
❖ Kincorth Academy Eagle News ❖

October 2004

SQA Results 2004

This year's results are encouraging.

Standard Grade

The percentage of S4 pupils attaining **5 or more awards at Credit level improved from 14% in 2003 to 23%**. This is easily our best performance in the past 6 years and we can now look forward to improved Higher results from this group which is now in S5.

Higher Grade

At first sight, these seemed to have made no improvement, with the same percentage of pupils gaining 5 awards, i.e. 3%. However, closer scrutiny gives cause for concluding that **this performance is an improvement** on the previous year given that this cohort of pupils had had the poorest Standard Grade results out of the past 5 years, and that the number of A and B passes was a higher proportion than previously.

Well done to pupils and staff for their hard work and determination, and I am sure that the support and interest of parents has been crucial in achieving this success.

Retiral

Our best wishes go to **Mrs Pat Reid** who has retired from the English department after 15 years of dedicated and professional service. In a poignant moment Mrs Reid was piped into her farewell staff presentation by pupil Keir Williams.

Welcome back

We welcome back **Noel Hughson, DHT**, after his very successful secondment as Development Officer for Probationer Teachers. Mr Hughson has responsibility for S5/6 students and is nominated to deputise as Head Teacher in my absence.

Mr Rae continues to have responsibility for S1/2 and Mr Anderson continues as Acting DHT, but now working with S3/4 pupils.

My thanks to **Mr McNaughton** for his sterling work as Acting Depute Head Teacher during Mr Hughson's secondment. Mr McNaughton has returned to his post as PT Physical Education.

Pupil Support

We would like to welcome **Emma Paterson** who will be joining us on Tuesday mornings as an on-site social worker. This is a new and innovative service for pupils at Kincorth Academy. Initially pupils may be offered a **consultation** with Emma via their Guidance Teacher. However, once Emma's role has become established pupils may have the opportunity to attend **drop-in sessions** to be offered over Tuesday lunchtimes. We are sure that this service will be a valuable addition to pupil support at the school, and look forward to Emma's contribution.



Results of parental survey

A survey of parental views on a wide range of topics produced the following results.

All agreed that:

- ◆ my child enjoys being at school
- ◆ school reports give me helpful information about my child's progress

Almost all agreed that:

- ◆ my child finds school work stimulating and challenging
- ◆ staff make me feel welcome in the school
- ◆ my child is treated fairly in school
- ◆ staff show concern for the care and welfare of my child

Most agreed that:

- ◆ the school has a good reputation in the local community
- ◆ teachers set high standards for pupil attainment
- ◆ the school encourages my child to work to the best of his/her ability
- ◆ parents' evenings are helpful and informative
- ◆ the school deals effectively with inappropriate behaviour
- ◆ the school makes it clear to parents what standard of work it expects from pupils
- ◆ there is mutual respect between teachers and pupils
- ◆ if I raise a matter of concerns the school will do something about it
- ◆ the school is well led
- ◆ school buildings are kept in good order
- ◆ I have a clear idea of the school's priorities for improving the education of pupils

The majority agreed that:

- ◆ teachers are good at letting me know my child's strengths and weaknesses
- ◆ the school is good at consulting me on decisions which affect my child

Less than half agreed that:

- ◆ the school has explained how I can support my child with homework

These results are very pleasing and show a good level of understanding and partnership between the school and parents. In almost all cases the figures are at least equivalent to, but mostly an improvement on, the figures produced from the last time this survey was done in January 2003.

Clearly, there is dissatisfaction with regard to support for homework, and this is already being addressed (see below).

Homework

It is estimated that at secondary school **regular homework can be equivalent to an extra year's schooling**. Homework reinforces and reviews work done in class, develops good habits of responsibility and self-discipline, and gives parents the opportunity to help their child.

At present we are reviewing our Homework Policy and it is planned that a key feature of this will be improved home-school dialogue. **Parents will receive a booklet** explaining all they need to know about homework and detailing ways in which they can help their child. This can only enhance learning and attainment.

Pupil Planners

All pupils receive a Planner to **help them to be organised about their work and life in school**, whether it be homework, deadlines for submission of work, dates of exams or other events, or membership of clubs and teams.

We feel that this is an invaluable help for pupils if they carry it daily and make sensible use of it. Unfortunately, I have to report that **not all pupils carry their Planner**. Teachers will expect pupils to have their Planner at all times, and to **record, at the end of each lesson, the work done and/or homework given**. This is also an easy way for parents to see what their child is doing at school.

Please talk to your child about the Planner. Please help us by ensuring that it is taken to school every day, and check the Planner regularly at home.

S4 Estimates

S4 pupils will soon be facing the **biggest challenge** of their school career to date. Estimate exams begin on Monday 22 November, only 4 weeks after the October break. This means that there is very little teaching time left.

On the other hand **pupils have a lot of personal time at their disposal**, and have been advised to devote a significant amount of time to revision and study in the run-up to the exams. Advice has been given about effective ways of studying. Please review your child's study habits for the next few weeks. Our experience is that **the majority of pupils need to consider significant changes to their normal activities with a view to spending more time on study**. Without additional focus at this crucial time pupils will not achieve their best.

Charities

Jeans for Genes day, including a lunchtime "Guess the Teacher" show, has raised **£510**. Informative presentations had been made by a guest speaker and senior students. Once again we are one of the top fund-raising schools in the city for this charity.

Children in Need on Friday 19 November will be supported with a dress-as-you-please day (minimum donation 50p) and a lunchtime concert, tickets selling for £1.

The Christmas Shoebox Appeal was very successful last year when we produced the best boxes in the city. I am sure this will be very successful again this year

SVS pupils supported **MacMillan Cancer Relief** by taking part in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning. They organised coffee mornings for staff over a number of days and these were both well-supported and greatly enjoyed by many staff.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

This scheme run by Mrs Burgess and Miss Biggin is open to all students in S5/6. There are awards at **bronze, silver and gold levels**. Pupils at each level cover 4 areas: service, skill, physical recreation, and expedition. So far 6 students have shown a keen interest, and there is an **information meeting planned for Monday 25 October**. Students are encouraged to think about participation. As well as being a lot of fun, students can benefit tremendously from the personal challenges and learning experiences of the award.

KATAPULT

The Junior Youth Theatre are busy rehearsing for the Christmas Show which will take place at Kincorth from 14-16 December.

Auditions are also under way for the production of **Catherine Cookson's "15 Streets"**. The quality of those seeking parts is very high and it speaks volumes for the staff, pupils and former pupils that so many are interested in taking part, including primary pupils.

This is a major enterprise requiring a great deal of work. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Ed Steel or John Forrester.

Swimming

Stacey McCrae, Niall Ferguson, Craig Stewart and Dan McIntosh competed very successfully in the Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire Swimming Gala, winning a number of **bronze, silver and gold awards** in the back stroke and front crawl. Niall and Stacey have been selected to compete in the National Gala in Glasgow on 17 November.

Callum Thomson also took part and received a certificate.

