

Argyll and Bute Council: Community Services – Education

Tarbert Academy Report on Achievement 2011/2012

Introduction

2011/2012 was a successful and interesting year for Tarbert Academy. Once again, we enjoyed success in achievements at national level and a strong performance in exam results, particularly in S4.

School improvements included

- **The ongoing development of Curriculum for Excellence** – in our learning and teaching framework where we consolidated best practice
- We made further good progress in **embedding Curriculum for Excellence Experiences and Outcomes** across our 3-18 Learning Community
- We made good progress in planning the **coherent delivery of Experiences and Outcomes in Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Well-being** – through curriculum audit and monthly planning and through including in the timetable, a period entitled ‘Curriculum for Excellence’ where pupils have the opportunity to co-ordinate their learning with staff.
- Having attained **accreditation as an ECO school**, we continued to work towards our second Green Flag.
- We developed our use of **GLOW** –including being able to invite island pupils to join their classes by webcam if the ferry service is disrupted
- To meet our improvement plan target regarding increasing distributive leadership across the school, and to progress further development targets, we established three working groups led by Principal Teachers – Skills Development, Tutor Groups and Self Evaluation.
- We improved communication with all parents and **expanded parental consultation arrangements** to make better provision for island parents who cannot attend parents’ evenings
- Through SEEMIS reporting systems, **we increased the amount of information we share with parents on attainment** and we continued piloting work on using the same system to record achievement.

Curriculum innovation included

- The introduction of Higher Psychology
- The introduction of Higher Business Management

- Curricular expansion through CfE Experiences and Outcomes
- Higher Business Management
- Increased interdisciplinary learning and increased active learning

Improvement Plans for 2012/2013

- Continue with implementation of Curriculum for Excellence
- Devise a curriculum for Senior Phase which maximised choice and breadth and prepare for new SQA qualifications in 2014.
- Having introduced a Curriculum for Excellence period in S1 to draw learning experiences together and co-ordinate and profile pupils' work in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing, now expand this to include S2.
- Devise month by month activity plans in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing and share these with pupils and parents.
- Revise the P7 pupil profile and introduce a S3 pupil profile.
- Deliver GLOW to allow pupils who travel by ferry to join their class electronically when the ferries are cancelled for bad weather.
- Working groups on Skills, Tutor Groups and Evaluation to implement their work.
- Encourage increased partnership with in the evaluating the work of the school.
- Agree and implement a definitive way of recording achievement.
- Revise the school improvement plan in light of the Report of Inspection Findings from HMIE visit in November. (Published December 2012).

Tarbert Academy

Report on Attainment 2012

Summary

Attainment in Standard Grade rose significantly within the target of 5+ SCQF at level 5 (2012 71%).

S4 was an able cohort – as shown in the CAT prediction taken in 2010. From this prediction:

20% of grades gained fell below CAT prediction
 32% of grades were in line with CAT prediction
 48% of grades exceeded CAT prediction

A relatively able cohort in last year's S4 continued to perform well in S5 and pupils of all abilities show value added qualifications. Once the full Fyfe analysis is published, most subjects will show a positive PV.

The school performed well in Advanced Higher with some notable individual achievements .

S4

	2011	2012	Argyll and Bute
5+ at level 3	97%	100%	93.13%
5+ at level 4	96%	100%	80.00%
5+ at level 5	39%	71%	39.19%

Comment

In a small school, one pupil can equal 5% or more – and statistics can show significant change – but this is still an able group of pupils for whom learning and teaching was successful. Pupils met and exceeded their potential.

Core subjects' Standard Grade Performance

	Grade 1	Grades 1-2	Grades 1-4
English	57%	86%	100%
Maths	50%	64%	100%
French	38%	69%	92%

Strong performances in Standard Grade

All subjects performed well at Standard Grade – with particular strengths in English, Graph Comm, History, Music, PE and Physics.

English (86% credit awards and 100% Grades 1-3) was the highest performing subject.

Weak performance at Standard Grade

There were no weak performances at Standard Grade.

In last year's attainment report, we highlighted weakness in Biology and Geography. Following intervention in one subject area and intervention and change of staffing in the other, both subjects performed well in 2012.

