

## **Head Teacher Report Parent Council 26 3 2018**

### **Staffing**

We have now recruited a Physics teacher. Probationers are being requested for Maths, Drama, Chemistry and/or Biology.

### **SQA Examinations**

As detailed on the website, we have been running revision classes for Senior Phase pupils during lunchtime and after school. Revision materials have also been posted on Google Classroom. We have extended the Library opening hours to 6pm in the evenings (supervised by the Senior Management Team) as a further support. Ms Murison has met with Principal Teachers to review attainment data from ongoing assessments and the Estimate Examinations. The majority of our young people are working hard and on track. However, we have contacted parents where there is a lack of effort and non-completion of work, including assignments.

Senior Phase pupils will be issued with their SQA Exam Timetables for checking week beginning 26<sup>th</sup> March. SQA assemblies will be held on a House Group basis throughout the week.

### **Developing the Young Workforce**

Due to poor weather we had to cancel our Senior Phase Learner Pathways event. This was disappointing as so much time had been spent on organising this event. We had employers, college and university staff scheduled to attend. However, the S1 Developing the Young Workforce event did go ahead on 19<sup>th</sup> February. This was an introduction to the range of careers available and future pathways. We also talked through the S2/3 Curriculum and progression routes through the national qualifications.

### **Pupil Equity Fund (PEF)**

Miss Bruce (History Teacher) has been appointed as Principal Teacher Project (Pupil Equity Fund). She will be working on the whole area of reducing the impact of poverty as a barrier to achieving success. Letters have been issued to all parents about the PEF and the purpose of it.

The funding for PEF is limited (£27,600 for 2017/18 and £25,200 for 2018/19) and as such we are trying to maximise this resource and set up sustainable systems and interventions. Miss Bruce has made an excellent start and we now have a tracking system in place to measure the impact of supports for young people where socio-economic disadvantage is a barrier. We track attendance, exclusions, achievement and participation. An assertive mentoring scheme has been set up where there are 1-1 meetings and we talk with pupils about what would help them. We are also looking

at the cost of the school day. There is a City wide working group looking at this area and we await further advice from them.

## **Budget**

Looking ahead to the new financial year, we will have to review our ways of working and maximise all available resource. For example, schools will be charged for Group Call costs and as such we will not be able to send the number of texts we do currently. This will only be used for emergency contact (attendance). We will need to make better use of email and continue to post information on the website. Currently, we print Planning for Success and Course Choice booklets. Next session, we will post these materials on the website. The parent council has indicated that they will support the costs of photocopying some booklets for families without internet access. Greater use will be made of Google Forms and Google Classroom as a place to store resources and communicate information. Additional provision such as revision classes will require consideration and costing. We will evaluate the uptake from our senior pupils and make a decision based on this. We are exploring the "Secondary School APP" as a means of communication with parents (more detail to follow).

## **Wider Achievement**

We have had a very successful year to date with our young people achieving in a range of areas. Our Achievement Ambassadors gather this information every term and present to the whole school during assemblies. Of particular note over the past few weeks is the Volleyball Team winning the Scottish Cup and the boys Senior Football Team is through to the Scottish Cup semi-finals. Our Concert Band has achieved another Gold Plus award at the Scottish Concert band competition recently held in Perth. The achievements of all our musicians was clear to see at the recent Spring Concert. I watched with great pride and really enjoyed seeing our young people gain so much from the whole experience.

Ms Murison

Head Teacher