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# ❖ Kincorth Academy Eagle News ❖

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July 2004

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## School Aims Update

The School Aims Committee, comprising staff, pupils and parent members, has been hard at work this year to update the school aims. Our objective has been to draft aims which **relate to Kincorth Academy, are few in number, clear and easy to understand**. We have taken account of recent national and local developments in education, and the new aims are presented below. These aims have been approved by Pupil Councils, by the School Board, and by staff. If you have any thoughts about them, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

The aims represent **our aspirations for the whole community of Kincorth Academy**, and are the context within which we will plan and evaluate the work and future of the school. In this sense they are the cornerstone of our thinking and partnership in providing the best possible experience for pupils

### Aims for Pupils

We will work together in partnership ...

- To provide you with a safe, caring and healthy environment within which you understand your rights and develop your responsibilities
- To challenge you to achieve your full potential as an individual, and contribute to society as a responsible citizen
- To promote, encourage and celebrate your talents and attainments at all levels
- To provide you with a stimulating and appropriate curriculum that supports your individual needs
- To encourage you to be creative and independent learners with the knowledge and skills to meet the challenges of the future

### Eileen Ferguson

We were saddened to hear of the death on 27 June of Mrs Ferguson, former AHT. Mrs Ferguson had retired four years ago after a prolonged period of illness. She continued to fight her illness with the determination, courage and fortitude which were so typical of her outlook on life. **Mrs Ferguson left an inestimable legacy of work and development to the school**, such that her presence will always be with us. Fittingly, we closed the school for 2 hours on 1st July so that many staff could pay their respects at her funeral.

### Aims for Parents

We will work together in partnership to enable you

- To encourage your child to do the best he/she can
- To support the ethos, rules and standards of the school
- To actively participate in the day-to-day life, and wider aspects of the school
- To help the school to evaluate its work and plan its future



## Staffing

Our best wishes go to the following members of staff who take up new appointments in August:-

Mark McCrum, Computing; Lisa Yule, Chemistry; Dr Al-Mahtot, Maths; Brian Murray, Maths; Fiona Kerr, Auxiliary.

Joining us in August are probationer teachers Kim Ross, Physics; Catherine Smith, French; Andrew Wemyss, Maths; Elizabeth Smith, Modern Studies.

We welcome the following new appointments :-

Lorraine Paterson, Computing; Michelle Ramsay (part-time temporary), Business Studies; Catherine Riddoch, Chemistry.

We have had considerable problems with staffing in French and Modern Studies. This is a reflection of a general shortage of relief staff across the city which has affected almost all schools one way or another. These appointments should see us in a much more satisfactory position from August. I would like to commend the hard work of the French and Modern Studies departments in working extremely hard in trying circumstances.

I would also like to thank the many supply teachers who have helped us this year, in particular the high quality of long-term cover provided in PE by Linda McNaughton and Shirley Blake.

## Lockers

Provision of lockers emerged by some margin as the **pupils' top priority** for expenditure of the Sponsored Walk funds. A survey of pupil interest, including P7 pupils, has resulted in 300 pupils requesting lockers. These will be installed in the Year Areas during the Summer, ready for use on payment of the £10 deposit. The cost of installation is about £7000, and we need to anticipate some maintenance costs. Thanks to Mr McNaughton for investigating locker provision. This enterprise shows what can be achieved through common endeavour. We hope to have another Sponsored Walk next year, and hope for your support

## Marilyn Stronach

Marilyn Stronach, PT Support for Learning since 1987, has retired after a **long and very successful career at Kincorth Academy**.

Under her leadership, the SfL department has gone from strength to strength to provide an outstanding service to pupils, families and staff. Mrs Stronach had embraced innovations such as the establishment of a SEN Base, and a Behaviour Support Base, to provide additional and focused support for many individual pupils. One of her main strengths was strong teamwork, which allowed the department to flourish in spite of many staff changes through the years. We wish her a long and happy retirement.

Congratulations to Irene Stove, who has been appointed to succeed Mrs Stronach as PT Support for Learning

## Awards Ceremony

This year's Awards Ceremony at the AECC on 28th June celebrated the successes of around 250 pupils for academic excellence, outstanding endeavour and behaviour, football success, and citizenship and service to the school.

**The guest speaker was Kenny Herriot**, wheelchair athlete, who delivered an entertaining and inspirational speech extolling the benefits of a positive outlook on life, and encouraging pupils to make the most of their talents.

Music was provided by the Show Choir, allowing them an opportunity to showcase their talents before embarking on their trip to London in July to take part in the National Festival of Music for Youth.

We are grateful to Petrofac for their continued sponsorship of the Awards Ceremony.

