

Good evening,

I would like to introduce you to the two members of staff who have come along tonight:

- DHT, Chris Hendrie who has responsibility for BGE, Pupil Voice and evaluating the impact of Pupil Equity Funding.
- PT Family Learning, Liza Sutherland. Liza has been appointed recently so is beginning her role, in line with our School Improvement Plan.

**Inspection – one year on:**

All parents and carers were issued with a letter regarding the progress made one year on from our Inspection. I hope that you found this useful. We remain committed to improving attainment for all young people, which includes embedding the Shawlands Academy Learning and Teaching Framework in every classroom. Thank you for all your help and support as we continue to focus on improvement.

**Raising Attainment – Senior Phase:**

- Our young people in S4 – S6 continue to prepare for SQA qualifications and awards.
- S6 pupils led sessions with our current S4 about preparing for SQA examinations. Feedback has been really positive and we hope that it has helped to bring some of the retrieval techniques alive, whilst also providing a leadership opportunity for S6 too.
- Information has also been shared with all parents and carers of S4-6 pupils regarding supporting your child with their SQA exams. This includes information from Action for Children in how to manage stress and emotional wellbeing. As ever, if any parents or carers have any concerns, please contact Pastoral Care.
- The exam diet begins on Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April and young people have been given a print out of when all their exams are. Please speak to your child about this, if you have not done so already.
- A further letter will be sent to all S4-S6 parents and carers detailing the supports on offer to you and your child, including arrangements for study leave and what to do if your child is unable to attend their SQA exam (and how to appeal once they have results). A tracking report will also be shared, prior to the exam diet commencing, which will give you a final update of your child's progress. It is important to remember that this judgement is based on their progress to date – your child can perform differently in the final exam.

**Tonight's focus: Pupil Equity Funding and how we measure impact of interventions:**

- As you know, PEF is allocated based on the number of young people in S1-S3 registered for free school meals (FME).
- Although this funding is based on FME, we do have discretion to make decisions about which children would benefit most from any particular intervention or approach, whilst keeping a clear focus on delivering equity through improving outcomes for learners impacted by poverty.
- I am also part of the Authority's Strategic Equity Board so am part of discussions regarding the impact of PEF across the whole school estate. Our school community will also benefit from this.

- Our approaches are based on 3 organisers: Learning and Teaching, Leadership and families and communities, while considering the following 5 indicators in terms of impact: Attainment and Achievement, Attendance, Inclusion, Engagement and Participation.
- DHT Chris Hendrie has the over view of our PEF interventions and he will share with you the work that we are undertaking to measure and improve impact.

#### **School leavers 2024:**

- Leavers' Hoodies have been ordered and will be given to young people as a gift from the school.
- We will also be celebrating with them at their Graduation on the 19<sup>th</sup> April, followed by a staff v pupils football match! You are all cordially invited to come along to this (even if you don't have a child in S6). However, can you please let me know if you are going to attend as space is very tight.
- This year's Prom takes place on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May in Village Hotel Glasgow. Plans are well underway for this. We have received lots of donations for formal wear – thank you so much if you have contributed to this.

#### **Staffing:**

- We continue to have staff absence in English and Science (Chemistry) in particular. We are liaising with the authority regarding staff cover and have put whatever 'in house' contingencies we can to cover classes with subject specialists.
- We were able to appoint someone to the substantive Technical Teacher vacancy and await further news from the authority regarding further vacancies.
- Mrs Margaret Tennant, a member of our Office staff, is retiring. Mrs Tennant has been part of our Shawlands community since 2001 and I would like to thank her for her many years of service. We wish her many years of good health and happiness as she leaves us next week.
- Following the spring break, Ms McLean (now Ms Marklow), PT English, will return to school. I shared her circumstances with all parents and carers in the letter I sent out last week.

#### **Trips and excursions:**

- Following the spring break, all consent forms must be organised through Parent Pay. The existing function through Seemis has been removed by the authority.
- Therefore, if we are organising any excursions or visits it is vital that the young people's family has signed up to the system. We are following up with our families but this may take time.
- We had a stall at the recent S1 parents' and carers' meeting and we are going to Govanhill this week to link in with some families there. We will be arranging further 'drop in' events following the spring break.

#### **Forthcoming holidays and key dates:**

- Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> March: school closes at 2.30pm for spring break
- Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> April: school re opens at 8.45am
- Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> April (morning): Graduation for S5 and S6 leavers. Exact time TBC
- Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May: Inservice Day (school closed to pupils)
- Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> May: Holiday (May Holiday)
- Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> May: Holiday (except for pupils involved in SQA exam – ESOL)
- Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> May: Holiday (except for pupils involved in SQA exam - Italian)

- Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> May: S6 Prom (6.30pm for 7pm start)
- Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June: New timetable begins
- Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> June: school closes, 1pm for summer holidays
- Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> August: school re opens at 8.45am for new session.

Pauline Carr

Head Teacher

25<sup>th</sup> March 2024