

Head Teacher Report Parent Council 17 9 2018

Staffing

I am happy to report that we are fully staffed. We are planning ahead and as such will be raising adverts for biology, mathematics and chemistry.

School APP

Flyers detailing how parent/carers can sign up to the new APP have been issued through tutor classes. The sign up rate has been very good. It is our intention to move to using the School App for daily information rather than Group Call. We are still at a point of transition with this. For urgent or emergency information, Group Call will still be used.

S1

Our new S1 pupils have settled in well and we have already met with their parent/carer in a "Planning for Success" evening. Here we covered practical approaches to supporting your child with literacy, numeracy and study skills. We introduced a new section this year on how to approach a research task as this was an area parent/carers had asked us to include from previous evaluations. We are going to try another new approach by recording the workshop material and posting on our website. S1 pupils are also being taught these skills in classes and will have a lesson dedicated to study and research skills led by staff who delivered the workshops.

Activities Week/ S3 Skills Week

As you know we usually run a work experience week for S3 pupils at the same time as an S1/2 Activities Week. The materials have been issued for the S1/2 Activities Week and this will run as normal. However, we need to take a fresh look at our approach to work experience and employability skills. This is part of our work on Developing the Young Workforce (DyW). We have a staff and pupil working group and we will be seeking views from our pupils. Possible ideas include offering outdoor learning opportunities leading to accreditation through schemes like John Muir. Also, we are keen to use this week to increase pupil knowledge and understanding of employability skills and this should lead to the completion of a fuller S3 Profile.

School Improvement Plan 2018/19

Ms Murison has met with all Faculty Principal Teachers (PTs) and agreed priorities for the new session. PTs have now completed their Faculty Improvement Plans for 2018/19. A copy of the full School Improvement Plan (SIP) is on the website. The 5 main priorities were discussed at the last parent council meeting and are summarised below.

Improvement Priority 1: Improvement in Attainment (Literacy and Numeracy)

Improvement Priority 2: Ensuring equity of opportunity for all young people

Improvement Priority 3: Improvement in young people's health and wellbeing

Improvement Priority 4: Improvement in employability and sustained positive school leaver destinations for all young people.

Improvement Priority 5: Pace and challenge in the Broad General Education (S1-S3)

This term, we will be issuing questionnaires via google forms to parent/carers, pupils, staff and partner organisations. The questionnaire covers all aspects of the school experience. Our aim being to take stock of our current provision, our strengths and areas for improvement.

We are in the midst of establishing a new Pupil Council with a clear remit linked to the School Improvement Plan and working with our young people to drive forward the key priorities. For example, under Improvement Priority 4 we will be taking a closer look at our current curriculum offer to pupils from S1-S6. Is it meeting their interests and aspirations? Is it allowing them to achieve their ambitions in terms of qualifications and securing positive destinations? We are doing an important piece of work at the moment regarding costing any change to our curriculum model. It is essential that we do not suggest options that we cannot fund. Also, we are a high attaining school based on the current model and will not take any risks with our young people's examination results. Change will only happen if there is a clear benefit for our pupils and supported by an evidence base and clear rationale.

SQA Examination Results

One of the tools we use to analyse examination performance is called "Insight." Last year, I shared the whole school Insight summary reports and will do the same again at the next parent council meeting. In the meantime, I can share the following information. In summary, there is a strong performance at every level. The hard work of pupils, staff and parents is to be commended.

S4 National 5 Examination Results % of young people achieving 5 or more National 5 qualifications)

Year	5@Level 5
2015	52.50
2016	66.85
2017	62.78
2018	60.70 (69.2 with Ds included)

We track pupil performance on an individual basis and all pupils gain a qualification in Mathematics and English at National 3 and above. Almost all of our young people achieve a set of National 4 qualifications if they have not secured a National 5 pass.

S5 Higher Examination Results % of young people achieving 3 or more Higher qualifications

Year	3@Level 6
2015	58.25
2016	46
2017	64
2018	70.6

Year	5@level 5
2015	31.55
2016	24
2017	41
2018	38.6

S6 Advanced Higher Examination Results % of young people achieving 1 or more and 3 or more Advanced Higher qualifications

Year	1 @level 6	
Year	1@Level 7	3@L7
2017	33	9
2018	53.8	19.2

From the above you will see that we are maintaining performance at National 5 and Higher level and there is a significant improvement at Advanced Higher level. It is important to note that individual young people sit behind these figures. Every one of them will have a different set of goals and all achievements are equally valued.

Overall, we have had a very busy and productive start and we post details of our ongoing work on our website. For example, a very successful Battlefields Trip has just returned and our senior prefects will be sharing their ideas about a new format for Pupil Council next week during assemblies.

Ms Murison

