



20240528 Headteacher's Report

Introduction

A Headteacher's report aims to support the Parent Council by providing updates on what is happening within the school and the local authority. It has a different focus to other parental communications. Generally, the report will focus on business and operational matters.

Staff News

The General Teaching Council of Scotland (GTCS) awarded Kinross High School an Excellence in Professional Learning award. We are therefore delighted that several of our teachers have developed the skills to be appointed to promoted posts as Principal Teachers (PT):

- Mrs Baxter: PTC Creative Arts at Auchmuty High School
- Mr Lavery: PT Health and Wellbeing at Pitlochry High School (1 year secondment)
- Mr Scrimgeour: PT Music at Perth Academy
- Miss Simpson: PT Art at Perth Academy (now on a permanent basis)

While we are sorry that they are leaving us, we are excited for them as they further develop their careers. We are currently undertaking recruitment to fill all vacant posts within the school and aim to have new staff in post for August 2024.

Calendar - SQA and Timetable Change

Our young people are to be commended for their conduct during the SQA examinations. Our pupils in S4-6 were clearly ambitious and well prepared for their examinations. Our younger pupils were compassionate and supported a quiet and settled environment within the school.

By moving to our new timetable in May, young people who are undertraining exam courses gain valuable extra weeks to study for their qualifications. In addition, our younger year groups who personalise their curriculum through course choice and electives start these options in May.

For a few young people, re-coursing is currently being undertaken. This is where courses are either over- or under-subscribed. The House Teams are working with any young person who is in this situation. They aim to ensure that they can pursue a curriculum that matches their skills and interests, and can be offered within available resources.

S3 Residential Experiences

During exam leave we provide an opportunity for a residential experience for all young people in S3. These excursions:

- Provide a chance to extend and apply learning
- are a place to discover new interests and to learn new skills
- contribute to developing and maintaining positive relationships and whole school ethos
- develop responsibility, independence and resilience in our learners.

This year young people travelled to London, Alton Towers and Paris. We support pupils on low income, or with barriers to participate in the residential programme. This year 120 pupils took up the opportunity to attend a residential experience. Staff and pupils who attended are to be commended for upholding our school values and ensuring each excursion was a success.

School Improvement Plan

To inform our school improvement plan, we use a range of methods to gather the views of staff, pupils and parents. For parents these include a parental questionnaire, telephone survey and regular coffee and chat sessions. Our pupils attend regular focus groups and there is an active Pupil Parliament. This term, pupils and staff are completing a questionnaire based on the HMIE questionnaire used as part of the inspection process. There is also a strategic partnership group which includes representatives from Skills Development Scotland, career advisor: Rotary and KYTHE.

Key messages from this feedback are used alongside other evaluative process to shape the school improvement plan.

Supporting the work of the Parent Council

We were delighted with completion of the Parent Council funding bid process. It was clear that there was a well-developed rationale to allocate funds based on the priorities of parents.

This term we have invited the Parent Council to be represented at our School Awards evening and P7 Open Evening.

Local Authority Updates

The Education Service have identified the following themes that they will work with all schools to further develop:

- Learning, teaching and curriculum
- Inclusive practice and Additional Support Needs (ASN) transformation
- Leadership of Change.

Sarah Brown, Headteacher