

## Argyll and Bute Council: Community Services – Education

### Tarbert Academy Report on Achievement 2010/2011

#### Introduction

2010/2011 was a successful and interesting year for Tarbert Academy. Once again, we enjoyed success in achievements at national level and academic attainment saw us placed 37<sup>th</sup> in the top 50 schools in Scotland for performance at Higher.

#### School improvements included

- **The ongoing development of Curriculum for Excellence** – in our learning and teaching framework and in inter-disciplinary work.
- We developed a **learning and teaching statement** to ensure an integrated approach to pupils' learning experience across the school.
- We made 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 planning.
- Tarbert Academy attained **accreditation as an ECO school**.
- We developed our use of **GLOW** –but we know we have more to do to maximise the potential of this resource. We are, though, the first school to involve parents in GLOW and to set up parental GLOW accounts
- We developed opportunities for **colleague and pupil leadership** across the school.
- We developed and expanded our **Inter-Agency Forum** ensuring all our partners work together to provide the best Children's Services
- A consultation group involving parents, carers and staff reviewed school communication procedures and **devised a parental email system** as an eco friendly alternative to letters home and in addition to text messaging through SEEMIS.
- Through SEEMIS reporting systems, **we increased the amount of information we share with parents on attainment** and we began work on using the same system to record achievement.

#### Curriculum innovation included

- Operating an interdisciplinary activities timetable in concurrence with our period by period timetable.

- Increasing the number of available Standard Grade courses undertaken in S3 to nine.
- SQA qualifications in leadership
- Increased interdisciplinary learning and increased active learning.

### **Improvement Plans for 2011/212**

- Continue with implementation of Curriculum for Excellence
- Embed our learning and teaching statement and prepare for new SQA qualifications in 2014.
- Introduce 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.
- Devise month by month activity plans in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing and share these with pupils and parents.
- Working towards a second Green Flag.
- Develop GLOW to allow pupils who travel by ferry to join their class electronically when the ferries are cancelled for bad weather.
- Develop frameworks for skills and creativity
- Encourage increased partnership with parents through re-introducing open days and developing the use of learning logs in Primary.
- Develop and further improve consultation with pupils.
- Strategies to improve learning and teaching – building on cognitive ability testing – and have more awareness of learning dispositions.

## Attainment 2011

### Summary

Attainment in Standard Grade fell marginally below the target of 5+ SCQF at level 5 being above 40% (2011 39.13%).

We tested pupils when they were in S2 (Cognitive Ability Tests) which gave us predictions as to how these pupils would attain in S4 courses in and exams.

Measuring exam performance in 2011 against predictions from S2 (2009)

10% of grades gained fell below CAT prediction

28% of grades were in line with CAT prediction

62% of grades exceeded CAT prediction

A relatively able cohort from last year's S4 continued to perform well in S5 and pupils of all abilities show value added qualifications.

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

## S4

	2010	2011	Argyll-Bute 2011
5+ at level 3	97%	100%	91%
5+ at level 4	79%	96%	76%
5+ at level 5	48%	39%	36%

### Comment

In a small school, one pupil can equal 4% or more – but 5+ Level 5 in excess of 40% is still a realistic target.

### Core subjects' Standard Grade Performance

	Grades 1-2	Grades 1-4
English	52%	100%
Maths	35	83%
French	41%	100%

### Strong performances in Standard Grade

The subjects performing well at Standard Grade are Chemistry, Physics, Graph Comm, H.E., Music and P.E

## S5

	2010	2011	Argyll-Bute 2011
5+ at Level 3	100%	93%	95%
5+ at Level 4	95%	86%	87%
5+ at Level 5	86%	62%	55%
1+ at Level 6	68%	48%	48%
3+ at Level 6	36%	31%	26%
5+ at Level 6	23%	21%	13%

### Comment

Almost all subjects performed well at Int 1, Int 2 and Higher. Attainment in Biology and Geography improved.

## S6

	2010	2011	Argyll-Bute 2011
5+ at Level 3	96%	100%	94%
5+ at Level 4	73%	91%	85%
5+ at Level 5	46%	91%	59%
1+ at Level 6	42%	82%	58%
3+ at Level 6	27%	59%	36%
5+ at Level 6	15%	41%	22%

In S5/6 there were strong performances in Intermediate Chemistry, Higher Drama, M.E.R., French, Maths and Hospitality.

Over the last three sessions, the school has worked hard on 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 is good added value in S6 with the cohort who achieved 55% 5+ Level 5 in S4 two years ago continuing to do well.

