

HEADTEACHER REPORT Monday 28th May 2018

Improvement Planning

As part of our on-going school self-evaluation we have been reviewing this year's Improvement Plan and considering the key priorities for next session. Some time at a recent staff meeting and the school in-service days allowed us to discuss this in detail. Please see attachments for more information.

Moray Young Citizen Awards

During the Moray Young Citizen Awards ceremony we were extremely proud to be able to congratulate one of our students who received very well-deserved recognition for her valuable work both in school and in our local community. Emily Ross received a commended certificate which was a tremendous achievement considering the fierce competition from across the whole of Moray.

Young Enterprise

Our Young Enterprise team had a very successful evening at the finals in Inverness, winning awards for best Company Report, best Financial Management and Runner-up for Highland and Moray Company of the Year 2017-18. Ashleigh Young, the Company Director, received an individual award for Pioneering Leadership. This is well-deserved recognition for all their hard work over the past year.

Debating

Forres Academy won the first ever Moray Schools Debating Championship. Well done to Jenna Carty and Campbell Kershaw. Forres Academy hosted the event and William McIntosh, teacher of English was instrumental in getting the competition up and running. William's father made the very generous donation of the championship salver.

Activities days 1st – 3rd year students participate in a great range of activities for two days including coasteering, golf, bowling, mountain biking as well as a trip to the theatre. It was particularly pleasing to get such positive feedback from students, staff and providers.

Enrichment Fund met for the last time with the Trustees of the Enrichment fund. Over the past 5 ½ years the fund has been well-managed and we were all in agreement to progress with the possibility of a residential for all S3 students. This would require fundraising as well but it would be a great achievement should we be able to offer this as part of our students' experience at Forres Academy.

33 period week/new timetable next week for all year groups. Unfortunately, we cannot begin the 33 period week until August due to bus contracts. This will mean that students will follow 6 periods each day during June instead of 7 periods Mon – Thurs and 5 periods on a Friday.

SQA examinations finished the examinations for this year and once again they have gone very well. Our Chief Invigilator has praised our students highly and I thank Anne Smith, Depute who is our SQA co-ordinator and works very closely with all invigilators. An unannounced spot check also took place this year to ensure we were following all SQA procedures to the letter. Needless to say everything was in order!

Mathematics success *Maths Contest 11th May – 17th May 2018*

Across the whole of the UK 2469 classes entered and 23 677 pupils answered questions. Each student can answer a maximum of 1000 questions. We had 3 pupils in the top 50 leader board in the National competition:

3rd Scott Perry 997

24th Samuel Cole 983

37th Magnus McGhee 971

And the S2 class came 53rd.

UKMT Junior Challenge 26th April 2018

Rachel Mitchell achieved a Gold award. She was best in S2, best in school and has also qualified for the Kangaroo follow on round. I don't think we have had a pupil achieve this before. Rachel will sit another challenge paper on the 12th of June which is by invitation only.

Samuel Cole also achieved a Gold award. Ben Coutts was best in S1 and achieved a Gold Award. We also had 10 silver awards and 15 bronze awards.

Scottish Maths Challenge throughout the year.

This was the most demanding challenge that the pupils entered. Eight pupils submitted solutions and 5 of them achieved awards.

Silver: Mia Barrere, Isobel Howard

Bronze: Scott Perry, Ashley Donald, Nathan Goureau

Winning Visitors students and staff from our Vienenburg twinning school w/b 11th June. A very full programme has been organized by Emma Harris and Dave MacFarquhar, including a ceilidh on Tuesday 12th June. Our two American students, Katie and Mia will be able to join in the ceilidh as they arrive on Tuesday 12th as part of the Mount Dora Exchange programme.

S5/S6 Induction we are welcoming our new S5 and S6 students back in school this Friday. As part of the S5 Induction programme this year we are very pleased to be working with two of our local employers SWECO and AJ Engineering.

Staffing new appointments have been made since our last meeting.

Cath Reilly has been appointed to the post of Depute Headteacher and will replace Anne Smith who retires at the summer.

Ann Rossiter was appointed Principal Teacher Home Economics and will replace Liz Stewart who retires at summer.

Craig Edwards will take up the post of Acting Principal Teacher of Social Subjects as Glenn Logan has been seconded to the SQA for 18 months.

Angela Mitchell was appointed to the post of teacher of Support for Learning and has already taken up post.

Angela Milne has joined the team in our office on a temporary basis covering Stacey Copeland's maternity leave.

Karen Maclauchlan will start with us at the change of timetable on 4th June as part-time teacher of Business Studies.

Rayne Gadalla and Elaine Doyle will also start on 4th June as Personal Support Assistants.

Christine Coghill will join the Mathematics department in August replacing Brian Scambler who is retiring.

We will also welcome a newly qualified teacher to the Mathematics department in August.

Hannah Murray will join the Drama department on a temporary basis as Tina Boyd continues her Acting Principal Teacher post at Elgin Academy.

I am also pleased to say that our Library is now open for three days each week. Shirley Munn is our new Librarian.

We have several posts yet to fill in the English department, Home Economics department and Guidance Team.