



Elgin Academy

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Head Teacher: Margaret A Cowie BSc

Our Ref : MAC/wa

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Dear Parents/Carers

This is my final newsletter as headteacher of Elgin Academy and along with it you will receive a copy of the *Standards and Quality Report for 2010-11*.

Mrs Barbara Grant, Mr Simon Brooks and Miss Anna Cashmore also leave the Academy at the end of the session. Mr Brooks takes up a post in Holland, Miss Cashmore takes up Principal Teacher post at Milne's High School and Mrs Grant retires after 36 years of dedicated service in the Biology department. We wish Mr Brooks and Miss Cashmore every success, and wish Mrs Grant a long and happy retirement.

It has been a great privilege to lead the school over these past 5 years and as I move to Paris to take up a new chapter of my life, it is with a great sense of satisfaction, having seen the school move on in so many ways: developing a more inclusive ethos, building the confidence and leadership skills of all our young people, and sharpening its focus on the quality of teaching and learning.

After a difficult Inspection report in 2009 the staff of Elgin Academy pulled together magnificently and rose to the challenge set us by HMIe. The result was that, on their return visit in 2010, HMIe were "more than satisfied" with the progress made and in fact commented highly favourably on many aspects of the school's work.

Please read both the *Standards and Quality Report* and the report of my speech at the Awards Ceremony, and also visit our website: together these will give you a fuller picture of the improvements that have taken place in Elgin Academy over the past few years.

I have every confidence that Elgin Academy will continue to grow and prosper in the years to come under the leadership of Mr David Barnett, currently Headteacher of Buckie High School, who takes up this post in August.

I would like to thank the staff of Elgin Academy for the enormous amount of hard work that they put in on a daily basis, and for the way in which they have worked together for the benefit of the school and its students. Particular thanks must go to the Senior Leadership Team for their commitment and support.

I would like to thank Mr John Trodden, our Quality Improvement Officer for his help and support at difficult times and the Parent Council chaired by Mrs Jackie Andrews for their constant support and confidence in my leadership.

Finally I would like to thank you, the parents, for your support. It has been my vision for the school that it should be a place where all pupils should feel they belong, where they can feel safe and develop their strengths, where parents feel engaged in their children's progress, where staff, pupils and parents feel they are working together in the same enterprise. I feel we have come a long way over the last few years, and I urge you to continue to develop the partnership with the staff so essential in providing the highest quality of experience for all our young people in Elgin Academy.

Yours sincerely

Margaret A Cowie
Headteacher