

# BP STUDENT TUTORING SCHEME

## Hazelhead Academy - March 2013

**Participation:** Mrs G Scott (BP Student Tutoring Scheme Co-ordinator), Mrs A Drysdale, Head of Science Department/Link Teacher, Mrs Taylor (Science), Miss Leitch (Science), Chris Mellis (RGU), Heather Walker (UA).

The Science Department at Hazelhead Academy have fully participated in the BP Student Tutoring Scheme for a number of years. Mrs Drysdale, Head and Link Teacher for the Science Department herself was a Student Tutor in 2000, tutoring at Tullos Primary so is a keen advocate of the scheme.

Chris Mellis a third year Forensic and Analytical Science student from RGU and Heather Walker an MSc Science student at the University of Aberdeen both attend the school every Tuesday afternoon.

They respectively work mainly with S1 classes on general science and S4 classes with exam revision as well as undertaking small tutorial groups as seen in the photographs below.

Heather was previously known to the Science Department due to her involvement in 'Lab in a Lorry' so staff were confident in her abilities and happy to have her assisting in labs and tutorials. Chris quickly built up a positive relationship with staff so likewise they were comfortable in allowing him to fulfil the same tasks.



On the day of the visit Chris was working on Biology focusing on the Human Reproductive System whilst Heather was in a Chemistry class working with oil based fires. Thereafter Chris took a tutorial group looking at fertilisers whilst Heather similarly focused in a tutorial group working on past papers with fourth year pupils.

Heather commented that "... the first years were fine and treated me like a teacher which was nice. It took some time for the fourth years to realise that I'm not a teacher and that I'm a student, and once they noticed this they seemed to respond really positively towards me and they could talk to me in a different, more friendly way."

All staff were extremely positive about having the students in the department and have embraced them fully, with both invited on the day of the visit to a staff lunch.

Overall, the feedback was that Heather and Chris had a positive impact on pupils; encouraging them, being non-judgemental, engaging at the appropriate level and due to their age being able to relate to the youngsters. It was also commented upon that both were viewed as positive role models, showing pupils the value of giving up their time to help others.

On a wider scale having Student Tutors helps the school in working towards the 'Curriculum for Excellence' by developing partnerships with outside agencies and in particular addressing the need to effectively deliver STEM subjects.