



Harrison

HARRISON STUART

Harrison is an Aberdonian, born and raised in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. He studied for two years abroad, learning German, French, and Dutch and is currently a student at the University of Aberdeen. Out of all the languages he speaks, Harrison's favourite is Doric. When he's in Aberdeen, he says English comes second.



I started learning German, and I just got A after A in my spelling tests and vocabulary, so I knew I was going somewhere with it. So I picked up French, and I got an A. [...] I just kept getting As with my German throughout... I feel really proud about it. And that's what led me to just indulge in a bit of Dutch. I've been learning Dutch online, so I listen to lots of music. For some reason, I've ended up making Dutch my most-listened-to music for the past two years.



I can only really order a coffee in Dutch, and I can understand it very well because it's pretty simple... There are so many words in Dutch that are in Scots. We even see it in Aberdeen city places. [e.g. 'Nether Kirk': in Dutch, *neder* = 'lower' and *kerk* = 'church']

I had to tone down my identity when I was in France, for sure. I had to speak very slowly and very, like, in a standard way to children [while teaching them] when I was over there. [...] I standardised myself in France.

[On experience of Scots at school]: In the curriculum, there is lots of literature based on Glaswegian environments. mostly during the interwar period or post-war. And that's what we did learn in our National 5 course. But it's still not northeastern. It's like teaching people in Friesland Flemish literature: you know, it's just not their thing. Or teaching Jamaicans maybe South African English-speaking literature: you know, it's just not the same thing. Maybe it's not that extreme, but there is still a clear difference, I'd argue.



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