## What did our pupils do when they left school?

### LEAVER DESTINATIONS

#### NUMBER OF PUPILS LEAVING IN SCHOOL YEAR 2010/2011

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

## Pupil Achievements

### **National Awards**

Tarbert Academy won three national awards in 2010/2011 in

- Engineering
- Investment
- Art and photography
- Fencing

### **Tarbert Academy Young Engineers Club**

The Young Engineers' Club has had a successful year winning several trophies due to members' hard work and dedication.

### **Tarbert Academy Investment Club**

Tarbert Academy Investors' Club has been crowned Scottish champions in a UK-wide share dealing competition run by Shares4Schools. A team of S5 students was provided with sum of £1,500 to invest in the stock market from October 2010 until June 2011. Their financial dealings produced more than a

25% return on their original investment, making them third in the UK and top in Scotland for the second year in a row.

Local businessman, Phil Connor, contributed a third of the money and acted as mentor to the team, advising them on the subtleties of buying and selling. Tarbert Academy's Parent Council trusted the team with a further £500, and sponsorship from Shares4Schools brought in the final third.

Following their success, the students intend to reinvest their profits in entering the competition again next year.

**Success in Art and Photography** – pupils won several national awards once again in Art and Maggie Richmond's photography was published nationally through the *Photography in Focus* competition. Pupils photography was also printed on canvas and 35 of these local scenes have been sold so far.

Pupils took part in a Scottish Natural Heritage Photography day and visited the Glasgow School of Art Fashion Show.

**Fencing** – William Minshall is Scottish Boys' Champion in Fencing.

#### **Tarbert Academy Drama Club**

The Drama Club enjoyed an excellent session bringing home trophies in local festivals.

#### **Mods**

Several pupils have been successful in local and National Mods including first place medals in large competitions.

#### **Argyll and Bute Concert Band**

Alexandra Brough and Hannah Prill were part of a strong performance in Argyll & Bute concert band.

#### **Mid Argyll Music Festival and Kintyre Music Festival**

Several pupils won classes and section trophies in these Federation Festivals.

#### **Sports Success**

Tarbert Academy sports teams won competitions and leagues throughout Argyll and Bute in football (boys and girls teams), basketball and volleyball.

**Scottish Space School** - Mary Schafer (S5) was selected for Scottish Space School – has made the top 40 candidates and is awaiting the selection procedure for the top 10 candidates..

#### **Eco School**

The school was awarded its first Green Flag this session.

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

### Tarbert Academy Parent/Carer Survey 2011 Totals

1.	The school helps my child to be more confident. Strongly Agree 43%    Agree 57%    Disagree 0%    Strongly Disagree 0%
2.	My child enjoys learning at school. Strongly Agree 50%    Agree 50%    Disagree 0%    Strongly Disagree 0%
3.	My child's learning is progressing well. Strongly Agree 50%    Agree 50%    Disagree 0%    Strongly Disagree 0%
4.	My child is encouraged and stretched to work to the best of his/her ability. Strongly Agree 62%    Agree 38%    Disagree 0%    Strongly Disagree 0%
5.	The school keeps me well informed about my child's progress Strongly Agree 43%    Agree 55%    Disagree 2%    Strongly Disagree 0%
6.	My child feels safe in school. Strongly Agree 60%    Agree 40%    Disagree 0%    Strongly Disagree 0%
7.	My child is treated fairly at school. Strongly Agree 57%    Agree 43%    Disagree 0%    Strongly Disagree 0%
8.	I feel staff really know my child as an individual and support him/her well. Strongly Agree 55%    Agree 43%    Disagree 2%    Strongly Disagree 0%
9.	I would approach the Head Teacher if unhappy, worried or concerned. Strongly Agree 79%    Agree 21%    Disagree 0%    Strongly Disagree 0%
10.	My child would approach the class teacher or DHT/HT/PT Guidance if upset. Strongly Agree 36%    Agree 57%    Disagree 7%    Strongly Disagree 0%
11.	My child benefits from school clubs and activities provided outside the classroom. Strongly Agree 33%    Agree 57%    Disagree 10%    Strongly Disagree 0%
12.	I understand my child's curriculum (Curriculum for Excellence or Standard Grades/Intermediate/Highers etc) Strongly Agree 33%    Agree 55%    Disagree 7%    Strongly Disagree 5%
13.	The school has a good reputation in the community Strongly Agree 76%    Agree 24%    Disagree 0%    Strongly Disagree 0%
14.	When I visit the school, I feel welcome. Strongly Agree 76%    Agree 24%    Disagree 0%    Strongly Disagree 0%
15.	If I complain, the school responds quickly and with courtesy.

