

### Dear Parents

Along with this newsletter you will find the Standards and Quality report for 2009-10 which summarises achievements at Elgin Academy during the session.

### End of Term Arrangements

Elgin Academy closes for the summer break on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 2.30 pm and reopens for students on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> August.

We wish all students leaving school in June every success in their future.

Many thanks to last year's senior students for the excellent job they did throughout the year. They were Caitlin Valentine, Gregor Adamson, Brittany Smith, Jake Cruickshank and Mathew Thomas. Louise Currie stepped in due to Helena Paterson's unfortunate illness.



### Financial Help for Students

**NESMA talks:** The S6 students appreciated a very full and informative talk by Jim and Val Henderson of the North East Student Money Advisors. The procedures for applying to SAAS and SLC for financial support were clearly explained, together with advice on application deadlines and pitfalls to avoid. A workshop on a realistic budgeting exercise was very timely, with several students saying afterwards that they "didn't realise how little money would be left over to live on". The exercise looked at one year's finance, but the implication of carrying a debt forward over three or four years is also quite alarming, and students are encouraged to discuss their Higher Education funding arrangements fully with their parents.

Applications can be made online by students who have accepted a firm or insurance offer through UCAS, at [www.saas.gov.uk](http://www.saas.gov.uk) and [www.slc.co.uk](http://www.slc.co.uk). All students should also check The Moray Council website and their chosen institution websites, for grants and bursary details to supplement their student income. Students who have accepted a course at Aberdeen University can apply for the Muriel Pirie Award, via their Guidance Teacher or by checking the Moray Council website.

### Cultural Exchanges

**Accommodation Wanted!** Several teenagers who are coming to Elgin with a twin-town exchange group from Landshut in the late summer are looking for young people in Elgin who would be willing to provide accommodation for their visit. Ideally, we would like to find some S5 or S6 students to be involved. The German group arrive on August 25 and stay until 4 September. Most days they will be involved in a programme of visits, but several evenings will be free and you would be expected to be company for them at these times. You don't need to be able to speak any German - all the German teenagers speak very good English! Anyone who is interested in finding out more should speak to Mrs Rossetter.

**New S2-S4 – German Exchange:** Interested in an exchange visit with a German school? Spend a week at their home in June 2011 and then they spend a week at yours in September 2011. This exchange is open to everyone, but priority will be given to those studying German.

### AvoiDanz Disco- Alcohol and Drug Free Event

The AvoiDanz disco was held in Joanna's nightclub on Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup> June with over 70 S3 and S4 students attending the event. Once again it was a fantastic success with the students being an absolute credit to the school. The local DJs who played were very well received and enjoyed the opportunity of playing at such a venue.

The Prize Winners on the evening were:

1st Prize – Pepsi Mountain Bike - Luke Wilson 4S (plus £100 to the school)

3rd Prize - Digital Camera - Grace Greaves 4G

These prizes were donated by suppliers of Joanna's Nightclub. A huge thank you to them.

In addition to the main prizes there was an additional prize draw for those who attempted to complete the quiz on the evening. These prizes consist of £15 vouchers for iTunes, the cinema or a mobile top-up. The prizes for this prize draw were sponsored by HiTrans Transport Company, Inverurie. Additional Prize Draw Winners; John Watkins 3G, Cameron Farquhar 3G, Ellis Cruickshank 3M, Callum Smith 3M.

### Senior Students 2010-11

Congratulations to Ally Burr (centre) who has been elected as Senior Student for 10-11 and to the Deputies Ben Thom and Jennifer Grant. House Leaders will be decided by the end of term.



### S6 Jersey

This year's S6 have chosen Burgundy as their colour. We expect the arrival of the jerseys this week and look forward to seeing all our new S6 in this year's colour.

### National Bike Week

21<sup>st</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> June was **National Bike Week**. Mrs Bisset and her award winning active travel group as usual encouraged us all to cycle to school

### S2 General Election

On Thursday 6th May as the UK voted Elgin Academy second year students held their own mock election. A group of S2 students presented to the rest of the second year about the main political parties and their candidates. Students were then invited to vote for their preferred candidate. The Liberal Democrats were the victors here!

