

West Dunbartonshire Council

Report by the Director of Education and Cultural Services

Children's Services Committee: 13 December 2006

Subject: Presentation by Headteacher of St Columba's High School on measures taken to promote and raise attainment and achievement for pupils

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To provide Members with information on the work of St Columba's HS in taking forward attainment and achievement for all pupils.

2. Background

- 2.1** Members requested at an earlier meeting in November 2005 that each Secondary headteacher should give a presentation on attainment and achievement and the measures and strategies taken to build on strengths and develop areas for improvement. This is the fourth presentation to date.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** The presentation by the headteacher will show that improvements in tracking and raised expectations have had a positive impact on attainment through eg analysis of SQA data; self-evaluation of aspects of learning and teaching; monitoring calendars which include classroom visits and cross marking; rigorous monitoring of 'underachievers'; pupils being set agreed attainment targets; targeted mentoring.
- 3.2** There is a commitment to active engagement and communication with parents, pupils and staff in a variety of ways including newsletters, pupil reports, information evenings and the more formal structures of pupil councils and school boards.
- 3.3** The school also operates a fully inclusive policy in relation to additional support needs.
- 3.4** The headteacher will also explain in his presentation how the school uses all resources effectively and efficiently including finance, personnel, materials and accommodation.
- 3.5** The following is an overview of SQA results in the last four years in relation to the % S4 roll.

| % S4 roll | | | | Pre-Appeal |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
| English 1-6 | 89 | 93 | 93 | 91 |
| Maths 1-6 | 90 | 93 | 88 | 75 |
| 5 Standard Grades 1-6 | 87 | 91 | 94 | 85 |
| 5 Standard Grades 1-4 | 78 | 75 | 79 | 68 |
| 5 Standard Grades 1-2 | 38 | 26 | 26 | 32 |
| 3 Higher Grades A-C | 10 | 25 | 12 | 13 |
| 5 Higher Grades A-C | 3 | 11 | 6 | 3 |

4. Personnel Issues

4.1 There are no personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications.

6. Conclusion

6.1 The presentation given by the headteacher is a snapshot of the work that takes place in the school year on year in order to ensure that pupils attain the necessary qualifications required for their next steps in either the world of work or further/higher education. It also denotes the wide range of pupils' achievements which extends beyond academic attainment.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 Members of the Children's Services Committee are asked to note the contents of this report.

Liz McGinlay
Director of Education and Cultural Services

Person to Contact: Mrs Liz McGinlay, Head of Service, Department of Education and Cultural Services, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton G82 3PU.
Telephone No: 01389 737304
E-mail: liz.mcginlay@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: Dumbarton East, Barloan/Overton, Dumbarton North, Dumbarton Central, Dumbarton West