

# Some quite interesting Visions and Themes



Auchmuty High School



Dunfermline High School



Kirkcaldy High School



Madras College



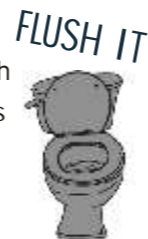
Viewforth High School

A lot of interesting ideas came out of the Design Day including some suggestions detailing what is good about existing schools and what is bad including:

- Playing fields
- Clubs
- Internet
- Social areas
- Big windows
- The school library
- Central location with good transport



- Smelly toilets
- Long queues at lunch
- Wobbly plastic chairs
- Crappy showers
- Run down buildings
- Old slow computers
- Noise



There were also lots of ideas on how things could be improved. Most were very inventive, practical and offer a lot of potential for improving our schools. Some of these are listed below.

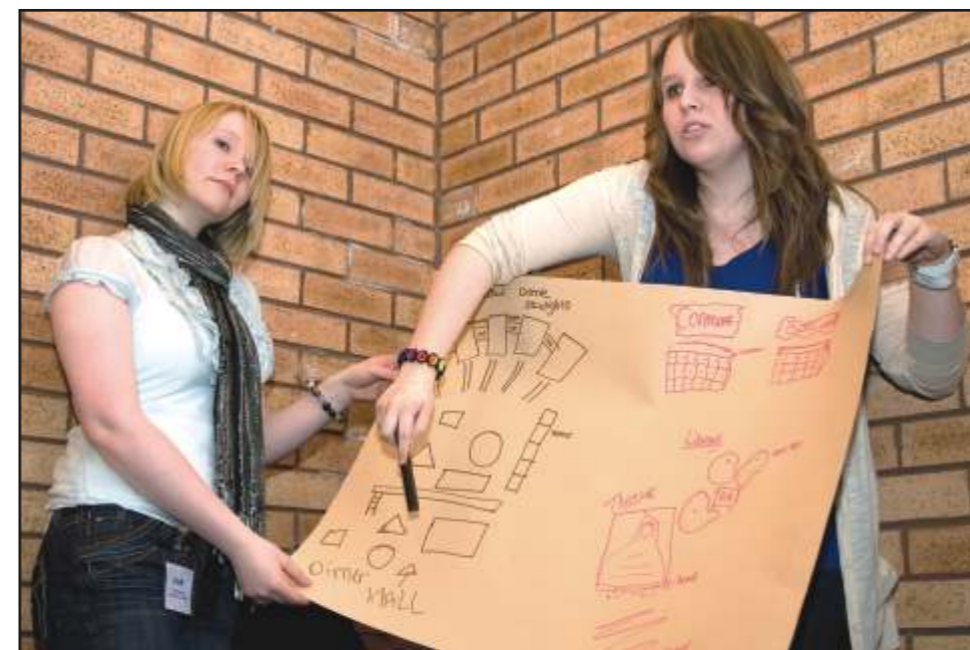
- Adaptable buildings for future technology
- Appealing entrance
- Better acoustics (noise reducing)
- Better and more varied sports facilities
- Better arts and music facilities
- Better heating
- Better interaction with technology (eg smart boards, TVs, DVDs etc.)
- Better recreational facilities
- Better showers
- Better signage
- Bright colours
- Café style eating
- Chill-out areas
- Clean, un-smelly, safe toilets
- Comfortable seating
- Connecting inside to outside
- Connecting outside to inside
- Contact with animals
- Controllable lighting, heating, ventilation
- Flexible layout of classrooms
- Fresh air
- Gardens
- Hair dryers
- Height adjusted furniture
- Higher ceilings
- Key-feature in community
- Lockers for all
- More social areas inside and out
- Natural light
- No car parks at front of school
- No wobbly chairs
- Own artwork on walls
- Relaxing social spaces
- Roof-top gardens
- School farm with an outlet to sell produce to the local community
- Spaces for individual learning
- Vocational facilities
- Water features both inside and outside
- Wider brighter/higher corridors

All these ideas will help to shape the thinking about what our schools might look like, and what they could offer to pupils, staff and the local community. The Design Festival allowed us to see that our school buildings connect many different activities and people. We gathered lots of thoughts and opinions about how our school buildings can provide opportunities for life long learning and leisure and recreation activities not just for young people, but for the whole community.

Further regular newsletters will be sent to pupil council members in your school to keep you up to date with progress.

# Building Fife's Future

## Schools for the 21st Century



*"...in the planning of our new schools we want to get it right for every child not just now but into the future. We want to create buildings which are an inspiration to present and future pupils..."*

Cllr Douglas Chapman  
Chair of the Education & Children's Services Committee

## Pupils Lay the Foundation to Building Fife's Future

An ambitious and innovative design festival involving Fife pupils, artists and architects took place on Monday 23rd of February at the Auchterderran Resource Centre. This involved over a 100 students and staff from Auchmuty, Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy, Madras and Viewforth High Schools. The day was spent working with artists and architects as well as working alongside students and staff from Edinburgh College of Art.

The idea of 'traditional school design' was challenged and everyone was asked to think about the changing world of work, the speed of technological developments and the different types of learning spaces schools can have. This followed an

on-line survey which had identified the priorities for an ideal new school.

The festival allowed school pupils to discuss, explore and express their ideas about the ideal school for the 21st century. There was a talk from an architect followed by a series of workshops. In the afternoon a large structure was created allowing the day's ideas to be shared through a 3-dimensional, multi-media labyrinth of ideas. Managers and councillors were able to walk through the Labyrinth.



Key to photo panel above: 1. Water features. 2. Chill out zones and social areas. 3. Impressive school entrance giving a unique identity to the school. 4. More green space and bringing the outside inside. 5. More natural daylight, water features and nature. 6. Better sports facilities, teaching by older pupils and visits from sports personalities.

# FIFE SCHOOLS DESIGN DAY

## THE LABYRINTH OF IDEAS

the story so far...

It all started with the on-line questionnaire



then we all found ourselves sitting down together...



quickly the day got underway, hard work but mostly quite good fun...



Some of us started with some physical exercises, others were a bit more relaxed about things. But before long we had our brains in gear, even the teachers...



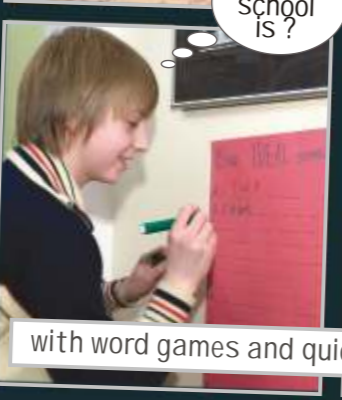
before long we had our brains in gear, even the teachers...



our ideal school is?

the things we would flush are...

aye



with word games and quick fire ideas...



we could...

good idea

think about...

working in groups, with guidance from an architect and with help from some talented interior design students we formulated our ideas.

some of us used words, and some of us used pictures, but the really important thing was that we expressed our ideas about how our future schools should be.



we would really like is...



well, what we thought was...



we'll need to work fast

not perfect but this should make the point



then after lunch we built and presented our labyrinth of our ideas



OK this is our plan



thanks, this really will help us to build Fife's future



to be continued...

Some of you took part in the Design Festival. Most of you didn't as we only had 100 places for pupils from 5 schools. But I'd like to tell you all why we held the Design Festival, and what will happen next.

Fife Council is at the start of a 10 year programme of renewing and improving school buildings. We've called the programme "Building Fife's Future". Before any bricks are laid, we need to do a lot of thinking and discussing, so that what we build is the very best we can.

We started the thinking and discussing with questionnaires and conferences. I hope you got the chance to fill in the on-line pupil questionnaire. But questionnaires are not very good for expressing in-depth ideas. So we held a Design Festival to think really deeply about what schools of the future should look like, and we invited some decision-makers in Fife Council to view pupils' ideas.

Now we are producing a booklet about the Design Festival which we'll give to the architects and designers who draw plans for new and refurbished schools. The booklet won't contain all of the ideas as there were so many, but it will capture the main visions and themes that were expressed.

In our next newsletter, we'll let you know how you can have a look at that booklet.

Meanwhile, I'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who took part in the Design Festival, and also to everyone who filled in our on-line survey last autumn. Many pupils' ideas are truly inspiring and I hope we see them become a reality in the years to come.

Senga Hogg  
Building Fife's Future  
Communication Team

"You are being invited by Fife Council, and that's unique in Scotland in my experience - to become fully engaged in the building design of future schools. That means we have to think very hard about what the future is going to be.

Today is an exercise of young people being in control of their own environmental design, and having that respected. That's what today is about. This is an exercise in you being asked for your ideas, and for having them respected."

Howard Liddell  
Gaia Architects

## So what's the big idea?

### Question 1

Which of the following do you think was suggested by the pupils as things to be included in a new school design?

- A. Natural Daylight
- B. Water Features
- C. Chill-out Space
- D. Modern Toilets

### Question 2

Pupils were asked to suggest some of the things about their existing school that they would like to "bin", flatten or "flush" away. Which of these do you think was not included?

- A. Shouting
- B. Slow Computers
- C. Picnic Tables
- D. Unsafe Toilets

### Question 3

A lot of good ideas were made about how to improve schools. Some of these were very refreshing. Which of the following do you think was not suggested?

- A. Roof Garden
- B. Glass Domes
- C. More Green Space
- D. Bigger Car Parks

Go to page 4 for the answers