



## **CRAIGMOUNT NEWS SEPTEMBER 2009**

I hope you have had an excellent summer and that the start of session has been as positive for your child as it has been for the school in general. Our new S1 cohort has settled into school very well. Many thanks to our primary colleagues for their help in ensuring a good transition.

### **STAFF NEWS**

This August, a number of new members of staff join Craigmount High School. We welcome Mr Stephen Kelly as Depute Head Teacher. Mrs Linda Main has been promoted to Principal Teacher; Student Support.

Also joining us are Mrs Helen Dobson (History) (temp) and Dr Julie Kelso (RME) (temp). Mr James Johnson (PE) comes from Vancouver, Canada as a Commonwealth Exchange Teacher (Mr Calum Thomas moves to Vancouver for one year).

Our probationary teachers this year are Mr Steven Raeburn (PE), Mr Andrew McNiven (PE), Ms Gemma Saunders (Modern Studies), Ms Kathryn Shaw (English), Ms Marni Tucker (Geography), Rev Kambura Walarewatha (RME), Ms Kathryn Davies (Geography), Mr Scott Love (Physics), Jennifer McKeown (English) and Dr Gillian Dugan (Biology).

Ms Laura Rogan joins the Office staff as Clerical Assistant and Ms Mel Morrison is a new Classroom Assistant (music/drama).

### **EXAM RESULTS**

The whole SQA process has gone very well this year and there have been massive achievements by students. A good number of students achieved 5 As at Higher or 8 1s at Standard Grade. Many other students have also achieved very high standards of passes relative to their abilities.

Thanks to staff and students for their work and parents for their work and support

### **DRESS CODE**

Students returned in August looking very smart. Thanks to all parents for your support. Please keep the pressure on and ensure that your son/daughter is wearing plain black trousers. I have noticed that the standards in all schools have gone up. We, at Craigmount want to be the best and for this your continued support is essential.

### **PARENT COUNCIL**

The Parent Council Annual General Meeting will take place in the school at 7pm on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September. This meeting is open to all parents, and I urge as many as possible to attend.

### **DRAMA**

The school musical, "Battle of the Bands", was a great success at the end of last session. Well done to all the staff and students involved. Thanks also to parents and friends who supported this venture. Please contact Miss Thompson in the Drama Department if you would like to purchase a DVD of the show at a price of £5.

### **VALUABLES IN SCHOOL**

I would like to remind parents that the school is not responsible for valuable items brought in to school. Items such as MP3 players, mobile phones and bicycles are brought to school at the student's own risk.

On the subject of mobile phones, our policy in Craigmount is that they are acceptable in school so long as they are switched off in the building. Please do not try to contact students on mobile phones during class time, as this can be very disruptive.

### **ROAD SAFETY**

In previous sessions there has been a number of minor accidents and near misses on roads around the school. Some students seem to see road safety as an issue for primary school pupils. They seem to think that they are invulnerable if they are in a large group. Sadly, many schools have the experience to show that this is not the case. Please encourage your

child (of whatever age) to take care on the roads around school.

### HEADTEACHER'S CONSULTATION

You will see in the calendar of events there is an event entitled 'Head Teacher's Consultation'. This is a slot which I clear in my diary for any parent who wishes to come and discuss any aspect of school life. If you wish to make an appointment to meet with me during one of these consultations, please phone my secretary, Mrs Margaret Ferguson on 0131 339 6823.



### MUSIC NOTES

We are looking forward to another exciting year in the Music Department and have several concerts planned. By the time this newsletter is published Craigmount Fiddlers will have performed at one of the National Association of Youth Orchestra's Festival Lunchtime concerts.

We are very fortunate to have **Diecian**, a *cappella* octet from The Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama coming to Craigmount on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September, to lead a workshop and perform a concert. The free Workshop (for all voice students and members of the choir), will be from 1.30 -3.30 pm and the concert (in which Craigmount students will perform what they have learned in the workshop along with *Dieci* ) begins at 7pm in the Concourse. This is a great opportunity for our students so please come and support them at the concert.

Tickets are priced £5 (schoolchildren in the audience £3) and can be bought in advance from the Music Department (cash or cheques payable to *Dieci* please) or at the door.

Plans for a **Music Tour to Germany** in June 2010 are well underway and students taking part in this trip have several forms to be returned to the music department as soon as possible.

Our **Christmas Concert** is on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December and tickets will be available from Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November at break.

### STUDENT HOMEWORK PLANNERS

Every student has been issued with a Student Planner. Used properly, this helps organise a typical teenager's busy life. The Planner contains much useful information e.g. term dates, merit stamp records (S1/2 only), study skills, contact numbers and a record of when homework is due.

*It would be of enormous benefit to every young person if you would*

- ensure that he/she is using the Student Planner effectively
- ensure that he/she is bringing it to school every day
- talk to him/her about what he/she is learning in school

contact the relevant Student Support teacher if you have concerns.

### STUDENTS WHO ARRIVE EARLY

A small number of students arrive in school before 8.00am each morning. We would ask parents to note that staff are not available to supervise students in the corridors or school grounds very early in the morning. Parents should realise that we cannot be responsible for students at these times.

