

CAMPBELTOWN GRAMMAR SCHOOL: ACHIEVEMENT REPORT 2009

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 19 November 2009.

This report, presented by the Head Teacher, Mr William Crossan, outlines the major achievements of the school in 2008/9 and includes the SQA examination results for pupils who sat examinations in May/June 2009. 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

Policy: None

Financial: None

Personnel: None

Equal Opportunities: None

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Argyll and Bute Council : Community Services : Education

Campbeltown Grammar School

Report on Achievement 2008/09

Introduction

The work of the school in session 2008/09 was focussed on the targets of the action plan developed on the basis of the very positive HMle report published at the end of session 2006/07. HMle identified a number of key strengths on which the school has been able to build. Attainment as measured by SQA examination results showed improvement in several areas and the school's emphasis on providing pupils with a wide range of opportunities for achievement both within and beyond the classroom continued to be very successful.

What we aimed to improve in 2008/09

In 2008/09 we aimed to

1. continue to develop the policy for self-evaluation developed in 2007/08 through use of a new computer package designed to support it, by implementing a programme of classroom observation throughout the school and by involving subject departments in producing their own standards and quality evaluations;
2. make significant progress towards implementing the "Curriculum for Excellence" and in particular to begin the development of cross-curricular courses in the lower school;
3. to continue to develop the House system in order to increase its impact on the behaviour and motivation of pupils.

By the end of the session, the following had been achieved:-

- staff were trained in the use of the SIRIUS computer programme for self-evaluation and began to use it in relation to departmental improvement planning;
- the programme of classroom observation, including peer observation, had been devised and agreed with staff for implementation in 2009/10;
- heads of department, in consultation with colleagues, had begun to produce departmental Standards and Quality reports;
- staff had further in-service training on the development of "A Curriculum for Excellence" and were becoming familiar with the experiences and outcomes and cross-cutting themes;

- three cross-curricular units of study had been prepared and one fully piloted in readiness for delivery of all three in S1 in 2009/10;
- the “Points Head” scheme was further developed as the basis for Inter-House competition for new House Shields in Scholarship, Sports and Citizenship and an overall House Championship; the shields were awarded for the first time at the 2009 Prize-giving.

In addition to the foregoing, we developed

- a new vocational courses in land-based industries in collaboration with Argyll College, certificated at SQA Intermediate 1 level;
- improvements in the Outdoor Education course;
- further use of the school’s ICT facilities for digital assessment, in which field the school is now a national leader.

Attainment

Maximising pupils’ attainment continues to be a major aim of the school and test and examination data are regularly analysed to help find areas for improvement.

Where exceptional ability is recognised, pupils have the opportunity to ‘fast track’ in areas of strength. In 2009, one pupil in S3 passed Higher Maths with a Band A Grade 1 award and also gained a Credit pass in French. He is now taking Advanced Higher Maths and Higher French in S4, in addition to his normal Standard grade courses.

Attainment data for the 2008/09 school year are as follow:

5-14 attainment in S2 to June 2009

The percentage of the S2 roll attaining or exceeding the 5-14 Level E by the end of the 2007/08 school year was as:-

	CGS	Argyll & Bute	Consortium
	%	%	%
Reading	75	64	67
Writing	64	59	55
Mathematics	72	70	62

The school continues to perform well in comparison with the authority averages and those of the comparator consortium of authorities.

SQA results 2009

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

	CGS	Argyll	Scotland & Bute
	%	%	%
In S4 5+ Level 3 or better	91	92	91
5+ Level 4 or better	82	81	77
5+ Level 5 or better	41	35	35
In S5 1+ Level 6 or better	39	45	39
3+ Level 6 or better	22	23	22
5+ Level 6 or better	6	9	10
In S6 3+ Level 6 or better	38	35	29
5+ Level 6 or better	22	22	19
1+ Level 7	12	16	12

There percentage of S4 pupils gaining 5+ awards at Level 5 (Credit level at Standard Grade) was very good in 2009. At SQA Higher level (Level 6) the percentages for 1+ and 5+ passes were disappointing, and a major focus for self-evaluation in 2009/10 has been to establish and address the reasons for this. Most other percentages are broadly in line with or better than those for the authority and for Scotland as a whole.

What did our pupils do when they left school? (Leavers' Destinations)

90 pupils left school last session. This is where they went:-

	CGS	Argyll & Bute	Scotland
	%	%	%
Full-time Higher Education	37	39	35
Full-time Further Education	17	20	27
Training	3	3	5
Employment	27	25	19
Other known	17	12	13
Not known	0	1	1

The number of leavers going in to the various destination categories is not significantly different from those for the authority or for Scotland as a whole. We believe the percentage entering Higher Education is understated, a reflection the number of pupils leaving to take up employment prior to taking up courses for which they have unconditional acceptances. The lower than average percentage entering Further Education is a reflection of the lower availability of FE course opportunities in the local area.

