



**CRAIGMOUNT HIGH SCHOOL
PARENTS' NEWSLETTER
April 2009**

SQA EXAMINATIONS - MAY/JUNE 2009

At the time of writing, these exams are less than five weeks away! We can all help in encouraging candidates to revise and prepare: little and often is the best approach. Parents should help by providing a suitable study place, materials and rewards. Real focus now can make a difference in terms of life chances.

Don't forget that revision classes are taking place in school during the Easter Holidays – see below for details.

STUDY SUPPORT NEWS 2009

This year looks to be another busy one for extra Study Support activities in Craigmount High School.

School staff from all departments are contributing to a big programme of 'out of hours' study support. The activities are aimed mainly at our students in S4 to S6 and have been timed to help with the build up to the SQA examinations. The meeting times are either after school, at the end of the day, or during the Easter Holidays.

The purposes of the extra help include:

- To give students access to extra teacher time
- To clarify class work and discuss difficult aspects
- course work will be revised and students will be better prepared for exams
- offering hints and tips to improve working habits
- improving confidence and self belief

Already many students have signed up but there may still be spaces in some of the classes. See the departmental staff directly or Ms Cameron or Mr Sherry for further details.

The Easter programme is published on the school website at www.craigmount.edin.sch.uk

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN THE COMMUNITY

The greatest number of complaints we receive in school is when young people behave in an anti-social way in the community. While not all young people in the area are Craigmount students, it is clear that during school time, the majority is from the school. Most of our students behave in a responsible way but the main causes for concern are litter, road safety, loitering, rude behaviour, snowballing, stone throwing and other general forms of bad behaviour.

There is a limit to the school's authority and responsibility and some parents question our right to become involved outside school but we will always work with the community to tackle such behaviour.

What do I do if I see Craigmount students behaving in an anti-social way?

If you see anti-social behaviour taking place in the area before or shortly after school you have the following options:

1. Reprimand the young people on the spot. Whether or not to do this is a matter of judgement. This is not a good idea if the young people are in a large group.
2. Phone Craigmount on 0131 339 6823. We will do what we can but the key issue for us is identification. It is important to give as much detail about the perpetrators as possible including a) gender b) approximate age c) description d) identifiable clothing e.g. white Adidas trainers. We have 1360 students so the more detailed the description the better.
3. Phone the Environmental (litter) Wardens on 0131 529 3030
4. Phone the local Police on 0131 334 4900
5. Dial 999 in case of a serious incident
6. Email enquiries@craigmount.edin.sch.uk (not for urgent matters).

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

At this time of year, our Senior Management Team is preparing our next improvement plan. Is there something you would like to see improved in the school? Comments or suggestions can be sent directly to the Parent Council (care of the school) or to Mrs Ferguson, my secretary.

INTERNET SAFETY INFORMATION EVENING

CALLING ALL PARENTS!

- A presentation from local government experts
- Find out about the various online sites your child may visit
- What the sites offer
- What the dangers are
- How to use them safely
- Opportunity to ask questions and raise concerns

WHEN?

THURSDAY 30th April 2009

at 7.00 o'clock

at Craigmount High School

in the concourse

SIXTH YEAR CONFERENCE

All current S5 students who are returning for S6 are expected to attend Edinburgh Schools' Neighbourhood Sixth Year Conference. All "new" S6 in our neighbourhood high schools (Balerno, Currie, Forrester, St Augustine's, Tynecastle and WHEC) will be participating on Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd June 2009 at the Craigmount Campus of Edinburgh Napier University. This very valuable experience involves a range of testing and enjoyable activities laid on by employers in a university setting. The conference enables S6 to prepare for employment and for higher education. It also provides each school with the opportunity to get S6's active involvement in and commitment to their school.

CRAIGMOUNT BLOOD DONORS

On 30 March 87 students and staff will made a blood donation. We have had so many volunteers that the mobile unit was called to the school. Well done to all involved!

S3 EXAMS

S3 exams will run from Wednesday 22 April to Thursday 7 May. Full details and an exam timetable have been given to S3 students.

MANDELA POETRY COMPETITION

Congratulations to Farooq Javed 606 on winning the City of Edinburgh Mandela Poetry Competition in celebration of Nelson Mandela's 90th birthday. Well done, Farooq!

**UK INTERMEDIATE
MATHEMATICAL
CHALLENGE
RESULTS (S3 and S4)**

Congratulations to the following S3 and S4 pupils who have achieved an award in the UK Intermediate Maths Challenge Competition. Special congratulations to Adam Brand who was Best in School.

