

Youth Soldier Experience

By Lewis MacRitchie and Kieran Rodgers

Seven pupils from Forres Academy spent a week at Cameron Army Barracks in Inverness getting a taste of army life. The Youth Advantage Outreach Course organised by Police Scotland and The British Army involved 30 pupils from schools across Scotland.

A mix of Police and Army instructors put the group through different activities including a 1.5 mile run, combat medical treatment and fire fighting exercises. Mental strength and ability were also put to the test as the activities were intense and challenging.

The candidates also took part in a field exercise at Fort George Barracks where they were able to get hands-on experience with some of the weapons used by the British Forces. They were also put through their paces on the assault course which many of the candidates really enjoyed. Pupil, Johnny Bichan S4, said, "It was a very enjoyable week away, a once in a life time opportunity where you didn't have to join the Army to do the activity". Michael Neilson (S5) added, "I found the week very enjoyable and it was good to experience a military environment without having to join the Army".