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FAIR TRICKIT!
(adj.) pleased, happy, delighted

THE CONCISE SCOTS DICTIONARY
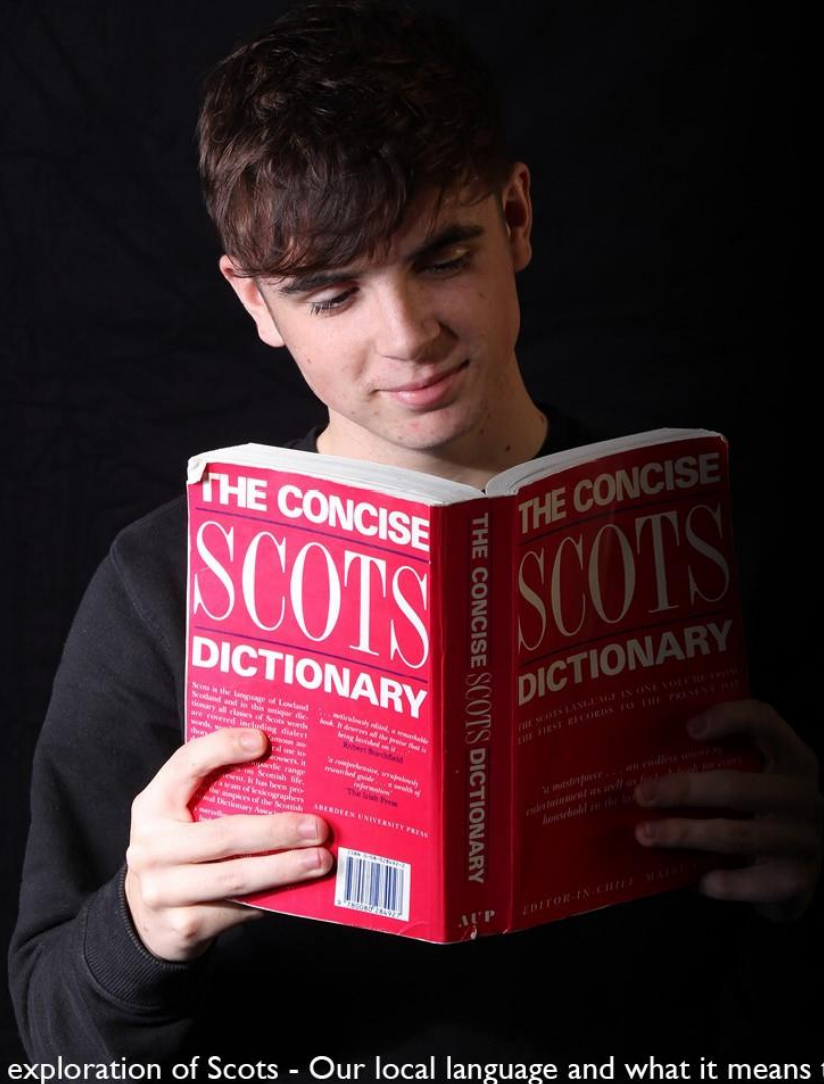
An exploration of Scots - Our local language and what it means to us

I just feel like I'm writing it wrong

Learning to write Scots, focussing on building pupil and teacher confidence and self-esteem alongside literacy skills development

