



Elgin Academy Newsletter

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Issue 5 - Monday 30 January 2012

Head Teacher's News

We are now well into what is often seen as the busiest, most pressurised term of the school year, with students and staff working very hard in all years. A particular focus, of course, is S4, 5 & 6 as they sit prelim exams and internal assessments. On top of all of this, we are continuing to develop Curriculum for Excellence and continuing to prepare for our move to the new school building. This means that the school staff as a whole is working flat out for the benefit of all our students. We are disappointed not to be able to move into the new building at the scheduled time (please see letter, left), but will ensure that we continue with normal learning and teaching until such a time as we are able to move.

Nearly 700 people took the opportunity to say farewell to the current building at our Open Day held on Saturday 14 January 2012. This was an excellent event for the school and for our visitors, who bumped into friends they hadn't seen for years. There was a real sense of celebration of the building and the memories that it holds.

I hope that, by the time of the next newsletter, we have a definite date for entry to the new school—we have an excellent future to look forward to together.

David Barnett



Elgin Academy

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Head Teacher: David Barnett BA (Hons)

Our Ref : DB/wa

Date : 24 January 2012

Dear Parent

New School Building for Elgin Academy

Following discussions with Andy Oliver, PPP Project Manager, it has become clear that IPP (the consortium building the new Elgin Academy) will not be able to hand over the new building on the scheduled date of 26 February 2012.

At present, we are unable to confirm a date for the move to the new school. This also means that we cannot confirm the dates on which the school will be closed to pupils to allow the move to happen.

I am sure that you will share our disappointment upon hearing this news. I would like to reassure you, however, that we are working very closely with the PPP team to ensure that the delay has no impact on the running of the SQA exams in April and May. We will be working very hard in school to ensure that normal learning and teaching continues to take place in the meantime.

I would also like to reassure you that you will be informed as soon as we have confirmed dates for the handover and move.



Coffee Morning

As part of the S3 Hospitality Intermediate 1 Course our pupils organised a Coffee Morning for the staff to raise funds for the Moray Friends of Archie Foundation. They put out their own invitations, baked cakes, organised raffle prizes and sold raffle tickets and on Friday 16 December they will serve up a variety of cakes to all the staff at Elgin Academy. They had been very lucky gaining raffle prizes from local businesses, Junners, J G Ross Bakers, Gordon and McPhail, Anderson and England, Walkers Shortbread Limited, J C Designs, Findhorn Bakery, Glamour Cakes, Ashvale Fish Restaurant, Tesco, Asda also various gift boxes that had been donated. £180.00 was raised. Thanks to all who have contributed.



Landshut Exchange

We are hoping to continue our strong links with Germany which have been running for 20 years now by offering pupils the opportunity to experience German life and culture first hand for a week in June then returning the favour by hosting a German group in September. If any pupils or indeed, parents/carers, are interested in getting involved then please contact Mr Tsotsi or Miss Newbould for further details.

Lost Property

We have an accumulation of lost property which will be available for viewing once the prelims have finished. The school office will be open during the mid-term break from Thursday 9 February to Monday 13 February inclusive. If your child has lost an item(s) please come along and have a look. Any unclaimed items will be given to a charity shop in due course and will not be taken to the new school.

It would be very helpful to us if you could write your child's name in all clothing so that it can be returned quickly. Thank you.

Rugby Success

Elgin Schools 1st XV (U-18) won the Grampian Region U-18 Bowl on Thursday 12 January. They played Garioch Schools (Inverurie and Meldrum Academies) on a very cold and windy day at The Kelland Park, Inverurie.

The match was hard fought particularly in the first half where the weather condition did not facilitate open rugby, and while Elgin could not break clear they were never behind and barring bad luck were not in danger of losing. The score at half time was 5-3 to Elgin with a try from the captain Cameron Hughes.

Playing with the wind behind them in the second half, Elgin quickly scored a couple of tries, (Josh Valentine and Feargus Haston) getting more success from playing 15 man rugby and using the wings. Elgin then had the game well under control and went on to score two more tries from Feargus Haston and Craig Freschini. There were two conversions by Ewan Stuart. Final score 29-3

Team: Stuart Cant (EA), Connor Cameron (EA), Alexei Veprentev (EA), Scott Calloway (EA), Sam Wilson (EA), Kieran Faulkner (EA), Louis Watson (EHS), Feargus Haston (EA), Sam Morison (EA), Ewan Stuart (EHS), Craig Freschini (EA), Cameron Hughes (EHS & Capt), Josh Valentine (EA), Mike Kelman (EA) Josh Cruden (EA).

