



#2

NEWSLETTER
MAR 2024



DANDELION

PROJECT MORAY



TOP NEWS OF THE MONTH

ARE
YOU
READY?
#MOTMC

Welcome to the second edition of the Dandelion Project Newsletter. The last two months have been jam-packed, starting with the project's launch, to planning exciting opportunities for pupils, professional development for staff and working collaboratively with agencies. With April fast approaching, the official countdown to Month of the Military Child (MotMC) has begun! How will you participate? Continue reading to learn how you can join in and to catch up on all the latest news.

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← READ
MORE

UPCOMING EVENTS 2024



Month of the Military Child

April 2024

Internationally, Month of the Military Child celebrates children from armed forces families each April. It is also a month to share awareness about the role that they have within their family. Being an armed forces child can be exciting and it can also present challenges, such as their serving parent/s regularly being away and living a transient lifestyle. Month of the Military Child is an opportunity to recognise their efforts and have a celebration. Read on to find out how everyone can get involved.



Armed Forces Day

June 2024

Armed Force Day is an opportunity to show your support for people who make up the Armed Forces community, from currently serving to veterans.

How can you get involved with celebrating Armed Forces Day?

Our local SSAFA Moray branch, depending on availability, are looking to support CAMO Days in schools.

For more information, [click here.](#)



Learning opportunities about reflection, hope and the poppy

October 2024

The Dandelion Project has arranged for Poppyscotland's Bud to visit Moray this October!

Bud is Poppyscotland's micro-museum travelling across Scotland sharing stories of reflection, hope and of the poppy.

There are 24 sessions available, 6 per day!

Age range: P5 to S3

If schools would like to get involved, **[click here to register interest](#)** by 17 May.



Drop-Ins

All-year round

- Are you hosting a coffee morning in a school or a community setting and would like the Dandelion Project to pop in?
- Are you hosting an event/meeting and would like the Dandelion Project to support/attend?

These are great opportunities to hear updates about the Dandelion Project, discuss how the project can support armed forces children, a chance for me get to know the community better and offer guidance and signpost if needed.

Get in contact, let's make it happen!

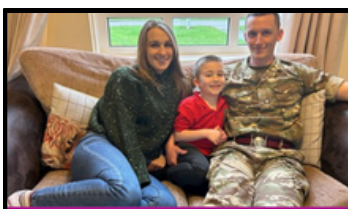


CPD For School Staff

All-year round

- Tailored CPD training sessions for your school or setting will be available from August 2024:
 - *Awareness of Armed Forces Families for all staff.*
 - *Supporting Armed Forces Children with Transition.*
 - *Supporting Armed Forces Children with Deployment/Seperation.*
- Register your interest now for a training session for your school or setting.
- Examples of when CPD sessions can be delivered: during in-service days, twilight sessions, after school in person or online.
- **Get in contact**, to discuss CPD options for your school or setting.

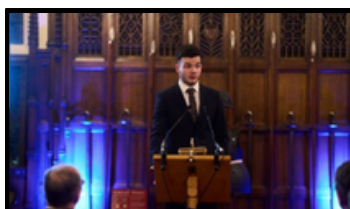
NEWS



14 FEB 2024

Project for Forces children launches survey for families

Moray's Dandelion project is asking armed forces families in the area to complete a new survey to help to understand their...



15 MAR 2024

Moray pupil recognised for commitment to military families

An S6 pupil at Elgin Academy has been recognised for his dedication to the needs of other children from Armed Forces families.



EVENT AT EDINBURGH CASTLE

MORAY PUPILS AMAZED AUDIENCE AT A 10TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT

→ NSI'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT

On Thursday, February 29th, three pupils from Moray were invited to participate in the celebration of Never Such Innocence's (NSI) 10th Anniversary event. Alfie, a student from Elgin Academy and an NSI ambassador, delivered a moving speech. He shared about the support he provided at his previous school with a friend and his experiences as a child from an armed forces family. Alfie emphasised the importance of children and young people having a voice. Additionally, Lily and Rhianna, pupils from Lossiemouth High School, sang a moving performance of 'Welcome Home'. This song was written by two armed forces pupils to capture the feelings of armed forces families; it won first place in the 2020/21 Never Such Innocence International Competition.

PRESS RELEASE

In case you missed it, [click here](#) to see the press release about the event and from the young people themselves.

