

# BP STUDENT TUTORING SCHEME

Ferryhill Primary School, Caledonian Place, Aberdeen - March 2013

Participation: Mrs G Scott (BP Student Tutoring Scheme Co-ordinator), Mrs L Soulsby, Classroom Teacher P2/3 (also overall Link Teacher), Miss Hannah Dunn (RGU Student Tutor – Applied Social Sciences Yr2)



Ferryhill Primary has participated continuously in the BP Student Tutoring Scheme for a number of years. Mrs Lynne Soulsby has been the 'Link Teacher' throughout this time which stemmed from her interest in science and role as BP Link Officer, progressing to the BP Tutoring Scheme (annually option given to other teachers who may wish to undertake the opportunity).

Mrs Soulsby is a keen advocate of the scheme, inspired to participate as teachers **"always need an extra pair of hands, the right calibre of student can offer so much"**. Lynne e-mails all staff when the scheme goes 'live' and the take up is always good. There is no definitive plan for each Tutor prior to them coming as each class is different, once teachers meet the tutor they discuss what tasks to give them. Tasks can again vary depending on the age and stage of pupil, but in most cases, once the teacher has talked through the work for session the student then supports pupils as necessary, and can be in a group, individual or full class basis.

Hannah Dunn, a second year Applied Social Science student at RGU supports the P2/3 class every Friday morning (February-March) and on occasion has continued volunteering for the whole school day. Activities that 'Miss Dunn' has helped with include supporting ICT (Maths, Science, English); school library visit; creating Mother's Day certificates and being with the class during the judging of a 'Sleigh competition'. Hannah **'loves it at Ferryhill and wishes she could help out more'** and is now seriously considering a career in primary school teaching which has surprised her as she was prior to the placement considering secondary teaching.



When the pupils were asked to give '3 stars' relating to Hannah's input in class and 'one wish' on what could be improved they, in groups, concluded the following:

**Stars:** Miss Dunn is 'excellent, cool, she smells nice, intelligent, beautiful, kind, helpful, fantastic, amazing, and good at listening'.

**Wishes:** 'that Miss Dunn could be here every day, that she could bring sweets and that she could fly'!

When asked to describe Miss Dunn with a word starting with the first letter of their name, many pupils were keen to show their super vocabulary with Mason stating 'magnificent', Annalise 'amazing', Erin 'excellent' and Areeya 'awesome'! Olivia keenly said 'octopus' to which Mrs Soulsby said that teachers sometimes would benefit from having 8 hands!

When asked about the impact of having a Student Tutor, Mrs Soulsby without hesitation said "**the impact is amazing – can't do without them – huge bonus to have another adult in the room**", and has found no challenges associated with any tutors in the past. She added that having a tutor is important in the context of Personal and Social Education (PSE) where pupils have to learn to work with other adults and in the Curriculum for Excellence to be 'Responsible Citizens'.

Students coming to Ferryhill as Tutors have introduced themselves well to the school and attended school as planned, thereafter maintained a positive classroom presence, interacting well with the teacher/other staff and pupils alike. A 2012 tutor from the University of Aberdeen recently notified Mrs Soulsby that he has secured a PGDE Primary place at the University of Edinburgh and reiterated his thanks for his Ferryhill experience which assisted this success.

### Comments made on further Student Tutors placed at Ferryhill Primary are as follows:

“ Having the student tutor in my classroom has enabled me to plan more active learning during the morning. The tutor has taken small groups and led educational games, encouraging positive social behaviour whilst learning. This behaviour will hopefully continue when the tutor has gone as the children are learning to take it in turns and encourage each other. They all enjoy the extra attention and can see the value of a calm, fair game. Such an enthusiastic helper is wonderful! Having my student tutor also means that I have been able to concentrate on a group lesson without constant interruption from the children with behaviour problems, they have risen to the challenge of sticking to their task so that they can play a game with the tutor! ”

“ Great to have another pair of hands in the classroom. They are enthusiastic "young" and keen!! The children respond well to having a male in the classroom - they ask where he is in the afternoon. ”

Overall, Mrs Soulsby on behalf of Ferryhill Primary indicated she is very happy with the organisation of the scheme, the enthusiasm of the tutors and would be very keen to secure tutors in 2014 – her only 'wish' that they could be given as many tutors as possible!