

## **GREEN SHOOTS: Spring-Summer 2017**

Our Green Shoots referral programme has worked with 14 pupils (over the autumns and spring terms) from S1 and S2, from 9 different High Schools. The advanced programme is trialing for the first time two young mentors; pupils that have completed the sessions as participants and are returning to help staff and take their first steps transitioning from school into further positive destinations, or college placements (Courtney and Brandon)

The advanced programme is working with 8 pupils from 6 different schools. We have headed out on a variety of day sessions to undertake all manner of conservation work from sowing wildflower meadows and undertaking bumblebee surveys, to helping to build a sensory trail for children with autism and removing tree guards from hedgerow planted 10 years ago by other Green Shoots participants.

We have explored not just our natural heritage, but our cultural heritage too, by undertaking a boat trip to Loch Leven's Castle to Mary Queen of Scots prison and exploring the hidden secrets of Arthur's Seat. The residentials continue to develop our outdoor living skills, culminating in sleeping out in basha shelters under the stars and participating in a drum workshop by firelight.

Our Forest School programme also undertook their first ever wild camping trip in The Pentlands. An experience we are sure the pupils will never forget.

Thanks as always to our dedicated Volunteer Leaders Simon, Louise, Carol, Nicola, Francesco, Olga and Courtney who assisted on these programmes and to Cameron Simcock who worked with us for 6 months through Community Jobs Scotland as a trainee Youth Worker.

