



December 2015

The Knox Newsletter



From the Head Teacher

Dear Friends,

As 2015 draws to its close I believe that we are closing the book on another successful calendar year for Knox Academy.

Pupils have performed well in the exams, continue to commit to, and excel in, extra-curricular activities, and still find time to raise money for charity.

As ever, there have been staffing changes and, only today, we said a fond farewell to Mr. Swinney who is leaving us following 22 years of working for East Lothian Council. He is making a more permanent move to the SQA, and our loss is very much their gain. We also said "au revoir" to Mrs. Fairbairn who is going to work at Eyemouth High School for a few months—we wish her well. It was also a pleasure to say "thank you" to Mr. Mackinnon who has been working as a Guidance teacher since August.

I continue to get news of former pupils' successes, be they academic or personal, and am always glad to hear how they are doing. And, I am now in the process of helping some of our present S6 look to their futures by assisting them to get their UCAS forms ready for the January deadline. This morning, I was delighted to hand out certificates to S6 pupils who have completed their Employability Skills course at school, as well as congratulating some of our S2 pupils who have completed an off-road motorbike course through the Bridge Centre. It's a pleasure to see so many of our pupils achieving things of which they didn't think themselves capable.

As I write, I am listening to the rehearsals for the Christmas Concert, which is going to be another sell-out event, and in the social space next door to the Hall, is a display of the Christmas Boxes that the pupils have put together for the elderly and vulnerable in Haddington. We are getting set up for the Christmas Jumper day on Friday (which might prove a bit warm for the pupils when they are watching the S6 panto in the Hall and ceilidh dancing down in PE), through this we will raise some funds for "Save the Children", so that others, less fortunate than ourselves, can enjoy some stability at this time of year.

All in all the pupils are demonstrating the wisdom, engagement and respect that is at the heart of what we do at Knox Academy. Through their fundraising, hard work, sporting achievements and work in the community they are demonstrating that they are active partners with staff, parents, and others in their education. This is how it should be. Thank you to all who make that happen.

In January the pressure will ramp up for S4 to S6 pupils as the reality of exams starts to bite, and S1, 2 and 3 pupils will be getting challenged by staff to be the best that they can be both in the classroom and out. Before we know it, we will be thinking about Activities' Week and Sports' Day.

So, all that remains is to hope that everyone gets some rest over this festive period, and to wish everyone, everything that they wish for themselves in 2016.

Yours,

S Ingham

Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 5th January 2016	All resume	Monday 15th February	Holiday begins
Wednesday 13th January	Parent School Partnership (6.15pm)	Monday 22nd February	In-Service Day
Wednesday 20th January	S4 Parents' Evening (5pm-7pm)	Tuesday 23rd February	All resume
Thursday 21st January	S3 Profiles and Reports Issued	Tuesday 8th March	S4 Coursing appointments begin
Monday 25th January	S4-6 Assessment fortnight begins	Thursday 2nd March	S2 Reports Issued
Tuesday 26th January	S3 Photographs	Monday 14th March	S5 Coursing appointments begin
Wednesday 27th January	S3-5 Information Evening (6.30pm)	Thursday 17th March	S2 Parents' Evening (5pm-7pm)
Thursday 28th January	Burns' Supper	Wednesday 23rd March	Spring Concert
Tuesday 2nd February	S3 Parents' Evening	Monday 11th April	All resume
Thursday 4th February	S3 Coursing appointments begin	Wednesday 13th April	HPV Vaccinations
Wednesday 10th February	Parent School Partnership (6.15pm)	Wednesday 13th April	Parent School Partnership (6.15pm)
Thursday 11th February	S3/4/5/6 Vaccinations		

Knox Academy

'Phone: 01620 823387

Email: knoxacademy@knox.elcschool.org.uk