

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Mr Gavin Moir



Staff and Students of the Academy were greatly saddened by the news of the sudden death of Mr Gavin Moir at the age of 31. Mr Moir joined the Mathematics Department of Elgin Academy in August 2010 having previously completed his probationary year in Wick High School. He was a committed and hard working teacher who wanted the very best for his pupils. Our thoughts are with Gavin's parents, sister and brothers at this time.

Other Staff Changes

Congratulations to Mr Alan Bruce who leaves on the 13th May to take up a post as Faculty Head at Mackie Academy in Stonehaven. Welcome to Mrs Diane McLaughlin who has joined the Support for Learning Department.

Mrs Jane Rossetter will be retiring on the 7th May after over 21 years in the English Department. Mrs Sandra Denoon will be leaving the Maths Department on the same day. She has been here for almost 9 years. We wish them both well in a new chapter of their lives.

Mr Simon Brooks leaves the Maths Department at the end of the session to take up a post in Holland and at the same time I shall be leaving as Head Teacher of Elgin Academy to move to Paris with my husband.

Belief in Dialogue, Good Practice Guide'Launch

Elgin Academy students Rosemary Nicol and Catriona Maclean took part in the launch event for the Government delivering a thought provoking workshop to delegates at the Storytelling Centre in Edinburgh on **Tuesday, 8th March**.



Rotary Young Leadership Award

Congratulations to Katie Taylor who was selected to take part in a week's training at Abernethy Outdoor Centre along with other students from Moray because of her "amazingly high career ambitions, her clear preparation for the interview and her poise and responses throughout...all first class!"

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Congratulations to Catriona Maclean, Lucy McQuade; Kirstin Mustard, Marisa Mustard, Charlotte Johnson, Ailsa O'Brien, Katie Ferguson and Ellie Hay on achieving their Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award.

Elgin Ear

Elgin Ear have been operating now for almost a year as a pilot project. The boxes, made by Elgin Academy Technical Department students are sited around Elgin and have been invaluable. Locations that have, and some which are still being used include:

Tesco, Elgin Library, Elgin Community Centre, CJ's Plaice, Buccaneer Garage, Elgin Youth Café, Linkwood Medical Practice and NEON. These have proved to be the most popular resource used by the community in terms of engaging with the project – most reports have been taken from the listening boxes.

The Go4set is an initiative that involves students working with outside companies on a 10 week science project. The aims were to stimulate the interest of young people in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

This year the project was to research and develop recommendations on building an 'ECO Classroom'. The project finished with a final judging and presentation day held at Moray College. The two teams worked extremely hard on this project and created reports, models and a 5 minute presentation which was delivered to industry specialists. On the day both teams received an award. The first for the youngest team to take part in the programme and the second for the Student's Award for best project.

Team 1 (special award for youngest team)

Steven Park
David Legge
Rebecca Munns
Rhianne Archer-Frew

Team 2 (Students choice award and £100 for the school)

Iain Sword
Scott Adams
Megan McIvor
Jasmine Robertson

SkillForce Successes

The following SkillForce S4 students have recently passed their ASDAN Silver Moderation:

David Anderson, Joshua Bromley, Bradley Philpot, Craig Routledge, Thomas Walker, Catherine Wynne, Amber Allan, Alannah Russell, Shane Pickering, Paige Kiani, Richard Hewett, Stuart Mouncher

The following students also successfully completed the St Andrews Emergency First Aid course;

David Anderson, Joshua Bromley, Bradley Philpot, Craig Routledge, Thomas Walker, Catherine Wynne, Amber Allan, Alannah Russell, Shane Pickering, Paige Kiani, Richard Hewett, Stuart Mouncher, Peter Carnegie-Brown, Dale Carnegie-Brown.

The class will be going forward for CoPe Moderation in April and are just finishing their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.

Modern Languages News

Seb Welsh, AH French, taught French to P7 pupils in several of our associated Primaries in March. Feedback from the pupils and staff was very positive as they had fun but learned a lot of French in a short space of time. A great but daunting first teaching experience for Seb!

Shannon Mustard, Andrew Yeats and David Jack's German Brochure, and Kyle Clarke, Brooke Kennedy, Emma Hepburn's French Brochure were both awarded best overall Hotel Brochures by a panel consisting of AH French candidates, Senior Leadership Team and two representatives from the Mansion House Hotel, our S1 Modern Languages curriculum partner. Copies of the two winning brochures will be on display at the hotel for foreign visitors to use.

Advanced Higher Modern Studies



Seven students took part in a very eye-opening and opinion-changing visit to Porterfield Prison in Inverness on Monday 28th February. Ally Burr, Carrie Gordon, Ellie Hay, Ellie Kramer-Taylor, Eilidh Richardson, Ben Thom and Arran Young, accompanied by PT of Modern Studies Mr Abenheimer had the opportunity to question prison officials on a range of issues in reference to the penal system.

