



Marr College
Parent Council and Community Council
Head Teacher Report
Wednesday 4th May 2023

On Thursday 16th and Friday 17th March, Marr College was visited by two Education Scotland HM Inspectors to undertake a Thematic Inspection, focusing on our curriculum. Our inspection was positive and below is a summary of feedback shared on Friday afternoon.

- The school is taking into account national guidance and local needs and is outward looking in our approach to shaping a high-quality curriculum. New courses being developed are in response to the needs and interests of young people and reflect local context. We should ensure all staff have an awareness of national guidance to inform curriculum planning.
- Professional learning is used to influence change and we are encouraging teachers to develop a culture of enquiry. Staff are reflective and seek the views of the school community in designing the curriculum.
- We should try to capture more of 'The Marr Way' and feed this into our curriculum rationale. Highlight within the rationale leadership opportunities for all staff and students
- Identify cross cutting themes, for example digital technology, creativity and sustainability and consider how we are building progression and how subjects are feeding into these themes
- The school is proactive in trying to overcome barriers in relation to delivering the curriculum and partners are enhancing our curriculum offer and are also providing sources of funding to support initiatives.
- There are targeted approaches to reducing the attainment gap, for example the strong model in S1 Literacy and English. We should try to identify other IDL opportunities and ensure that we evidence improvement

Sincere thanks to all the staff, students, parents and partners who contributed to our Thematic Inspection visit.

Below is an update on our work over the last month:

Students

- Well done to all students who have successfully completed National 3 and National 4 courses, as well as those who have completed portfolios and coursework. We wish all our young people sitting exams in this current diet the very best of luck
- Easter School classes were well attended and provided an opportunity for young people to access additional support from their teachers during the holiday. Thank you to all staff who provided sessions and to Seagate Church who provide a gift for staff
- S6 Students, parents and staff attended a Leavers' Ceremony on Thursday 20th April in the school Assembly Hall. S6 attended an enjoyable 'last day' trip to Bouncestation followed by lunch and sports games at Dean Castle Country Park
- Well done to Fullarton House who won the term 3 House Points challenge. Pupils enjoyed a movie afternoon and snacks on the last day of term.
- After the Easter break, S1-S3 students attended year group assemblies with key messages shared regarding expectations for school uniform and good conduct in the community
- The SQA diet runs until Tuesday 30th May and new S5/S6 will return for Induction Days from 31st May.
- S1-S3 students have been advised about the upcoming Bring Your Own Device pilot, which will provide wifi access for those wishing to bring their device (laptop, netbook, tablet) to school to support their learning. Further information will be shared with parents and carers
- All S1 students will participate in an Interdisciplinary Learning project on plastic waste from 9th – 12th May
- The 6-week positive behaviour challenge commences on 15th May and all eligible pupils will have the opportunity to participate in Rewards Day at the end of June
- The timetable change for new S2-S4 students has been brought forward to 15th May and this has been communicated to all parents and carers
- Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh's expeditions are scheduled to take place in May and June

Captains/Prefects:

- S6 Leavers' Hoodies were issued prior to the Easter break
- School Captains delivered a speech to their peer and parents during the recent Leavers' Ceremony
- Applications for School Captain, House Captain and Prefects will be issued to all S5 students towards the end of the exam diet

Parents and Community Partners

- An S1-S3 Parent Open Evening has been arranged for Monday 15th May. This will provide an opportunity for parents to attend workshops and also feedback on further parent engagement need for the coming session
- S3 reports and S4-S6 estimate reports have been issued. S2 reports are currently being quality assured by staff. Work is being undertaken across the authority to review the current reporting format
- All S1 students will be participating in a Community Day on Friday 12th May and will undertake a volunteering placement as well as a mass community clean up within the town. Our S3 Barista elective group are hosting a community café on 12th May and have invited a range of local partners and members of the community
- The Parent Council Fundraising Group continue to meet 30mins prior to each monthly Parent Council meeting. There is no obligation to attend the full Parent Council meeting and anyone interested in joining the fundraising team should contact marrparentcouncil@gmail.com

Staff Update / School Improvement Plan

- Below is an update on current staff appointments and vacancies
 - Mrs E Bolland (current NQT) and Mr W Jackson have been appointed to permanent posts in English
 - Mrs McDonagh has secured a PT English post, commencing 12th June. A vacancy is currently advertised with interviews taking place on 18th May
 - There were no applicants for the post of PT Home Economics to cover Mrs Mitchell's maternity leave. A vacancy has been advertised for a class teacher of Home Economics
 - Interviews for the post of 0.6FTE School Librarian take place on 9th May
 - We have bid for 12 newly qualified teachers for session 2023-24 and will receive confirmation of successful bids on 15th May
- Mr Mark Quirk has now taken up his post as Outdoor Learning Worker to take forward and enhance our successful outdoor programme. Mr Quirk will also support departments to maximise opportunities for outdoor learning within the curriculum
- Mr Harris is leading a 'Smoke Free Schools Initiative' aimed at raising awareness of the dangers of smoking/vaping and ensuring our school is free of smoking/vaping
- Consultation with students, staff, parents and partners on the School Improvement Plan will take place across May and June. The current session Improvement Plan will be reviewed in May and the school Standards and Quality Report will be published at the start of the new session

Upcoming Events

- Monday 8th – Additional bank holiday
- Tuesday 9th – Friday 12th May – S1 IDL Plastic Waste
- Friday 12th May – S1 Community Day / P7 Enhanced Transition / S2 Girls Inspire Sport Day
- Monday 15th May – change of timetable for new S2-S4
- Monday 15th May – S1-S3 Parent Open Evening 5.30-7.30pm
- Friday 19th May – P6 Transition Day (DYW and Modern Languages)
- Friday 26th May – School closed and reopens to pupils on Wednesday 31st May
- Tuesday 30th May – In-service Day

G Docherty
Head Teacher
2/05/2023