Rank order subject performances by UPS scores

Graph Comm	36.33
English	32.86
Physics	32.22
Chemistry	28.20
Physical Education	31.17
History	30.80
Maths	30.43
Admin	30.00
Music	29.50
Biology	29.33
Art and Design	29.33
Home Economics	29.00
French	28.69
Geography	27.50

Comments

- With the group being able and small – although I am pleased with the 71% 5+ awards at Level 5, the main focus for evaluation concerns individual pupils meeting their potential. CAT scores, tracking and monitoring, target setting and estimates all evidence that potential was achieved and exceeded.

S5

	2011	2012	Argyll and Bute
5+ at Level 3	93%	100%	93.27%
5+ at Level 4	86%	96%	84.29%
5+ at Level 5	62%	57%	53.95%
1+ at Level 6	48%	30%	47.22%
3+ at Level 6	31%	26%	24.78%
5+ at Level 6	21%	13%	10.54%

Comment

Almost all subjects performed well at Int 1, Int 2 and Higher. Attainment in in Geography improved, as did Biology but Biology remains lower in UPS score than other subjects and should improve further.

As commented above, because of the number of presentations, statistics can vary significantly from year to year.

I was disappointed in the figure for 5+ at Level 6 (2012 13%)

UPS Scores in Higher

- Maths 60.00
- Geography 60.00
- Chemistry 60.00
- Art 60.00
- Physics 60.00
- English 54.86
- History 52.00
- Admin 40.00
- Biology 36.00

S6

	2011	2012	Argyll and Bute
5+ at Level 3	100%	95%	94.40%
5+ at Level 4	91%	86%	86.18%
5+ at Level 5	91%	62%	58.26%
1+ at Level 6	82%	48%	57.00%
3+ at Level 6	59%	45%	36.52%
5+ at Level 6	41%	31%	24.15%
1+ at Level 7	25%	17%	17.49%

General Comments

Predicted attainment in March was very closely in line with actual performance.

There were no looked after or accommodated children in S4/5/6 last session.

The school has worked hard to secure and develop high standards of learning and teaching. A robust monitoring and evaluation programme has combined with a consistent AIFL rich approach to learning and teaching. This has supported most pupils to meet or exceed predictions or expectations.

There was a high correlation between SQA estimated grades and final results.

There is good added value in S6 with the cohort who achieved 39% 5+ Level 5 in S4 in 2010 progressing well.

What did our pupils do when they left school?

LEAVER DESTINATIONS

NUMBER OF PUPILS LEAVING IN SCHOOL YEAR 2010/2011

	SCHOOL	ARGYLL & BUTE	SCOTLAND
Total number of Leavers	31	985	54,073
Full-time Higher Education %	39	36	36
Full-time Further Education %	13	23	27
Training %	3	3	6
Employment %	39	28	20
Other known Destination %	6	10	11
Not known %	0	0	0

At time of writing, figures for 2011/2012 are not yet available.

Pupil Achievements

National pupil achievements:

- Success in a national design competition run by Toyota – with Tarbert Academy pupils awarded 2nd, 3rd and 5th places in the UK Final. Pupils were flown to London as guest of Toyota to receive their awards
- Being the top pupil investors club in Scotland in the *Shares4Schools* competition for the second year running. Pupils were flown to London as guests of *Shares4Schools* to receive their awards
- Emma MacFarlane (when in S3) won a gold medal at the National Mod
- Tarbert Academy Folk Group performed at Celtic Connections and was placed first in several competitions in mods and festivals. This group is playing at the National Mod in October and is likely to score very highly.

- Rose Richmond (when inS4) won a national photography competition – her photograph *Fisherman's Gloves* won first place in the Focus Environment Photography Competition
- Duke of Edinburgh Award – pupils took part in preparation for the Silver Award including the Expedition

National/international pupil achievement

- USA Exchange Programme – 5 pupils hosted American students in June 2011 and then travelled to stay with these students and their families in Georgia in October 2011.

