



Friday 6th December 2013

Media Release

Nelson Mandela Inspired Scotland's Youth

Young people in Scotland have been inspired by one of the world's most influential leaders.

The world lost one of its great leaders on Thursday 5th December 2013 as Nelson Mandela died peacefully in his home at the age of 95.

Amongst mourning, must come reflection on Mr Mandela's life and the impact it had on not only the people of South Africa, but people worldwide.

Since 2005, what was then known as the 'Learning for Life' project and now Character Scotland's 'Inspire>Aspire' project, has asked 157,700 school pupils across Scotland and the rest of the UK to reflect on character and values, using an inspirational figure to draw future aspiration.

Throughout these 8 years, one figure featured prominently as the person that inspired the young pupils most. This inspirational figure wasn't a professional athlete, a pop-culture icon or a member of family. The inspirational figure was Nelson Mandela; the man who guided South Africa from the shackles of apartheid to multi-racial democracy.

Here is a mere snippet of quotes we have from pupils across Scotland who see Nelson Mandela as their main inspiration in life:

"Nelson Mandela is my inspirational figure because he fought for what he felt was right and did not give up until he reached that goal that he had set out to do." Ross Swanson – The Glasgow Academy

"He inspires me because he's taught me that everyone in the world should be treated the same and no one should be looked down on." Emma Beaton – Portree High School

"His resilience is something we can all learn from and I believe that his bravery should never be forgotten." Cathy Grant – St Margaret's School

"He inspires me because he went through a lot in his life but carried on even when he was in a horrible situation." Nazia Khatun – Central Foundation Girls School

“What amazes me so much is how he managed to come out of this prison with no anger whatsoever towards any of the people that put him in there... If anyone doesn’t find this act inspiring then I don’t know what is.” Heloise Kleinwort – Stowe School

“When I hear his name, I feel pride for my country. I feel proud because it’s been through so much – it’s still going through the side effects of apartheid.” Grace van der Wielen – Pitlochry High School

Looking back on these posters, it is incredible to see the influence one man has had on young people all over Scotland, despite the majority of his life taking place before their time. His lasting legacy is to never discount the difference one person can make, and this will inspire future generations in Scotland for many years to come.

Follow this link to see some of the posters which feature Nelson Mandela.

Apply today for your 100% grant funded place on the Inspire>Aspire: Global Citizens in the Making Awards Programme: <http://www.inspire-aspire.org.uk/teachers/how-it-works/how-it-works-scottish-school-or-organisation>

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Visit www.inspire-aspire.org.uk for further programme details.