

ASPIRENorth, which began in January 2006, is aimed at encouraging young people to make positive and well-informed choices about their post-school education.

Pupils from P7 to S4 in 26 schools across the north of Scotland are being given the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities including:

- Pupils working with student volunteers who currently attend an **ASPIRENorth** partner institution.
- Pupils visiting college and university campuses to see all aspects of student life.
- Informative in-school workshops highlighting the variety of choice in post-school education opportunities and introducing the concept of lifelong learning.

The focus of the **ASPIRENorth** activities is to raise early awareness of the value of post-school education, motivate, encourage aspiration and build self-confidence.

If you would like to find out more about **ASPIRENorth** please contact:

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Further information can also be found on the **ASPIRENorth** website:
www.scotland-aspirenorth.ac.uk

ASPIRENorth is funded by the North Forum for Widening Participation in Higher Education.

All seventeen further and higher education institutions in the north of Scotland are partners in the project:

- Aberdeen College
- Banff & Buchan College
- Highland Theological College
- Inverness College
- Lews Castle College
- Lochaber College
- Moray College
- North Atlantic Fisheries College
- Orkney College
- Sabhal Mór Ostaig
- Scottish Agricultural College
- Shetland College
- The North Highland College
- The Open University in Scotland
- The Robert Gordon University
- University of Aberdeen
- UHI Millennium Institute



Promoting progression to
post-school education
across the north of Scotland



ASPIRENorth Programme of Activities 2006-2008

A continuum of activities for pupils from Primary 7 to Secondary 4

BIG SCHOOL AND BEYOND

P7 pupils learn about secondary school by taking part in a life size board game where they must answer a variety of questions to reach the end and claim a special prize. The pupils also take part in a Q&A session with senior pupils from their associated secondary school. The activity helps pupils make a smooth transition from primary to secondary education.

FURTHER ACTION FOR MY EDUCATION (F.A.M.E)

S1 pupils explore the various options that will be available to them in S2 and beyond by examining the choices made by characters portrayed in a series of short DVD based dramatisations.

TRY IT OUT

By participating in a variety of 'taster sessions' at a local Further or Higher Education institution, S2 pupils learn more about the links between subject choices made at school and the post-school education opportunities available in their local area.

UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE

Pupils in S3 use electronic voting handsets to take part in a quiz designed to tackle preconceptions and further develop their understanding and knowledge of post-school education.

MAKING IT HAPPEN: STUDENT LIFE EXPERIENCE

Selected S4 pupils from the Highlands & Islands get the chance to visit a variety of Further and Higher Education institutions and stay in real student accommodation. The pupils gain an insight into life as a student and the opportunities that a university or college education can provide.

STUDENT HOTSEAT

This S4 workshop gives pupils the chance to meet a number of different college and university students. Pupils ask the students a range of questions to gain a better insight into life as a student in their local area and the opportunities post-school education can offer. The activity will also challenge preconceptions of a 'typical' student.

WHAT'S NEXT?

S4 pupils find out how young people from their local area have benefited from post-school education by viewing and analysing a specially produced DVD. The pupils also take part in the 'course alphabet game' to help them explore the range of courses available through post-school education. Finally, a storyboard activity is used to help the pupils think about their own future.

PARENT ACTIVITIES

ASPIRENorth staff recognise the value of working with parents. Project staff work with schools on an individual basis to identify ways of engaging with parents in an effective and appropriate manner.

FLOATING ACTIVITIES

The project team also work with individual schools to deliver an activity which deals with an issue or audience not addressed through the core ASPIRENorth activities.

Both parent and pupil events seem to have gone down very well

Robert Grant

Headteacher, Brae High School, Shetland

I think today was very informative and has definitely affected my future

S3 pupil

Buckie Academy

Historically, too many talented people from across the North Forum area have not progressed from school to Further or Higher Education. This project aims to inspire, encourage and support young people to fulfil their potential

Iain Morrison

Vice-Chair of the North Forum