Introduction
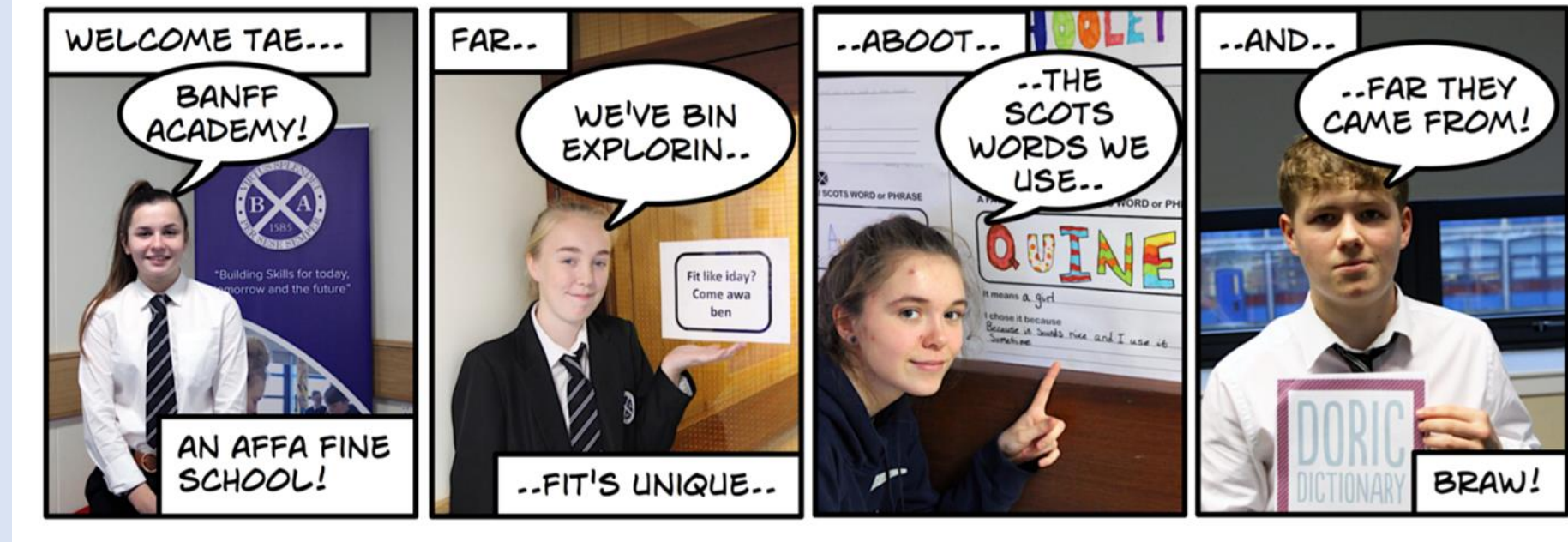
- PhD in Ethnology – interdisciplinary approach
- Researching contemporary Scots use, working with schools and community groups
- Banff Academy – Heartland of Scots
- Creative methodologies and Participatory Action Research (PAR)
- Linguistic Ethnography as a theoretical and methodological framework to 'look closely and locally, while tying [my] observations to broader relations of power and ideology'. A. Creese (2010)

Legend:
- 0% to 15%
- 15% to 25%
- 25% to 30%
- 30% to 40%
- 40% to 50%
- >50%

Banf
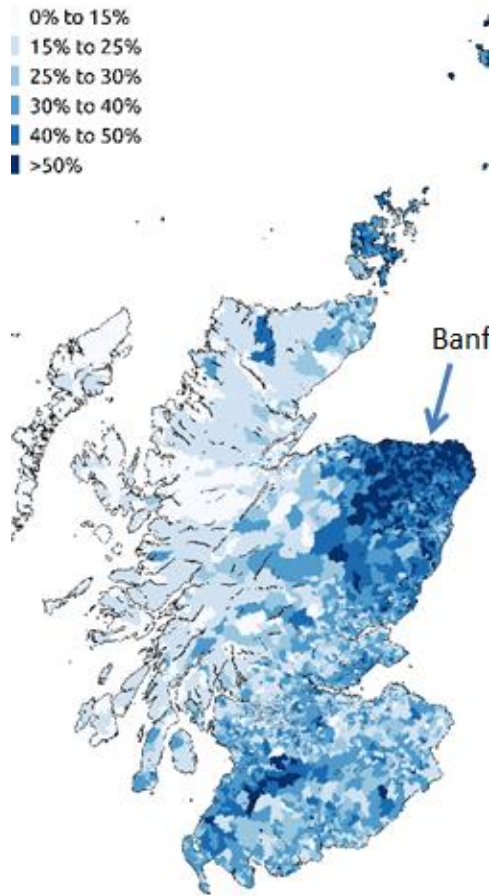
'Officially Scots does not exist. It is not the subject of any accepted official policy, and no one dreams of teaching it to foreigners'

A.J Aitken 1985

More teachers than ever are committed to the view that Scots plays a crucial role for many pupils in raising levels of attainment and confidence, improving behaviour and literacy skills and supporting social inclusion and Scottish identity.

Scottish Government 2010.

The Scots Language

Confidence and self-esteem

I don't write it very well.

How do you know?

I don't.

So is it that you don't know that you are good? Or is it that you think you are making mistakes?

It just feels like I'm writing it wrong.

Ok. But if there's no right way or wrong way to do it, why mightn't you be doing it completely right?

I like being able to explore Scots with pupils because they don't feel restricted by the spelling ... so the fear disappears and that actually encourages creativity.

