

May 09

Dear Friends,

I'm writing to you as you are a supporter of SU Scotland's work in the Independent Schools sector. As Chair of the Independent Schools Action Group I have the pleasure of working alongside the staff, pupils and other volunteers who work in this area.

As a teacher and SU Group Leader at the High School of Glasgow I have really welcomed the support of the Regional Workers over the years as they visit our lunchtime groups, lead assemblies and present the work of SU Holidays in a school that recognises the value of each of these aspects of SU's work. Despite having three healthy groups across the J5 to S6 age range of the school, we have also greatly appreciated the IS Weekends and other training opportunities which pupils are able to benefit from as part of the SU Network.

This pattern is repeated to a greater or lesser extent across the Independent Schools sector.

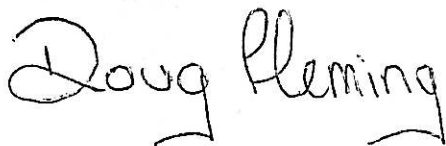
- Around 140 IS pupils from 11 different schools enjoyed a weekend at Lendrick Muir last term with their SU group friends and leaders.
- Over 300 IS pupils from 47 schools have currently booked for the 2009 Easter or Summer SU Holidays.
- Around 38 groups across the country are led by teaching staff, parents, youthworkers and senior pupils – who enjoy the encouragement of the IS Regional Workers, prayer supporters and donors.
- Our Regional Workers – Adrienne, Laura and Gordon – have spoken at chapel services, taken assemblies or made classroom contributions in around 30 schools this session.

In addition, in the past two years a number of new groups have started in schools where there has previously been none. A greater number of schools are taking advantage of the weekends away and the tremendous opportunities they provide for relationship-building. These very exciting and encouraging developments speak clearly of the impact and influence of our three SU regional workers and the volunteers whom they support.

Scripture Union Scotland appreciates this fantastic opportunity to shape the lives of school pupils across the country; with 1 in every 20 Scottish pupils at an Independent School we have a major part of that opportunity as our responsibility. We are grateful for the generous and consistent backing of supporters whose donations bring in £16,000 each year. However, the IS budget has a shortfall of £35,000 for this financial year. The resources that have supported this work in previous years have been utilised, and a significant change in the funding pattern is required to maintain the work. We appreciate that the current financial situation brings uncertainties to many of us. As you can see, we share some of these uncertainties and therefore feel it necessary to bring this need to you if we are to be able to sustain the level of staff support within Independent Schools.

Thank you for considering this critical matter – we would be most grateful for any partnership that you can provide for this area of our ministry and have included the facility to create or renew your financial support of the work. You may also be able to bring this area of need before other friends, colleagues, churches, former pupils or parents of current IS pupils and we would be happy to provide you with more information and materials for doing this.

Yours in Christian service,



Doug Fleming  
Chair, Independent Schools Action Group