	Strongly Agree 74%    Agree 26%    Disagree 0%    Strongly Disagree 0%
16.	The school asks for my views. Strongly Agree 50%    Agree 48%    Disagree 2%    Strongly Disagree 0%
17.	The school takes my views into account. Strongly Agree 52%    Agree 48%    Disagree 0%    Strongly Disagree 0%
18.	The school is well led by the Head Teacher Strongly Agree 86%    Agree 14%    Disagree 0%    Strongly Disagree 0%
19.	The school is well led by its senior team (HT and DHTS) Strongly Agree 76%    Agree 24%    Disagree 0%    Strongly Disagree 0%
20.	Overall, I am happy with the school. Strongly Agree 83%    Agree 17%    Disagree 0%    Strongly Disagree 0

### How do our pupils view the school's performance?

#### 2011 Pupil Survey – (P3-S6)

1.	The school is helping me to become more confident. Strongly Agree 19%    Agree 72%    Disagree 5%    Strongly Disagree 0%    Don't Know 4%
2.	I enjoy learning at school. Strongly Agree 16%    Agree 73%    Disagree 8%    Strongly Disagree 0%    Don't Know 3%
3.	I am getting along well with my school work. Strongly Agree 19%    Agree 76%    Disagree 1%    Strongly Disagree 1%    Don't Know 3%
4.	Staff encourage me to do the best I can. Strongly Agree 39%    Agree 51%    Disagree 5%    Strongly Disagree 1%    Don't Know 4%
5.	Staff talk to me regularly about how to improve my learning. Strongly Agree 18%    Agree 53%    Disagree 20%    Strongly Disagree 1%    Don't Know 8%
6.	I get help when I need it. Strongly Agree 32%    Agree 64%    Disagree 1%    Strongly Disagree 0%    Don't



	Know 3%
7.	Staff listen to me and pay attention to what I say. Strongly Agree 23% Agree 63% Disagree 3% Strongly Disagree 2% Don't Know 9%
8.	I have a say in making the way we learn in school better. Strongly Agree 12% Agree 54% Disagree 17% Strongly Disagree 3% Don't Know 14%
9.	Staff expect me to take responsibility for my own work in class. Strongly Agree 40% Agree 55% Disagree 0% Strongly Disagree 0% Don't Know 5%
10.	Staff and pupils treat me fairly and with respect. Strongly Agree 32% Agree 60% Disagree 3% Strongly Disagree 1% Don't Know 4%
11.	I feel safe and cared for in school. Strongly Agree 38% Agree 58% Disagree 1% Strongly Disagree 1% Don't Know 2%
12.	I have adults in school I can speak to if I am upset or worried about something. Strongly Agree 39% Agree 53% Disagree 5% Strongly Disagree 1% Don't Know 2%
13.	I find it easy to talk to staff and they set a good example. Strongly Agree 26% Agree 63% Disagree 7% Strongly Disagree 0% Don't Know 4%
14.	Staff make sure that pupils behave well. Strongly Agree 34% Agree 60% Disagree 3% Strongly Disagree 0% Don't Know 3%
15.	Staff are good at dealing with bullying behaviour. Strongly Agree 34% Agree 45% Disagree 9% Strongly Disagree 1% Don't Know 11%
16.	The Student or Pupil Councils are good at getting improvements made in the school. Strongly Agree 28% Agree 51% Disagree 11% Strongly Disagree 1% Don't Know 9%

17.	The school encourages me to make healthy food choices.  Strongly Agree 24% Agree 51% Disagree 18% Strongly Disagree 3% Don't Know 4%
18.	I take part in out-of-class activities and school clubs.  Strongly Agree 34% Agree 47% Disagree 15% Strongly Disagree 2% Don't Know 2%
19.	I know what out-of-school activities and youth groups are available in my local area.  Strongly Agree 39% Agree 53% Disagree 5% Strongly Disagree 1% Don't Know 2%
20.	I would approach the Head Teacher if I had a problem or I thought something was unfair.  Strongly Agree 38% Agree 47% Disagree 8% Strongly Disagree 0% Don't Know 7%
21.	The Student Council is effective in making students' views known and helping improve the school.  Strongly Agree 26% Agree 53% Disagree 7% Strongly Disagree 2% Don't Know 12%
22.	I am willing to help the school win Green Flag status.  Strongly Agree 34% Agree 49% Disagree 7% Strongly Disagree 4% Don't Know 6%
23.	In Primary, I would tell Mrs Taylor if something was wrong or in Secondary I would tell Miss Bell.  Strongly Agree 36% Agree 48% Disagree 10% Strongly Disagree 2% Don't Know 4%
24.	The school is well led by the Head Teacher  Strongly Agree 62% Agree 34% 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 50% Agree 45% Disagree 1% Strongly Disagree 0% Don't Know 4%

## **Conclusion**

2010/2011 was a successful year. Pupils achieved well and the school met its improvement priorities. We have embarked on Session 2011/2012 with confidence and optimism!

Catriona A. Hood  
Head Teacher