

SUMMARY

DUMBARTON ACADEMY

Head Teacher gave her presentation on the performance of the school and indicated the strategies they would undertake to raise attainment and improve the performance within the school.

Results

- Level 5+, level 5 has shown a steady increase over the last three years. (2012 has proved to be the best year for 10 years)

5+ level 4 has shown a slight increase (again the best in ten years)

- S5 results have shown a steady increase (again the best in ten years)
- 5 @ level 6 the attainment of boys at this level is above the national pattern
- In S6 the attainment of 5 @ level 6 is in line with the national pattern
- Advanced higher results were disappointing
- In S6 the attainment of boys was in line with the national pattern although girls' performance is below

Most measures are in line or above the National and Comparators

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

Strategies

- All classes will have a class observation by link SMT this session
- 6 Teacher Learning Communities launched with all teachers involved. This should improve Learning and Teaching and improve capacity
- Departmental Meetings to have more strategic focus. SMTs will attend all DMs to support and challenge
- 5PTs on aspiring leadership programme
- Developments in leadership at staff and pupil level to support raising attainment
- Robust Self Evaluation processes in place
- Board of Studies meetings, inservice days to share best practice and enhance middle leadership
- Almost all staff trained in co-operative Learning
- All departments to have a STACS Action Plan
- Focused enhanced parental commitment
- Robust tracking and monitoring including individual pupil interviews with Head of House / SMT (target setting)
- Clear profile for STAR teacher (Support Study weekend, mentoring, parental information evenings)

Raising Attainment

Raising Attainment Teacher

- Study visit weekend successful. Pupil evaluations were strong and highlighted the importance of pupil voice
- Mentoring programme was developed (Staff trained, meetings held outside the class time, email contact with parents on a regular basis)
- S6 pupils now mentoring younger pupils
- Supported study programme was created and put on school website
- A number of S4 pupils targeted after prelim results. Individual meetings held with their parents as well
- Data tracking for S4-6. Information cascaded to all departments
- Masterclasses organised and ran in Dumbarton Academy
- Easter revision classes were successful

Pupil Discussion

- Liked Easter revision and masterclasses. Wanted more choice in these classes
- Liked mentoring programme and praised the efforts of the mentor teachers
- Pupils enjoyed co-operative learning. Preferred working in groups
- Wanted more instruction on Target Setting and more time to complete them
- Upper school enjoyed the relationship with staff in the Senior Phase of the school
- Enjoyed being in the SQA Leadership Courses
- Earlier meetings to discuss entry to University would be helpful

Period 5 Improvements in Action

- English S4 AiFL – Active Lesson. Articulate, engaged class. A good experience
- Higher Human Biology – Co-operative Learning. Effective use of Co-operative Learning
- Good Self / Peer Evaluation most engaged in the task. Teacher had high quality summaries
- S2 Animation Elective – Curriculum Personalisation
- Young people engaged and challenged

Numeracy

- Transition foundation of work is strong. Conversation on the ability of young people to move up a grade when appropriate. Folder of work highlighting the importance of all in the developing numeracy and how the understanding of E's and O's across departments is developing.

Feedback

- Good work apparent in transition
- Correct focus on curriculum
- Good activity within the school
- Impressed by STAR teacher's approach and vision for the way forward

Next Steps

- Continue to ensure literacy and numeracy are the responsibility of all
- Develop work on individual learning journeys to take place
- Ensure that all activities in the school are focussed
- Further to STACS meetings in November, analyse and focus on performance at all levels