## Pupil Consultation

S1 pupils Samantha Smith, Alanna Findlay, Scott Milne, Kimberley Robb and Grant Coull received certificates for their participation in a community consultation exercise designed to give young people a voice about their priorities for the area.

## KATAPULT

As reported in the last Eagle News, **three community theatre groups have been established** following an expression of interest by many people in the local community.

A Junior Theatre group (ages 7-14), a Senior Theatre group (ages 15-20) and an Adult Theatre group have seen much interest and a number of sessions have already been run successfully.

Projects being planned include a Christmas Show, and Catherine Cookson's "The Fifteen Streets".

**This is an exciting development for the school and the community**, and the hard work of the Drama and Music departments must be acknowledged, as well as the substantial contribution from members of the community. This is a truly community project which I am sure will attract interest city-wide and nationally.

## Bridge Building

The annual bridge-building contest took place on the last day of term. **Five teams of S2 pupils had been set the challenge of designing and building a bridge**, which was then tested to destruction by loading increasing weights. The bridge built by Stacey Stewart, Stephen Dobbie and Sean Begg bore **an impressive 47.2 kilos** before giving way, and helped to demonstrate effective principles of bridge design. The contest was organised by Alan Tullock of the Design & Technology department, and was sponsored by Petrofac, led by Jim McBride.

The week before, the teams had visited Petrofac where they were given a tour of the structural engineering department, and then made very well-received presentations to the engineers about their projects. Well done to all.

The possibility of hosting an inter-schools bridge-building contest in the new session is being explored.

## Homework Diary

All pupils will receive a new homework diary in the new session. Additions to next year's diary include:-

- **A new set of Ground Rules** agreed by pupils and staff which make clear the high expectations of work and behaviour which we expect in the school (I will be writing to all parents about this in August)
- The **new School Aims** for pupils and parents, as mentioned earlier
- **A page dedicated to our partnership with Petrofac**, which was designed by Mr Tullock's S4 Graphic Communication class who had the opportunity to work at Fifth Ring PR company to produce a professional design using the latest technology and design principles.

## Buildings Update

The planned **refurbishment of three Science laboratories** will take place before the October holidays, and this will greatly enhance the amenity of that part of the school.

The **rewiring and re-lighting** of the main block is now complete, with only cosmetic tidying up still to be done.

A **full disability access audit** of the school has been completed to ensure that in the near future improvements are made to bring the building into line with recent legislation.

## Uniform

I know that this a time of year when many parents renew items of uniform, which are available from John Lewis. **I have been reminding pupils at Assemblies that we expect a high standard of uniform:-**

- Pupils in S1-4 have a choice of blazer and shirt/tie or one of three styles of sweatshirt
- Senior students must wear the traditional blazer and senior tie, with braid round the blazer

It is very important for the ethos and identity of the school that uniform is respected. I know that the vast majority of parents support uniform and **I urge you to reinforce this message with your children.**

## Fun Sports Evening

A mix of teams involving **staff, pupils and Petrofac staff** took part in a fun evening of gentle competition on 10th May. Events included football, tag rugby, Frisbee, netball, tug o' war, all of which were great fun. The evening had been organised by Gary Giles, PE, supported by Paddy Mallan of Petrofac, who sponsored prizes and refreshments.

## Summer Gala

Unfortunately the unpredictable north-east weather spoiled this year's event. However, some of the contributors were able to move inside and add to the very successful Planning for Real event which saw a very large turnout from the community to contribute ideas to the development of our local communities

## Oil & Gas Business Games

A staff team and a pupils team took place in this business game which took place at the premises of Kerr McGhee in Tullos. Competing against teams from Westhill and Portlethen Academies, business brains were put to the test in **trying to run an oil and gas company for a year**, coping with unexpected challenges thrown up by market fluctuations and the elements. The Kincorth pupil team of Jonathan McKenna, John Duncan, Paula McNamee, Andrew Beattie, John Kane and Abbie Fraser were outright winners of the pupil event, while the staff team came in a creditable second. It was a very enjoyable evening.

## Best Wishes

On behalf of all the staff, I would like to wish families a restful and enjoyable Summer break.

## Dates for your diary

### August

Monday 16: staff training day  
 Tuesday 17: new term starts for pupils  
 Friday 20: Yearbook issued

### September

Friday 10: S5 PSE Day?S6 Higher Education Convention  
 Friday 24: holiday  
 Monday 27: holiday  
 Tuesday 28: S4 Work Experience Week starts

### October

Friday 1: Jeans for Genes day  
 Friday 8: last day of term  
 Monday 25: term starts