The Advanced Higher course requires a 5000 word dissertation on various topics to do with criminology and the students have used many of the answers they received to add to the depth of their dissertations. They also had the chance to see inside a real-life prison cell and were given the opportunity to meet one of the inmates, which some found very emotional.

S4 Work Experience

Preparation is underway with the current S3 and all have a work-It ID and password. The work experience weeks this year are 12th Sept and 19th Sept. Students are encouraged to go online at home and search through the job opportunities with parents. The deadline for completed request forms is 27th May. Any queries should be directed to Mrs Bowley in the Guidance Department.

Elgin Academy helps Learning and Teaching Scotland with Assessment

Since November of last year, Mr Tsotsi has been working with *LTScotland* on **Level 3 of the National assessment resource for RME**.

During this period, he worked closely with classes **2.1 and 2.4** to 'create' the NAR. (National Assessment Record)

The two classes were mature and keen to take the challenge of this project.

We had a visitor from LTS during this process and he was simply 'blown away' by how 2nd years handled such sensitive moral issues usually reserved for 3rd years. The final results will be in May when all goes 'live'

The **Advanced Higher Chemistry** class were treated to a tour of the DIAGEO Labs on Tuesday 28th April. The students found the visit very interesting and relevant to the work studied in class.

S1-3 Girls' Rugby

During last term a small group of girls expressed an interest in playing rugby, having had some experience of the game in their P.E classes. This interest was passed to James Sloggie, the Rugby Development Officer, and he set about organising an After School Club for girls from the Academy and the High School. That club now runs every Thursday, during term time, from 4pm-5pm on the pitches at Morriston, coached by James Sloggie and English Teacher Elaine Goudie. At the moment, the number of girls attending is approximately 12 each week but we are hoping that more girls in S1-3 will come down to give it a go.

Rugby is a fantastic game because there is a position for everybody, regardless of fitness or ability, and it's lots of fun. The girls who are already attending are really enjoying themselves and will be happy to explain what goes on to anyone interested. We hope that girls' rugby will become an established After School Club and will provide an opportunity for the girls to play matches against other schools/teams. There is also a real chance for those who play well to be selected for the Scotland Squad. In many other sports it is very difficult to get the chance to represent your country but, as numbers are still relatively small, there are much more opportunities to rise to the highest level. If anyone would like more information about girls' rugby or would like to come along after school please see Miss Goudie, English teacher and Rugby Coach, in X13.

U-18 Elgin Schools Rugby Team

The U-18 squad has had a more successful season this year reaching the semi-final of the SRU Brewin Dolphin National Bowl semi final, defeating teams from Aberdeenshire and Highland along the way. The semi-final was closely fought against Bearsden Academy/Douglas Academy with Elgin eventually going down 0-8. In the final Bearsden/Douglas lost to Alva Academy. The team were able to play in new strips which were sponsored by Elgin High School parents (Alastair Hughes and Trevor Jones) with a contribution from Parent Councils of both schools. This is a combined team from Elgin Academy and Elgin High School that has played together for the last 3 years or so in national and regional competitions. We are eagerly awaiting next season as most of the players will still be available to play for us. Elgin Academy was awarded the SRU Silver Award for it's support of rugby. This involves the school receiving some equipment and tickets for the Murrayfield Seven's in May.

In the last year or so, the profile of rugby in Elgin Academy has risen with Lottery Funding for new posts and more rugby in the school curriculum. Next season as well as running an U-18 team we hope to run U-15 and U-16 boys and girls teams in National and Regional cup competitions. It is also hoped to play in a local S1/S2 development league with other Moray schools to give players enjoyable matches where they can learn to play and not have to travel too far.

To that end we would be very grateful to any parents who wish to help in any way. Please contact Mr Abenheimer (Modern Studies) Miss Goudie (English) & Mr Kelly (Physics).

Primary School Cross Country Championships

Over 950 Primary pupils from schools all over Moray competed in the Primary School Cross Country Championships. It is impressive to see, and very well coordinated by the Active Schools coordinators.

Scottish Schools Cross Country

Beth Wilson 4S finished an excellent 5th at the Scottish Schools in Irvine. This secured another Scottish vest to take part in the British & Irish Schools Championships in Ireland on the 26th March where she helped the Scottish team to gain a bronze medal.

Crombie League Badminton Tournament

The following students competed in the At the Beach Leisure Centre in Aberdeen. The event took place over 4 Sundays during January and February. The competition had schools from Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray Council competing. Elgin Academy entered 3 teams into the event. The 1st team finished a very creditable 4th out of 9 teams, the 2nd team finished 1st out of a 9 team group, and the 3rd team also finished a very creditable 4th from 9. A huge amount of credit must go to the Elgin Academy pupils who conducted themselves with great maturity and sportsmanship throughout the tournament.

