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St Andrew's School, Inverurie

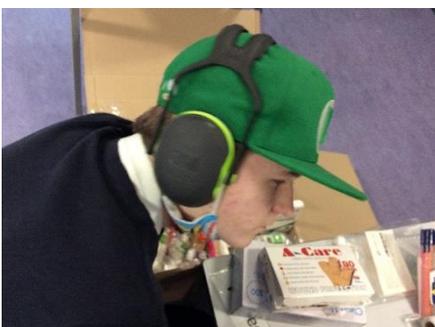
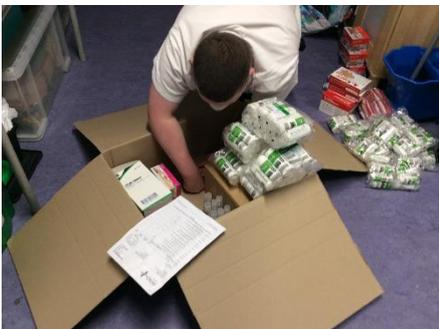


@standrewsinv

Room 6 pupils working hard making bird feeders



Room 11 are learning about first aid and have been checking and stocking all the first aid kits in the school.



Jack is the First Aid Officer for the school and is really enjoying his role. Great work Jack!

Room 1 pupils exploring feely tubs and using their sense of touch to identify the contents.



Room 2 pupils enjoying their sensory story and having fun in the playpark.



Free bus travel for young people (under 22s) in Scotland

A new scheme is launching on the 31st January 2022 and all young people living in Scotland aged between 5 and 21 years will be eligible for free bus travel within Scotland (for those aged 5 to 10 we are trying to encourage as many people as possible to apply using parentsportal).

Why the Scheme is Important

The scheme is designed to help create a sustainable future for young people by embedding sustainable travel habits from an early age. This can help Scotland to tackle the climate emergency and meet targets to become net zero by 2045.

At the same time, the introduction of free bus travel for under 22s will also reduce inequalities and advance equality of opportunity and outcome for young people and families as well as having the potential to help address child poverty by reducing household outgoings. Free bus travel supports the delivery of a Just Transition and removes financial barriers, giving young people more and better choices in work, education, health and social activities.

Research commissioned in October 2021 revealed nationwide support for the roll out of free bus travel amongst young people – with almost two-thirds (61%) agreeing that access to public transport will play a central role in the fight against climate change. One full double decker bus equates to removing 75 single occupancy cars from Scotland's roads.

Transport Scotland has also worked with Barnardo's Scotland to make available additional training for bus drivers on child safeguarding in advance of the scheme's launch.

Application Process

Applications are now open to all young people and children aged 5-21 years who can apply for their new or replacement NEC or Young Scot NEC to access the scheme from 31 January. However, we are asking that only those for whom bus travel is essential apply at this time, because of work, education, health or care reasons, for example, in line with restrictions relating to Covid-19. All other eligible applicants will be encouraged to apply at a later date through a national marketing campaign.

Children aged between 5 – 15 will need their parent or guardian to apply on their behalf. Young people aged 16 years and over will be able to apply for free bus travel themselves. Children under 5 years old can already travel on buses for free and they will not need to apply for a card.

For children aged 5 to 10 applications should be made via parentsportal. There is a video 'Parentsportal Free Bus Travel Application' with step-by-step instructions on the parentsportal application process on the ECS MIS Support SharePoint page.

For children aged 11 to 15 an application should be made via <https://getyournec.scot/nec/>. Please find step-by-step instructions on the application process for a NEC and free bus travel through getyournec.scot: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ev_sEjprEDE

For young people aged between 16 and 21 applications should be made by themselves via <https://getyournec.scot/nec/>

Once the application has been processed the NEC will be delivered to the child / young persons' home address.

Please note that an online application is the most effective method and will take the parent / young person around 10 minutes to complete and will provide a swifter response and delivery of the new/updated card.

Other Ways to Apply

If the parent / young person is unable to apply online, they can download and complete an application form and email it to together with copies of external documents. If the parent / young person does not have access to a computer, a paper copy of the application form can be obtained from any Aberdeenshire Council Service Point or by request to the NEC Office on 03456 081 208.

Young people under 16 years old who want to apply for the young's person free bus travel scheme and cannot apply online can collect and fill an application form from their schools. Parental approval will be needed for the free bus travel to be enabled to the card.

If the parent / young person is in any doubt or needs help applying for the free bus travel entitlement card, assistance can be provided by contacting the NEC Office at entitlementcard@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

Please note that a paper-based application may take several weeks before your card is received.

Schools Role:

We are seeking the support of all schools to promote the online application process (parentsportal for primary school aged children and getyournec.scot for all children over 11) using all appropriate methods, including the use of school social media. This has been identified as the most efficient and effective method for applying, both for the parent/young person and also for Aberdeenshire Council and national partners to help manage the process. Your support with this is much appreciated.

For further information on the scheme please see: Transport Scotland - <https://www.transport.gov.scot/concessionary-travel/young-persons-free-bus-travel-scheme/>