

### New Building

If you have passed along Morriston Road recently you will no doubt be amazed at the amount of earth being shifted and the progress being made on our new building. The building is scheduled to open in **January 2012** with a capacity of 1050 students.

### School Roll

The roll is currently at its highest for a number of years. We had a large intake into first year of 204 and a very high return rate to S5 and S6 along with a number of new enrolments from outside the area making the roll currently stand at 1023.

### Exam Successes

Congratulations to all our students on the results of this year's SQA exams

Special congratulations go to **Katie Chambers, Alice Cruickshank, Caitlin McLean, Rosemary Nicol and Rebecca Stewart** who gained nine Standard Grades all at Grade 1 and to **Katie Ferguson, Jake Smith, Daniel Thomson and Seb Welsh** who gained five Highers at Grade A. In S6, **David Garioch and Andrew Milne** both gained three advanced Highers at Grade A.

Well done all!

### Leadership in S6

The S6 Leadership Team is made up of **Ally Burr** (Senior Student) and **Jennifer Grant** and **Ben Thom** (Deputes).



*Ben Thom, Jennifer Grant and Ally Burr*

Student House Leaders are **Catriona MacLean** (Gordon), **Sam Ross** (Innes), **Briony Valentine** (Moray), **Rachael Pirie** (Randolph) and **Caroline Berkeley** (Seafield).



*Rachael Pirie, Sam Ross, Caroline Berkeley, Catriona MacLean and Briony Valentine*

S6 Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs are as follows:

- Fundraising: S Maunder, A Walker
- Inter-House Sports Events: D Sutherland, O Ross
- Inter-House Other Events: J Donaldson-Webster
- Social Events: L Edwards and I Linsell
- Publicity & Magazine: S Di Sotto, D Forsyth
- Year Book: S Grieve, S Welsh
- Pupil Support: K Mustard, C Anderson
- Ecology & Environment: K Ferguson, E Richardson
- Whole School Council: L Summers, C Ord
- Supervision: S6 House Leaders

These young people have a valuable role to play in Elgin Academy and are currently undertaking training in peer mediation conducted by Mr Graeme Gordon to support them in their role.

### Staff News

A number of new staff have joined us this year.

We welcome Miss L Kelly (Biology), Mr D French (Music), Mr D Clark (English), Miss N Cramb (Modern Languages) Mr F McFall (Principal Teacher of Maths) Mr G Moir (Maths), Mrs J MacKinnon (Social Subjects) and Mr A Bruce (Acting PT Design and Technology). Miss T Dempsey joins the Senior Leadership Team replacing Mrs L Salvage.

We are currently in the process of filling a post in Maths and another in Support for Learning.

### **Sporting Successes**

Congratulations to **Rowena and Lauren Mackessack-Leitch** on their recent success in Finland where Rowena gained a silver award. Both girls have been selected to skate for Great Britain in Slovenia in November.



*Rowena and Lauren Mackessack-Leitch*

Congratulations also to **Kimberley Clarke** on being chosen to represent Scotland in Taekwondo Poomsae at the Youth Commonwealth Games in January and to join the British Poomsae team.



*Kimberley Clarke*

We are very eager to celebrate the successes of all our students. House assemblies are held regularly for this purpose.

Please let us know of achievements your young people have been involved in both inside and outside school hours. They are sometimes too modest to tell us themselves!

### **S5 Study Classes**

This year the Senior Leadership Team have taken on the role of supervising S5 study classes. These classes are designed for silent individual study and students must come prepared with work to do to be able to get the most out of them. The students are responding well to this more disciplined approach to individual study and staff have commented on improved performance.

### **A Curriculum for Excellence**

The new S1 have embarked on their courses with enthusiasm. Lessons are grouped in the eight curricular areas:

- Languages and Literacy
- Maths and Numeracy
- Health and Wellbeing
- Social Studies
- Sciences
- Technologies
- Religious and Moral Education
- Expressive Arts

Our S1 students can also choose from a range of electives for two periods each week including Animation, Japanese, Science Crest Awards, School Magazine, 12 Squared, A Sustainable Planet, Astronomy, Code Breaking, Communications, Drama Shorts, Enterprise, Leadership Through Sport, Music, Musical Theatre, Green Racing Cars, and Shakespeare.

### **Parents as Partners**

Working Groups and Committees. This session we have a number of working groups and committees and we would welcome parental participation in these groups. If you are interested in joining any of these groups please contact the school office for more details.

### **Parents Supporting Learning**

This year the students planners have additional pages dedicated to Personal Learning Plans.

These pages will be used by teachers regularly to help students record their own learning targets and steps needed to achieve them.

Please support your sons/daughters by discussing their targets with them and encouraging them to take the steps identified.

There is a space for parents to sign the planners to indicate that they have seen them and enquiries as to how you can effectively support your young person's learning are always welcome.

### **The Student Voice**

The student year councils who meet with the year head have got off to a good start. This month they have been discussing the proposed new system of recording and celebrating achievement. This is a further development from the House Assemblies set up last session to celebrate the wider achievement of all our students. One comment to date was that they would like to see staff included in the achievements so congratulations to Mrs Bisset on gaining her Cycle Leader award.

