

Cults Academy Weekly Update

Friday 6 November 2026

Coffee Morning Fundraiser

Join us for a Charity Coffee Morning & Bake Sale in support of Befriend a Child on **Thursday 12th November, from 9:30am to 12:00pm**. Come along to the Dance Studio at Cults Academy for coffee, home bakes and the chance to support a fantastic local charity. All proceeds from the event will go directly to Befriend a Child.

befriend a child

turn a frown upside down

Please note that there is no parking available on the school site. Visitors should access the event via the door leading directly to the Dance Studio corridor, which can be reached from the community car park area. We look forward to welcoming you and appreciate your support for this worthwhile cause.

YPI Additional Support Needs Pilot

Earlier this session, a group of our young people took part in the YPI ASN pilot programme, working together to learn about social issues, research local charities and develop their presentation skills. The experience provided an excellent opportunity for pupils to build confidence, strengthen teamwork and communication skills, and make a positive contribution to their local community. We are incredibly proud of the efforts of all involved, and are delighted to see our learners represent Cults Academy so positively throughout the programme.

The article on the next pages appeared in the Aberdeen Business News:

Working Together to Be Our Best

Belonging | Ambition | Kindness

Cults Academy team wins £3,000 for Cults Kirk Centre after ASN-focused programme

The Wood Foundation has funded YPI, described as Scotland's largest independent education initiative focused on employability skills, to explore how its model can be adapted to better support young people with additional support needs (ASN). The organisation said the pilot has given young people the chance to develop practical skills, build confidence and make a tangible contribution to their local community. More than two-fifths (41.8%) of pupils in Aberdeen City were recorded as having an additional support need in 2024.

The YPI model involves teams from the same school researching and pitching for a local charity, with the winning team securing £3,000 for their chosen cause. As part of the Aberdeen pilot, young people with ASN from different schools were brought together, with the programme adapted around their individual needs and abilities. A group from Cults Academy secured £3,000 for Cults Kirk Centre.

Some of the young people involved in the presentation were non-verbal. With appropriate support, they were able to contribute to and deliver a presentation to the judging panel, showcasing their research, communication skills and commitment to their chosen cause.

The £3,000 grant enabled Cults Kirk Centre to purchase new tables and chairs for customers at its centre. Young people undertaking ASN placements at the centre approached the team about their YPI proposal, carrying out interviews with staff and photographing damaged tables as part of their research. The centre also provides one-to-one support and training, helping young people build confidence and develop practical skills.

Reverend Shuna Dicks, Parish Minister at Cults Kirk Centre, said: *"The pilot has had a really positive impact on the young people involved, giving them the chance to build confidence, develop practical skills and see the value of their ideas. By researching our needs, speaking to staff and putting forward their proposal, they took real ownership of the project and understood how their contribution could make a difference."*

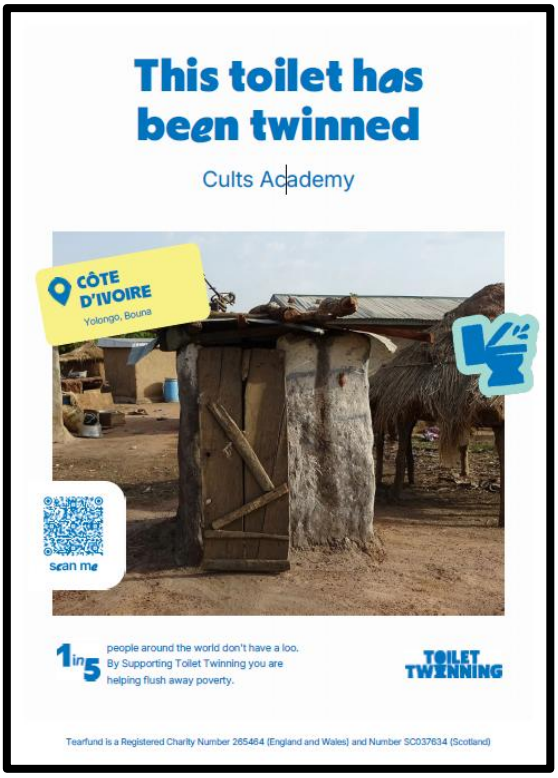
She added: *"The relationship has continued beyond the project, with young people from Cults Academy now joining us for school placements. It's been fantastic to see them grow in confidence, get involved in activities*

at their own pace and build connections across generations. They bring a lot to our centre and we're delighted to see them becoming such an important part of the community."