S3

Silver Awards

- Erin Thomson
- Srikanth Ganachari
- Cameron Ross
- Claire Paxton
- Euan Brockie

Bronze Awards

- Kate Wilson
- Jamie Snape
- Cody Abbott
- Caitlin Mooney
- Carly Jappy
- Scott Lindsay
- David Booth

S4

Gold Awards

- Adam Brand
- Emma McDougall
- Arran Macquarie
- Gavin Todd
- Michael Rowley
- Keith Hardie
- Silver Awards**
- Neil Christy
- Ailsa Taylor
- Hayden Gray
- Andrew Lindsay
- Rona Lindsay

Bronze Awards

- Amy Koyman
- Tom Chalmers
- Yannick Longbottom
- Astrid Vinall
- Aidan Nicholson
- Gemma Wimberley
- Grace Hinchcliffe
- Laura Gordon
- Iona Frost
- David Ritchie
- Joe Burnett
- Calum Gubby
- Chris Kane
- Kyle Hunter

MUSICAL NOTES!

Composition Competition

The annual Music Department Composition Competition takes place on Tuesday 28th April at 7pm in the concourse. Please come and support the students.

CRAIGMOUNT SPORTS CLUB

Bob Laurie, Active Schools Coordinator writes:

Our Sports Clubs have continued from Christmas, giving our students the opportunity to take part in over twenty after-school sporting activities.

Many of the clubs will of course continue after the Easter holidays with the addition of new 'summer' term activities, e.g. athletics, cricket, golf and mountain biking all of which will be advertised in the school's daily bulletin.

Our badminton, basketball, football, gymnastics, hockey, netball and rugby teams have all had successes so far this year, with more finals still to be reached and trophies to be won.

Watch out for the summer newsletter when full details of all our clubs' successes will be published. In every sporting event entered each participant is encouraged to enjoy the occasion, along with the phrase 'it's the taking part that counts' – winning is a bonus!!

Many thanks must go to all our coaches, along with parents and friends for their continued support.

BBC REPORT ON TOLERANCE

During the course of this session seven highly motivated S1 and S2 students have been taking part in a nationwide school news competition. The team have met weekly with Miss Gow who has guided and developed the students' ideas for their news feature. The students have also had the assistance of an S3 mentor who took part in last year's BBC competition and was able to offer valuable help and advice to the students. The team were aiming towards an Internet based news programme which was broadcasted on March 13th 2009. The main theme of this is 'Tolerance in Craigmount'. The students have developed and generated news ideas, worked on scripts as well as reading recording and presenting news items. Furthermore, they were able to develop their interviewing skills by holding a variety of interviews with staff and pupils in order to gather material for their report. Along with Miss Gow they have been helped in their build-up to the big day by the school's skilled AV technician Mr Auld. The team have also been working with Mr Andrew Anderson a reporter for BBC Scotland who has given them valuable insights into the workings on a TV News programme and ran a workshop at the school for the team. The completed news report from Craigmount High School is on our website at www.craigmount.edin.sch.uk.

CRAIGMOUNT'S 2009 ALTERNATIVE TIMETABLE - A VERY SPECIAL WEEK.

The staff of Craigmount High School continue to develop our Alternative Timetable which is held annually in the summer term. Normal classes will be suspended and replaced by a programme of activities for 2nd, 3rd and 4th of June. We aim to involve every one of our students from S1 to S3 in activities by providing something to suit all tastes and all budgets.

This year, students choose from a menu of 58 options. The programme provides opportunities to meet new people from other classes and to participate with staff in a relaxed atmosphere. Many courses offer outdoor activities e.g. horse riding, golf, mountain biking, archery, go-karting, skiing, snowboarding, rock climbing, canoeing, tennis or football on astroturf. Some make use of Edinburgh's rich resources, e.g. cultural visits, recreational and fitness venues. Other courses travel further afield, from the Glasgow Science Centre to residential trips sampling the thrills of Alton Towers or the beauty of the island of Eigg. Large groups will go this year to London and Paris.

Each year we seem to offer more. Our students have a good reputation wherever they go and we can take pride in the way staff and students work together and build positive relationships as they experience new activities together.

ABSENCES

If your child is going to be absent from school due to attending a medical or dental appointment please ensure a note is brought into school, preferably prior to the appointment taking place. You should also leave a message on the Absence Line (0131 338 4763). This will hopefully prevent text messages being sent out to parents stating their child is not in school, when, in fact, they are attending such appointments.

SUMMER TERM DATES: A REMINDER

- **Tuesday 21 April 2009 - All resume**
- Monday 4 May 2009 - May Day, Schools closed
- Monday 18 May 2009 - Victoria Day, Schools closed
- Tuesday 19 May 2009* - Staff resume
- Wednesday 20 May 2009* - Staff only
- Thursday 21 May 2009 - Students resume
- **Thursday 2 July 2009 - Term ends at noon**

AND FINALLY

I wish all a good holiday and hope that senior students use the time well to study for the SQA exams.

Dr John Campbell
Head Teacher