



## **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Change at the top as Adam Smith College looks to the future**

The Board of Adam Smith College has announced that Chair of the Board, Graham Johnstone, has stepped down as the college prepares for the future.

Major changes are in prospect for Adam Smith College as a result of the Scottish Government's Review of Post-16 Education.

The challenges lying ahead were at the top of the agenda when the Board met at the college's St. Brycedale Campus in Kirkcaldy this week.

Board members carried out detailed discussions around future priorities for the college and membership of the Board.

As a result of these discussions, changes in membership will come into place over the coming year with the first of these being the appointment of a new Chair.

The Board wishes to acknowledge the contribution of Graham Johnstone, who has been Chair since the creation of Adam Smith College on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2005.

Mr. Johnstone said: "It is critical throughout this period of reform and change that the transition is well planned and results in a Board with the skills and experience that it now needs to take the college through the next period of its development. My view is that the most critical transition is at the top. This is a point we have been considering for some time. Now is the right time.

"Next week in the Scottish Parliament, the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, Michael Russell MSP, will announce the outcomes of the Review of Post-16 Education. This review has included detailed exploration into the current and future governance of Scotland's colleges and universities.

"I am clear in my view that Adam Smith College now needs to appoint a Chair whose term of office will allow them to lead the college through the period of change that will follow."

During the meeting the Board agreed support for the staff and management of Adam Smith College will be the key focus as the college prepares for a future in which the entire sector, including colleges across Fife, goes through a period of rapid change.

In addition to the wide reform programme ahead, Scotland's colleges face difficult financial challenges over the next few years with the prospect of significant further cuts in budgets. The Board has expressed confidence in the ability of the Principal - Dr. Craig Thomson - and the staff of Adam Smith College, to meet these challenges.

Adam Smith College has a proud track record in Fife. The Board acknowledges the commitment of staff. The passion for educating and inspiring students means the college is and should remain academically and financially secure.

More than 20,000 students are currently enrolled at Adam Smith College – some are school leavers equipping themselves for the world of work, others are mature students who've decided to learn new skills and others are simply continuing their professional or personal development.

Education is at the heart of a community and Adam Smith College will continue to be at the centre of learning in Fife as it moves forward confidently.

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**For more information, contact:** Brian O'Neill, Halogen Communications, (T) 0131 202 0120  
(F) 0131 225 3757 (E) [brian@halogencom.com](mailto:brian@halogencom.com)