



Lasswade High School Parent Council Thursday 28 September 2017 Head Teacher's Report

Learning and Teaching

All subject teams are continuing to review their examination performance and analyse it against information provided by the Scottish Government through 'Insight' and by Midlothian Council. Teams are categorising their proposed actions on a 'start/stop/continue' basis and actions to be taken are being confirmed in a series of scheduled meetings with senior leaders. Action plans for each subject area are submitted by the October break.

Insight was made available to all schools on Friday 15th September. This allows school staff to analyse a range of data and filter it to allow a deeper analysis, over time, of important attainment trends in school. As anticipated the headline figures shared at our last PC meeting have improved in many areas.

This session sees significant work on developing our Learning @ Lasswade policy paper. This involves

- developing learner conversations that allow students and staff to have a clear understanding on students' strengths, areas for improvement and the steps/actions required to ensure improvement
- ensuring that the best features of our practice in particular areas of the school are shared and consistently applied in all areas.

Jack McKay, History Teacher, will lead on many aspects of this work.

The model of our Alert Reports this session will require teachers to consider whether the progress of students is as they would expect. This is reported as 'on/off track' to parents. In Alert reports the teacher will undertake a learner conversation with the student and generate a plan of action to address the relevant issue. This is communicated to parents via a letter and/or meeting with staff in school. Student Support staff will provide a summary comment in each Alert Report. Senior Phase students have a higher frequency of Alert Reports than S1-S3 students. S3 Reports were issued week beginning 25 September 2017. Senior Phase Alerts will be issued prior to the October break.

Vision and Leadership

Good progress is continuing to be made in relation to the implementation of On the Button (OTB), a school management software package which will improve communication between staff and between school and home.

Our Standards and Quality Report for session 206/2017 and School Improvement Plan for 2017/2018 will shortly be placed on the school website. Midlothian Council have adapted the format of these documents and the late release of Insight data has slightly delayed their publication.

Partnership

S1 Parents' Family Learning Evening is scheduled for Tuesday 3 October.

Seven 'Primary Roadshows' will take place over the next few weeks. Led by Senior Staff and supported by Jack McKay our aim is to share information with P5-P7 parents around our approaches to learning and teaching as well as consulting on possible changes to our S2 curriculum that will be introduced for session 2019/2020.

Fourteen students from across S2-S4 and five members of staff are involved in the Columba 1400 Leadership Academy and will attend a 6 day residential experience at the purpose built centre in Staffin, Isle of Skye from Sunday 1 to Friday 6 October 2017. Upon their return staff will support the students on leadership projects

aimed at serving the school or our community. Columba 1400 staff will continue to support the school during this post-Skye phase.

Plans for our engagement with researchers from the Robert Owen Centre to support teaching and learning in Mathematics are progressing well. Staff are confirming 'practitioner enquiry' projects they plan to take forward.

People

Our congratulations are extended to Hollie Lyon on being appointed temporary PT CLPL (Career Long Professional Learning) and Marc Attinasi who will assume the responsibilities associated with the Development Post PE (Primary Programme).

We will shortly welcome Amy McCallum and Helen Muir who were both successful at interview for the posts of Science Laboratory Assistant and School Librarian respectively.

We said, or shortly will say, a fond farewell to our colleagues who either moved on to pastures new or retired.

- Gena Wright, Mathematics
- Desiree Worth, English

Current Vacancies:

- Teacher of Computing
- Support Assistant
- DHT Learning Teaching and Assessment
- PT Complex Needs

Culture and Ethos

This session's Senior Prizegiving on Monday 25 September recognised the achievements of many of our talented and hard working students. Our guest speaker was Manish Joshi, former Head Boy, and now CEO of Strathclyde University Students Association. It was the first of our September Senior Phase ceremonies, which allows SQA attainment to be the basis of awards. It was lovely to see so many former students able to attend.

Our DREAM values continue to be placed front and centre in terms of our work. We will now formally report to parents against the DREAM values as opposed to 'effort, behaviour and homework' as we have in previous years.

Forthcoming Calendar Events:

- Tuesday 3 October: S1 Parents' Family Learning Evening, 6.00 pm – 7.00 pm
- Monday 16 – Friday 20 October: Mid Term Holiday
- Tuesday 24 – Friday 27 October: P7 Camp
- Thursday 2 November: P7 Information Evening, 6.00 pm – 8.00 pm
- Wednesday 8 November: Parent Council Meeting, 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm

Sarah McKay, PE, has agreed to organise a 'sign up fair' aimed primarily at S1 students to raise awareness and allow access to the range of clubs and groups available within the school. I have asked Sarah to collate the range of groups in a format that will allow it to be shared with all year groups and parents/carers.

Our S6 Student Leadership Team is beginning to translate much of their planning and ideas into action. Their enthusiasm and commitment is a credit to themselves, their parents and the school.

Planning has begun around ensuring our programme of Time for Reflection Assemblies is being built into the school calendar. We are grateful to the range of partners keen to be involved in the process. My thanks to Mrs Fiona Williams, PT RME, who leads on this important work.