

# The Nicolson Institute Newsletter - April 2011



## Easter Study Support

Pupil evaluations of the Maths and Chemistry study support clubs held during the first week of the Easter holidays were very positive indeed with 90% of those who attended rating them as 1 on a 6 point scale. (1 Very helpful - 6 Not helpful). We would like to thank pupils for their positive responses and constructive suggestions. Thanks also to teaching staff who gave up the first week of their holiday in order to run the clubs.

## Media Studies

Congratulations to Rebecca Murray, Kirsty Macleod, Kathleen Cockburn and Billy Lyon from the senior Media Studies class who were short listed for the 'Film Education - Be Creative Competition.' The theme for their advert was encouraging teenagers to support the Film and TV industry by avoiding piracy and illegal downloading. This was a national schools and colleges competition.

## Football

Calum Mackinnon, Craig Macleod and Jack Dunlop did very well to be selected to play in the North of Scotland team which beat Ayrshire in the final of the Scottish Schools' Regional Competition played recently in Alloa. (Score 3-0)

## Art Competition

Three Nicolson pupils are to be congratulated on taking the three top prizes in the Stornoway Wind Farm Project Art Competition.

1st – Kayleigh Macleod, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Ruairaidh Mackay & 3<sup>rd</sup> - Dennis Macleod.

Presentations take place in the Woodlands Centre on 4<sup>th</sup> May. The winning art work will be on display in the Stornoway Trust Offices during the month of May.

## School Uniform

As a school we believe a dress code is an important factor in promoting positive behaviour, ensuring pupil safety, reducing bullying and promoting a sense of corporate identity. CNES supports us in this policy. In the very recent past we have consulted pupils about changes to uniform and taken their views on board. A letter to parents and carers will be circulated shortly outlining a renewed emphasis on pupils adhering to the school's dress code.

## Attendance / Latecoming

Parents are reminded that Groupcall is now operational. If pupils have not registered by 9:00am and the school office staff have not been notified by parents of their absence, a Groupcall message will be sent out.

There is currently a concerted drive by the school to address the problem of latecoming. Pupils should make every effort to be at registration on time and must register at the office if they arrive after 9:00am. Pupils must also have a valid reason for being late.

We trust that we will have your full support in addressing the above mentioned issues which are intended to have a positive effect on pupils' experiences and the general ethos of the school.

## **Staffing**

We welcome two new members of staff to the school this term as Mr. M. Dand joins the Biology Department and Mrs. P. Macmillan-Shaw takes up her post in the Chemistry Department. More detailed profiles of both will appear in the next issue of the 'NI Sun'. Mrs. M. Clark has retired from her position as Support for Learning auxiliary after many years of dedicated service and Ms. L. Maciver of the Gaelic Department married Mr. G. Mackenzie of the Maths Department during the Easter holidays.

We wish them all the very best for the future.

## **S4 Leavers**

The S4 Leavers' Ceremony took place on Thursday 28th May.

Mrs Macdonald, Depute Rector welcomed pupils and guests and following an entertaining performance by S4 band Vixen, leavers were addressed by the Rector, Mrs. F. Murray and Head of Schools, Mr. B. Chisolm. Certificates were presented to the pupils by the Director of Education, Mrs J. Mackinnon and the ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks from Donald Mackinnon, Chair of the S4 Pupil Council. We would like to take this opportunity to wish all pupils who are leaving the school well.

## **S1 Parents' Meeting**

The S1 Parents' Meeting will take place on Thursday 12th May, from 4:00pm. Staff look forward to having an opportunity to discuss academic attainment and wider achievement with parents as the pupils' first year of secondary education draws to a close.

## **Parent Council**

Proposed changes to the constitution of The Nicolson Institute's Parent Council will be discussed at the next meeting to be held in August.

All parents and carers are welcome to attend. The date of the meeting will be publicised in advance.

## **Communication with Parents**

In an effort to enhance communication with parents and carers the school is using Groupcall, the school's website ([www.nicolsoninstitute.org](http://www.nicolsoninstitute.org)), focus group meetings and the 'NI Sun' as well as producing this newsletter on a monthly basis. However, in order for communication to be meaningful, it must be on a two way basis. We would encourage parents and carers with any suggestions as to how communication or indeed other aspects of school life could be further improved to contact us by e-mail ([nicolsoninstitute@gnes.net](mailto:nicolsoninstitute@gnes.net)), phone or by appointment at the school.

Please note that the school's phone number has been changed to 01851707000.