

**ROTHESAY JOINT CAMPUS: ACHIEVEMENT REPORT 2008**

**1. SUMMARY**

A report on the performance of all Argyll and Bute pupils in the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) examination results was presented to the Strategic Policy Committee on the 20 November 2008.

This report, presented by the Principal, Ms Wendy Brownlie, outlines the major achievements of the school in 2007/8 and includes the SQA examination results for pupils who sat examinations in May/June 2008. The results are based on pre-appeal data.

**2.RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Area Committee are asked to note the strong performance of pupils and the commitment of staff in their examination successes and in the wider aspects of achievement across the school.

**3. DETAILS**

The details are included in the attached report from the school.

**4. IMPLICATIONS**

<b>Policy:</b>	None
<b>Financial:</b>	None
<b>Personnel:</b>	None
<b>Equal Opportunities:</b>	None

For further information contact: Ms Wendy Brownlie, Principal  
Rothesay Joint Campus

Telephone: 01700 503367

## **Rothesay Academy Report on Achievement - Session 2007-2008**

Session 2007/2008 was another successful year for Rothesay Academy. The school moved into our fantastic new Joint Campus and began the journey to become: **'One Community, One Campus, One School'** in which each individual has respect and support from fellow pupils, staff, parents and the community where their strengths and aspirations are encouraged and their achievements recognised.

The continuing success of School of Ambition, which has brought measurable changes for both staff and pupils, combined with the numerous other achievements over the year is testimony to the hard work and dedication of our whole extended staff team, pupils and wider school community who are continuing to work together for the benefit of our young people.

### **Plans for 2008/2009**

To help us achieve our vision outlined above, an important priority for 2008/2009 will be to recruit people of the highest calibre into our new Senior Leadership Team structure across Campus. This is a structure which will ensure that we in Rothesay Joint Campus are well placed to implement the principles and aspirations of Curriculum for Excellence and deliver a seamless 3-18 curriculum which will effectively meet the needs of all of our young people in one Community, one Campus, one School.

Another priority to support implementation of Curriculum for Excellence is to develop further cross-sectoral teaching. Sharing best practice from the primary and secondary sectors, whilst allowing primary pupils to work with a wider range of teaching staff and begin to minimise the number of teachers working with first and second year pupils.

Other priorities for 2008/2009 will emerge from a Cluster Strategic Plan which will be created following consultation with staff across all Bute Schools.

We will also continue to work towards our agreed School of Ambition Priorities.

## ATTAINMENT

In Rothesay Academy attainment is measured in a variety of ways. In English and Mathematics, national tests are applied and figures are provided for attainment levels in these subjects at the end of S2.

In years 4, 5, and 6 pupils sit external examinations organised by the Scottish Qualifications Authority and cumulative data for pupil attainment in these examinations is provided.

### 5-14 attainment in S2 in 2008

The percentage of the S2 roll attaining or exceeding the 5-14 Level E was as follows:

	School (%)	Authority (%)	Comparator Authorities (%)
Reading	78	72	67
Writing	71	59	54
Mathematics	57	70	62

### SQA results 2008

The percentages of pupils gaining the National Qualifications shown were as follows:

	School (%)	Argyll & Bute (%)	Scotland (%)
By the end of S4:			
English and Maths Level 3	94	86	81
5+ Level 3 (SG foundation or equiv.)	93	91	89
5+ Level 4 (SG general or equiv.)	77	80	74
5+ Level 5 (SG credit or equiv.)	24	34	33
By the end of S5:			
1+ Level 6 (Higher)	38	44	38
3+ Level 6 (Higher)	18	24	22
5+ Level 6 (Higher)	05	10	09
By the end of S6:			
3+ Level 6 (Higher)	05	14	13
5+ Level 6 (Higher)	00	00	00
1+ Level 7 (Advanced Higher)	03	12	12

In addition, the government's National Priorities for Education framework requires reporting on the cumulative successes of pupils by the end of S6. This analysis adds together all examination achievement of all pupils by the end of S6, i.e. an addition of all successes achieved in S4, S5 and S6. The measure is a three-year average, 2006-2008.

