



**Drummond**  
COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

## **Mure Dickie, Journalist**



One of the greatest pleasures of moving back to Edinburgh after more than 20 years overseas has been introducing my children to Drummond Community High, where I studied in the 1980s.

In many ways, Drummond was an excellent preparation for my eventual career as a foreign correspondent. The school's social diversity meant I have always been comfortable engaging with people from all walks of life. Its multiculturalism helped instil a respect for different cultures that is important for a Westerner in the Far East.

I was encouraged to take a wide range of exam subjects that meant I had no difficulty gaining admission to London University when I later wanted to study Chinese there. I remember with particular gratitude the English teachers who improved my writing. And the Higher Craft and Design class was a true refuge from teenage angst. I still remember the comforting smell of wood shavings.

Now back in Scotland, I am delighted that both my daughters are studying at Drummond. It is very important to us as a family that the school is serious both about challenging its most talented pupils and also in helping the less academically able through its Support for Learning department. In my day, Drummond could be quite a rough school --- now it is welcoming, friendly and very inclusive. I have never regretted going to Drummond as a boy, but I am happy to report that in almost every way the school is a better place now than it was then.

*Mure Dickie is the Scotland correspondent for the Financial Times. From 2008 to 2012 he was the FT's bureau chief in Tokyo where he led coverage of the 2011 tsunami and nuclear crisis. During earlier postings in Beijing and Taipei he reported on stories including the return of Hong Kong to Chinese rule and Taiwan's first democratic transition of power. He speaks Japanese and Mandarin Chinese and practices the martial art of kendo.*