Leadership for learning - "the story behind the STACS"





Summary

St Peter the Apostle High

HT gave an overview of the school performance and distributed analysis information. Each of the DHT's gave a short presentation of the work they had been doing to support raising attainment. PT Raising Attainment and PT Support for Learning spoke about the work they had been doing to support raising attainment.

RESULTS

Overall the school indicated disappointment in the 2012 results, in particular for S5 pupils. With 2-3% of S4 appeals successful this had improved the results at this stage. S6 was a stronger picture. The school is unsure what caused the dip this year, it was not a lack of effort on the part of teachers, nor was it concerned with pupils not getting enough support.

- Significant fall in 5+ level 3 (NCD 6) Note: issue with S Grade
 Mathematics means post-appeal results for 5+ level 3 are likely to improve
- 5+ Level 4 remained much the same as previous 3 years
- 5+ Level 5 remained much the same (girls performed better than boys)
- Issue with maths had impacted on 5+ Level 3 results
- Significant fall in 3+ Level 6 Higher at S5
- Drop at 5+ Level 6 Higher at S5
- At S6 there was a significant rise across the board

There followed discussion about strengths and areas for improvement across the departments.

Higher Maths was a big concern. The prelim paper had been bought in but it was very difficult and 'knocked the stuffing' out of many pupils. There were no successful appeals. There has however been a full and frank discussion in the department and the school is confident they will not be in the same position next year.

HT Comments

The school did not see the drop in results coming. At Christmas it had looked on

track to be OK.

Head Teacher thought perhaps everyone had 'taken their eye off the ball' after HMIE, that perhaps it was to do with tracking/monitoring/target setting where it may not be consistent across the school, or that it was to do with expectations/aspirations. In summary Head Teacher stated:

- The school has a number of specific approaches in place and has no plans to abandon them
- Need to look at specific departments more challenge
- Need to have a discussion with staff about presentation policy
- There is concern about the number of 'no awards' in some subjects
- Will continue with the good work in support for learning and teaching
- Has to be better communication at all levels
- Improve the mentoring programme
- Have more precision in departmental improvement plans
- Get tracking more embedded

Strategies

Monitoring and tracking at school and departmental level Working with parents (PD)

Mind, Body and Soul programme (MR)

Aifl, L & T, TLC, 'in-house CPD', leadership across the school (JM) Targeted support for most vulnerable pupils, GIRFEC, Learning Centre (KG) Mentor programme, all S4 pupils for 2012 -2013 will have a mentor

Next Steps

- Improve consistency in learning and teaching across the school
- Apply very good systems more consistently across the school
- Increase challenge to some subject PT's
- Work with PT's who may need help to have more challenging discussions with members of their department.
- Consider the timing of parent evenings
- Critical appointment of PT Maths

Afternoon Session

The school had planned an interesting and varied afternoon for the visiting team.

- DHT and pupils demonstrated their "Mind, Body and Soul" programme which set raising attainment within a wider and much valued context
- 3 principal teachers discussed their plans for raising attainment and seeking continuous improvement. They all had efficient systems in place to monitor and challenge progress. They were all involved in developing learning within IDL
- A range of class visits included the use of !CT, Co-op Learning and Physics.
 Young people were engaged, motivated and stretched in their learning.