



Happy New Year and welcome to our first newsletter of 2015. Please see below for information on:

- Maths Study Weekends
- History and Dig It! 2015
- SOECs new Eco-literacy and...
- Transition to Work programmes
- Field Studies at SOEC
- Skiing and Winter Sport

Maths Study Weekends

Teachers are telling us that a study weekend residential at an SOEC Centre really makes a difference in attainment. Several schools are making this a regular part of their pre-exam scheduling.

Schools follow their own programme and find that adding structure in a new setting is highly effective for revision. Some intersperse their studies with on-site activities to chill out. For maths teachers who thought trips away were only for their colleagues, this could be the experience you're looking for.

History and Dig It! 2015

2015 is a big year for archaeology so check out the Dig It website for some amazing events for pupils and young people this year. Of course our three centres are well located for classes and groups to explore a great number of historical and cultural sites. Belmont is a good place from which to see the Pictish Stones at Meigle and the cup and ring stone in the Centre grounds is a reminder of the importance of the calendar in a major Scottish agricultural landscape. This year we'll be supporting RCAHMS taking pupil canoeing along a stretch of the

Clyde with stop-off points at sites of historical interest. See the fabulous website at www.digit2015.com. How about bringing history to life by canoeing across Loch Tay to the Crannog Centre - the way they used to do it? Talk to us at SOEC to find out more.

Be Amazed at What You can Do at SOEC



*Make
the
leap
with
SOEC*

New for 2015 at SOEC – Eco-Programme

SOEC Tutors have been beavering away this winter to produce new programmes for schools and youth groups. Come with us on an eco-adventure where pupils can discover what lives in the woods and learn more about why our landscape looks the way it does, or why wind farms are being built.

The aims of this programme are to work with and support teachers to:

- help young people develop and appreciation and understanding of the natural environment and earth cycles;
- encourage young people to develop and question their views on the natural world;

For further information on any of the above opportunities, please contact Diana or Karen on 01899 221115, email to info@soec.org.uk or visit www.soec.org.uk.



- develop confidence so young people know that they have a role to play in shaping a sustainable future.

Our Instincts session involves pupils in getting up close to Scottish ecosystems and learning about the roles and adaptations of predators and their prey. Geo-trekking, River Detectives, Woodland Studies and the fantastic Living 'Out of Doors' are just some of the activities in the programme that we deliver to help young people get better connected to nature.

New Transition to Work Programme

We have also been developing a new Transition to Work programme aimed at schools leavers and young people out of work. Through our activities, we're able to highlight workplace skills that businesses are looking for such as team work, communication skills, time management and understanding of risk.

Our aim is to build the confidence and skills needed for young people to contribute effectively in the work place. This programme can be linked to CV development and to increase the likelihood of success at a job interview. This is a modular programme and we can provide outreach days, Centre day visits, residentials and expeditions to ensure we can tailor the programme for young people of all abilities.

Field Studies Programmes

Dounans, Broomlee and Belmont are all ideally located for Field Studies. SOEC Dounans is located in the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, perfectly located

to study a range of topics from the Highland Boundary Fault Line to the tensions between conservation and recreation inherent in the park system. Find more via links such as www.infinite-scotland.com/poi/the-highland-boundary-fault-line/ or www.lochlomond-trossachs.org

Broomlee and Belmont are also close to areas of educational interest and attractions. Quiz our trained outdoor specialists about what's near-by or let them help develop your own ideas. They can support you in getting to that ideal learning location.

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Young people from the RNIB teaching Aileen Campbell, Minister for Children and Young People, in the finer points of archery.

Skiing and Winter Sport from SOEC

You just never know when it's going to happen but when the winter snows come, are you prepared? Our refurbished Belmont Centre makes a great base for skiing being just 1/2 hour from Glenshee. It is ideally located for ski-clubs and schools to take advantage of the Cairngorm slopes. Keep SOEC Belmont in mind for that quick ski get-away. Our ski leaflet is available at: www.soec.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/ski-july-143.pdf

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