The team now is drawn against Queen Anne HS/Dunfermline HS away in the national Quarter Finals.

A Shared Vision for Elgin Academy

In order to provide direction for the school as it prepares for its move into a new building and as it implements Curriculum for Excellence, it is essential that we redefine the vision for the school. A new vision statement will provide a 'compass' for us as we work through the months and years ahead, and help to ensure that everyone is working together and moving in the same direction.

Staff have had an opportunity to have input into the process of drawing up this vision statement through a series of meetings with the Head Teacher and a major input during the November 2011 in-service closure days. We are now ready to consult with staff, pupils, parents and partners on this draft vision statement.

This is being discussed with the Parent Council on Monday 30 January, but if you would like to comment then please e-mail

admin.elginacad@moray-
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with your thoughts.

We will be consulting separately on our core values later in this session.

Parent Survey of Opinion

As part of our quality improvement procedures, a questionnaire has been sent to a sample of parents, based on the questionnaire used by HMIE. 257 questionnaires have been sent out, and we strongly encourage everyone who has received a questionnaire to make a return. Your thoughts and views will be vital to the process of deciding priorities for our School Improvement Plan for 2012-2013 and the further improvement of the school. At the same time we will be surveying 250 pupils and all members of staff. Although this is a big exercise which can be time-consuming, we feel it is a very important way of allowing everyone involved with the school a say in its development and improvement.

Our shared vision

Leading learning for all our futures

“At Elgin Academy, through the pursuit of excellence in learning & teaching, and by providing strong, effective leadership at all levels, we are preparing our learners for the future. With learners, staff, parents and the wider community enjoying excellent, respectful relationships and working together, we provide a curriculum which will give our learners the knowledge, skills and digital ability to be global citizens and succeed in a modern world. We provide a happy, safe, friendly and inclusive environment in which to learn and work, whilst fostering a resilient, ‘can-do’ ethos. Through a wide range of enjoyable, challenging and motivating experiences, learners and staff work together to realise the potential of everyone in the school.”

Our aims

We aim to ensure that, during their time at Elgin Academy, our young people become successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

Top Cadet Award

Congratulations to Rachael Dickison 2/5M, who has been awarded the "Major Lobar Top Cadet Award" for 2011 for Moray. This is as part of the Army Cadet Force (Royal Regiment of Scotland) 1st Battalion, The Highlanders. This is awarded for participation and best performance for the year across the area.

S2 Modern Studies

As part of their recent work on the topic of International Terrorism both Catherine Westwood and Elisha Clarke were voted to have produced the best memorial to victims of terrorism. Pupils in every S2 Modern Studies class had to work in groups to produce a fitting memorial to victims of terrorism. Once complete the pupils then had to present to the rest of their class. The winners then went forward to a deciding vote against the rest of the S2 class winners. After some careful decision making by the rest of the S2 year group Catherine and Elisha were crowned winners winning an iTunes voucher each. Congratulations to both.



Extra-Curricular Activities Term 3 - January—March 2012

Activity	Day	Location	Dates	Times	Year Group	Cost
Trampolining (need 12 to run session)	Mon	Small Gym	16/1/11-27/2/11	4.15-5.15	S1-6	£12
Fit For Girls (Pilates/Yoga/Zumba)	Mon	Small Hall	16/1/11-6/2/11	3.30-4.30	S1-6	FREE or £1
Moray Wide Netball session	Mon	Games Hall	16/1/11-26/3/11	4.30-6.00	S1-6	£9
Basketball Elgin Eagles	Tues	Small gym Games Hall	17/1/11-27/3/11	3.45-4.55 5.00-6.00	S1-S3 P5-7	£2 per wk
Netball	Tues	Games Hall	17/1/11-27/3/11	3.30-5.00	S1-6	£10
Badminton	Wed	Games Hall	18/1/11-28/3/11	3.30-4.30	S1-S3	FREE
Girls' Rugby	Thur	Morrison	19/1/11-29/3/11	4.00 – 5.00	S1-3	FREE
Mountain Biking	Sun	Starting 15/1/11 running every 2 nd weekend.		1.30 – 3.30	S1- S6	£2 per wk

Farewell Open Day

The school enjoyed a very successful Open Day on Saturday 14 January 2012, when we opened our doors to allow past pupils and staff the opportunity to see the building before it is demolished later this year. A superb display of memorabilia was available in the school foyer and in the library. Our thanks go to Miss Suzanne McNeil and the S6 Heritage Committee led by Rhian Russell and Caitlin McLean for their organisation and liaison with Jane Thomas and Stephen Leitch from Moray Council Libraries and Museums.

