



TAIN ROYAL ACADEMY

ACADAMAIDH RÌOGHAIL BHAILE DHUBHTHAICH



Parents' Newsletter

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An t-Sultain 2007

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RECTOR'S COMMENT

Welcome back to a new session at TRA! We give a warm welcome to parents and carers of pupils in our new S1 pupils and to those who have joined us from other secondary schools. We hope that each pupil has a successful year and that all work their hardest to reach their potential.

HMIe have considered the progress we have made regarding the Inspection carried out in 2005, and I can report that they are pleased with the improvements the school has made. I will provide a report on our progress to parents and carers once it is approved by HMIe.

I would encourage you to become involved with our newly formed Parent Council. Details of the first meeting are noted below.

Congratulations are due to the group of pupils who entered the ICT Challenge and won a trip to Boston!

We welcome new staff to TRA, Gareth Braddick and Leanne Black, both to our English Department.

I hope this newsletter gives a flavour of the work of the school and is a starter for a full and busy year.

Donnie Macleod, Rector

We were saddened to learn of the death of one of our former teachers Moira Hill. We extend our sympathies to Andrew, her husband.

Following interviews conducted last week the following S6 pupils have been appointed as **Captains and Vice-captains** for 2007-2008



Captains: Graeme Morrison
and Shaun Murray

Vice-Captains: Donald Gordon,
Katie Hoggarth,
Kari Macleod,
Stuart Nicolson,
Emma Smith
and Kerr Smith

Congratulations to the successful candidates!

PARENT COUNCIL

The initial **Annual General Meeting** of the newly formed Tain Royal Academy Parent Council is scheduled to take place in TRA Library on

Tuesday 11 September at 7.00pm

All parents/carers of TRA pupils are very welcome to attend.

There are still vacancies on the Parent Council so if you are interested supporting the academic and social life of the Academy come along and join the already appointed Parent Councillors.

Further information from the TRA office (01862 892121) or from Parent Council Chairman, Paul Hoggarth (01862

COUNCIL URGES YOUNG PEOPLE TO APPLY FOR ALLOWANCE

Young people staying on at Secondary schools in the Highlands are being urged by Highland Council's Education, Culture and Sport Service "not to miss out" and to apply for an Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) which could be worth up to £1,500 to each pupil.

An EMA is a weekly payment of up to £30, paid directly to eligible young people who stay on in school after they reach statutory leaving age. Young people may also be eligible for two bonuses of £150 if they remain on their course and make the necessary progress with their learning.

EMAs were introduced nationally by the Scottish Executive in August 2004 to provide financial support to young people from low income families staying on at school.

Highland Council's EMA Co-ordinator, Katie MacLean said: "Eligibility for the academic year 2007/08 is dependent on your household income and date of birth. You must also live within the Highland Council area, meet residency criteria and attend a Highland Council school or be home educated for over 21 hours a week. Payments are dependent on students completing a Learning Agreement with their school and complying with it for the full academic year."

The income eligibility levels for the 2007/08 academic year are as follows:

Household income	weekly payment
Less than £21,302	£30
£21,303-£26,116	£20
£26,177-£31,528	£10
Over £31,528	nil

Application forms and further information are available throughout the Highland Council area from Secondary Schools and Service Points.

TRA SPONSORED WALK

The TRA 2007 Sponsored Walk is a remarkable event. Not only do pupils hike a considerable distance around Tain Hill, they also raise large sums of money to help support our extra-curricular activities and the many "extras" which TRA pupils enjoy.

We look forward to another successful walk on Friday 7 September.

A few things are worth emphasising for the day:

- Unfortunately it is not possible to take dogs on the walk
- When pupils have completed the walk their sponsor forms will be marked with a green stamp. It is very important that pupils do not collect any money without this stamp on their forms. Please let us know in the school if you become aware that this is happening
- Pupils should carry a packed lunch and something to drink. Juice will be provided at a "juice stop", but it is important to drink plenty on a walk like this
- It is also important that pupils have good footwear for a walk on rough ground. They should also carry suitable clothing in case the weather becomes unpleasant
- It is possible that bad weather may force postponement of the walk. Pupils should bring what is needed for their classes in case we have to have a normal school day.

When pupils have completed the walk they will be allowed to go home if they live in Tain. Otherwise pupils will stay in school and activities will be laid on for them.

Very many thanks in anticipation for your support.

Angus Gray, Depute Rector

ARE YOU A FOOTBALL FAN? Do you think you are an expert on players and teams, and systems? Well now is your chance to prove it. The school fantasy football league is starting again this month. Forms to pick your team are available from Mr Jones. Once you have chosen your team, fee £3.50, Mr Jones will give you a ticket with details to log your team on-line and you join the Tain Royal Academy Fantasy League. The winner receives a trophy and there are medals for the runners up. There will also be certificates for Managers of the Month.

Everybody is welcome to play: pupils, mums, dads, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunties, grannies, grandads and even teachers!!!



M Jones

WELL DONE!