	School (%)	Argyll & Bute (%)	Scotland (%)
5+ Level 3 (SG foundation or equiv.)	94	95	91
5+ Level 4 (SG general or equiv.)	78	85	79
5+ Level 5 (SG credit or equiv.)	45	53	48
3+ Level 6 (Higher)	25	32	30
5+ Level 6 (Higher)	15	20	19

(above data from Standard Tables and Charts, Scottish Executive, 2008, pre-appeal)

### Key Features

The pre-appeal SQA results include some notable performances by individuals as well as increased quality of S4 standard Grade awards in:

- English at grade 1 by 4%
- Mathematics at grade 1 by 8%
- Chemistry at grades 1 and 2 by 15%
- Craft and Design at grades 1 and 2 to 100% of presentations
- French at grades 1 and 2 by 6%
- Geography at grades 1 and 2 by 24%
- PE at grades 1 and 2 by 17%
- Physics at grades 1 and 2 by 3%

In S5 notable subject pass rates at level 6 (Higher) include:

- Music 100%
- PE 100%
- Art 71%
- Biology 71%
- French 80%
- Mathematics 75%
- 

Overall, 83% of Higher presentations resulted in a pass (A-C), 21% at A. In S5/6 there were 80 Intermediate 2 awards, 21 of which were at A. Almost every pupil in S4 achieved at least 5 awards at level 3. This is a reflection of a high level of support offered to pupils within a flexible curriculum which we tailor to meet individual needs.

Our evidence-based target setting process is well embedded. We continue to use this along with mentoring approaches as a means of raising attainment.

Pupil engagement has been strengthened through use of co-operative learning approaches. We have trained every member of staff in these techniques.

All departments have reviewed results in detail with the Head of Learning and Teaching Secondary, the Principal and other senior leaders and have agreed strategies to address any identified areas for improvement in SQA results.

In session 2008/2009 some S5 pupils will be involved in a Mentoring programme where in addition to normal departmental monitoring, each pupil will meet with a mentor from the Senior Leadership Team to review progress and discuss any support required.

### **School of Ambition**

We have continued to progress the 3 main themes within our bid and transformational plan.

These themes are:

- Attainment and Achievement
- Pupil Support
- Building on Excellence
- 

The attainment and achievement theme has been developed extensively through a whole teaching staff commitment to cooperative learning which continues to secure effective learning and teaching whilst also impacting positively on ethos.

The breakfast clubs have been running for 18 months and are seeing numbers in excess of 50 pupils every Tuesday and Thursday. Our young people enjoy activities such as football, swimming, use of the fitness suite, boxercise and cheerleading. After this they help themselves to a healthy breakfast.

The school football team is going from strength to strength. In August 21 boys went to London to attend the respected David Beckham Academy. The boys trained for 3 days at the Academy where they were put through their paces by some of England's top coaches. Each pupil received a certificate of attendance and a medal. The boys were handed their awards by David's father.

The school has been running coaching academies for the pupils in 5 and 6 year. These have included football, shinty, badminton and basketball. This allowed the pupils to gain some valuable experience and qualifications to take forward as they look to their future.

13 pupils attended the Columba 1400 Leadership Academy. This was an experience of a lifetime for the pupils who developed various leadership skills. The pupils will be using these to feed back into the school over the coming months to develop our very own Youth Leadership Academy.

The Art department purchased laptops, webcams and video editing software and is making changes within the Art Curriculum piloting a Moving Image approach to the Critical element of the course, allowing pupils to produce their own short

documentary style films as an alternative to traditional essay writing. Such work encourages co-operative group learning, instills individual accountability, and can potentially provide quality revision resources that can be shared by all.

In Music Schools of Ambition has facilitated the purchase of instruments to aid in the Standard Grade performance exams.

External seating in the courtyard has been provided through School of Ambition to allow a comfortable and sociable atmosphere for our young people during break periods.

The school is able to share pupil achievement and important notices through LCD screens in the social area and the main entrance.

Our dedicated Youth Worker, working in partnership with our Campus Police Officer, has made a difference to the education and lives of all pupils, including some of our most vulnerable youngsters, through working with them both on Campus and in the wider community. We now have clear plans to employ a part time Emotional and Mental Health Worker in partnership with Argyll and Clyde Health Board.

### **Parent Council**

The school continues to benefit from a close working relationship with our Parent Council in terms of the Parental Involvement Act. This group also now undertakes fundraising activities in order to support the work of the school in a more practical way.

