

14 December 2007



Dear Parent/Carer

*Christmas Newsletter*

Dingwall Academy will close for the Christmas Break at 2.30 pm on Thursday 20 December 2007. Transportation has been arranged for this time. School will reopen on Monday 7 January 2008 at the normal time.

The youngsters are now all looking forward to their socials which will run on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of next week. Parents of pupils in S5 & S6 are probably aware that an après social activity has become something of a tradition in recent years. I would just like to point out to all parents/carers that this is something organised by the pupils themselves and does not involve the school at all either in terms of organisation or in supervision.

A number of our teachers have now been involved in training for a new Sexual Health & Relationship Education Programme. This will change the way in which Sex Education is taught in the school and will involve new materials being used. This course is approved and accredited by the National Health Service. If any parent/carers is interested in viewing the materials please contact the school and ask to speak to the appropriate pupil support teacher.

S5/6 prelims start on Friday 18 January. Certain S3 and S4 pupils will also sit Maths exams at this time. While we wish all pupils a good holiday we would also remind them to keep up the studying during the festive period.

It has come to my attention that in the August Newsletter that was sent out, some of the dates which were issued to you in relation to Parents' nights may have been wrong. With this letter is enclosed a new copy of relevant dates between January and August 2008. The proposed date for the S1 Parents' night now falls within the period of removal to the new school and a final date for this parents' evening will be notified early in the New Year. The relevant dates have also been updated on the School's Website.

After the latest letter to parents I am afraid to announce that we have not received enough parental interest in order to form a new Parent Council. The deadline for expressions for interest for the new Parent Council is therefore now extended to 31 January. I very much hope that we can receive enough expressions of interest for this very important body to begin its work. It is vital to the school that we have a strong Parent Council in place as we move towards the changeover from the old Academy to the new.

Finally, I should like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for their encouragement and support during the course of 2007. I very much hope that you all have a very happy and peaceful festive period.

Yours sincerely

Rector