Skills development
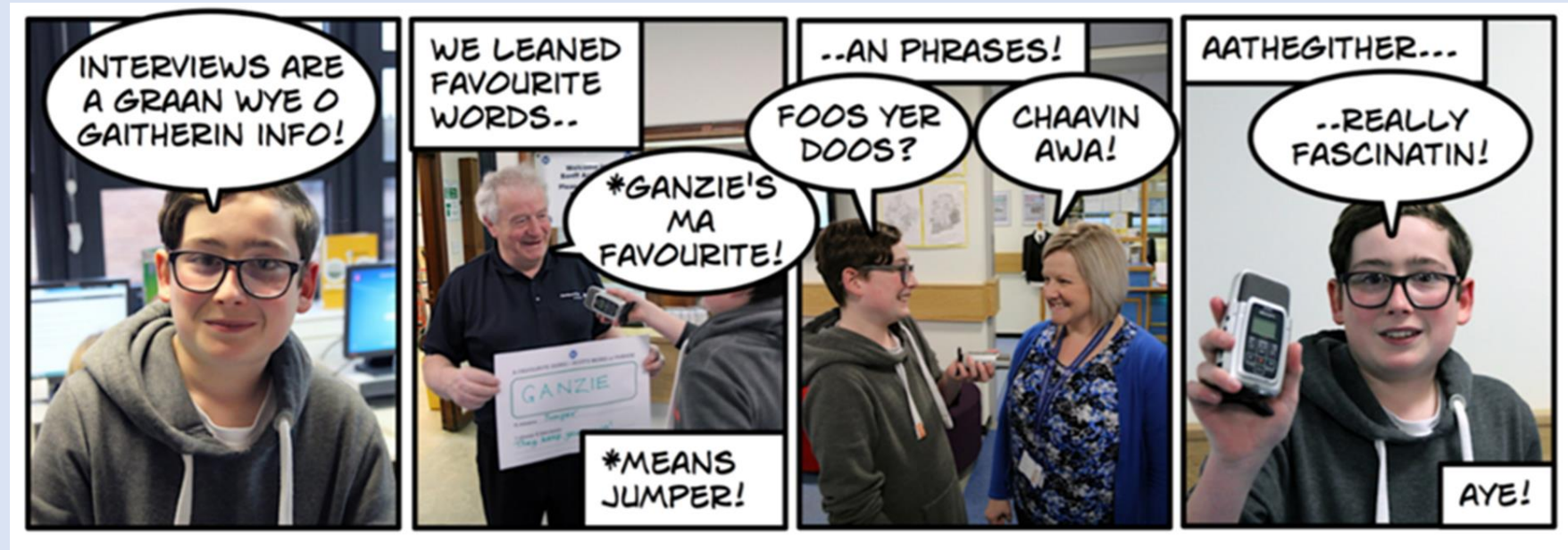
In primary, you'd have to write down and try and get the spelling right, but they were all English words, never Scottish words. We never, ever read books that had Scottish words in it, just English words. Anything that we read or watched would just have English in it, no Scots.

Do you think you should hae the option to write in Scots? Instead of English, in some classes?
I think you should be allowed to write in Scots It's easier. Well, for me onywye.

We did Scots spelling in my class the other day. They do spelling normally every week, and they do 10 words and they write sentences about them so this week I made them do Scots spellings.

Social Media

I'm usually more of a texter, when I text I speak more Scots I guess, than I do actually speak. I say 'ken' and 'fit like?' it's just the basic Scots words, not really like big ones and that, just the basics.