Local and regional Achievement

- Sports Leadership Course
- Football coaching training
- Entries in Tarbert Horticultural Show
- Tarbert Youth Concert Series
- Girls' Football teams won junior and senior competitions in the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay league
- Senior pupils took part in a Mock Interview programme with members of the Rotary Club of Mid Argyll
- Tarbert Academy Wildlife Initiative – the design of a new local path and bringing this project to completion when the path was opened by Mike Russell MSP
- Success in the Mid Argyll Music Festival
- Alexandra Brough (S6) won Rotary Young Musician of the Year
- Alexandra Brough secured places in the Argyll and Bute Concert Band and the West of Scotland Schools' Concert Band
- Hannah Prill secured a place in the Argyll and Bute Concert Band
- Success in the National Galleries Art Competition
- Young Scot Leadership Training
- Young Scot – Youth Information Project Training for volunteers S4-S6

- Supporting newly formed Army Cadet Attachment and fostering a partnership with the school

School Achievement

Excursions

- Edinburgh Fringe Trip
- Geography Field Trip – visits to river sites
- Geography Field Trip – Yorkshire Dales and Lakes excursion
- Glasgow School of Art Portfolio Exhibition
- S3 Orienteering at Glenbranter
- French Department Film and Theatre excursion to Glasgow
- English excursion to The Theatre Royal in Glasgow
- Film excursion to watch *Tintin*
- Film excursion to watch *Warhorse*
- Visit to Islay for a Rugby Development Day
- Excursion to see the Olympic Torch and take part in a joint choir singing *The Flame*
- Argyll Youth Games and the Olympic Dance
- Biology Field Trip to Skipness
- S1 visit to Tarbert Castle
- P5/6 visit to Loch Awe
- P2/3 visit to Blair Drummond Safari Park
- P3/4 visit to Stirling Castle
- P6/7 visit to Auchindrain Outdoor Museum
- P3/4 visit to Tarbert Castle
- P2/3 visit to Kilmartin Museum
- Pre-5 visit to Stonefield Castle grounds

- Primary visit to Lochgilphead Hospital and Police Station

School Achievement

Events

- S1/2 Sons and Daughters to Work Day
- S4 Work Experience
- Various individual Work Experience arrangements depending on vocational needs
- European Day of Languages
- Bat Conservation Project
- French / H.E. Cooking project
- Visit of Auschwitz survivor, Ibbie Knill
- Pupils conducted our Remembrance Assembly
- Pupils conducted our Holocaust Memorial Excursion
- S2 conducted a whole school Referendum
- Guild Concert in Tarbert Parish Church
- *Golden Boot* dance competition
- Christmas Music and Readings event
- *Show Racism the Red Card* – DVD by S2 in Social Subjects and Drama – commended in competition
- Talent Showcase event
- *My shoes, your shoes* workshops in interpersonal awareness and relationships
- Author Live events in Primary
- Buddy Training for P7 pupils
- Christmas Lights Competition for younger Primary Classes

- Each primary class making presentations to parents, grandparents and friends throughout the session
- Strathclyde Police Football Competition – Primary team in final
- West Midlands Theatre group ~ Bluebird
- Book fair for primary and pre-5
- Geo-caching in Clachan (P6/7)
- Road Safety calendar competition
- Harbour Christmas card competition
- Infant Nativity
- Primary Burns Supper
- Pre-5, Primary and S1 Health Day (with associated primary schools)
- P3/4 Fair trade activity with S4
- Bag2School recycling event in Primary
- World Book Day in Primary
- Zoolab visit – Pre-5 and Primary
- Rugby and Golf session for Primary
- Diamond Jubilee Tea Party in Primary
- Fair Trade tuck-shop operated by p3/4

Contribution to our community

- Tarbert Healing Garden - primary pupils grow plants and take part in garden maintenance. This helps look after a special garden in our community which is a place of peace and reflection for many people
- Armistice Day – the school leads the community in a short secular service of reflection at the village war memorial
- Hosting events – giving our grounds and car park for charity events. When community groups plan large events and take a school let, a

member of the school's senior leadership team volunteers to be in attendance to work with our janitor in looking after the event and its participants

