



ELECTION SPECIAL 2011

Volume 1, Issue 1

March 2011

HOW TO VOTE ON ELECTION DAY—THURSDAY 10TH MARCH 2011

At registration on Thursday 10th March your teacher will give you a Polling Card (see below). Take the polling card with you to the Linden Centre, which is where you will go to vote. Each class has been allocated a different time to go to vote (see page 10). The teacher you have at this time will accompany you to the Polling Place.

Once at the Linden Centre show the Polling Card to the official. Tell them your name and class. This should match the information on your Polling Card.

You will be given 3 ballot papers. On all 3 ballot papers mark an 'X'. On the **lilac** ballot paper you should choose the **CANDIDATE** of your choice. On the **peach** ballot paper choose a **PARTY**. On the grey ballot paper you decide whether you want the system for electing Members of Parliament (MPs) to the House of Commons to change from the First-Past-The-Post system to the Alternative Vote system by marking an 'X' against 'YES' or 'NO'. Examples of all the ballot papers are contained in this Election Special.

Take the ballot papers to the Polling Booth and make your decisions in private.

Then put the ballot papers into the colour-coded Ballot Boxes. Each ballot paper goes into a different box.

Your teacher will accompany the class back to school.

ELECTOR'S OFFICIAL POLL CARD

POLLING PLACE: LINDEN CENTRE

POLLING DAY: Thursday 10 March 2011

Pupil's name

POLLING HOURS: 9 am—3 pm

Pupil's class

POLLING DISTRICT: GS 01

NUMBER ON REGISTER: 2

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Special points of interest:

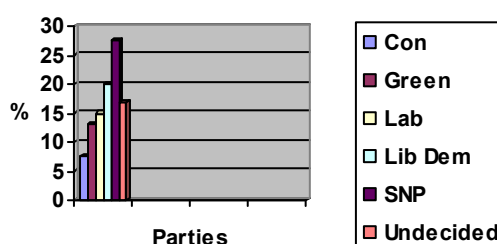
- Voting Day—Thursday 10th March 2011
- Polling Place—Linden Centre
- Polling Place Opening Times: 9am—3 pm
- Polling Card needed to vote
- Your vote matters—make an informed choice on voting day

THE NATS TAKE THE LEAD

The Maths Department conducted a pre-election poll on 1st March 2011. Pupils were asked which party they intend to vote for.

The SNP have a 7.5% lead over the Lib Dems. Labour are in 3rd place narrowly beating the Greens. The Conservatives languish in last place with only 7.5% of the vote. This election is wide open and all to play for with 17% of the electorate undecided at the time of the poll.

Pre-election Poll



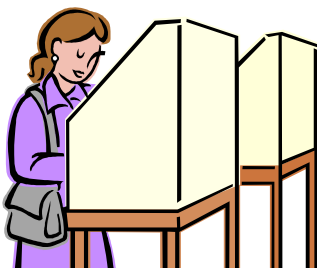
THE SYSTEM OF VOTING IN SCOTLAND

Scotland uses an electoral system called the Additional Member System (AMS). It is made up of 2 voting systems: First-Past-The-Post and the Regional Party Vote.

This means voters gets 2 votes—one for a candidate and one for a party. There are 129 MSPs elected to the Scottish Parliament. Of the 129 MSPs, 73 are elected by First-Past-The-Post and are known as constituency MSPs while 56 are elected by the Regional Party List system. These MSPs are called 'additional members' or 'top-up' MSPs.

The overall effect of the AMS is it produces a roughly proportional result. What this means is that parties receive roughly the same percentage of seats in the Scottish Parliament as the percentage of votes cast for the party.

This is seen as a big advantage of the AMS as it is fair.



However, it tends to lead to coalition or minority government. Coalition government is when 2 or more parties share power and form the government. The first two elections to the Scottish Parliament saw the Labour Party and the Lib Dems join forces and run Scotland as a coalition government.

Currently the SNP run Scotland as a minority government. This means that while they have the most seats they do not have more seats than all the other parties put together. Therefore other parties can gang up against the government and stop it passing laws.