Students from various primary and secondary schools in Scotland participated in the event, expressing themselves through performance. This event underpinned the significance of children's voices. The Dandelion Project will continue working with the children and young people from armed forces families in Moray, to champion their voices, ensuring the awareness and right support is available in their school.



5 WAYS TO GET INVOLVED WITH MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

1 Wear Purple on Fri 26 April

Wear an item of purple with your school uniform to celebrate and raise awareness for armed forces children and young people.



A DANDELION IS THE OFFICIAL FLOWER FOR MILITARY CHILDREN. ITS SEEDS ARE BLOWN FAR AND WIDE BY THE WIND, BUT IT ALWAYS PLANTS ROOTS AND BLOSSOMS WHEREVER IT WILL LAND.

2 Sing

Learn the Month of the Military Song by Never Such Innocence (NSI) for a whole school assembly. [Click here.](#)

3 Enter the Competitions

Get involved in Moray's competition, [click here](#) for more information. The theme is 'My World as an Armed Forces Child'. Take part in NSI's competition [here](#), 'The Lifecycle of a Dandelion.'

APRIL IS THE MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD! IT WAS ESTABLISHED IN THE US IN 1986 AND HAS SINCE STEADILY MADE ITS WAY TO THE UK.

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD IS A MONTH TO CELEBRATE AND RAISE AWARENESS OF THE UNIQUE EXPERIENCES OF ARMED FORCES CHILDREN.

4 Write your own poem

Did you know there's a Dandelion Poem? Click [here](#) to see it. Can you make your own poem describing what it means to be an armed forces child?

5 Celebrate at Home

Decorate your windows with purple bunting and dandelion artwork. What is great about being an armed forces child? Share with your family and friends. [Use Little Troopers Home Pack.](#)

PURPLE IS THE COLOUR OF MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD AS IT IS A TRI-SERVICE COLOUR. IT IS A MIX OF RED (ARMY), DARK BLUE (NAVY) AND SKY BLUE (ROYAL AIR FORCE).



MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD



APRIL 2024

PHOTO COMPETITION

THEME:

“My World as an Armed Forces Child.”

DATE:

1 - 30 APRIL 2024

ELIGIBILITY:

- In primary or secondary education in Moray; and
- from an Armed Forces family¹.

ENTRY:²

Email your: name, age, school and photo to: dandelionproject@moray.gov.uk with a **completed consent form**.³



4 CATEGORIES:

Primary: P1-P3 and P4-P7

Secondary: S1-S3 and S4-S6

PRIZES SPONSORED BY:



Winners will be announced from 6 May.

²Photo entries may be used in a MotMC media reel, showcasing celebrations in Moray, alongside other PR. For children aged under 16, please can the parent/carer sign, for over 16 please can the young person sign. To complete digitally, download the form and use Adobe Acrobat.

³ Scan this QR code to access the consent form or [click here](#).

¹ Armed Forces families: regular, reservist and/or veteran.



Funded by:



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OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED WITH #MOTMC



Take part in Moray's Photo competition!

Keep an eye out for buildings and structures in Moray that will be illuminated purple in April, to show support for Month of the Military Child!

'Voices of Armed Forces Children' Workshop
15- 17 April 2024

Thank you to schools for registering interest. I am delighted to announce that the Dandelion Project has organised for NSI to deliver this workshop at the following schools:

St Gerardine Primary, Hythehill Primary, Lossiemouth High, Seafield Primary, Greenwards Primary, Kinloss Primary and Forres Academy.

Take part in NSI's competition [here](#), the theme this year is 'The Lifecycle of a Dandelion.'



To feature in Moray's MotMC 2024 video, showcasing celebrations across Moray, please email me media you would like to be included, with captions, by 1 May.



10% discount for RAF Staff, veterans and students



The Food Vault
12 Queen Street
Lossiemouth

At the Food Vault, they are celebrating the resilience and the courage of military families with a 10% discount all month long.
[Click here for more details:](#)

Valid:1-30 April

Month of the Military Child

ssafa the **Armed Forces** charity

'Purple Up' and raise money for SSAFA (Moray Branch), [click here](#) for the poster.



2024 Celebration Pack



Poster from the MOD Education Policy Team



Resources for schools and home.
for primary and secondary aged pupils.

