

# Piping Hot Championships

*By Neve Watchman, Sarah Innes and Lauren MacDonald*



Forres Academy pipers took to the stage on 8 March to take part in the annual Scottish Schools Piping Championships which was held at Broughton High School in Edinburgh. Over 100 schools took part in this competition with Forres Academy being a very small group compared to other bands. The competition was quite daunting as all other competitors were well established school pipe bands

with uniforms and professional instructors.

However the small group from Forres were made to feel very welcome. S1 pupil, Lily Carmichael said: "It was really exciting but nerve-wracking. The judges feedback was very constructive and positive. Hopefully I will be going back next year". Johnny Ross Bichan (S4), who was competing for the first time added: "It was a really good and it was quite overwhelming but we all enjoyed ourselves". The pipers were also supported by their very own backing group made up of fellow pupils.

The judging panel consisted of: Mick MacNeil (former keyboard player from Simple Minds) Craig Munro from Red Hot Chilli Pipers, Pipe Major, Robert Mathieson and Director of City of Edinburgh Music School, Tudor Morris. Maths Teacher, June McIntosh who leads the group "It was like being in front of an X Factor panel. The group received very supportive feedback and now they know what to expect they are all geared up for taking part again next year". She also extended thanks to Forres Neighbourhood Forum for awarding a grant to help pay for the cost of the travel and also Kressanna and Findhorn Bay Arts for funding the catering for the day.