

# **The Nicolson Institute**



**Bliadhna Mhath Ur Dhuibh Uile!**

**January Newsletter 2011**



## **HMIE Visit**

The school was recently visited by HMIE as part of a national Curriculum for Excellence fact finding tour of Scottish secondary schools. The inspectors interviewed pupil representatives from all year groups and a cross section of staff. They found the pupils to be responsive, focused and positive and commented that the staff were engaging with the principles of CfE as well as anywhere they had visited to date. Their assessment of curriculum development and the quality of teaching which they observed was very positive. Findings will be incorporated into a generic report which will help to formulate education policy for the future. The report will be available on the HMIE website shortly.



## **Assisted Self-evaluation Follow-up**

The follow-up visit to last year's Assisted Self Evaluation took place in November with staff from the Education Department reviewing progress on the action points identified in the initial inspection of September 2009. It was deemed that good progress had been made with regard to the action points.

## **S4 Prelims**

The S4 Prelims took place in December and we are pleased to report that external invigilators commented very positively on the young people's behaviour, attitude and conduct.

We would urge all pupils, parents / carers to ensure that the school is informed as early as possible if a pupil is unable to sit a prelim for any reason so that alternative arrangements can be made.

## **Staffing**

As you will be aware, Mr. K. Trewartha, Rector, retires on Friday 14th January after nearly four years in post. During this time Mr. Trewartha has been instrumental in implementing a Curriculum for Excellence, developing the use of ICT, leading design proposals for the new school and in encouraging the vast majority of pupils to take pride in and wear school uniform. Staff and pupils wish him a long and happy retirement.

The school also welcomes Mr. Anthony Tuffery, to the post of Depute Headteacher. Mr. Tuffery whose subject area is Physics, hails from the North of England. We wish him every success in his new post.



## **Communication**

You may be interested to know that staff are currently setting up a Facebook page in order to keep parent, carers and the public informed about events and activities at the school. The launch of the Facebook page will be publicised via the local media. Interested parties will be encouraged to sign up in order to improve communication between the school, parents and the wider community.



## **Deasbad BT 2010**

Bha sinn uile moiteil a Cairistiona L. Nicleòid agus Iain Murchadh Mac a' Mhaoilein a choisinn a' chiad dhuais ann am farpais deasbad BT 2010. A thuilleadh air a sin, b' i Caristiona a fhuair an duais airson an neach-labhairt a b' fheàrr. 'S ann ann am Pàrlamaid na h-Alba, ann an Dun Eideann, a ghabh a' chuairt mu dheireadh àite. Tha tòrr obrach an cois a bhith an sàs anns a' cho-fharpais seo agus tha na sgoilearan agus na h-inbhich a bha a' toirt taic dhaibh airidh air moladh mòr.

## **E1 Reporting**

We are currently involved in revising our method of reporting to parents. Report cards will be produced on the E1 information management system which has been adopted by the local authority. The aim is to make the reports available to pupils, parents and carers on-line next session. As with all new systems, there will be glitches to overcome so please bear with us.

Senior Management Team  
The Nicolson Institute.