

Building the Future



The Edinburgh Academy Bulletin no. 7 Spring 2007



From the Chairman

CO-EDUCATION

This Bulletin describes our plans for future investment at the Academy, and in particular our preparations for the start of full co-education at the Junior School later this year, and at the Senior School in August 2008. In the following pages you can read about our immediate plans to provide new facilities not only for teaching and learning but also for the PE and games programme.

The Court is also exploring a number of options for further improvements both at Henderson Row and Arboretum. This is a complex process and it will take time to secure the best possible outcome. As with most of the projects outlined overleaf, planning approval will be necessary, and this is never straightforward.

These are exciting developments, and we hope that constant improvement of facilities will maintain the Academy's reputation as a leader in our field. However, that reputation is forged not by buildings but by people. The quality of education in its broadest sense, and the care of pupils as individuals will remain the top priorities in the years to come.

As always we value your support. Do let us know if you have any comments about these plans or other possible future developments at the Academy.

THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Nursery and After-School Care

Demand for Nursery places at the Academy has never been higher, and we need to provide more space. At the same time much would be gained by bringing together the two existing units, Scott House and “Denham Green”, and thus to ensure that all our nursery accommodation is purpose-built.

Similarly the demands on the After-school facility grow year by year, and we need to re-think the provision here.

We therefore intend to build a completely new Nursery and After-school facility on the Arboretum site. This exciting new development will –

- bring together the two separate arms of the Nursery;
- allow us to accommodate more pupils;
- provide new space for After-school pupils;
- release the current Nursery classroom at Arboretum for other purposes.

This is a phase 2 development, scheduled for completion by August 2008 (subject to planning permission).



Inside and outside the Junior School

One of the greatest assets of the Academy Junior School is the wonderful open campus. The playing fields, trees and feeling of space all attract the attention of the first time visitor.

This year we have already added to the facilities with the provision of an outdoor classroom where the children can learn practical skills; but we plan to add even more.

We shall build an all-weather playing surface in the Junior School, which will not only give the pupils an excellent (and clean) playground, but will also allow us to enhance the sports and games provision for both boys and girls.

This is a phase 2 development, scheduled for completion by August 2008 (subject to planning permission).

The Junior School also clearly requires both new and improved **washroom facilities.**

Plans for these are well advanced and they will be ready for August 2007.

THE BOARDING HOUSES KINNEAR ROAD



PAST

Jeffrey and Scott Houses in Kinnear Road were first opened for boarders in 1899 by the Academy's great reforming Rector Bob Mackenzie. Eleven years later Mackenzie House was built and named in his honour and in 1924 Dundas House, across Kinnear Road, was bought. Boarders have made a huge contribution to the life and spirit of the Academy over the intervening years. At the peak in the early 1970s there were over 160 pupils in residence.

THE SENIOR SCHOOL



Design Technology

The Design Technology Department at the Senior School currently occupies the space originally used by the old Woodwork Department.

The curriculum has moved on a long way since the days of Mr England. Now two full-time teachers and 70 exam candidates occupy the same space which he and the junior classes occupied 20 years ago.

The Department did gain a design studio five years ago when the new kitchens were added alongside the Main Hall, but it is 50 metres and two flights of stairs away from the main workshops. Attention was drawn to this in the recent HMIE inspection.

Priority must be given to –

- bringing all the Design Technology spaces together;
- improving the health and safety provision for the use of the furnace and other hot metal processes;
- providing some dedicated space for senior project work.

This is a phase 2 development, scheduled for completion by August 2008 (subject to planning permission).

PE and Games

Washing and Changing Rooms

New washroom facilities at the Senior School were a high priority even before the planned arrival of full co-education. Improved changing rooms for boys and new facilities both for girls and female staff will be provided.

This is a phase 2 development, scheduled for completion by August 2008 (subject to planning permission).

Extra PE Facilities

The provision of additional space for PE is under consideration. A Dance Studio and Weights Room will be high on our priorities once the detailed plans for Design Technology are finalised.

All-Weather Pitch

The major girls' games will be hockey in the winter and tennis and athletics in the summer, and we expect to move towards team matches in these sports just as soon as numbers allow. Essential to this provision is a full size all-weather pitch. Current plans are that this should be sited on the New Field extension where, with some extra investment in the small pavilion, an outstanding new facility can be provided for both Academy girls and boys.

The first steps are already being taken to move this phase 3 project forward. Completion inevitably depends on planning approval and confirmation of funding.



PRESENT

Now, just 35 years later, Dundas House has become the Polish Consulate, Mackenzie House is partially let, and a small international community of 14 pupils shares Jeffrey House and parts of Scott House. The projected roll for 2007-8 is 9. This is not sufficient to enable us to run a viable boarding operation of top quality, and it is difficult to justify financially the investment needed to provide 21st century boarding facilities.

Boarding will therefore cease in July 2008.





CURRICULUM

Working groups of teachers have been evaluating the curriculum at both the Junior and Senior Schools. We share a commitment to traditional values in education:

- Developing knowledge and skills
- Promoting health and well-being
- Working with other people
- Recognising the needs of the world beyond the Academy
- Developing independence

Junior School

The detailed **Junior School** curriculum does not need to change to accommodate the move to co-education. Its content and delivery are equally valid for both boys and girls.

Senior School

The curriculum at the **Senior School** is much more subject-orientated than at the Junior School. After considering the balance of these subjects we are committed to –

- the introduction of Spanish in the 2nds (S1) on an equal footing with German;
- the introduction as exam subjects, if there is sufficient pupil demand, of Religious Education at GCSE, and Religious and Moral Philosophy at Higher.



UNIFORM

We are delighted that the new Academy uniform has very quickly become a distinctive symbol of the school in the city. Parents, friends and those with no connection at all with the Academy have all commented very positively.

The arrival of girls in the Junior School means an addition to the uniform regulations. The school has consulted with parents and staff, current senior girls and, most importantly, some of the 50 girls and families who are already committed to be trail-blazers at the Junior School in August or at the Senior School a year later.

The final decision is that uniform for the younger girls will be essentially the same as the boys', with the addition of a charcoal grey kilt (pictured below left).

In the final phase of our uniform revision a new range of sportswear will be introduced in August. Plans are well advanced, with the distinctive features being –

- a new 'away' rugby shirt to replace the plain navy one;
- the introduction for the first time of a standard Academy tracksuit (pictured below right);
- the introduction of an Academy polo shirt for racquet sports.

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