Other achievements

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
- Scotia Awards
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme
- XI Club (Prince's Trust)
- Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland
- UK Maths Challenge
- Scottish Maths Challenge

In addition to the school's own Inter-House competitions in football, hockey, badminton, table tennis and volleyball, individual athletes take part in competitions such as the Argyllshire Gathering, Cowal Games and the recently established Argyll and Bute Secondary Youth Games and in the Argyll and Bute Badminton Tournament. Our musicians participate in the Mid Argyll, Glasgow and Kintyre music festivals, as well as performing locally in concerts etc. The school also has its own annual Sports Day when pupils may compete for a range of trophies and awards.

Awards are made annually in the Home Economics department for excellence in cooking, cake decoration, etc. All pupils have their achievements within the school – in scholarship, sports, art and music and in citizenship – recognised in the school's own Prize-giving.

Among other successes recorded during session 2008/09 were the following:-

- The school's senior choir won the Lyndon Trophy at the Mid-Argyll Music Festival and shared the Festival's top award – the Gifford Bowl – with the Concert Band.
- The school Concert Band won the overall ensemble award at the Kintyre Music Festival.
- Members of the school Concert Band took part in the Argyll and Bute Schools Concert Band.
- The two school choirs won first and second place in the secondary choirs section of the Glasgow Music Festival. The school has taken first place in this competition on all three occasions when it has participated.
- Two of our pupils took first place in a competition to design a 'Love your World' Eco bag for the Capgemini Black and White Ball, held in Edinburgh's Sheraton Grand Hotel. having taken part in 'xlerate with xl' run by The Prince's Trust Scotland. Each was presented with an I-pod as well as a Windsave WS1250 wind turbine for the school.

- In August 2008, a large number of pupils from S2 and S3 travelled to Oban to compete in the Argyll and BUte Secondary Youth Games. The Grammar School had representation in 12 different sports including, athletics, badminton, basketball, dance, girls and boys football, hockey, orienteering, rugby, shinty, softball and swimming and took first place in the badminton competition, second place in athletics and third place in swimming, orienteering and shinty.
- In a partnership between the Physical Education, Sport & Health Department and Lindsay Owen, Active School Sport Co-ordinator, senior students were able to gain a variety of Sports Coaching Awards from a number of governing body including the Scottish Football Association (Early Touches), Scottish Rugby Union (Foundation Course), Scottish Hockey Union (Hockey Leaders), Junior Jog Scotland, UK Athletics (Community Sports Leader Award - Day Award), Community TOPS, Youth Sport Trust and British Red Cross (First Aid). These awards were offered both within and outwith physical education class time, allowing students to gain certification and then actively put something back by helping out at extra-curricular clubs and in classes.
- Since 2006, CGS has taken part in a national competition called the Hot-House Challenge, run by Careers Scotland and Highlands and Islands Enterprise to find young entrepreneurs who have an idea for a business or a product which uses information and communications technology to solve a problem or in a way that simply makes life easier. This year, two CGS teams beat off stiff opposition from 155 teams across Scotland to win through to the last 33. One team joined 16 others in the final round of the competition, eventually coming sixth out of the original 152 teams.
- A pupil in S1 received a Highly Commended Award in the RSA Art competition and had a picture included in an exhibition at the RSA Library in Edinburgh.
- Pupils in the Music department won the upper secondary category in a national "Ethco Challenge" competition by writing a 'rap' about the millennium development goals, going on to perform their rap "You can do it (if you try)" in the City Halls, Glasgow, in front of International Development minister Douglas Alexander.
- Pupils in the Home Economics department won second prize in the charity Shelter's nationwide Cake Time competition, winning a trip to a leading cake manufacturer and confectioner in Glasgow.

Charitable Works

Charitable fund-raising continue to be a significant feature of the collective life of the school, allowing pupils to achieve on behalf of others. The highlight of the school's charitable fund-raising continues to be the annual Children in Need Day in November, when senior pupils take over the running of the school and organise a wide range of events to raise funds for this very deserving cause. In 2008, they raised a record £9,300 on the day. In December, 120 Christmas parcels were once

again distributed to elderly and housebound members of the community by senior students. Many registration classes carried out smaller-scale fund-raising throughout the year.

Conclusion

The 2008/09 school year was again a successful one for the pupils and staff of Campbeltown Grammar School, supported by an active and interested Parent Council and Parent-Teacher Association. The school continues to strive towards further improvement without losing sight of its vision to ensure that pupils are happy and safe as well as successful.

William Crossan
Rector
21 February, 2010