### **Music**

The Swing Band undertook a small tour, giving demonstration performances in Strachur and Inverary Primary Schools and two performances at the Loch Fyne Food Fayre. They recorded two CDs, one recorded in Trinity church and the other recorded live at the Bute Jazz Festival where they gave two performances to full capacity audiences.

The Concert Band performed and led the singing in the annual children's carol service on Bute, while 12 students made up a band for the school production of "Me and my Girl", performing from professional band scores.

Six of our music pupils also participated in Argyll Rhapsody, performing in Oban and Dunoon whilst four pupils represented the school in Argyll and Bute Schools Concert band course at Castle Toward. This group gave two performances locally and performed at the National Youth Orchestra festivals in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

## **Art**

Pupils have been involved in various art projects:

- A Loch Lomond Art weekend for S4 and S5 in March.
- S5 participated in a seminar with Colin McPherson a photo journalist.
- In August S2 pupils worked with Beach Watch Bute to create sea life banners.
- An S2 pupil produced the winning logo design for Bute FM.
- During September S3 participated in a seminar and site visit to Mansfield Place with an architect from Fyne Homes.
- The department took a stall at Mount Stuart for the "Eat Bute" event.
- S5 pupils participated in the Argyll Rhapsody photographic event, producing some spectacular work.

## **Library Resource Centre**

Our Librarian organises a number of events and displays throughout the year to promote reading and use of our Resource Centre. This year these included: World Book Day celebrated under the theme of Fantasy and Fairytales; 'Talk like a pirate' day that involved all of our associate primaries; and 'Reading around the world', a literacy initiative for first year pupils.

## **Physical Education and Activities**

The department has continued to benefit from the excellent facilities offered by the Campus and the greater range of activities that we are able to offer. Results gained by pupils in the 2008 SQA exams were very positive and the department is keen to maintain and indeed improve upon those results.

A large number of pupils have represented the school in Athletics, Cross Country, and the Youth Games.

## **Attendance**

We continue to take a proactive approach to managing attendance, working very closely with our attendance officer, social work, Campus Officer and parents/carers to ensure that pupil attendance improves.

## **Achievements and notable events our fantastic pupils were also involved in:**

- A Scottish Opera Workshops and attended an evening recital;
- A visit to a performance by the Royal Scottish National Opera in the Royal Concert Hall;
- Developing a new and successful guitar club for players of all abilities.

## **Home Economics**

Our Home Economics Department has been busy with a large number of initiatives. One pupil reached the regional final of the Rotary Young Chef Competition held in Edinburgh whilst another qualified for the Springboard Future Chef local heat in Oban.

A group of pupils participated in the Bute Healthy Living Initiative in the Pavilion. As a thank you for funding from the Meat Marketing Board, Hospitality pupils prepared and cooked a BBQ for farmers visiting Plan Farm.

Hospitality pupils also participated in associate primary St Andrew's Burns Supper, by cooking and serving the food.

Almost all second year pupils passed their Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland Elementary Food Handlers Certificate.

### **Mathematics**

In March the department was privileged to have master classes run by Brian Logan who is on the SQA team and has written several text books for Maths. This visit was really helpful and gave pupils hints on how to improve their grades.

Four pupils represented the Academy at the Maths Enterprise competition, competing against other Argyll and Bute schools. Sixty pupils entered the UK Mathematical Challenge at Intermediate and Junior level, gaining 14 bronze and 4 silver awards.

One of our pupils reached the final presentation stages of the Chartered Management Institute Programme.

### **Business Management Staff Training**

In January all teaching staff attended three days training in Cooperative Learning Strategies. This was followed up with a one day recall in June.

### **Campus Garden**

During the year pupils from across Campus worked closely with the community to develop our campus garden. It includes a modular seat designed and made by a local craftsman in conjunction with pupils from the academy. The seat has sensory plants at either end for visitors to the garden to enjoy as they take a break.

A huge amount of work has been put in by lots of people from the community on the vegetable garden and it will enable pupils to grow their own vegetables and eat them in the canteen.

The garden featured on Beechgrove Garden in September.

### **Young Scot of The Year**

The Academy were extremely proud when a young pupil was announced as young Scot of The Year for her work in Malawi with David Hayman's Charity Spirit Aid. She was responsible for establishing Spirit Aid as our nominated charity for which we have raised £3000 this session alone. Our young pupil travelled to Malawi with David Hayman to participate in



the construction of a soup kitchen which our fundraising made possible.