

BP STUDENT TUTORING SCHEME

Tough Primary School, Alford – March 2013

Participation: Mrs G Scott (BP Student Tutoring Scheme Co-ordinator), Mrs J Symington, Head Teacher/Classroom Teacher P1-3, Miss N Kennaway, Class Teacher P4-7 and Miss Amy Dewhurst (UA Student Tutor – French & Geography Yr5)

Tough Primary has participated in the BP Student Tutoring Scheme for a number of years. Mrs Julie Symington has been the 'Link Teacher' throughout this time as part of her remit as Head Teacher and readily promotes the scheme annually to the school team.

Tough Primary is one of twelve 'hubs' in Scotland central to a 'Language Learning in Scotland: 1+2 Approach' project funded by the Scottish Government. French and Mandarin languages are the focus of the project and as such are being taught throughout P1-P7. For this reason Tough requested a Student Tutor in both areas and were very happy to secure Amy Dewhurst, a fifth year French and Geography student from the University of Aberdeen to support them in their 1+2 plan.

Amy spends Monday mornings at the school, firstly with the P4-7 class with Miss Kennaway then moving after the break period to the P1-3 class with Mrs Symington (during the visit with Rachel, a PGDE Primary student on continuous placement). Both teachers have a basic French knowledge so are delighted to have Amy as a fluent French speaker to help them gain confidence in pronunciation; to expand their vocabulary and enhance their understanding and knowledge of French grammar.

Areas Amy has worked on include: naming face and body parts; weather; countries; greetings; age; French story reading and a mixture of practical activities such as pancake making to learn ingredients and 'Corners' in the gym to learn directional terms.

Having Amy as a 'fresh face' in class has motivated pupils who have responded well to her and an inspiration for children to see how languages can help people to continue in education. An additional benefit of having Amy is that Miss Kennaway has some time to write up the necessary reports key to the languages project.

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



Stars: 'Amy is good at speaking French and she helps not to get words wrong and tells us how to say them properly'; 'she is fun, amazing, colourful, interesting and clever.'. Wishes: 'that Amy could come every day'.

Having Amy on board has assisted Tough not just with languages but has touched also on social subjects: RME, culture, technology, health, and geography. She has aided staff development within the school and the wider school community due to a posting on the Languages Blog of the GLOW group. Parents have been informed of Amy's input via the school newsletter, during an open afternoon and during a quiz night in order to keep the language focus positive and prominent.

The school would very much like one or more tutors again in 2014 and would be keen if possible to find out earlier if they were matched with a tutor.

Amy has very much enjoyed her experience and is delighted that she has secured a place on the PGDE Primary at the University of Aberdeen, so who knows may find herself back at Tough Primary in the not too distant future.