TRA nominated **Matthew Vickery** of last year's S6 for a year's leadership programme with the Hunter Foundation and he has been accepted. This looks like being a wonderful experience for him. He has postponed his university place to do this and promises to keep us informed of his activities.

We were delighted to hear that **William Duff**, also last year's S6, has been shortlisted for the Scottish Qualifications Authority award for Candidate of the Year. William has been invited to an awards ceremony in Glasgow where the final details will be announced.

William has suffered a great deal of illness over the last five years and was unable to attend school since April of his first year. He has worked extremely hard at home, with support from teachers in the school and tutors from elsewhere in Highland. He overcame his problems to gain very impressive Higher awards and is about to go to university.

We are delighted that William's determination, commitment and courage have been recognised in this way by the SQA. We wish him all the very best for his future studies.



HIGHLAND OUTDOOR EDUCATION

At the end of last term Highland Outdoor Education - based in Muir of Ord - were able to lead groups of S1 pupils in new and challenging experiences. These included mountain biking, weaselling and Canadian canoeing. Such activities bring children out of their normal environment, encourage them to work in groups and build confidence in a fun and exciting way.

THE BREAKFAST CLUB is ongoing!

We offer toast (10p), waffles (15p) with various spreads; cereal bars (25p); fresh fruit (10p); frubes (25p); flavoured milk (20p); milk (15p) and fruit juices ((10p).



The most popular breakfast is hot buttered toast and fresh apple juice. Mrs Ferguson is in bright and breezy every morning at 8.00am to begin serving breakfast!

Reminder to parents that we offer a **HOMWORK CLUB**



on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at lunchtime for all pupils. It takes place in the school library resource centre and staff are on duty to help. We think this is an excellent opportunity for our pupils and would like to encourage more pupils to attend.

**PLAYSCHEME
CELEBRATES**



On the last Tuesday of Playscheme, children entertained their families and friends at an Open Evening - held in the Assembly Hall. The theme, as for the whole summer, was The Big Top, and children juggled, sang, told jokes and stories and performed tricks. Jenny Whiteford, Lauren Vass and Ruth McVicar had worked with the children over the six weeks and the Show was a demonstration of all the craft work and activities that had taken place during that time. Parents were delighted, and many of the children who are starting school this month found the experience of learning and playing together a good 'ice-breaker' for primary school.

TRACC'S DUTHAC TENT

Once again TRACC staff and volunteers manned the Walkers' Gate at the recent Glenmorangie Tain Highland Gathering and provided all-day refreshments to the field workers, judges and several unsuspecting visitors to Tain. Active Schools Co-Ordinator Cath Giles also ran Mini-Games



for children, breaking off long enough for the impressive march-past of this year's Chieftain and former Chieftains and officials before resuming with the ever-popular Tug of War. Cath's programme of activities in the Tain area will be available shortly, distributed through your primary school.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

The weather may have been disappointing throughout the summer, but the enthusiastic users of TRACC just kept on coming! Of particular note this year was the excellent attendance at Out of School Club - with good numbers every day - and a lot of fun and activities thanks to Lauren's careful planning. Extras this year included Steve's Happyness Drum Circles, Archery, Splash Posters, Kindergym, Stage Make-up and Circus Skills. In all around 6,000 people participated in our summer activities - and High Life enabled a great many to take full advantage of this excellent

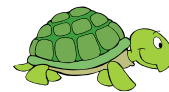
Highland-wide scheme's claim to provide 'affordable access'.

**FITNESS
CLASSES
AT TRACC**



Fitness classes are all now back to normal - on Mondays from 10.30 to 11.30am, Tuesdays 7.30 to 8.30pm, Wednesdays 12.00 to 1.00pm, Thursdays 7.30 to 8.30pm and on Fridays, Pilates from 10.00 to 11.00am. The Monday and Thursday swim breakfast (for early risers, starting at 7.00am) is also continuing, and there is a comprehensive programme for fitness suite users covering seven days a week. No excuses - time yet to get fit and healthy!

**TAIN TURTLES AND
TERRAPINS**



Swimming lessons for primary ages and pre-school (Saturday mornings) have all resumed. New registration sheets have been introduced for those already in lessons, and to put your child's name down on the waiting list for future lessons or for any further information, please call the TRACC Office on Tain 893767. *Catherine Morgan, TRACC*

TRA EXTRA CURRICULAR PE CLUBS (August - October)

	LUNCHTIME (1.20-1.55pm)	AFTER SCHOOL (3.40-5.00pm)
MONDAY	Volleyball (Boys/Girls All Yrs)	
TUESDAY	Hockey (Girls All Yrs) Gymnastics (Boys/Girls All Yrs)	Football (Boys All Years)
WEDNESDAY	Basketball (Boys/Girls S1 & S2)	Hockey (Girls All Yrs) Rugby (Boys All Yrs)
THURSDAY	Hockey (Girls All years) Basketball (Senior Boys)	Basketball and Dance (Boys/Girls All Yrs)
FRIDAY	FUN DAY FOR ALL PUPILS (Football, Basketball, Badminton, Swimming)	