- We design, make and place bat boxes as part of conservation in our area – working with local wildlife experts
- We have a special partnership with Tarbert Music Centre and host its workshops on an after-school club basis. This is the equivalent of a donation of £8000 in kind which is eligible for matched funding from grant awarding bodies. (note – Tarbert Music Centre is moving to Tarbert Village Hall in October 2012. The decision to teach adults alongside children would lead to the need for the adult learners to be PVG checked if in school)
- Tarbert Castle restoration project – the school has supported this initiative in securing funding. Representatives of the castle lead local history projects in school. The school has provided information and illustrations for the information boards which describe the history of our area and castle
- Lunch invitations – throughout the year in Primary, parents and grandparents of all the pupils are invited to lunch
- Tarbert Horticultural Show – pupils in Primary exhibit plants, models and art work every year
- Tarbert Harbour Authority – each year, the school designs the Tarbert Harbour Authority Christmas Card. We also support the Harbour Authority by senior staff taking part in interview panels for Trustees
- *The Tarbert Mile* – The Tarbert Mile takes place over a new walkway around the harbour. Our Active Schools Co-ordinator has started a project to see 2012 people complete the mile in this Olympic Year. The school designed the logo and information boards for *The Tarbert Mile* and the whole school has walked the route to boost numbers towards the 2012 target!
- Community Learning Development Review – the school was closely involved in the planning of this review and hosted the review itself
- Tarbert Academy Wildlife and Nature Initiative – a major contribution to the community this session took place when we designed and planned for a new community path – linking the sea level part of the village to the height of the land where the school is situated. This also provides a safe route from our school to the sports' field. The path is enjoyed by the public and by families as it is also a safe route to the children's play-park. The school was involved in extensive work to clear the area and to oversee new planting

How do parents and carers view the school's performance?

Tarbert Academy Parent/Carer Survey 2012 Totals

1.	The school helps my child to be more confident.	Strongly Agree 45%	Agree 55%	Disagree 0%	Strongly Disagree 0%	Don't know 0%
2.	My child enjoys learning at school.	Strongly Agree 68%	Agree 32%	Disagree 0%	Strongly Disagree 0%	Don't know 0%
3.	My child's learning is progressing well.	Strongly Agree 65%	Agree 35%	Disagree 0%	Strongly Disagree 0%	Don't know 0%
4.	My child is encouraged and stretched to work to the best of his/her ability.	Strongly Agree 45%	Agree 52%	Disagree 3%	Strongly Disagree 0%	Don't know 0%
5.	The school keeps me well informed about my child's progress	Strongly Agree 52%	Agree 45%	Disagree 3%	Strongly Disagree 0%	Don't know 0%
6.	My child feels safe in school.	Strongly Agree 65%	Agree 35%	Disagree 0%	Strongly Disagree 0%	Don't know 0%
7.	My child is treated fairly at school.	Strongly Agree 58%	Agree 42%	Disagree 0%	Strongly Disagree 0%	Don't know 0%
8.	I feel staff really know my child as an individual and support him/her well.	Strongly Agree 48%	Agree 52%	Disagree 0%	Strongly Disagree 0%	Don't know 0%
9.	I would approach the Head Teacher if unhappy, worried or concerned.	Strongly Agree 74%	Agree 26%	Disagree 0%	Strongly Disagree 0%	Don't know 0%
10.	My child would approach the class teacher or DHT/HT/PT Guidance if upset.	Strongly Agree 55%	Agree 35%	Disagree 0%	Strongly Disagree 0%	Don't know 10%
11.	My child benefits from school clubs and activities provided outside the classroom.	Strongly Agree 19%	Agree 52%	Disagree 6%	Strongly Disagree 0%	Don't know 23%
12.	I understand my child's curriculum (Curriculum for Excellence or Standard Grades/Intermediate/Highers etc	Strongly Agree 26%	Agree 58%	Disagree 10%	Strongly Disagree 0%	Don't know 6%
13.	The school has a good reputation in the community	Strongly Agree 71%	Agree 29%	Disagree 0%	Strongly Disagree 0%	Don't know 0%
14	When I visit the school, I feel welcome.					

	Strongly Agree 58% Agree 42% Disagree 0% Strongly Disagree 0% Don't know 0%
15.	If I complain, the school responds quickly and with courtesy. Strongly Agree 52% Agree 45% Disagree 0% Strongly Disagree 0% Don't know 0%
16.	The school asks for my views. Strongly Agree 45% Agree 52% Disagree 0% Strongly Disagree 0% Don't know 3%
17.	The school takes my views into account. Strongly Agree 39% Agree 61% Disagree 0% Strongly Disagree 0% Don't know 0%
18.	The school is well led by the Head Teacher Strongly Agree 87% Agree 13% Disagree 0% Strongly Disagree 0% Don't know 0%
19.	The school is well led by its senior team (HT and DHTS) Strongly Agree 78% Agree 19% Disagree 3% Strongly Disagree 0% Don't know 0%
20.	Overall, I am happy with the school. Strongly Agree 71% Agree 29% Disagree 0% Strongly Disagree 0% Don't know 0%

How do our pupils view the school's performance?