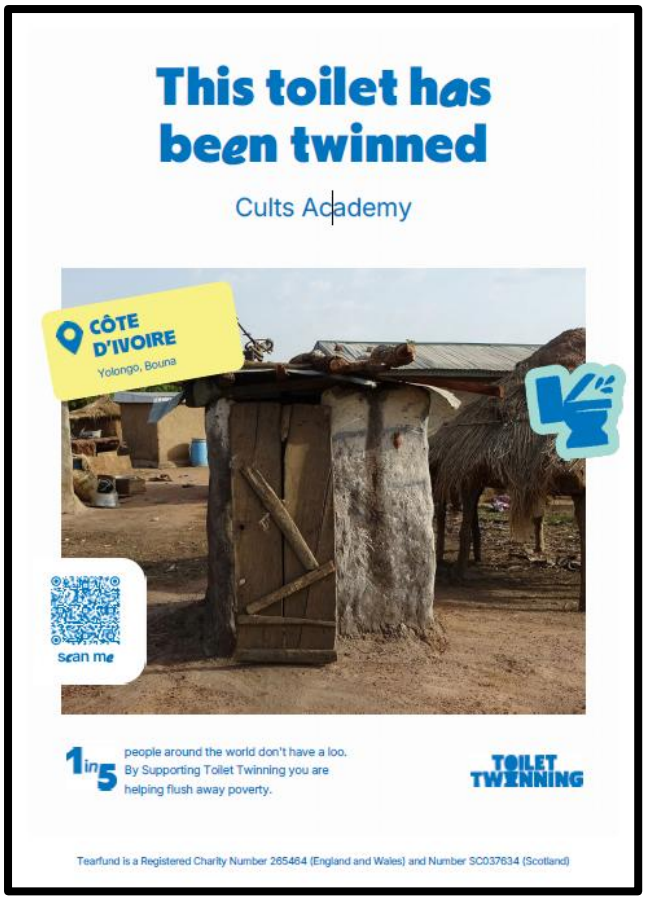
The Gordon Cook Foundation is the Principal Funder in Aberdeen. Bruce Pandrich, Trustee at The Gordon Cook Foundation, said: *"Every young person should have the opportunity to build confidence, develop new skills and realise their potential. The Aberdeen Inclusion Group is a fantastic example of how a proven approach can be adapted to ensure young people with additional support needs can take part, thrive and get the most from their experience. Creating a space where young people with ASN can get involved in citizenship, grow in confidence and try something new is exactly the kind of work we're proud to support. It's particularly rewarding to see the programme breaking down some of the barriers that can make it harder for young people to get involved and giving them the chance to discover what they can achieve."*