- Angry red lines

- Predictive text

- Swiftkey App
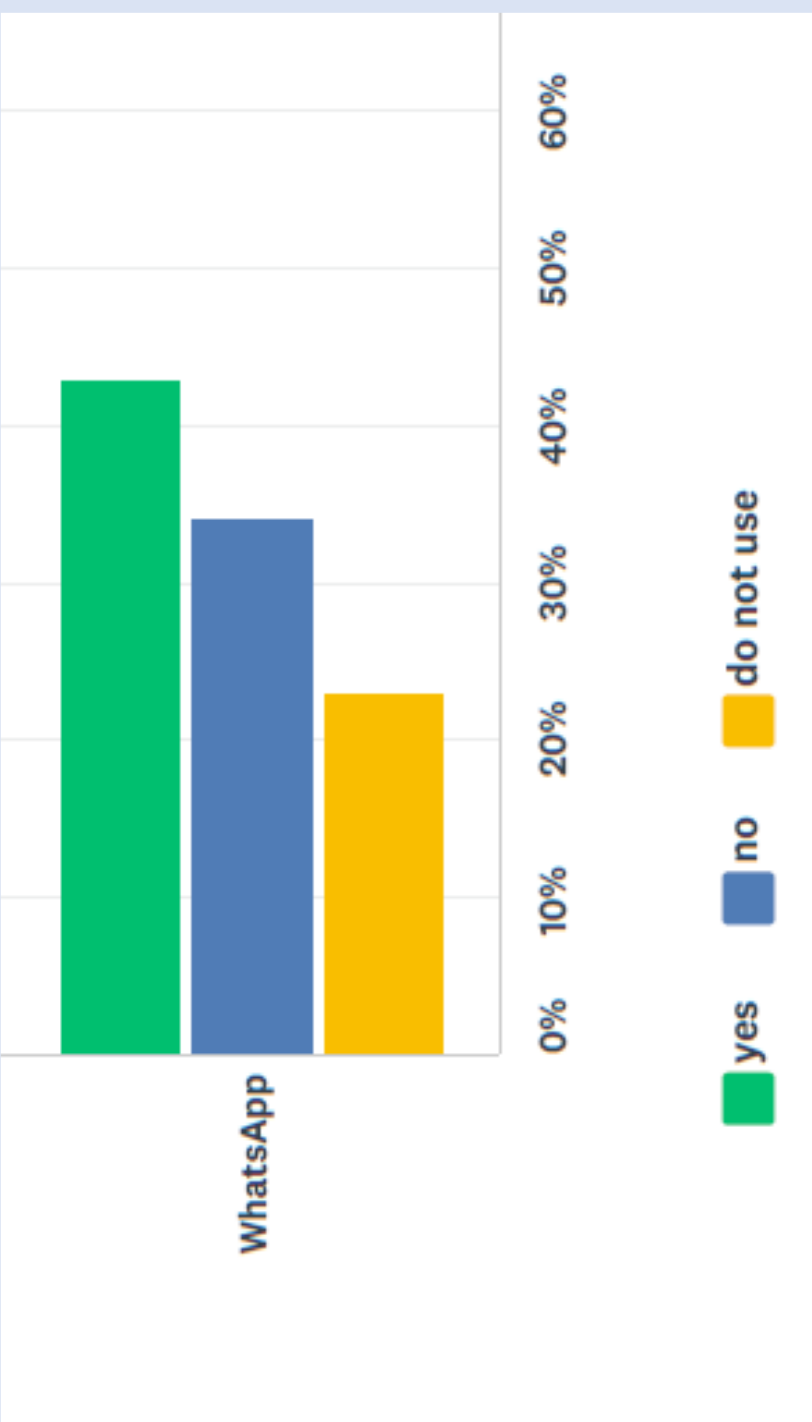
Conclusions

What's definitely apparent to me from meeting the young people here, that by promoting Scots language it definitely gives them a sense of identity, it definitely builds confidence, it definitely builds resilience because they are proud of their language. […] So I think the link between success and wider achievement is clear to me.

- Raised awareness of Scots as a language

- Grow in confidence, grow in communicative competence

- Creative arts space - supportive environment for innovation

- Measurable skills development

- Just give it a go!
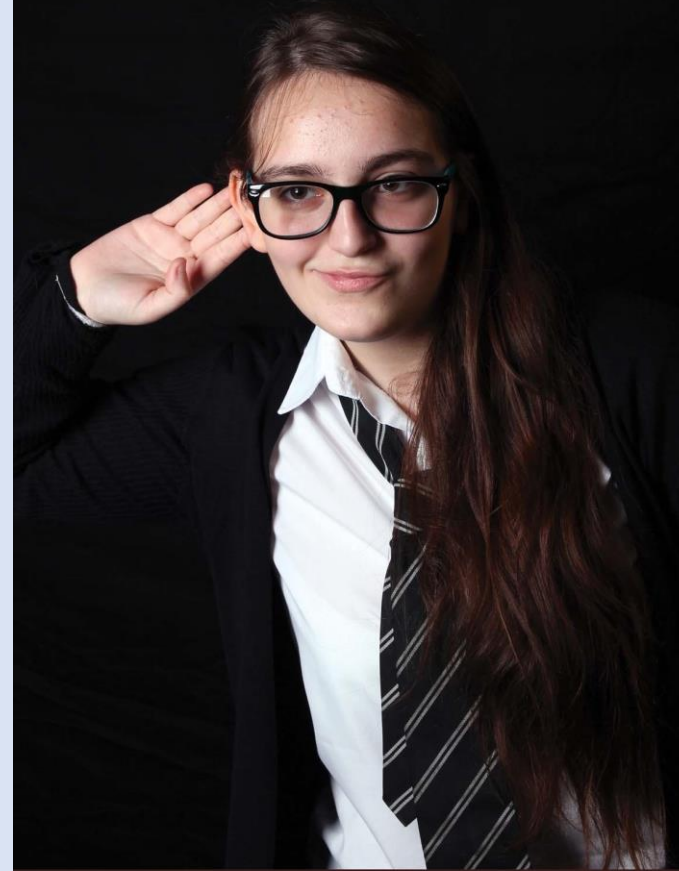
lug in:

(v) to eavesdrop

Be careful aboot luggin in. Ye might hear things ye dinna want tae.

Ashton

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