

## **Argyll and Bute Council: Community Services – Education**

### **Campbeltown Grammar School Report on Achievement 2012/2013**

#### **Introduction**

2012/2013 was a successful and interesting year for Campbeltown Grammar School. Attainment in 2013 was in line with predictions and there was a variety of local and national achievements. The prospect of a new school engages both school and community – as do early discussions about the building project. A new Head Teacher was appointed and took up post at the end of January 2013.

#### **School improvements included**

- Final preparations for the introduction of the CfE senior phase curriculum from August 2013.
- Preparing for the implementation of the new national qualifications for session 2013/14
- Development of formal policies for Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing across the curriculum in S1 to S3.
- Developing further inter-disciplinary tasks and in particular encouraging their implementation via a new open-plan CfE teaching area developed as a national pilot.
- Continuation of the linking self-evaluation more systematically to improvement planning, standards and quality reporting and professional development.
- Developing systems for more formal recognition and systematic recording of pupils' wider achievements.
- Working alongside the Council's Special Projects Team to help develop the educational brief for the new Campbeltown Grammar School.
- Participation of 28 students and 4 staff in the Columba 1400 leadership course.
- Continued development of the school website to become the main communication channel between the school, the wider school community and beyond.









Overall comment and actions arising:

There are strong subject performances across the school in S5 and S6 at all levels. This takes place in the context of bi and tri level teaching in almost all classes.

Wider achievement includes Duke of Edinburgh, ASDAN, Food Hygiene, Food Handling, Sports Leader, Coaching and various volunteering/citizenship awards.

The numbers presented for Higher seem are slightly lower than would be expected and our target for the end of S4 - minimum 40% 5+ at Level 5 –should increase presentation numbers in Higher.

As the current S4 come through National 5 for the first time, there could be an impact on improving Attainment 2015 as S4 with more specialise learning in S4 National 5 are presented for Highers.

The Action Plan for attainment at S4 also pertains to S5/6 – namely – the school Learning and Teaching Statement and comprehensive attainment reviews shared by HT/DHTs and Departments

Overall, the results confirm that there is much that makes CGS a very good school – particularly Pupil Support, Support for Learning and Curriculum as a totality of experience. The staff are committed, hardworking and open to change and new leadership.

Opportunities for achievement are very good and should continue to go from strength to strength.

## **Wider Achievement**

Pupils have opportunities to gain certification for their wider achievements, recognising that attainment in examinations does not tell the full story. Pupils gained awards in the course of the year from the following bodies:-

- ASDAN awards
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme
- The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music
- Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland
- UK Maths Challenge
- Scottish Maths Challenge
- Mid Argyll Music Festival
- Kintyre Music Festival
- Argyll and Bute Youth Games
- Young Leaders Sports Programme
- Saltire Awards

In addition individual pupils gained a number of National Awards. These and some of the other awards gained are detailed below:

### **Extra Curricular Activities**

The school continued to offer a wide range of activities throughout the year. Last session the following clubs were well attended and all students enjoyed this other side of school life through the following examples:

- Lunch games
- Drum and Bass
- Digital Photography
- Canoeing
- S1 Science
- Girls Fitness
- Inter-House Competitions
- Computing
- Rugby





**In Music** – Kintyre Schools Junior Band - Gold Award at National Concert Band Festival in Birmingham.

Kintyre Schools' Pipe Band retained its exceptionally impressive form both in competition and in performance at home.

Several pupils were successful in Associated Board of the Royal College of Music exams including Morbheinn McAllister who passed at Grade 8.

In **Computing**, the Computing Club runs once a week in Computing or Administration. Pupils are also given the opportunity to compete in the Young Game Designer BAFTA awards which is a yearly competition, this is open to programmers or to young people who have an "idea" even if they don't have programming skills

2013-2014 pupils have been given the opportunity to take part in Microsoft's Kodu Cup using the Kudo game language. Computing Science has 10 Xbox controllers which can be used for this purpose; pupils must be familiar with the Kodu programming language. Pupils will experience this in 2<sup>nd</sup> year (2013-2014).

The **Maths** department continues to participate in the UKMT set of challenges at Junior/Intermediate and Senior levels. Several pupils achieved certificates.

Pupils are also encouraged to take part in the Scottish Maths Challenge organised by Glasgow University.

In **Modern Languages**, Sally Chute became the first ever pupil in CGS to have gained an Advanced Higher Spanish. We are confident that she will also gain her full Scottish Baccalaureate in Languages. Sally also took part in the Euroscola trip to Strazbourg where she attended the Youth Parliament and addressed the forum in French and in Spanish.

Sally Chute further won third prize in the Amopa National Speaking competition run by Heriot Watt University. Mr. Gerry Toner came to Campbeltown to present Sally with her prize.





I am very impressed with the scope of achievement opportunities staff offer pupils and the range of colleagues' contributions to the school. The staff have also to be commended for their unfailing resilience and cheerfulness through extremely difficult conditions pertaining to the age and stage of our current school building.

We look forward to next session and, in particular, to further developments with our new school.

Those of us already privileged to serve the young people of Campbeltown by working in Campbeltown Grammar School, now have a unique opportunity.... We are involved, along with our community and young people, in shaping a school which will be a place of learning for the children of Campbeltown and its environs long after we are not.... What an amazing opportunity and what a privilege to be part of it!

Catriona Hood