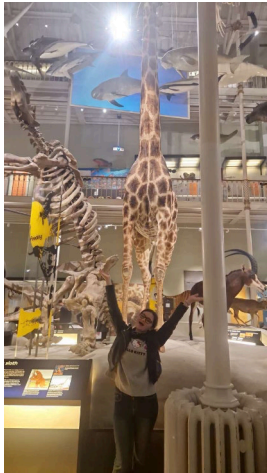


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## Travel and Tourism

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> December our Travel and tourism class had a trip to Edinburgh. We visited The National Museum of Scotland, then had a walking tour of Edinburgh viewing where some of the most famous Edinburgh attractions are such as the Castle before browsing Edinburgh's Christmas Market.



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## YPI at Bo'ness Academy

Currently in RMPS students from S2 have been taking part in the Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI). YPI is a powerful active citizenship programme which empowers young people to make a difference in their community while developing a range of skills. This involves students working in teams to identify a social issue they care about and charity in their local area with the aim of winning a £3000 grant for their chosen charity.

During the process of YPI, pupils develop skills in research, presentation, analysis and communication which has contributed to a growth in confidence and skills for learning, life and work. In class, groups have been working extremely hard to prepare their presentations for the class semi-finals. The standards of the presentations have been amazing and it has been very difficult to select winning groups for the final as each group has given an outstanding presentation and showed a real passion for the work their charity does in their local community.

There will be several groups across the whole of S2 who will make it to our YPI final in January. A panel of judges will choose the most creative and convincing team presentation to win the £3000 grant for their chosen charity. In our final we will have a variety of charities being represented in, such as Screen Memories, Strathcarron Hospice, Open Door, FDAMH. We are all really looking forward to seeing the finalist's presentations in January.



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## CSCS Card Training

In November 13 young people participated in the first stages of their CSCS card training. We were very lucky to have Gavin Smith from the Salvation Army deliver the training in school. All 13 passed their Level 4 Health and Safety in a Construction Environment. They now are working towards their CSCS card and have downloaded the CITB app. This will allow these young people to gain employment on building sites. If anyone else is interested in this they should speak to Miss McMaster.



**ASPIRATION**



**MOTIVATION**



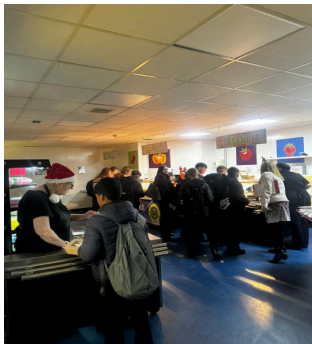
**RESPECT**



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## Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day

Everyone enjoyed their Christmas Dinner provided by our wonderful Dinner Ladies. Lunch was extended so everyone could enjoy their 2-course meal. There was a wide array of Christmas Jumpers on the day too.



ASPIRATION



MOTIVATION



RESPECT

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## Awards Ceremony

On 18 September 2024, Bo'ness Academy held their Awards Ceremony. This was an opportunity for us to celebrate all of our young people's achievements and efforts over the previous year alongside their parents/carers, family members and friends. We were also able to say a thank you to the previous years School Captains and welcome in our School Captain's for this year.



ASPIRATION



MOTIVATION



RESPECT