



Dalry Secondary School
Parent Council Meeting 7th November 2019
Headteacher's Report



Staffing

Mr. Michael Collins has taken up post as our new teacher of mathematics.

In early June we were delighted that the vacancy in Home Economics had been filled then a last minute change of direction left it looking likely that we would not have a teacher for session 2019-20. However, Suzy Andrews, our Art teacher, is qualified to be able to take on the role of Teacher of Home Economics in addition to her Art role. This is very good news for Dalry secondary. Suzy will work over the next couple of sessions to gain enough teaching hours to be able to be registered with the General Teaching Council as a teacher of Home Economics and she will be supported by the Home Economics teachers at Castle Douglas High School.

The position of Principal Teacher Support was advertised and interviewed for at the start of the session. Mr Ross McFarlane was the successful candidate and we all wish Mr McFarlane well in this new role. Mr McFarlane should now be the initial point of contact for all parents if they want to discuss any issues involving their child.

SQA Exams

I have congratulated the young people who sat SQA exams in the recent diet. I have congratulated our hard working staff who contribute significantly to the success your young people achieve. I would also like to congratulate the parent forum as you too contribute significantly to the success your child achieves in their exams. Mrs. Gillies and have met with members of staff to discuss the exam results and to plan improvement priorities that might secure even better results for next session. Our results have been good; there are some aspects of the results where we all would like to secure improvement and that will be our aim for next session.

School improvement plan update

Aspects of the school improvement plan are well under way, particularly those relating to monitoring and tracking of pupil progress. Our aim is that by the end of this session parents will feel that they have been kept more up-to-date with the progress their child is making towards achieving their targets.

S1-S3 have received their first Progress + Achievement update.

S4 will receive a report on Friday the 6th December.

A review of the school's vision, values and aims with all stakeholders is well under way. The aim is to ensure that the school community has a clear vision, a clear set of agreed values and aims that promote achieving excellence in Dalry Secondary school.

SNSA (Scottish National Standardised Assessments) have been taken by all S3 pupils. This generates data for teachers that can help to identify particular areas of strength and areas where improvement is necessary. This links into our school improvement priority 3 where we are aiming to improve the use and understanding of data to help inform pupils, parents and teachers of the most appropriate pathways for young people.

New Timetable

The new timetable started in June without incident and the pupils who were affected by the change created by the changes in Home Economics were accommodated in other subjects. Pupils who are studying PE are enjoying their course and are mixing well with Castle Douglas Pupils during their double period in Castle Douglas.

Use of PEF

We have had a visit from Heather Robertson who works for Education Scotland with a remit to work with schools regarding attainment in relation to the Pupil Equity Fund. This was a very positive meeting that explored how we have made use of PEF and how we are measuring the impact of the work being done.

Fund Raising

The Castle Douglas High School Christmas Fayre will be held on Thursday 28th November 2019. Please advertise as far and wide as possible to ensure this is a busy and successful event. If you are interested in having a table at this event, then please contact Kelly Paterson at Castle Douglas High School.

Events for term October-December

11th November Remembrance Day Assembly

13th-14th November Biol/Geo Millport Trip

20th November S1 Burns trip with CDHS

6th December S4 Monitoring & Tracking update.

18th December Christmas Dance

20th December Christmas service followed by hot chocolate + Shortbread. Everyone welcome.