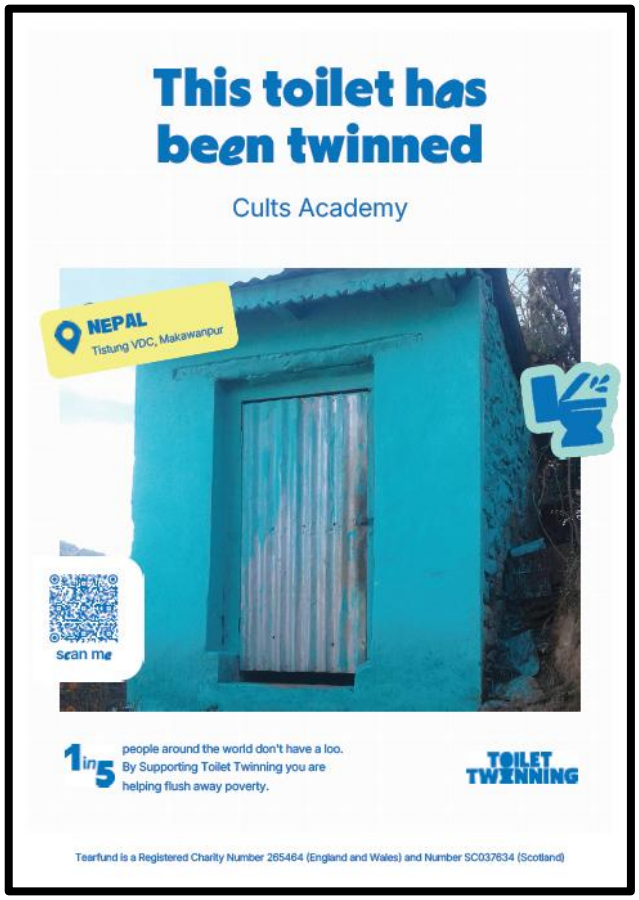


UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Update



The UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools group have been working hard towards the Silver award. Following the Culture Festival in March, the group have used some of the funds raised to contribute to the Toilet Twinning scheme! The scheme is organised by the Tear Fund, a charity which works to improve sanitation facilities in less economically developed countries. Thanks to our donations, we have been about to twin 3 of our toilets in the school with toilets in Côte d'Ivoire, Uganda and Nepal. The money they have received will go towards improving sanitation facilities in those countries. This reflects several articles in the UNCRC - including **Article 27 - the right to have your basic needs met.** The rest of the money raised will be donated to UNICEF.





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PTA Christmas Raffle Plea - Deadline extended!

Please consider donating to the fabulous hampers the PTA raffle each year as one of our most successful fundraisers. The support of parents with this would be much appreciated!

Requested items:

- Alcoholic drinks
- Beauty and pamper products
- Chocolates, sweets, crackers, biscuits & other food items

Please hand into school office by next Wednesday 11th November.

Well done to all of the pupils who represented Cults Academy in sports fixtures this week.

Fixture Results @ Cults Academy

Aspire North Schools Cup Senior Boys		30/10/2026	Various	1st Place
Aspire North Schools Cup Senior Girls		30/10/2026	Various	1st Place
Junior Netball League		02/11/2026	v Albyn	Loss
Senior Netball B League		02/11/2026	v Albyn	Loss
North of Scotland Challenger Series Under 18s		03/11/2026	v Lathallan	Loss
North of Scotland Challenger Series Under 16s		04/11/2026	v Kinross High School	Loss
Senior Basketball Scottish Cup		04/11/2026	v Strathallan	Win

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POLICE SCOTLAND
Keeping people safe

Public Engagement Sessions

Your community. Our priority.

Police Scotland is committed to working with local people to build safer, stronger and more connected communities across Scotland.



Get involved in your community

As part of our ongoing commitment to community engagement, Police Scotland staff will be holding two engagement sessions at **Cults Academy (Thursday 12 November 2026 at 6pm)** and **Fountainhall Church Centre, Aberdeen (Tuesday 17 November 2026 at 7pm).**

As well as Community Policing Team Officers a number of specialist officers will be in attendance as well as Community Safety Team Officers from Aberdeen City Council to answer questions and provide advice.

This is aimed at being an informal session and an opportunity to explain why we focus on the things we do and what you can do to stay safe. We look forward to seeing you.

Officers from a range of specialist departments will be attending:

Community Policing Officers

Your local officers, focused on neighbourhood policing and keeping you safe.

Crime Prevention

Practical advice and support to help reduce opportunities for crime and keep your property and belongings safe.

Cyber and Digital Crime

Expert guidance on online safety, scams and protecting yourself in the digital world.

Community Safety Team

Working with partners to tackle harm, reduce anti-social behaviour and build safer communities.

Come and meet your local officers

Find out more about what we're doing in your area, ask questions and share your thoughts.

Together we can make a difference

Real people. Safer communities.

www.scotland.police.uk | @PoliceScotland

We're here for you


INVESTMENT
20/20
BREAKING
PARENTS & CARERS WEBINAR
YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK
FREE ONLINE INFORMATION SESSSION
For parents and carers of S5 and S6 students
APPRENTICESHIPS
SCHOOL LEAVER OPPORTUNITIES
IN INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT
Register:
Tuesday 10 November
11am – 11.30am
Wednesday 11 November
4.15pm – 4.45pm
Thursday 12 November
6pm – 6.30pm