



### School Improvement Planning

November 2018 Local Authority Quality Assurance Visits - Alison Allan, Education Manager examining self-evaluation of last session's work and Caroline Amos, Head of Service, scrutinizing SQA analysis and school improvement plan progress.

### Celebrating Achievement

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October, S1 Bake Off: 21 pupils participated; First Place Hannah Allison, 1C; Runners up – Evie Dixon, 1A and Cormack Cameron-Finn, 1K1.

### Support for Pupils / Well-being

A representative of the Largs branch of the Autistic Society met with Mrs Burns and Mrs McClelland to discuss the recent report launch from the National Autistic Society Scotland, Scottish Autism and Children in Scotland: *Not included, Not engaged, Not involved: A report on the experiences of autistic children missing school (October 2018)*. The report highlighted the need for a whole school approach to raise awareness and understanding of pupils with additional support needs and this charity, which supports autistic individuals and their families, would like to work with the school to improve transitions.

Following on from the development of our Relationships Policy, this session we are looking at our approaches to anti-bullying in the school. Recently NAC launched the authority policy which we will be adapting to suit the context of our own school. This will involve consultation with pupils, staff and parents. Fifteen pupils from across year groups will take on the role of Anti-Bullying Ambassadors after completing a training course at Jordanhill School run by the Diana Foundation. They will provide support to peers with bullying issues and will lead anti-bullying campaigns and education programmes. In addition, we hope to set up an LGBT and supporters group in the school with the support of Community Learning and Development who will provide training to staff. Laura Hamilton, AIW, has already visited Kilwinning Academy to see good practice and get advice on how to successfully establish a group.

This year we are launching our first Mental Health Week (26th-30th November) and hope to promote discussion around mental health, raise awareness of mental health issues and to sign-post support for anyone who is experiencing dips in mental health. Ms Furey, PT Guidance, is leading the programme and she hopes to enlist the help of other staff to support this initiative.

### Learning and Teaching

Breakfast Blether, Learning Lunches, Practitioner Enquiries all on-going.

A new group of teaching staff has formed to explore practice in meta-cognition (learning how we learn). The group consists of 23 teaching staff who are exploring techniques to help pupils to understand how they learn and how they can use this to make themselves better learners. Following this, this group of teachers will share their finding with the whole school staff and we will explore ways to take this initiative forward to impact on the whole school community.

Largs Academy staff are also working closely with North Ayrshire's Professional Learning Academy where our learning and teaching core team are supporting other schools to explore and implement aspects of Visible Learning. This is an exciting piece of work which we hope will impact positively on young people across North Ayrshire.

## Raising Attainment

Oct-Nov: Follow up to first senior phase tracking reports with pupils to ensure pupils are aware of expectations and involved in setting realistic targets for improvement. PALs Programme and Supported Study running Oct-Nov in preparation for the prelim exams (S4-S6)

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November: Scotxed INSIGHT training planned for staff to improve understanding of attainment.

## Partnerships and community

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>- Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November: Our first group of Malawian visitors

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October: Dressing up as character from literature and S1 *Hallowscream* - organised by our team of NQTs and S6 Leaders. Funds raised will go to Teenage Cancer Trust, with a donation to the S6 Prom Fund.

## Resources

- IT for Pupil Support
- Past Papers are available for all subjects, for all senior pupils

## Forward planning – Full list of dates available on school website (school calendar)

- Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November, 6.30pm: *How to Pass* evening for parents and pupils (S4-6)
- Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November, 4pm-6pm: S2 Parents' Evening
- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November: S1 Food Fair
- Friday 16<sup>th</sup> and Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November: Holiday weekend
- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> -Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>: Arran Study Weekend
- Monday 26<sup>th</sup> – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November: Mental Health Week
- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December: Prelim Exams
- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 6pm: Parent Council Meeting