

Dornoch head stepping down after 20 years in the job



DORNOCH Academy is facing a seismic change with the retiral of its long serving rector.

John Garvie has announced he is departing in October after 20 years in post and 43 years in education.

He took up the post on 14th February 1994 when the school, which was then operating as a two-year secondary, was the focus of huge public attention.

Just two months later, it opted out of state control, becoming the first self-governing school in Scotland.

Dornoch Academy returned to the fold in 1999 after regaining six-year status.

Since then it has gone from strength to strength. Its last inspection in 2009 found that the school provided a "very

good quality of education". Mr Garvie is widely credited with establishing Dornoch Academy as a high performing school with an ethos of achievement and diligence.

Mr Garvie officially announced his retirement at the end-of-term assembly and prizegiving last week. He said he and his deputy rector Lyn Gordon, who retired 18 months ago, had decided to stagger their departures to "ease the formation of a new senior management team."

Mrs Gordon has been replaced by deputy rector Jane Husbands, who, said Mr Garvie, "has quickly settled, fully embraced the Dornoch Academy ethos and amply demonstrated her effectiveness in a very wide senior management remit."

His post will be advertised immediately after the summer holidays.

Mr Garvie told his audience of pupils, staff and friends of the school, that he felt "highly privileged" to have been rector of Dornoch Academy for the last 20 years. "They have been wonderful and exciting years that have included the return of Dornoch Academy to its natural position as our community's own six year secondary.

"Its success is not due to any individual, but rather to its tradition, its location and the determination of its people to support and embrace its potential to be an influence for good and a key element in the social and economic health of the Dornoch area."

UP TO 1/3 OFF

Leaving: John Garvie.

The Dornoch Times July 11, 2014