

| <b>An Enterprising lesson</b> |                |   |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---|
|                               | <b>Subject</b> | Modern Studies – Mock Elections – S2                                    |
|                               | <b>Lesson</b>  | Democracy – Rights and Responsibilities<br>4 weeks – 2 lessons per week |

**Brief description**

Given an election brief the aim being to elect a candidate. Three teams in each class – so 6 groups in total each represent one of the main parties in the Scottish Parliament.

**“Enterprising” it!**

1. How we made learning **relevant** by putting into a **real context**

Pupils have to research their party on the web and also phone and ask for material. Pupils have to do all the research themselves. They have to divide the group into – leader, candidate, and press officer – free choice within the group. Leader had to make the manifesto and the candidate has to make a speech. Pupils then will canvas the classes in the rest of the school. Teachers give permission for this to happen in their class. The hustings are then held the day before the election – with hecklers!

Election day – member of staff and 2 senior students monitor turnout and then count the election by first past the post. The count is done by the first class in after the election.

2 How we encouraged pupils to take **responsibility**

Pupils all given the same resources and have to manufacture all the election information to post around the school. Once the brief has been given out the pupils have to do all the research, and campaigning themselves. Manifestos are pinned up outside the classroom. The candidate has to deliver their speech by heart. When the speech is learnt they tour classrooms and the candidate and leader have to field questions put to them by the rest of the school.

### 3 How we involved partners in learning – building **relationships**

**External** = Business / Community / Parents & Families

Political parties – letter, phone, information packs. Pupils can also contact anyone they like. Also local MSP will sometimes be asked to come and speak to the pupils.

The local newspaper will also run stories and items about the election.

Also Loch Broom fm will give air time for ‘politicians’.

**Internal** = Other adults in school

Other staff giving permission for speeches to be made in class. Staff are also asked for feedback on pupils speeches.

### 4 How we **reflected** on its success - assessment

Discussion with pupils on how they felt they had performed. Also written feedback during class time.

### 5 **Review** - further ideas for development

Pupils may need some more help in developing research techniques

### 6. **Links** with ACfE

#### **Successful Learners**

Pupils had to develop negotiation skills during their group work. They had to relate the research information they gathered to the task which they had been given and ensure it’s clarity for their audience. Presentation skills are also enhanced as pupils have to run the gauntlet during the ‘hustings’.

#### **Effective Contributors**

Students have to learn to delegate within their teams ensuring that their political party runs effectively. Pupils learn to co-operate with others in their party and learn to develop creative solutions to problems which have arisen.

#### **Confident Individuals**

Pupils develop a sense of self worth by participating in this project. They also have to learn to accept failure as there can be only one winning team. They also have to analyze the reasons for failure and address these issues.

#### **Responsible Citizens**

By fulfilling the brief pupils have become more aware of political parties and their policies. They had to weigh up complex issues and decide what areas to emphasize and put forward as their particular political standpoint.