John Little, Blair Little, Kirsty Cumming, Neil Fimister, Joe Taylor, Kieran Mackenzie, Khaya Tsotsi, Hanoz Bhamgara, Ross Carmichael, Callum Sutherland, Matthew Campbell, Caitlin Little, Stephanie Whelan, Ross Cumming, Paul Whelan, Ryan Barnett and Alexander Hawco.



CD's and DVD Collection in Exchange for a new set of school football strips.

Many thanks to all the parents, pupils and staff who donated either CD's or DVD's from their beloved collection. We have now passed the 500 target and can exchange them for a full set of 16 jerseys, shorts and socks and a goalkeepers kit. It has been a fantastic team effort. The choice of strip and colour is going to be scarlet and navy with white piping which is very close to the school colours.

Tesco Vouchers for Schools

Once again Tesco are giving away vouchers for schools, one for every £10 spent. Inter-House competition, so collect vouchers and give them to your Guidance teacher in room X6.

Thank you. (A Morrison)

World Maths Day

It was "World Maths Day" on the 4th March and to celebrate, teachers in our Maths Department chose to represent a country for the day. In addition to this, there were different puzzles available for the pupils to answer. There were eight winners picked from a hat (Keturah Adam; Jack Dickenson; Alex Hawco; Callum Hunter; Lewis Clarke; David Cunningham; Conor McLeod and Neil Hawco) who each received a prize for their efforts. Pupils also had the opportunity to test their maths skills against other pupils all over the world on the day, which was very successful. It was a fun and exciting day which we hope to celebrate again next year. (A Davison)



Green Shoots Poster Competition

S1 pupils are taking part in accountancy firm Johnston Carmichael's environmental awareness-raising competition which is running nationally. Voted for by their peers, 3 winning teams from Elgin Academy will be put forward to the next stage of the competition. Sophie Finlay and Rebecca Burrows, Eilidh Sandison and Cameron Chilton, and Katrina Buckle and Claire Doherty earned the school £100 to be spent on environmental projects, and will have their entries judged in the grand final on Wednesday 4th May at the company's Aberdeen headquarters.

Health News

The school Nursing Service is planning to hold one more vaccination clinic in May 2011. Third year pupils who did not get their 'booster' vaccination and girls who would be due a dose of the HPV vaccination will be invited to attend. Notification will go out to pupils via their registration class teacher. If your child is in third year or second year I would advise you to check to see if your child is up to date with these vaccinations. If in doubt please contact the school nurse, Mark Swinglehurst on 07876258633 or mark.swinglehurst@nhs.net.

Dates for your Diary

May

Monday 2nd May Day Holiday
 Tuesday 3rd SQA Exams start
 Tuesday 3rd Start of S4 Study Leave
 Thursday 12th Start of S5/6 Study Leave
 Thursday 19th Inset Day (Authority)
 Friday 20th Inset Day (School)
 Wednesday 25th Activities Day
 Thursday 26th Activities Day
 Friday 27th Activities Day
 Monday 30th Start of new timetable for S1-3

June

Friday 3rd Last day of SQA exams
 Friday 3rd S6 Prom
 Monday 6th New S5/6: Induction
 Tuesday 7th New S5/6: Induction & Parents Eve
 Wednesday 8th Start of new S5/6 timetable
 Monday 20th Awards Ceremony 7.00pm
 Wednesday 22nd P7 Visit to School
 Thursday 23rd P7 Visit to school/P7 Parents' Evening
 Friday 24th Sponsored Walk

July

Friday 1st End of session

Extra Curricular Activities - Term 4 (April- June): Get yourself fit for summer! See timetable for activities and times.

(A Riddell, Active Schools Coordinator)

Activity	Day	Location	Dates	Times	Year Group	Cost
Trampolining	Mon	Small Hall	9/5/11-27/6/11	3.30-5.00	S1-6	£16
Fit For Girls (Zumba & Cheer)	Mon	Small Hall	18/4/11-20/6/11	3.45-5.00	S1-3	FREE
Netball	Tues	Games Hall	19/4/11-21/6/11	3.30-4.45	S1-6	£9
Basketball Elgin Eagles	Thurs	Games Hall	21/4/11-23/6/11	5.00-6.00	S1-S3	£2 per wk
Badminton	Wed	Games Hall	20/4/11-22/6/11	3.30-4.30	S1-6	FREE
Girls' Football	Fri	Playing field /games hall	6/5/11-17/6/11	3.40-4.40	S1-3 S4-6	FREE