

**Huntly & Aboyne after school youth piping schools**  
- supporting our pipe bands -

**Dear Pipe Band,**

You may not be aware that the North East of Scotland Piping Arts Programme (NESPAP), in partnership with Aberdeenshire Council, are now offering two Youth piping schools in Huntly and Aboyne. These are after school tuition classes running from 3.30pm – 5.30pm in the local academy, then, 6.00pm - 8.30pm in the nearby Community Centre for each locale. All youth (21 years and under) classes are subsidised at £5 per lesson on a weekday during the school term until July 2012.

One of our new aims is to offer assistance for young players and beginners in local pipe bands. We currently have participants in both piping schools who are members of bands with support available in:

- Learning current and new band tunes
- Maintenance of the Pipes
- Technique and music development
- Working through the new PDQB/SQA Piping syllabus and towards exams (if requested)
- Encouraging all new starts to think about joining their local pipe band (after initial training)
- A small range of performance opportunities to gain self confidence

Another feature we are looking at is holding occasional master class sessions. So far these include:

- A Bagpipe MOT (instrument assessed for playing suitability etc.)
- A Piper MOT (player assessed for bad habits etc.)

*These will be free and open to all interested in attending commencing after the summer 2011*

We very much see the piping schools as a support mechanism and resource for all bands to use and in turn the piping schools support bands by encouraging young players to join a local band wherever that may be in the North East.

If you'd like to know more about the piping schools or suggest a learner/player to receive extra tuition we'd be delighted to hear from you. Alternatively, please visit this link below for further details.

[http://www.pipingprogramme.co.uk/Site/Piping\\_School.html](http://www.pipingprogramme.co.uk/Site/Piping_School.html)

Regards,  
Robert Aitken

Robert Aitken

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