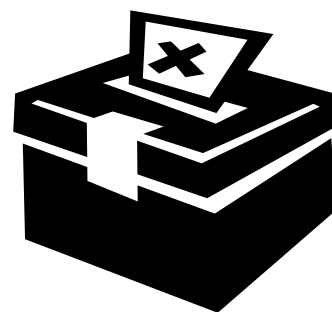
MAKE YOUR VOTE MATTER

DO

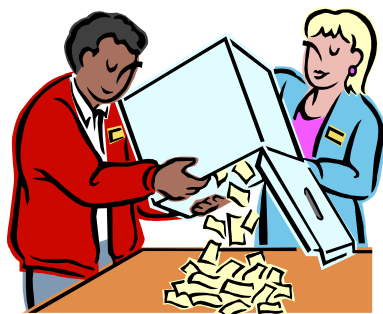
- Place only one cross on each ballot paper
- Show your ballot paper to a polling official if you make a mistake—they will give you another one

DON'T

- Make any mark other than an 'X' on the ballot paper or it may not count
- Show your ballot paper to anyone—once completed put the ballot papers into the correct ballot box



THE COUNT



The ballot papers will be taken to Inverurie Academy on Friday 11th March 2011 to be counted.

All Aberdeenshire Schools taking part in the Scottish Schools Election 2011 will be in attendance.

The results of the election will be posted on the electronic board.

PARTY MANIFESTOS

The Conservative Party

The Economy

Financial savings must be made within Scotland's economy. As a party the Conservatives have faced up to this. We would like to give Scotland more control over the block grant. We would like to avoid offering benefits such as free school meals and prescriptions to those who can already afford them. We need to put a greater emphasis on regenerating Scotland's economy by offering incentives for people to start their own businesses and to employ apprentices. This will reduce unemployment throughout Scotland. We would also like to eradicate child poverty by 2020, which still remains to be a problem in Scotland under the current SNP government.

Health Care

We not only back the traditional values of the NHS we also have a vision for its future. The cleanliness of Scottish hospitals is a top priority, The Electronic Bed Management System with Infection Tracking proposed by the Scottish Conservatives is currently being piloted and we want to see it being rolled out across Scotland if it is successful.

We oppose the phasing out of prescription charges and we feel that it is wasteful to give higher rate taxpayers free prescriptions when public spending is under enormous pressure. We believe that A&E departments should remain open locally in Scotland and we are happy to have halted Labours plans to close them.



Education

Improving schools is one of the most important things that we could do as a party. To do this we are going to give teachers more powers. To make parents a part of the school reform. This has worked in other countries such as the USA and Canada.

The SNP have been unable to secure jobs for many teachers that have passed through the process for full registration. This has made it hard for teachers to find a job at all, let alone in their own area.

We would like to establish Second Chance Centres in Scotland to help persistent troublemakers to get back on track. We want to ensure that the highest of standards are maintained in the Scottish education system.

The Conservative Party would also like to see more sporting activities for young people therefore we would like to set up sports trust funds to allow for more competitive sports.

Crime

The Conservative party would like to restore faith in the criminal justice system. The conservatives would like to introduce 1,000 new police officers in Scotland. We want to see our police officers back out on the beat therefore we will reduce the amount of paperwork that they have to do.

We would like to take a hard-line approach to drink and drug offences and also to impose tougher sentences for knife crimes.

We want the people to know that the police and the government are listening to what they have to say.



Environment

We would like to have a Conservative vision for our future, based on Conservative values. We believe that it is our responsibility to create a clean and healthy environment to pass onto our children. Green issues should be at the heart of our politics and of our government in Scotland.

We would like to see electric powered cars and high speed trains being used throughout Scotland.

We want to encourage local authorities to establish new district heating networks, which use biogas and other low carbon fuels like those being pioneered by Aberdeen.

We will also offer incentives to smaller scale energy generation, including capturing heat that is already being wasted.

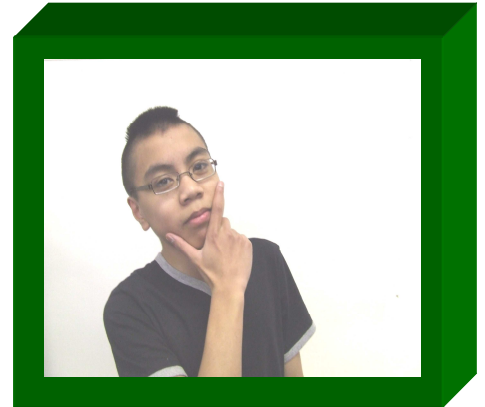


Vote Conservative

The Green Party

Our Candidate

George Reid is a hardworking, committed pupil with the faith and drive to take this party into parliament. A strong believer in equality, he will be campaigning with a fiery passion. A boy of the arts is a perfect description of him. He is a proud representative of the Gordon Schools and with his organisational and leadership skills a perfect vocal point for all that The Green Party stands for.



