

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

At this time of year we evaluate how successful we have been in achieving our aims for 2010-11. The return visit of HMle in November confirmed that we had accomplished a great deal in the last year. The new S1 course has been successfully implemented and planning for S2 and S3 is well in hand. The plans for the senior school are taking shape although there are still details to be confirmed both locally and nationally.

The major focus of the year was "meeting the needs of ALL learners". The staff have worked extremely well together and significant improvements have been made in the consistent use of prior learning data, sharing learning intentions and success criteria with students. Students tell us that they feel they are being listened to more and that they have seen improvements in the way they are being taught and provided with information on how to improve their learning. These are ongoing initiatives and we will continue to work together to improve the experience of all our learners.

This year has seen a greater focus on working with our partners in the community, local business and Moray College and Community Learning and Development to provide greater opportunities for our young people. The successful "Farmers Market" held on the 10th of December was an example of this. S2 students from Home Economics organised the event.

Our S6 leadership team with its new wider focus has been particularly successful and the students tell us they have gained a great deal from the leadership opportunities they have experienced this year. All students who have taken part in the leadership Academy will be presented for the SQA's new Leadership Award at either Intermediate 2 or Higher Level.

We are now in the process of identifying our targets for 2011-12 and one of these will be greater involvement of parents in their children's education.



Head Teacher

Congratulations

To Professor Sheila Bird (neé Gore) who was awarded an OBE in the New Year's Honours list. Professor Bird was Dux of Elgin Academy in 1970. We are delighted that she has agreed to present the prizes at our annual Awards Ceremony in June.



5th Commonwealth Taekwondo Championships in Chennai, India.

Josh Cruickshanks S3 won a Bronze Medal in Kyorugi (Korean for Sparring) -45kg for 14-17 year olds. Kimberley Clarke, S6, won two Bronze Medals in the Poomsae (Korean for Patterns) Competition.



Josh



Kimberley

British Taekwondo Championships

Kimberley Clarke S6, Kirstin Mustard S6 and Marisa Mustard S5 won Silver Medals in the Poomsae competition at the British Championships in Sheffield and Shannon Mustard S1 gained a 4th place in her Black Belt Cadets category 10-13 year olds at the same Championships.



Marisa



Kirstin



Shannon

School Trips

Holland Trip 2011

Once again Elgin Academy is off to Valkenburg in Holland during the school activities week in May. Students will be braving the terrors of the "Black Mamba" and "Python" rollercoasters, as well as experiencing life in another European country. Preparations are well underway. Students are reminded to hand in their passport forms and photos to Mr Abenheimer and their last deposit to Miss McNeil and also need to bring an EHIC card after the Easter holidays. These can be ordered on the NHS website. They are free and do not take long to arrive once ordered.

Ski Trip

Early one Sunday morning, nine pupils from Elgin Academy left for the French Alpine resort of Valloire, accompanied by Mr Campbell. The trip is run jointly with Nairn Academy in order to take advantage of a specially chartered flight for Highland schools, flying directly from Inverness. The pupils receive 6 days of expert instruction from the French Ski School in the mountains above Valloire. There is a complete programme of evening entertainment, including a quiz night, ice skating and ten pin bowling. The pupils also have the opportunity to enjoy some free time in the village in the afternoons and soak up some of the French language and culture, visit the street market and see the fabulous ice sculptures which have been built along the main road which runs past the front of their hotel.

From the Librarian - our young readers

Book Awards: Over the last few months some pupils have been involved in the Royal Mail Awards for Scottish Children's Books. They have read the three shortlisted books, voted for their favourite and are now waiting for the overall winner to be announced on 22 February. Our winner, by a narrow margin, was "*The Witching Hour*" by Elizabeth Laird.

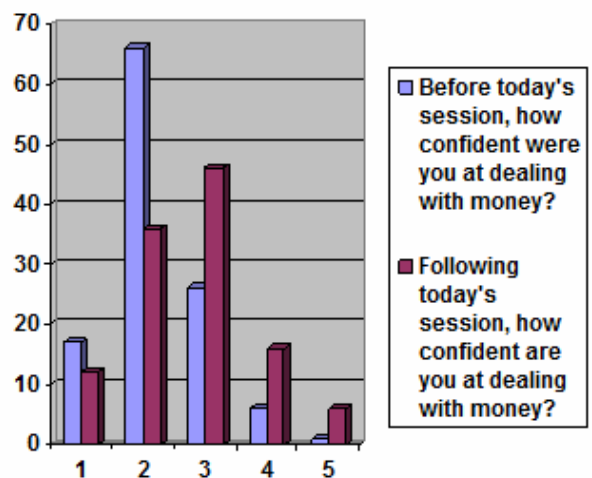
In addition, a first year class and a small group who meet in the library are participating in the Grampian Children's Book Awards – six books to read for this! Votes have to be in by the end of March and the Award Ceremony will be held at the beginning of May in Aberdeen University.

