

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

This session started well when we congratulated six boys in S5 who achieved 5 Highers at Grade A and nine students in S4 who gained Grade 1 in all their Standard Grades.

The S5 boys were:

- Gregor Adamson
- Alasdair Cooper
- David Garioch
- Stephen McInnes
- Andrew Milne
- Oscar Macdonald

Oscar has now left us to go to Gordonstoun. The other 5 boys have returned to school for a sixth year.

The S4 students were:

- Katie Ferguson
- Jennifer Grant
- Virginia Macdonald
- Catriona Maclean
- David McKenzie
- Kirstin Mustard
- Rachael Pirie
- Ben Thom
- Daniel Thomson

During the week beginning 14th September Elgin Academy was visited by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education. During their visit the inspectors commented very favourably on all our students. They were impressed by their appearance, behaviour, good manners and eagerness to learn. A report will be published in due course and no doubt there will be some lessons to learn from it but we have reason to be proud of all our young people.

Margaret A Cowie
Headteacher

South Africa Visit

This summer a group of Elgin Academy students and four staff including the head teacher paid a visit to Mzomhle High School our **LINK** school in the township of Mdantsane, East London. The teachers and staff joined in lessons and some wonderful friendships were formed. Some of the students have described it as a life changing experience. The LINKs group are now considering how we continue to develop this valuable exchange.

International Week

This is the third year of our International Week for S2. During this week all departments focus their lessons on an International theme. This year they include the use of masks in African religions, the Olympic games, Egyptian fractions and Chinese multiplication, Architecture around the world and tasting bread from different countries.

There will be visits by local businesses to speak to students about the importance of foreign languages. During this week assemblies will be led by students who visited South Africa to tell of their experiences and other students will give a presentation on our Fair Trade involvement.

New staff

A number of new staff have joined us this session

- Mr Guch Dhillon – Depute Head Teacher
- Ms Elaine Goudie – English Department
- Mrs Geraldine Cullen – PT Home Economics
- Mr Jerome Lestienne – PT Mod Languages
- Ms Lindsay Cheek – Mod Languages Department
- Mrs Tonia Fleming – Technician
- Mr Derek Youngson – Janitor

S5/6 Parents' Evening

The parents' evening for S5 and S6 takes place on Tuesday 6th October from 5.30pm till 8pm. Students should now be making appointments with their teachers.

Jeans for Genes Day

On Friday 2nd October staff and students of the Academy abandoned their normal school dress in favour of jeans. There was a cost involved in doing so and we managed to raise the sum of £1200 for charity supporting children with Genetic disorders.

Odd Shoe Day

By wearing odd shoes on the 18th September we raised £250.77 towards our S6 charities which this year are The Tree of Hope and SOS Children.

Work Experience

During the weeks beginning 7th and 14th September, fourth year students experienced the world of work. Placements varied from hairdressing to construction work to work with primary school children.

German Exchange

A group of students and two members of staff from Landshut visited Elgin from 18th – 25th September. As well as visits including Urquhart and Fyvie castles, they joined us in a ceilidh in St Giles hall and joined in classes at the Academy. We look forward to further exchange visits.

Communication with Parents

We are trying to communicate more effectively with parents. As postage is very expensive and school bag mail unreliable, would you please help us by supplying your e-mail address. Students have been given slips to take home. It is hoped that eventually all letters regarding progress, homework etc will be sent in this way. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

House Assemblies

This session sees the introduction of monthly House Assemblies. They last for 10 minutes in the morning and are used to recognise and celebrate the achievements of our students (and staff).

Plasma Screens

Thanks to the parent council we now have plasma screens in the foyer and canteen. They are used daily to provide information on the many events taking place around the school and to celebrate success.

Talent Show

Our annual talent show takes place on Wednesday 7th October at 7pm. Tickets are now on sale and donations for the raffle would be appreciated. As well as being a very enjoyable evening this event helps to raise much needed funds to support extra-curricular activities in the school.

10th Great Moray Bike Ride

Elgin Academy is well known for its innovative travel group. On Sunday 4th October a number of staff and students helped to raise money for Grampian Society for the Blind as well as increasing their fitness by cycling either 10 or 25 miles.

"In the Pink" Breast Cancer Campaign

Friday October 30th

We hope that pupils will wear a touch of pink to show their support and help raise funds for vital research into finding a cure for breast cancer.

The AH Biology pupils are preparing a short presentation at assembly the first week back and will give more details then.

The New School

Progress on the new school continues to be made and we hope to have some more news very soon.