

Head Teacher Report Parent Council 18/9/2017

Staffing

Adverts out for Modern Studies and Physics.

SQA Examinations

The Insight data has yet to be issued, this is still being tested. From our own calculations, there is strong performance at all levels but particularly at Higher level in S5.

S4:

Year	5@Level 5
2015	52.50
2016	66.85
2017	62.78

S5:

Year	3@Level 6
2015	58.25
2016	46
2017	64

Year	5@Level 6
2015	31.55
2016	24
2017	41

S6:

Year	1@Level 7	3@L7
2016	33	9
2017	33	8.5

Library

The new Library is now up and running. We will plan a “launch” with the whole school community but await the delivery of a few final pieces of furniture. Research points to choice as being a key factor when encouraging young people to read. We have a consultation exercise out with tutor groups asking them about what they would like to see in the Library. This includes the range of materials. AH section is now in place as is the Planning for Success resource area with key study guides on a subject basis. We are about to run AH dissertation/research workshops with S6 pupils.

School Improvement Planning

Please see the School Improvement Plan for the specific details. In my previous HT Report to the Parent Council, I indicated the following broad themes.

Key themes for inclusion in the School Improvement Plan (SIP)

- Senior Phase. Revisit National 5 courses now that the unit assessments have been withdrawn. Adapt presentation policy and ensure pupils and parents are very aware of the level of presentation. The options being a National 5 full course award or National 4 full course award. In a few cases there may be pupils presented for National 5 units but this should only be in a few cases. The Recognising Positive Achievement (RPA) remains in place for two years. We will issue new Planning for Success materials to parents advising of the changes to National 5, this will be part of the Planning for Success evening scheduled for 4th October 2017.
- Curriculum Review. This will be in partnership with all Secondary schools across the City. We must make best use of our resources to maximise opportunities for all our young people.
- Broad General Education. PTs are reviewing their courses against the new benchmarks issued by Education Scotland. These provide the success criteria to support staff in making professional judgements about the CfE level young people have achieved. We will also be training staff on the use of the new Scottish Standardised National Assessments taken by pupils in S3. These do produce diagnostic reports.
- There is going to be a new national approach to tracking and monitoring through the Broad General Education on our management information system, SEEMIS. We need to review our procedures in light of this.
- Continued expansion of the use of electronic communication with parents through Google classroom and better use of email and text.

In addition to this as a school community we will be revising our Learning, Teaching and Assessment Policy. We are also investing in training staff and pupils in a peer mentoring scheme and this fits with our work on anti-bullying. The tag line of this is “do not be a bystander.” Developing the Young Workforce and the development of a learner pathways website is an ambitious piece of work this year. We continue to

expand our engagement with business and have a new partnership with Ernst & Young.

Linked to the above is the work being undertaken on our plans for the use of the Pupil Equity Fund. The PEF allocation for AGS is £27,600. The funding is based on the number of pupils in receipt of Free School Meals. On the advice of the Parent Council, the FSM form is now going out with enrolment packs.

We are looking to invest in a school counsellor as house teams have identified anxiety and issues around this as being a barrier for some of our young people. There are more specific pieces of work around tracking individual progress and putting in place more opportunities based on data gathered. We may need to build time for an identified member of staff to co-ordinate this work.

We are also in the midst of setting up an Associated Schools Group Partnership Forum (ASGPF). Within this there is a multi-agency group which will plan provision for individual children and young people. There is also a mental health and anxiety sub group.