#MOTMC

#PURPLEUP

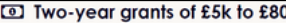

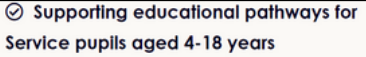
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

NEW FUNDING PROGRAMME | APPLY BY 8 MAY 2024

In England, each armed forces pupil receives Service Pupil Premium (SPP), £335 (for 23/24). This includes children from veteran families for up to 6 years (supported by the Ever 6 initiative). SPP is only applicable to schools in England.

A new Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust programme is now open for applications. It provides a fantastic opportunity for schools in Scotland to apply for funding to directly help their armed forces pupils. Previously, successful applications from schools in Moray have enabled them to employ a Pupil Support Worker for 12 months, to support the armed forces pupils in their school. Read more below about what is available, how to apply and the criteria.

→ ARMED FORCES COVENANT FUND TRUST

 Two-year grants of £5k to £80  Closing date midday 8 May  Supporting educational pathways for Service pupils aged 4-18 years

Service Pupil Support Programme

Your project must meet one of these three themes

Closing the gap


Closing the gap in educational attainment between Service pupils and non-Service pupils, using data-led evidence.


Service Pupils with additional needs


Addressing the needs of Service pupils with additional needs, through early identification and intervention, using a collaborative and coordinated approach.

Small cohorts

Identifying and addressing the needs of small cohorts of Service children in individual schools and working collaboratively as part of a cluster.

 Your project needs to deliver tangible outcomes.

 Your project can last up to two years in length.

 Your project should be collaborative.

Under all of the above themes, we will prioritise applications from clusters of 3 or more schools.

To learn more about any exceptions to the above, please read the programme guidance.



- [for more information](#)
- [programme guidance](#)
- [FAQs](#)

INTERESTED?

There will be a chance to join a Google Meet in the first two week of next term, for all Moray schools that are interested in applying in this programme, with previous funding experience or new to it. This will be an opportunity for colleagues to share experiences and discuss plans to apply for funding together.

An invite for this virtual meeting will be sent to all schools via email. In the meantime, feel free to get in contact for support.

USEFUL LINKS

BOXES AND DOCUMENTS BELOW ARE HYPERLINKED

Visit [MyLossie website](#) for information about RAF Community Support in Moray, including the most recent welcome booklet. Personnel and families can contact the HIVE to find out what is available for families to access when a serving parent is deployed. The community support team, the HIVE and SSAFA are based at St Aidan's Church, RAF Lossiemouth. For more information, visit [MyLossie](#) or for any queries email: LOS-RAFLossiemouthHIVE@mod.gov.uk

[RAF Lossiemouth HIVE Facebook](#) [RAF Lossiemouth HIVE X.com](#)



Kinloss Barracks contains the Army Welfare Service (AWS) & 39 Regiment Community Centre (formerly known as the HIVE). This can be found in building 374 on the Domestic side of camp. The 39 Regiment Community Centre offers several activities run by the Army Welfare Service Community Support Team and the 39 Engr Families Committee.

For up to date information about our groups and activities, and to join the Army Welfare Service (Community Support) mailing list, please contact: RC-AWS-N-Highlands-CSOMailbox@mod.gov.uk



Military YOUTH Voice Survey
Your Voice Matters !!
8-17 Years

QR Code
<https://forms.office.com/e/Mbx44R89IN>

Military Young People from across the UK came together to design this survey. Their idea is to gather as many voices as possible. Results will shape services, develop support and make a positive difference for all Military Young People.

SCAN THE CODE !!

ROYAL NAVY ROYAL AIR FORCE ARMY WELFARE SERVICE

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ROYAL NAVY ARMY ROYAL AIR FORCE

Connect with **Reading Force**

GET IN CONTACT

Get in touch with Nicola, our Book Club Ambassador to find out more about setting up a book club at your school - email nicola@readingforce.org.uk or call 07519 665410.

Tri-service Youth Voice Survey for children and young people aged 8-17 years.
Complete by 31 May 24.
Scan the QR code or click the poster.

Online mental health and wellbeing support is available for children with a parent serving in the British Armed Forces or working for the MOD or the British Government in the UK or overseas, aged 11 until their 19th birthday.

Reading Force host weekend giveaways regularly! They also organize giveaways to commemorate special occasions and support causes. Stay connected with them on social media or check their website to stay updated and participate.



For education queries, complete a quick contact form. scan or [click here](#).

For other queries, please contact:

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Education Support Officer

priyanka.chard@moray.gov.uk

07929784839

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Partnership between:

