



ENDORSEMENTS

'I am thrilled to see the creativity of young people. Far from despairing at some of the negative activities of youth, I find I am constantly surprised and humbled by their compassion and youthful wisdom. Learning for Life is an outstanding project that will inspire our youth to reach for the stars.'

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace laureate

'To create is the distinctive capacity of the human beings. It's our hope. We must have time to think in order to behave – this is what education means – according to our own reflections. And time to listen too to take advantage – as done in "Learning for life" - of the experience and wisdom of many people.'

Dr Federico Mayor, former Secretary-General of UNESCO and President of the Foundation for a Culture of Peace

'I believe that we can find a common purpose in seeking self-knowledge of what it is to be human. In the school context, this includes provision for spiritual, moral, cultural and social development of children. With this in mind, the Learning for Life values poster competition provides a valuable opportunity for exploration of and reflection on such universal human qualities as enthusiasm, wisdom, courage, responsibility, trust and kindness. I have found the contributions both encouraging and inspiring, since it is clear that these young people seek not only to embody such qualities, but also to make their own contribution to human flourishing in the 21st century.'

Lord Sutherland of Houndwood KT, FBA, FRSE, Provost of Gresham College, former Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the Universities of Edinburgh and London, former Chief Inspector of Schools and President of the Royal Society of Edinburgh

'Today's crowded curriculum makes it difficult for students to find space for reflection. *Learning for Life* allows young people to bring the inspiration of others to bear on their own life experience. I found participation as a judge inspirational - and was awed by the maturity and self-awareness. We discovered that Scotland's future is clearly in safe hands.'

Wendy Alexander MSP, Member of the Scottish Parliament

'We always strive to ensure that our students receive the very best education during their time with us. But qualifications alone do not reflect the whole student experience. When they leave St Andrews, from whatever background they have come from, our students must have developed the skills and abilities needed to become the future shapers of and contributors to a thriving economy in a cultured and caring society. The Learning for Life project helps inculcate in school leavers a depth and quality of perception and reflection which will help them succeed in their time through university and beyond.'

Dr Brian Lang, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, University of St Andrews

'I was greatly impressed by the way in which the exercise made those taking part reflect on so many of the important problems that currently face individuals and society as a whole. In particular, I liked the way in which so many of the contributors were able to draw general lessons from their experience of everyday life. Altogether, I was greatly heartened by the standard of the entries.'

Hon. Lord Drummond Young, QC, Judge on the Scottish Bench

'Learning for Life is a pioneering project which everyone concerned about young people will want to support.'

Sir Eric Anderson KT, DLitt, FRSE, Provost of Eton College and former Rector of Lincoln College, Oxford

'An innovative and constructive contribution to the immensely important task of moral education.'

Professor Alexander McCall Smith, CBE, PhD, FRSE, Professor of Law and Medical Ethics, University of Edinburgh and best-selling author

'An imaginative educational initiative that enables students to reflect on their values and priorities in life. The results from the pilot project show a real engagement with significant human qualities and a genuine aspiration to make their lives a positive contribution to our collective future.'

Professor Pamela Munn, OBE, Dean of Education, University of Edinburgh

'A series of interesting and thoughtful reflections on central and important aspects of life: personal, social and universal. Ideas, examples and inspiration came from afar; but among the most interesting and insightful were those of that reflected on immediate personal experience. Thinking about things that matter matters and always will; and the earlier in life that practice begins the deeper it is likely to go.'

Prof. John Haldane FRSE, Professor of Moral Philosophy, University of St Andrews, author and broadcaster

'I have a good sense that this has encouraged young people to think about moral and ethical issues. I found some very honest and thoughtful pieces showing clearly that young people are searching for understanding and starting to think more about others and what might make them good citizens.'

Julia Ogilvy, Founder and Chair, ProjectScotland and former Scottish Businesswoman of the Year

'I have been delighted to read the contributions from pupils in our participating schools in the booklet produced. Some very thought-provoking and insightful words came from some quite surprising sources! Staff have been very enthusiastic about this initiative and I think it fits ideally with the principles of *A Curriculum for Excellence*. I hope to encourage more schools to participate this session.'

Cecilia Flanagan, Perth and Kinross Council Education Service

‘Thank you very much for all the materials and inspiration that you brought with you at the end of last term. The potential for personal research, deep reflection and an unusual creative approach will benefit students of all ages. The web site is amazing - such a breadth and wealth of sources will be beneficial for all students, not only those entering the competition.’

Gillian Vrsaljko, Head of Religious and Moral Education, Blairgowrie High School, Perthshire

‘I am very pleased that my pupils have access to such a helpful, informative and thought-provoking site. It is colourful, well-laid-out and pupils will find it easy to find their way around it. The posters are an excellent idea. They are attractive and I am sure that once they have researched, discussed and completed all the sections many pupils will choose to put them on their bedroom walls as a guide and inspiration.’

Wendy Clarke, Head of Religious and Moral Education, Webster’s High School, Kirriemuir, Angus

‘Thank you for all your work in putting together the Learning for Life project and helping us to get involved. Many pupils have told me how much they enjoyed it and gained personally from it.’

Dr Daniel Goodey, Head of Philosophy, Religion and Sociology, High School of Dundee

‘A Curriculum for Excellence’ rightly points schools towards more holistic views of education. It challenges us to see that learning to live in community is a key aim of education, and indeed is a central approach to education. Learning for Life provides a thoroughly practical support to schools as we embrace A Curriculum for Excellence, and we are delighted to be involved in this project.’

Richard Coton, Rector, Monifieth High School, Angus

‘I found the Learning for Life material fascinating, and think that the project is an excellent and highly innovative way to engage young people in thinking about who they are, and how they want to live their lives.’

Jonathan Edwards CBE, Olympic triple jump champion, Sydney 2000