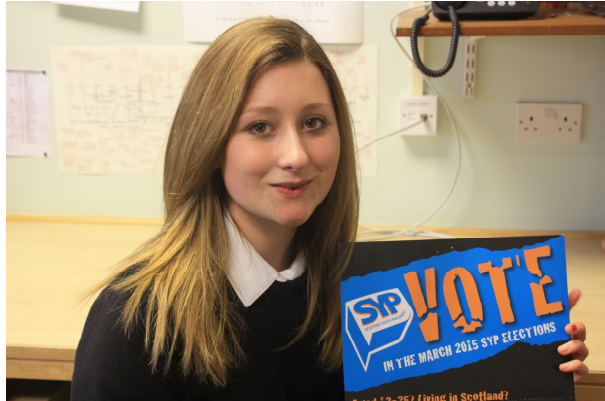


Ellie Heads to Holyrood

By Anna Macfadyen

The Scottish Youth Parliament provides a voice for the youth of Scotland and in the recent elections one Forres Academy pupil, Elinor Pearce, has been elected to represent the Moray constituency.



Ellie campaigned against three other pupils: Jack Slinger (15), Laura Smith (18) and John Thain (19) for one of the two seats in Moray. Over the course of four weeks they canvassed in each of the schools across Moray where they presented their manifesto in an attempt to gain votes.

Each secondary school in Moray voted, using the single transferable vote system, for their chosen nominee with the successful candidate being announced on the evening of Friday 13 March. Laura Smith from Buckie High School and Ellie were duly elected and will officially take up their positions in June.

Jack Slinger (also from Forres Academy) was disappointed not to be elected, but really enjoyed the experience of campaigning: "I think it really increased our confidence to talk to new people and try new things".

Ellie, also a Board Member of the Moray Youth Council and the School Pupil Forum, said: "I thought the standard was really high as everyone did a good job and I like the idea of making a difference".