



# Elgin Academy

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Head Teacher: David Barnett BA (Hons)

Leading learning for all our futures

Our Ref: DB/wa

Date: 7 March 2018

## Dear parent / carer

I write to update you in a number of different areas.

### Adverse Weather

I thank parents and carers for your support in getting young people to school last Wednesday and Thursday. The weather patterns were very unpredictable, but it did seem as if Elgin avoided the worst of the weather. The efforts of staff in getting in from outlying areas were also much appreciated.

### Depute Head Teacher Appointment

Mr Alex Webster, DHT, retires at the end of term, following 20 years in post, and 29 years in Elgin Academy. We will miss his drive, enthusiasm, commitment and experience, and wish him well for a very happy and healthy retirement. Ms Elizabeth Toon has been appointed as DHT, and will take over Mr Webster's remit. Ms Toon has been Assistant Head Teacher at a school in London, and we look forward to welcoming her to Elgin Academy on Monday 16 April.

### Schools for the Future Review

As previously intimated, Elgin Academy was the subject of a 'Schools for the Future' review by Moray Council in December 2017, alongside all of our associated primary schools. The review process looks at:

- the quality of educational experience, including attainment, wider school activities, ASN provision, curriculum, learning and teaching, school buildings, pastoral care, attendance, exclusions and behaviour
- school roll
- financial position

A report on the Schools for the Future visit has now been made available online:

<http://www.moray.gov.uk/minutes/data/CP20180307/Item%207-Schools%20for%20the%20Future%20Review%20-%20Elgin%20Academy%20ASG-R.pdf>

A full paper copy can be made available at school reception. In summarising the report, the following strengths and areas for improvement are outlined:

#### Areas of Strengths

- Clear direction and development of school vision, shared by the whole school community with a strong focus on leadership which is supported by an outward looking approach and very effective SLT.
- Very positive relationship evident within the staff team and between staff and pupils, contributing to an ethos of inclusion and wellbeing.
- Collegiate staff that are committed to professional learning and provided with opportunity to lead and contribute to school improvement.
- Polite/



### Areas of Strengths (cont'd)

- Polite, well-behaved young people who are enthusiastic in their learning and aspirations.
- Breadth of curricular opportunities for all stages with a varied and broad number of after school and wider opportunities provided by school staff and partners.
- Strategic use of data to inform gaps and areas for improvement, contributing to positive tracking of pupils and cohorts.

### Areas for Improvement

- Continue to embed the pupil voice, providing opportunity for young people to take more ownership and responsibility for strategic issues and decisions within the school.
- Revisit practical approaches to further strengthen learning and teaching; in particular differentiation and pace and challenge.
- Building on breadth of curriculum available within the school, further develop awareness and opportunities of the variety of learner pathways to ensure positive destinations for all.

### Insight Update

Attainment figures have been updated on the national 'Insight' benchmarking tool, giving us finalised whole school figures for 2017. Overall, these figures are strong. There are four main measures used to compare schools nationally:

- **Literacy & Numeracy**

This counts the number of school leavers (from S4, S5 and S6) who have achieved literacy and numeracy qualifications at least at National 4 and National 5.

#### Literacy

	National 4 (%)			National 5 (%)		
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
<b>Elgin Academy</b>	95	98	97	82	87	89
<b>Virtual Comparator</b>	94	95	96	73	81	83

#### Numeracy

	National 4 (%)			National 5 (%)		
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
<b>Elgin Academy</b>	89	93	89	62	73	66
<b>Virtual Comparator</b>	88	91	93	60	69	71

- **Percentage of Leavers in a Positive Destination /**

- **Percentage of Leavers in a Positive Destination**

This counts the percentage of pupils leaving from S4, S5 and S6 and going into a positive destination.

	2015	2016	2017
<b>Elgin Academy</b>	95	91	96
<b>Virtual Comparator</b>	94	94	95

- **Improving attainment for all**

This measure looks at the average complementary tariff points; achievements at different levels in qualifications are allocated different levels of 'tariff points'.

	Lowest 20%			Middle 20%			Highest		
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
<b>Elgin Academy</b>	179	198	183	612	690	692	1314	1393	1384
<b>Virtual Comparator</b>	148	162	171	582	650	673	1225	1253	1310

- **Attainment in the context of deprivation**

This measure looks at tariff scores and maps them to concentrations of deprivation and groups them accordingly, using the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation.

	Elgin Academy			Virtual Comparator		
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
SIMD Decile 1	-	-	-	-	-	-
SIMD Decile 2	359	473	296	359	356	428
SIMD Decile 3	637	600	494	615	508	432

SIMD Decile 4	460	947	711	395	549	676
SIMD Decile 5	563	651	682	531	628	658
SIMD Decile 6	583	719	544	608	700	578
SIMD Decile 7	672	780	793	616	684	794
SIMD Decile 8	996	766	672	759	728	643
SIMD Decile 9	831	946	870	837	803	776
SIMD Decile 10	713	849	918	737	852	905

Over the course of the next few weeks, we will be identifying our priorities for the School Improvement Plan for 2018-2019, and parents will be asked for their views on these. There will also be an opportunity for the Parent Council to discuss the possible priorities at the next Parent Council meeting early next term.

We hope to issue a full school newsletter before the end of term. In addition, we continue to highlight the excellent work going on in the school on our website [www.elginacademy.co.uk](http://www.elginacademy.co.uk), on Twitter @elginacademyht and on Facebook [www.facebook.com/elginacademyofficial](https://www.facebook.com/elginacademyofficial).

With best wishes for the rest of this term.

Yours sincerely

David Barnett  
Head Teacher