Our Policies

The economy

The minimum wage should be increased to the level of a living wage and maximum wage ratios should be set for both the public and private sector in society. The Greens want to place a larger emphasis on promoting the generation of independent small businesses. More investment is needed into universities to provide the skills and knowledge as we move into a world of low carbon and low waste. We would like to reduce Scotland's dependency on oil and move towards an economy driven by clean, safe sources of energy. We can create jobs by drawing on Scotland's strong engineering and technology base.

Cutting consumption

Better standards for new homes will help to cut the consumption of energy. A radical programme to insulate all existing homes in Scotland will help to reduce energy consumption and save money for the Scottish people in the long run.

Congestion

We aim to cut congestion on our roads by encouraging people to move towards electric vehicles. Walking and cycling will be given higher priority.

Education

The green party believe that exam success is not the only way to measure a child's potential. We would like to see more emphasis placed on outdoor education to build teamwork skills and to allow pupils to have empathy with Scotland's countryside.

Crime

Through education we can prevent youth crime by encouraging pupils to resolve conflict in a positive non-violent means in schools.

Health

We believe that the National Health Service must remain public. By encouraging people to use the green spaces available in Scotland (many of which are under threat) we can improve Scotland's health.



Vote Green

Labour Party Manifesto



A Future fair for all

VOTE FOR BRONWYN!!

Education

The Labour Party promises to ensure that every pupil leaving primary school is confident in the basics and that no child shall be left behind in the learning process. Any child falling behind in secondary school will be offered a tutor and given a choice of good qualifications which will help in later life. It is also our ambition to offer a guaranteed apprenticeship to every school leaver.

Health

The Labour Party will ensure that the National Health Service is run to the best possible standards to make sure treatments and appointments are centred around each individual patient. Early detection of diseases such as cancer are very important and we aim to reduce the waiting time to see a specialist from 1 month to two weeks.

Crime

We will make improvements to the police service, we will do more and act earlier to stop children going down the wrong path.

Families and Older People

The Labour Party believes that no child should have to grow up in poverty. The labour party will also help the elderly, we plan to put a complete stop to age discrimination and to let older people work beyond 65 if they wish.

A Green Recovery

The Labour party are going to Focus on increasing the amount of national parks and grass parks in towns and cities as well as introducing better paths and walkways for the public to use to encourage and allow the people to enjoy Scotland's natural beauty.

The Economy

The labour party will continue to support families and businesses, strengthen the economy and promote jobs. The Conservative plans for immediate cuts will choke any chance we have of economic recovery. We aim to boost Scottish morale along with Scotland's economy. Labour has shown itself to be a party that stands for the people. We aim to create 100,000 high skilled jobs in Scotland over the next 5 years. We aim to regenerate the construction industry after the 'Salmond slump' in the loss of construction jobs.



The Labour Party



LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

Jasmin Stewart is a confident individual with excellent leadership skills, and would represent our school



Education

- The Liberal Democrats would like to refurbish 250 schools and employ 1000 more teachers to cut class sizes.
- We want to improve the health of young people in Scotland by introducing an hour of physical activity a day and introduce over 1000 new sports coaches.
- We want to give head teachers more power to turn around under performing schools and instil better discipline.

Environment

- We want to make major investments in wave and tidal power.
- Reduce waste and increase recycling rates to 70% by 2020.
- To cut carbon emissions.

Crime

- We want 1000 extra community police officers.
- Tougher community sentences that make offenders work to repay their crime and cut re-offending.
- Cut knife crime by introducing a 7 year maximum sentence.
- Tackle Scotland's drug and alcohol culture



Health

- We want to introduce 200 new dentists so everyone has access to an NHS dentist.
- Employ 2000 new nurses.
- Faster diagnosis of patients and reduction in waiting times.
- We want to improve the health of young people by offering free fruit in primary schools and cookery lessons.

Freedom is Fair, Not Easy

Transport

- Faster trains between Scotland's cities.
- Major new investments in public transport.
- Make Scotland a cycling nation.
- Action to improve safety on our roads.

Young People Priorities

- Schools open at evenings and weekend to offer new activities
 - Young Opportunity Fund to support youth projects
 - Allow young people to vote at 16
- To give young people new rights through youth councils.

VOTE FOR LIB DEMS!

The Scottish National Party

Manifesto - Scottish Election 2011

The Scottish National Party is dedicated to Scotland. Scotland is at a crossroads and we have the ability to steer it in the right direction. Our Policies not only help Scotland but they help you. The SNP have been focused upon doing what is best for Scotland since 2007 and we were put into power as a minority government. We will continue to do this.