### From our School Nurse

The school based immunisation programme involves three main activities during the year.

1. In **Secondary 2** all girls are offered protection against the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV).
2. In **Secondary 2** all pupils whose parents answer a short questionnaire are screened to see if they require to be offered protection against tuberculosis.
3. In **Secondary 3** all pupils are offered continuing protection against diphtheria, tetanus and polio. This is commonly referred to as the 'school leaver booster'.

The programme for immunisation against the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) for girls starts in September. Three doses over a minimum 6 month period are required to complete the course.

All HPV vaccination clinics will take place on a Wednesday. The first clinic was on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010 with 3 further clinics on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2010, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2010 and 9<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

If there are any girls in third year and above who have not started or completed the course of 3 injections, they are still eligible to start/complete the course. Please contact Mark Swinglehurst, School Nurse on 07876258633 or via email on [mark.swinglehurst@nhs.net](mailto:mark.swinglehurst@nhs.net) for details.

Third year pupils will be offered a booster for protection against diphtheria, tetanus and polio either on 3<sup>rd</sup> November or in February 2011. Consent forms will be issued to 3<sup>rd</sup> year pupils in registration class.

### Talent Show

The annual Talent Show takes place on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm.

This is always a highlight in the Elgin Academy calendar and tickets sell fast so be sure of your tickets well in advance. Tickets are £5 for adults and £3 for students – available from Mr Morrison Y17

### Sci Fun Road Show

The Sci Fun Road Show will be in the Academy on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> and Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October. Each S2 class will have a double period at the event.

### S4 Work Experience

The S4 students have recently been spending a week with local employers experiencing life in the world of work. Thanks must go to the local employers for their continued co-operation and support without which this invaluable experience could not happen.

### International Week

This takes place again during the week before the October holiday.

Leading up to this week all S2 students will have an international theme in their subjects, including Chinese Maths, poetry from Australia and the Caribbean, local business talking to S2 about languages and global business, two sessions from the author Jason Donald and a display of international books, international terrorism, religious persecution, international architecture, and Scots abroad.

The week will end on the afternoon on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October with the young people presenting their work in a variety of ways including:

- A Drama performance
- Performance by the Samba Band
- Science in South Africa presentation
- PE video presentation on Olympic games
- Home Economics foods of the world 'taster session'
- Art & Design exhibition/power-point presentation on Picasso

### Parent Council

The first meeting of the session took place on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September when parents views were sought on the School Improvement Plan for 2010-11 and on our plans for celebrating achievement. At this meeting the Parent Council decided to host a special evening for parents to allow them to experience first hand the type of teaching currently offered under "A Curriculum for Excellence"

#### Invitation from the Parent Council to all S1 Parents

Come and experience Curriculum for Excellence  
Learning for yourself  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 6 - 7.30 pm

- Science • Technology • Home Economics
- Modern Studies • RME ...and more

### Enterprise Learning Communities

Over the next two weeks, Elgin Academy will see the first of its Enterprise Learning Communities established. These will include members of staff, pupils and representatives from the business community. The ELC's will look at how they can help bring about change and improvement to some aspects of the school using the individual and collective talents of the group.

## Community and Business Partnerships

We are delighted at the links recently taking place with our local business partners.

## S2 Haiku on the New Building Project

*"Humid hot weather  
Building our brand new cool school  
Earth soil and gravel"  
By Grace Carter*



*"Men driving diggers.  
Big mounds of earth and gravel.  
Oh what a racket!"  
By Cameron Donegan*



## Recent Lost Property

Various items of clothing which have been left in the Home Economics Department; Light Blue Rainproof Jacket, 2 x PE Kits; 1 Girl's Pink Trainer; Red Tie; 'Perfect' Badge, 1 girls pink watch, 1 Badminton Racket. Pupils can collect items from the Top Office at interval, lunchtime or at end of the day.

**\*\*\* STOP PRESS \*\*\***

Khodi Anderson 3G, Max Bennie 3G, Matthew Campbell 3G, Holly Carter 3I, Natalie Moir 3S and Katy Warren 5M have been working on a mural for the Elgin police station. This project was initiated by the police to involve young people in the community but also to 'spruce' up their muster room which is currently being redecorated. The mural is now complete and the official hand over is Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September at Elgin police station.

## Dates for Your Diary

### October

Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	S3 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Girls HPV Immunisation
	Talent Show
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup>	School Closes
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup>	School Opens

### November

Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	S6 – Safe Drive Stay Alive
	S2 HPV
	S3 Booster
	S5/6 Parents' Evening
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Tempest Photographer
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup>	S6 Photos
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>	INSET Day
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	INSET Day
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>	INSET Day
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	INSET Day
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	S1 Parents' Curriculum for Excellence Evening
	S1 Parents' Evening
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup>	

### December

Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	S4 Parents' Evening
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Concert
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	S1/S2 Party
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	S3/4 Dance
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Senior Dance
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	School Closes

### January

Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	School Opens
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## School website

<http://www.elginacademy.co.uk>