2012 Pupil Survey – (P3-S6)

1.	The school is helping me to become more confident. Strongly Agree 34% Agree 54% Disagree 3% Strongly Disagree 2% Don't Know 7%
2.	I enjoy learning at school. Strongly Agree 27% Agree 61% Disagree 5% Strongly Disagree 2% Don't Know 5%
3.	I am getting along well with my school work. Strongly Agree 32% Agree 60% Disagree 4% Strongly Disagree 0% Don't Know 4%
4.	Staff encourage me to do the best I can. Strongly Agree 46% Agree 43% Disagree 6% Strongly Disagree 0% Don't Know 5%
5.	Staff talk to me regularly about how to improve my learning. Strongly Agree 25% Agree 54% Disagree 14% Strongly Disagree 2% Don't Know 5%
6.	I get help when I need it. Strongly Agree 46% Agree 45% Disagree 3% Strongly Disagree 1% Don't Know 5%

7.	Staff listen to me and pay attention to what I say. Strongly Agree 36% Agree 55% Disagree 5% Strongly Disagree 1% Don't Know 3%
8.	I have a say in making the way we learn in school better. Strongly Agree 33% Agree 44% Disagree 11% Strongly Disagree 2% Don't Know 10%
9.	Staff expect me to take responsibility for my own work in class. Strongly Agree 48% Agree 46% Disagree 1% Strongly Disagree 1% Don't Know 4%
10.	Staff and pupils treat me fairly and with respect. Strongly Agree 45% Agree 47% Disagree 4% Strongly Disagree 1% Don't Know 3%
11.	I feel safe and cared for in school. Strongly Agree 47% Agree 45% Disagree 2% Strongly Disagree 2% Don't Know 4%
12.	I have adults in school I can speak to if I am upset or worried about something. Strongly Agree 46% Agree 45% Disagree 3% Strongly Disagree 2% Don't Know 4%
13.	I find it easy to talk to staff and they set a good example. Strongly Agree 32% Agree 56% Disagree 5% Strongly Disagree 2% Don't Know 5%
14.	Staff make sure that pupils behave well. Strongly Agree 43% Agree 48% Disagree 4% Strongly Disagree 0% Don't Know 5%
15.	Staff are good at dealing with bullying behaviour. Strongly Agree 43% Agree 36% Disagree 11% Strongly Disagree 2% Don't Know 8%
16.	The Student or Pupil Councils are good at getting improvements made in the school. Strongly Agree 33% Agree 45% Disagree 10% Strongly Disagree 2% Don't Know 10%
17.	The school encourages me to make healthy food choices. Strongly Agree 30% Agree 45% Disagree 12% Strongly Disagree 2% Don't Know 11%
18.	I take part in out-of-class activities and school clubs. Strongly Agree 33% Agree 42% Disagree 16% Strongly Disagree 4% Don't Know 5%
19.	I know what out-of-school activities and youth groups are available in my local area.

	Strongly Agree 42% Agree 47% Disagree 5% Strongly Disagree 0% Don't Know 6%
20.	I would approach the Head Teacher if I had a problem or I thought something was unfair. Strongly Agree 33% Agree 49% Disagree 7% Strongly Disagree 2% Don't Know 9%
21.	The Student Council is effective in making students' views known and helping improve the school. Strongly Agree 19% Agree 58% Disagree 10% Strongly Disagree 12% Don't Know 12%
22.	In Primary, I would tell Mrs Taylor if something was wrong or in Secondary I would tell Miss Bell. Strongly Agree 39% Agree 40% Disagree 8% Strongly Disagree 4% Don't Know 9%
23.	The school is well led by the Head Teacher Strongly Agree 66% Agree 30% Disagree 2% Strongly Disagree 0% Don't Know 2%
25.	The school is well led by the Head Teacher and Depute Head Teachers. Strongly Agree 58% Agree 37% Disagree 2% Strongly Disagree 10% Don't Know 2%

Conclusion

2010/2011 was a successful year. Pupils achieved well and the school met its improvement priorities.

We have embarked on Session 2012/2013 with confidence and optimism!

At time of writing, the school is one week on from a full HMIE inspection. The levels awarded will be confirmed in a letter published in early December. The work of the school has been highly praised in what will be a very positive report. Our inspectors also shared ideas and advice with us about 'what next' for our school as continue to offer the very best to the children and young people in our care.

Catriona A. Hood
Head Teacher