We will argue to scrap the £5 billion ID card project, the £100 billion replacement for Trident (the UK's nuclear programme), the £100 million House of Lords and the near £10 million Scotland Office so we can instead protect the vital public services we all rely on and make the investment we need for economic recovery.

We will demand the release of the Fossil Fuel Levy money so it can be used to deliver £200 million new investment in renewable energy. We will also work to remove obstacles to further investment in wave, tidal and wind generation in Scotland by ending the discriminatory transmission charging regime. We will also create 6000 new jobs through renewable energy sources.

We will provide a strong voice for our fishing and agriculture sectors, holding the UK government to account while they represent these economically important industries in Europe. We will also provide incentives for further investment and exploration in the North Sea, helping extend the lifetime of this valuable Scottish resource.

The SNP will also continue to lead cross-party calls for the return of £150 million lottery funds deprived from Scotland to help fund the London 2012 games.

We will increase the minimum wage to benefit Scottish workers. We also will protect our planned £1.25 billion investment in even more new and refurbished schools.

Through the Scottish budget this year, we have invested once again in modern apprentices and in our universities and colleges. The SNP will not introduce tuition fees or top up fees and will oppose any changes in English fees arrangements that have the knock on effect of reducing funding for Scotland through the Barnett formula, as we have done previously. Through the 16+ Learning Choices to offer a place of learning to every young person as they reach the end of their compulsory school years.

The faster journey times by train from Aberdeen and Inverness, the improvements on the A9 and A96 and the green light for the Aberdeen by-pass will also deliver social and economic benefits for communities in the north and north east.



Your local SNP candidate is Hamish Ritchie. He is one of you, a pupil with not just Scotland's interests at heart, but yours the young, prosperous people of tomorrow. For these reasons he is undoubtedly the best candidate to entrust your vote with.








The Scottish National party is your current Scottish government. While in power the SNP has made significant inroads into solving Scotland's issues in fields like economics and the environment.

In the recent economic downturn times have been hard and hard decisions have had to be made. This is where the Scottish National Party has efficiently managed expenditures with cuts which have been forced upon Scotland by two separate Westminster governments which both lacked in appreciation of our country's needs.






Our manifesto has been carefully crafted by the SNP party to bring prosperity to Scotland's shores once again. The manifesto is based on realistic facts and figures sculpted through experience of being in power in Scotland and knowing what strains will be put upon the party's shoulder in the upcoming years.

SAMPLE BALLOT PAPERS

Ballot Paper to elect the member of the Scottish Parliament for the The Gordon Schools Constituency				<div>Aberdeenshire COUNCIL</div> <div><div>A</div></div> <div>Vote once only in the box opposite the candidate of your choice using an X</div>
1	DAVIES Joe Class 3S1 Conservative Party			
2	GALL Bronwyn Class 3S1 The Labour Party			
3	REID George Class 3F1 Scottish Green Party			
4	RITCHIE Hamish Class 3S1 Scottish National Party			
5	STEWART Jasmine Class 3B1 Liberal Democrats			

Lilac ballot paper— put
an 'X' next to the can-
didate of your choice

Peach ballot paper—put an
'X' next to the party of your
choice

Ballot Paper to elect the members of the Scottish Parliament for the Aberdeenshire Council Region				<div>Aberdeenshire COUNCIL</div> <div><div>A</div></div> <div>Vote once only in the box opposite the party of your choice using an X</div>
1	CONSERVATIVE PARTY			
2	SCOTTISH GREEN PARTY			
3	LABOUR PARTY			
4	LIBERAL DEMOCRATS			
5	SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY			

Voting System Referendum

Currently Members of Parliament (MPs) are elected to the House of Commons using First-Past-The-Post (FPTP). Some people would like the system to change. The public are being asked if they would support a change to the Alternative Vote (AV) system in a referendum (a vote by the public rather than politicians).

FPTP— Each voting area elects an MP by putting an 'X' next to the candidate of their choice. The candidate with the most votes in each constituency wins the seat.

AV— Candidates are ranked in order of preference, e.g. '1' for 1st, '2' for second, etc on the ballot paper. If a candidate gets more than 50% of the vote they are elected. If not, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated and second choices are allocated to the remaining candidates. This continues until one candidate gets more than 50%.

