

Headteachers Update for Parent Council - January 10th 2018

Xmas Program

Massive thanks to the performing arts department, technicians, janitors, parent council members, office staff and all staff and pupils who helped in any way with the;

- Drama Panto x4 “A Fairy tale mash up” 1 senior citizens, 1 p7 matinee and 2 evening performances
- Xmas concert – another fantastic evening in the life of the school
- Xmas services – thanks to the chaplaincy team and all of their supporters for delivering their message to pupils / staff at House Group assemblies
- Junior and Senior Dances – again thanks to all of the staff who helped set up this event and supervise on the evening. Extra special thanks to Kieran Ferguson for his DJ sets.
- Airdrie’s Got Talent – thanks to all staff and pupils for being great sports and special thanks to our School Captains Eman, Rebecca and Katie and all of their team for organising this very enjoyable event
- Reward event to Rock n Roller – thanks to the Positive Behaviour working group who organised the end of term reward event to the roller disco
- Xmas newsletter on website – hard copies issued to pupils – highlighting a vast number of school successes.

Show my Homework

Using GLOW all teaching staff will be trained in the use of “SMHW” in May and have a follow up in August to use this platform. This will allow staff to upload homework tasks onto the “cloud” Pupils parent’s carers will be able to see via the website the homework being issued weekly by teachers.

I.T upgrade

Currently looking to invest in interactive teaching panel technology to begin to refresh the stock of hardware available in the school. Demos from 3 companies and negotiations ongoing re best product and pricing.

Prelims s4-s6

All pupils issued with exam timetables and been supported with info via assemblies. Exams start Monday 15th January and end Friday 26th January. Senior reports issued mid-march.

Staffing

Allison Dewar DHT has returned to work – glad that she is well and back with us.

Thanks to the following staff for acting in promoted posts;

- Jo Lilly acting DHT
- Val Hunter as acting PT Pupil Support (Jo Lilly’s post)
- Kevin Beattie as acting PT Pupil Support 0.5 (Val Hunter’s post)

All 3 colleagues did superb jobs in their respective roles.

- Congratulations to Caroline O’Connor who has been appointed as Principal Teacher of Support for Learning.

- Congratulations and farewell to Mrs Stacey McRobbie who leaves her 0.8 drama teaching post to start as 0.4 PT Pupil Support teacher in Brannock High school
- Congratulations to Lynsey Sinclair who has been appointed to 0.5 science technician job share – Lynsey takes up post Wednesday 17th January
- Planning for staffing for session 2018/19 has already begun

Learning and Teaching / Quality Assurance

- Attainment Review Friday November 3rd – very positive feedback provided by the local authority colleagues (who met with the senior management Team) on the schools attainment and achievement – a write up will follow. Thanks to all of the SMT for their hard work and preparation for this visit and also to School Captains Eman, Rebecca and Katie who gave a superb 10 minute presentation on the wider aspects of school life and success in Airdrie academy.
- SMT completed another series of classroom visits in December and observed very strong and innovative lessons across a range of subjects
- Curriculum consultation s1/2 – Graeme Nolan update
- Next series of Learning Rounds is due to take place this month – Graeme Nolan update
- SMT completed Quality assurance meetings with all of their link departments and Headteacher completed round of quality assurance meetings with all DHT's - these processes will continue as per the quality calendar.
- Following all prelim exams / marking w/b February 19th and 26th HT will meet with all PT's and their respective link SMT colleagues to discuss their prelim analysis – action points for pupils
- Audit been shared with staff with the overall progress of the school improvement plan with almost all improvement plan targets underway / on their way to completion – massive thank you to all staff for all of their hard work in driving forward school improvements
- Primary school visit program continues - with staff from Airdrie Academy delivering curricular inputs in Maths, English and Modern languages across all of our associated primary schools
- S5 5 HIGHER PUPILS - mentoring of this cohort of pupils has begun with planning meetings with staff having taken place. Post prelims there will be a regular contact with mentors and pupil mentees to discuss progress supports and actions to be taken.

Assemblies

HT delivered assemblies this week based on school values and with information pertinent to each year group

Pupil Equity Fund

- We have invested in additional teaching commitment in Maths English and have targeted pupils in s1 to support them with their literacy and numeracy levels.
- Parent program – group of parents continue to meet and support each other / share ideas on how parents can support transition. There will be an update on the website.
- Pupil 1-2-1 coaching again targeted group of s2/3 pupils who require additional support
- We will continue to enhance our approach with PEF and are looking at how we will take this forward from Easter onwards when the 2018/19 fund is released.
- Planning for session 2018/19 is at an advanced stage. Looking at residential opportunities for target groups of 20 s2 and 20 s3 pupils to have leadership experiences.