Enterprise Education

S1 Enterprise Elective – Chrimbo Creations made and sold 60 Xmas tealight holders at the farmers market and made a clear profit of £38! The next enterprise group have embarked upon a Sunny Delights theme and have planted a variety of radishes, cress, marigolds and sweet peas, these will be transplanted and available for sale soon, ready for planting on. They also plan to hand paint watering cans and flower pots for mothers day and a variety will be on offer in the near future. If any parents feel they have marketing experience or are particularly artistic and would be willing to come in to speak to the class we would be delighted to hear from them.

Nairn Citizen Advice Bureau talks to S5 on Finance.

Over a three month period from 21st September to the 9th November 8 116 students attended Money Matters sessions on DEBT. At the end of the session the students were asked to feed back on what they had learned and what changes they were going to make. The majority of students were able to state at least two things they had learned during the session at least one change they planned to make.



Lost Property

Chamonix Jacket; Helly Hansen Jacket; Berghaus Showerproof Jacket; Black Cardigan; x3 single gloves; 2 x umbrellas; school tie; Rangers PE Bag & Trainers; Pedometer; Key; Silver Ring; JP Pendant; Ladies Watch

News from Departments

Modern Languages

Olivia Ross, Seb Welsh and Rowena Mackessack-Leitch took part in an exchange with the French school of Aberdeen. They spent a day at the French school and the weekend at their French counterparts' homes. A fantastic cultural and academic experience for all. The French students will pay a return visit to EA in late March.

Olivia, Seb, Rowena and Susan Ralph, all studying AH French, also spent an afternoon in 3 of our associated primaries teaching French to P7s and telling them about their experiences of French through their school career. It was an opportunity for them to have their first go at teaching and for the P7s to meet some friendly S6 students.

Modern Studies

Students in the Advanced Higher Modern Studies Class have been looking at the role of the Penal System in the UK and in particular Scotland as part of their course. Towards the end of February these students along with others from Forres Academy will take part in a visit to Inverness Prison to interview the Governor. Much of the information the students find out will be vital to their dissertation which is a substantial piece of work making up a large part of their SQA Award.

Maths Department

World Maths Day - 1st March 2011

Students in S1 and S2 will be competing in online challenges against students from all over the world in World Maths Day 2011. This is a fun event that requires quick thinking and super-fast reactions!

Maths study sessions for S4-S6 have been running since November on both Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3.30pm to 4.30pm in Y1 with Ms Denoon and Y2 with Mr McFall. Other members of the Maths Department are also available to answer questions that some students may not necessarily ask during regular class time.



S4 attendance at these sessions has been excellent and students aiming to now improve upon their prelim grades should ensure that they continue to attend as many sessions as possible between now and May. Students who attend should come prepared with specific questions, either from class or from past papers, to get the most out of each session.

'Maths Puzzle of the Month'

The maths puzzle of the month competition has been running since October and has attracted significant interest amongst students from all year groups. Each month there have been a number of correct solutions to choose from and the Maths department have had a difficult job in picking out the best answers. The prize for each winning solution has been a £15 iTunes voucher and February's prize is now up for grabs!

The winners so far are:

October:	Ruaridh Jenkins	S1
November:	Paul Whelan	S5
December:	Ross Cumming	S2

News from Clubs and Activities

Duke of Edinburgh

We have 13 students due to receive their bronze award this term and 12 students due to receive silver. There has been lots of interest from new recruits and training for expeditions will begin at the start of March. Students who wish to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh award this year should see Mr Riddell or Mr Reid in the physics department. Skill force students will be coaching dodge ball sessions at lunchtime which will contribute towards their voluntary section of the bronze award.

Pythons Paintballing

This will be the second year of the club where S1 to S6 are taught how to paintball responsibly and accurately at Ardersier Forrest.

Science News Club

Students meet on Thursday and Friday in Y6 at lunchtime and search the internet for breaking news in science and technology. They then create a short PowerPoint newsreel for display on the plasma screens the following week.

Dodgeball

This is happening every Wednesday lunchtime. Well attended and lots of fun! Some of the third year boys have been refereeing and coaching these sessions and will be awarded coaching awards for their efforts.

Royal Wedding – Friday 29 April 2011: The Moray Council has granted an additional day's holiday on Friday 29th April for the Royal Wedding. All schools will be closed on that day.

Dates for Your Diary

March

Mon 21st Spring Music Concert

April

Friday 1st School closes
Monday 18th School opens
Monday 18th S6 Driving Ambitions
Tuesday 19th S6 Driving Ambitions
Friday 22nd Holiday (Good Friday)
Monday 25th Start of S3 exams
Tuesday 26th Art Show
Friday 29th Holiday (Royal Wedding)

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
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

July

Friday 1st End of session