Advantages of First-Past-The-Post

- It is a simple system— an 'X' is marked next to the candidate of your choice;
- It is fair— the person with the most votes wins the seat;
- It usually leads to stable government with one party in charge. They can implement their policies and the people can judge whether they have done a good job or not.

Disadvantages of First-Past-The-Post

- Candidates can be elected with less than 50% of the vote—this is undemocratic;
- It is not proportional—the number of seats a party gets is not proportional to the votes. For example, Labour won power in 2005 with 35% of the popular vote;
- It disadvantages smaller parties.

Disadvantages of Alternative Vote

- AV is complex. People may be put off voting because it is more complicated as candidates must be ranked in order of preference;
- It is unfair—the candidate who comes 2nd or 3rd can actually be elected;
- It gives supporters of fringe or extreme parties more say than a supporter who supports a mainstream party.

Advantages of Alternative Vote

- It is fairer than FPTP because candidates must get over 50% of the vote to be elected;
- As second and third preference votes are taken into account, there are no wasted votes
- Candidates will have to work harder to get elected as 50+% of the vote is needed.

SAMPLE REFERENDUM BALLOT PAPER

Referendum on the voting system for United Kingdom parliamentary elections

At present, the UK uses the "first past the post" system to elect MPs to the House of Commons.
Should the "alternative vote" system be used instead?

Vote (X) in one box only

YES	
NO	

Polling Place: The Linden Centre

Opening Times – (9am – 3pm)

Period 1 (9.05 – 10.05)		Period 2 (10.05 – 10.55)		Period 3 (11.15 - 12.05)	
9.00 am	College pupils	10.10 am	2.7 Eng (Mrs Whitecross)	11.20 am	1.1 Tech (Mr Griffiths)
9.10 am	Hairdressers (Mrs MacInnes)	10.20 am	2.8 Eng (Mrs Sangster)	11.30 am	1.2 Tech (Mr Whittet)
9.10 am	1.5 Maths (Mrs Ingram)	10.10 am	S3 Eng (Mr Morrison)	11.40 am	2.1 Eng (Mrs Dixon)
9.20 am	1.6 Science (Mrs Gardiner)	10.20 am	S3 Eng (Miss Gill)	11.50 am	2.5 Sci(Mr Rowand)
9.30 am	1.7 Science (Miss Shearer)	10.30 am	S3 Maths (Mr Murdoch)	11.20 am	S4 Geo (Mr Burgess)
9.40 am	1.8 Science (Dr McKinnon)	10.40 am	S3 Maths (Mrs McGowan)	11.30 am	S4 Geo (Mrs Sinclair)
9.50 am	2.2 Art (Mrs Cameron)	10.40 am	S3 Maths (Mrs Simpson)	11.40 am	S4 His (Mr Davidson)
		10.45 am	2.6 HE (Mrs MacDonald)	11.20 am	6B PSE (Mrs Bruce)
				11.30 am	6F PSE (Miss Lynch)
				11.40 am	6G PSE (Mrs Emslie)
				11.50 am	6S PSE (Mrs Moir)
Period 4 (12.05 – 1.00)		Lunch (1.00 – 2.00)		Period 5 (2.00 – 2.50)	
12.10 pm	1.3 Tech (Mrs MacInnes)			2.10 pm	1.4 Sci (Mr Innes)
12.20 pm	2.3 Science (Mrs Kanoiwska)				
12.30 pm	2.4 English (Mrs Simpson)				
12.10 pm	S4 Mod Lang (Mrs Kelbie)				
12.20 pm	S4 Mod Lang (Mrs Cameron)				
12.10 pm	5B2 PSE (Mrs Bruce)				
12.20 pm	5F2 PSE (Miss Lynch)				
12.30 pm	5G2 PSE (Mrs Emslie)				
12.40 pm	5S2 PSE (Mrs Moir)				
12.50 pm	S5 PE (Mr Donaldson)				
12.50 pm	S5 PE (Miss Elphinstone)				
12.10 pm	S5 Study (Miss Menzies)				
12.20 pm	S5 Study (Mrs C Grant)				
12.30 pm	S5 Computing				
12.30 pm	S5 Admin				

- S4 (all day) college pupils should vote before leaving for college
- Pupils who are late or have an appointment during their slot can vote at lunchtime
- Polling cards of absent pupils should go into the registration folder and be returned to Mrs Ross. The polling card will be given to any latecomers by reception staff
- LS staff will ensure pupils working in B4/5 have the opportunity to vote before the polling place closes
- Unit pupils can vote at any time

The paper used for this publication comes from sustainable forests.

Please recycle when you have finished with it.