### Tesco Vouchers

The Inter-house Tesco voucher scheme collected over 27000 vouchers by June. This allowed us to get:

- 2 x Electronic weather stations for Geography
- Printer + cartridges for History
- Cartridges for Maths
- A Digital camera for Chemistry
- A Digital Camera for Computing + 3 tripods
- Card reader + rechargeable batteries for the whole school

Thanks to Mr Andrew Morrison who organises this for us.

### L.I.N.K.S.

The group are still working very hard to raise enough money to bring a teacher and students over from our partner school Mzomhle High School in East London, South Africa in November following our successful trip there last summer.

### School Football 2009-2010

This season is one that unfortunately will be remembered for the weather. The long hard winter resulted in many fixtures not being played. There were however some highly notable team performances and outstanding individual achievements.

The U14 team take the main plaudits in winning their league and remained unbeaten at league level for a whole season. They were also very unlucky to lose the league cup one goal to nil against Banff Academy. Their impressive form saw them go on a fantastic run in the Scottish Plate competition, reaching the last eight. Considering the 400 mile round trip to Gryffe in Renfrewshire and a 5-2 defeat, it was still a fantastic achievement. None of this would have been possible without the commitment of coaches Mark Baker and Jamie Geddes.

The U13 team played well throughout the season and just missed out on cup success losing their final 5-2. The spirit and effort from this team was in evidence in every game they played.

The U15 team had a season of ups and downs; however they left all of that behind them in reaching the semi-final of the North of Scotland Cup before conceding to a very strong Peterhead Academy.

The Seniors never quite captured the form of last season and too often had key players missing. Some of the highlights were the trip to Stornoway for the second season in a row. The squad received a letter from a visitor who stayed at the same hotel congratulating them on their excellent manners and self discipline. David McKenzie and Murray McConachie were selected for the North of Scotland U18 squad for the second season in a row. Murray's selection did not stop there and he made it to the penultimate trial for a place in Scottish School Boys U18 squad. He was very unfortunate not to gain his place in the final squad. Well done Murray, a fantastic achievement. So it was a season of mixed fortunes but one where again many of the boys can feel very proud of their achievements both on and off the park.

### **Peter Pan at Eden Court**

90 students attended Eden Court Theatre to see the National Theatre for Scotland's production of Peter Pan. They also offered to come to the Academy and run a workshop on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June, free of charge, which was a great opportunity for our students.

Congratulations also to many of our students who took part in the St Giles Theatre Group's performance of "Oliver" in the Town Hall.

### **Staff Successes**

Congratulations to both Mr Lestienne (Modern Languages) and Mr Terron (English) who have been featured in the Times Educational Supplement this term.

### **Staff Leaving**

This session we say farewell at the end of term to a number of staff.

Congratulations to Craig Sim on his appointment to PT Maths at Dyce, Sye Murray to PT Physics at Nairn and Lindsay Salvage as Faculty Head at Kemnay.

Kate Imlah leaves us to join the staff of Kestrel House and we say farewell to NQTs Ross Harkness, Glen Bolland and Debrah MacKay.

Thanks also to Lindsay Cheek, Bill Duncan and Sigurd Spence who have helped us this year.

Lastly, we wish a very long and happy retirement to Naomi Looseley (16 years in English) Margaret Cowie (33 years in Modern Languages, Eleanor Meldrum (29 years in Home Economics) and Charlie Cowie who leaves in September (34 years in Maths).

### **Public Performance Report for Schools**

Elected Members on the Children and Young Peoples' Services Committee have requested that every school draw the attention of parents to the existence of the 'Educational Services - Public Performance Report for Primary and Secondary Schools – School Session 2008/09' through their school newsletters. Parents can come into the school office and collect a copy of the report in person or alternatively they will be able to gain access to the report on the Internet.

The most convenient way for parents to access the report on the Internet is as follows: type [www.moray.gov.uk](http://www.moray.gov.uk) into the address bar, click on **A-Z**, select the letter 'P', then '**Performance Information – Educational Services**' and then select the relevant report.

---