

## The Nicolson Institute Newsletter - March 2011



In order to enhance partnership with parents, the general ethos of the school and safety of pupils we would like to clarify school procedures with regard to the following points :

### **New phone number**

Please note that the school's phone number is now 01851 707000.

### **Uniform**

There has been a noticeable increase in the number of pupils wearing school uniform over the past few years. We would be grateful if **all** parents could encourage pupils to wear school uniform from now on. Uniform gives pupils a sense of belonging and there is less pressure on both pupils and parents if the wearing of designer labels and expensive, casual clothing is discouraged. It is also important for staff to be able to differentiate between senior pupils and visitors to the school by dress code from a safety perspective. Your assistance in addressing this matter would be greatly appreciated.

### **Attendance**

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. Pupils **must** register at the office if they arrive after registration. They **must** also have a valid reason for late arrival.

### **Appointments**

Pupils are reminded that they **must** follow the proper procedure of collecting an Appointment Slip from the school office and having it signed by their class teachers if they are to attend an appointment during the school day. Pupils who have an appointment prior to coming to school should have notified the office in advance and **must** sign in on arrival. If at all possible, appointments should be arranged outwith school hours in order to minimise disruption to learning and teaching.

### **Litter**

The dropping of litter by pupils who are on their way back from town at lunch time and in and around the school building is a recurring problem. As you may be aware, the dropping of litter in public places is now an offence for which an on the spot fine of £50 can be imposed by CNES wardens and police.

## **Pupil success**

We would like to congratulate the following pupils on recent successes:

- The senior girls' football team, coached by Mr. Bain, are now in the North of Scotland Schools' final after beating Thurso High School 5-0.
- The cheer leaders did very well in bringing home ten trophies from their competition in Edinburgh recently.  
Special congratulations to Helen Mackay in S1 who won her solo competitions.
- Mr Beattie in PE and House Captains organised a variety of events for Comic Relief. The staff / pupil select team did very well to beat an S6 select team 5-1. Over £400 pounds was raised.
- S2 debaters, Ruairidh Mackay, Paul Anderson and Kirsty Mackinnon-Leese, coached by Mrs. Sutherland, performed commendably to take second place in the Big Green Challenge debate held in the Scottish Parliament on Monday 21st March. The debate was broadcast live on the Scottish Parliament's website and their prize is a well deserved visit to the Eden Project in Cornwall.
- There was a marked increase in the number of Nicholson Institute pupils involved in Mòd Leòdhais this year with two junior choirs, a drama group, several folk groups and many solo singers representing the school. There was a very high standard of competition and prize winners are to be congratulated on their achievements.

## **S3 Exams**

S3 exams will run from Friday 15th April to Tuesday 26th April. All pupils have been issued with a personal copy of the timetable and it is also available on the school's website. Parents are encouraged to ensure that pupils spend time revising during the holiday in preparation for the exams.

## **Easter Study Support Clubs**

Both the Maths and Chemistry departments are running study support clubs during the first week of the Easter holidays for Int. 2 and Higher. The uptake by pupils has been very good and if these are deemed to be a success other departments may run similar clubs in future.

