



EA Elgin Academy

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Head Teacher: Margaret A Cowie BSc

Our Ref : MAC/WA

Date : 11 September 2008

To Parent/Carers of All Pupils

Dear Parent/Carer

The school term is already well underway and I am happy to report that we have made a very good start.

School Dress

Thank you all for your continued support over school dress. At the assemblies at the start of the term it was noticeable how smart all our young people looked. This was commented on favourably by members of the community who were present. We continue to have to pay particular attention to ties which are sometimes not clearly visible and to footwear which should be black. I would appreciate your support in making sure that these two areas are adhered to.

Exam Results in 2008

I am very pleased to report that the SQA exam results reflected the hard work of both pupils and staff over the year. The number of students in S4 gaining 5 or more Credit awards or equivalent rose from 40% last year to 47% this year, the highest in the last 5 years whilst the number of students gaining 5 or more Highers by the end of S6 rose from 17% last year to 23% this year, again the highest in the last 5 years.

Particular congratulations go to David Garioch, Kayla Kilian, Oscar MacDonald, Andrew Milne, Heather Smith and Colin Terry who all gained 9 Standard grades at Grade 1 and to Neil McIntyre and Sarah Rose in S5, who got 5 Highers all at Grade A and Nicola Young in S6 who passed 3 Advanced Highers all at Grade A. Well done all.

Staffing

We have started the term with a full complement of teaching staff. At the very end of the session Dr Rob Campbell was promoted to Principal Teacher of Chemistry at Lossiemouth High School. We hope to make an appointment during the next few weeks but in the meantime Mrs Clare Bethell whose position Dr Campbell has filled is taking his classes in the Academy.

In the support staff, Mrs June Cox has been appointed to reprographics and we are currently lacking an ICT technician. We hope to be able to advertise this post in the near future.

Tracking Pupil Progress /

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During last session we introduced a system of tracking pupil progress. At various points in the year teachers were asked to give a brief profile as to whether pupils were working at an appropriate level or above or below what would be expected of them based on prior knowledge of their ability. When pupils were thought to be doing less well than expected in a number of subjects they were interviewed by their guidance teacher and an appropriate member of the Senior leadership team. This year we hope to develop this scheme further and parents will be provided with a concise print out of the tracking report for their child.

Please be aware that these interviews are designed to be supportive and intended to allow each and every pupil to reach the level of achievement appropriate to him/her. Guidance staff and members of the SLT are always willing to discuss pupils' progress with parents at any time.

Student Voice

It is part of our improvement plan for this session to take greater account of the opinion of our students. For a number of years we have had pupil councils for each year group in place. These are chaired by the appropriate year head and have elected student members. This session we are supplementing the pupil councils by adding a Whole School Council. This will be run by the students themselves with the support of a few members of staff and we hope will give the students a greater sense of responsibility and a sense that their views are taken seriously. Watch this space.

Open Access to School Grounds

You may be aware that at a recent meeting of the Children & Young People's Services Committee, the Council agreed to change the current access to school grounds with immediate effect. This means that access to school grounds is not permitted after 10pm on any day. Clearly this excludes school functions and events which may go on beyond 10pm but the intent is to reduce potential vandalism and anti-social behaviour late at night. Elgin Academy has suffered particularly badly from this in recent days and we hope it will lead to an improvement in the condition of our grounds.

Lastly I was asked by the parent council to make the newsletter shorter and more frequent. As you will see I am trying to take that on board. In the interest of economy as many of these newsletters as possible will be emailed to parents. If we do not currently have your email address and you would like to receive future copies in this way please email the school office.

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Dates for your diary

7 October	S5/6 parents' evening
8 October	Talent Show
10 October	School closes
27 October	School opens
12 November	S3 parents' evening
17 & 18 November	Inset Days
8 December	Christmas Concert
11 & 12 December	Noises Off (School Show)
19 December	School closes

Yours sincerely



Margaret A Cowie

Headteacher