### ECO GROUP

Craigmount Eco group 'Greenmount' has been working hard to ensure that we recycle as much as possible. We have collections of paper, cardboard and plastics from our classrooms and concourse, we recycle our print cartridges and are also happy to receive any



unwanted mobile phone handsets. If you have one at home please send it in to the office or Dr Saddler in the science department. Our Eco group has successfully gained our Eco schools Silver award and now have our eyes set on reaching for the Gold. Check out our web site [www.greenmount.co.nr](http://www.greenmount.co.nr) to see what we are up to.

### **NO PINK CASTLE AT BALAMORY**

Twelve Craigmount pupils rose to the challenge of crewing the 21m ketch Alba Venturer on a one week west coast sailing expedition during Alternative Timetable Week.

Murray Blair, Annabel and Annalise Chau, Katie Craig, May Duncan, Eleanor Forsythe, Matthew Kurtz, Iona Laing, Rachel Mackie, Hannah McCall, Jack Morrison and Scott Morrison travelled by mini-bus to Oban where we caught a small ferry across to Kerrera. Following winch drills and safety briefings, kitted out in foul weather gear and lifejackets, we set sail in light winds for the Firth of Lorne for some tacking drills and man overboard practice, before piloting our way into the tricky anchorage of Puilladobhrain (the bay of the otter) for the night.

An early start on Tuesday morning found us coasting gently along the south side of Mull, in hot sunshine, to anchor in Davie Balfour's Bay on the Isle of Erraid. Later, accompanied by a little more breeze we headed north, peering into the pink rocky inlet that is Tinker's Hole and then on our way past the holy island of Iona, and the basalt columns of Fingal's Cave towards Lunga Island. Here we anchored for the night before ferrying the crew ashore the following day to marvel at the remarkably tame puffins, guillemots, razorbills, cormorants and kittiwake.

By late afternoon the wind had set in from the north as we motored out of the anchorage and set sail for the north end of Coll. The crew were all keen to travel on to Castle Bay on Barra which would mean an arrival time of around 2am – however, enthusiasm and optimism were replaced

by long faces and shared sick buckets as we cleared the shelter of Coll and experienced the full force of the Sea of the Hebrides. By Thursday evening we had enjoyed the short sail to the Isle of Eigg where we met with Mr Arbuckle and friends. On Friday we made our way in gusty conditions around the Point of Ardnamurchan to the remote Island of Sanna in Loch Sunart where Matthew managed to dunk himself up to his chest whilst trying to rescue a ball on the shore, before we all explored the abandoned black house settlement, accompanied by Scott's knowledgeable chat. For the evening we anchored in Tobermory to shelter from the strong north easterlies before heading to the pontoon in the morning for a welcome explore ashore – sadly there is no pink castle in Balamory. It was just a short beat down the Sound of Mull for an overnight stop at Lismore and on to Oban for a tidy up and home. We sailed a total of 165 miles, six students earned the Royal Yachting Association Competent Crew certificate and Iona, to the call of 'Mini-Bobo', made progress towards volunteering with Ocean Youth Trust Scotland by shadowing and assisting the bosun for the week.

### **CLASS LIBRARIES**

If any parents have any good quality books they would like to pass on to classroom libraries, it would be very much appreciated.

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Attached today is a Calendar of Events for the school. This is a document which is full of useful information and which is worth keeping in a safe place.

The school and the City of Edinburgh Council advise strongly against students taking time off during term time for family holidays. The calendar of events will help you to avoid doing this.

Dr John Campbell  
Head Teacher

***DATES FOR NEXT SESSION***

For your information, I have attached below dates for next session as issued by the City of Edinburgh Council. A full Calendar of Events will be sent to you via student post in August. The information below should help parents to avoid booking holidays in term time.

**School term dates 2009/2010**

Autumn term

- Monday 17 August 2009\* - Staff resume
- Tuesday 18 August 2009\* - Staff only
- Wednesday 19 August 2009 - Pupils resume
- Monday 21 September 2009 - Autumn Holiday, schools closed
- Tuesday 22 September 2009 - All resume
- Friday 16 October 2009 - Mid-term, All break
- Monday 26 October 2009\* - Staff resume
- Tuesday 27 October 2009 - Pupils resume
- Tuesday 22 December 2009 - Term ends

Spring term

- Tuesday 05 January 2010\* - Staff resume
- Wednesday 06 January 2010 - Pupils resume
- Friday 12 February 2010 - Mid-term, All break
- Monday 22 February 2010 - All resume
- Thurs 01 April 2010 - Term ends

Summer term

- Friday 2 April 2010 - Good Friday
- Monday 5 April 2010 - Easter Monday
- Monday 19 April 2010 - Spring Holiday
- Tuesday 20 April 2010 - All resume
- Monday 03 May 2010 - May Day, schools closed
- Monday 17 May 2010 - Victoria Day, schools closed
- Tuesday 18 May 2010\* - Staff resume
- Wednesday 19 May 2010\* - Staff only
- Thursday 20 May 2010 - pupils resume
- Thursday 1 July 2010 - Term ends

\* Six In-service days for all schools