

Marr College
Parent Council Head Teacher Report
Wednesday 5th December 2018



I am delighted to have been appointed to the permanent post of Head Teacher of Marr College and very much look forward to continuing our improvement journey in close partnership with parents and our wider community.

Our Local Authority Self-Improvement Visit took place on Wednesday 21st November. The visiting team included the Quality Improvement Manager and Officers, a Primary and Secondary Head Teacher, Secondary DHT and authority Inclusion Co-ordinator. The visit included a presentation led by the Head Teacher outlining attainment in the BGE and Senior Phase, our strengths and areas being developed. The visiting team, together with the Marr College Senior Leadership Team, then visited 50 lessons to observe learning and teaching. Focus group meetings of pupils and staff also took place during the day followed by a debriefing meeting with the team to share our findings.

The visiting team commented on the positive relationships that exist across the school and the wide range of experiences outside the classroom that are available for our young people. A letter will be issued to parents/carers in the coming weeks outlining the overall key strengths and development needs.

Students

- Celebrating Success House Assemblies took place last week. In total, 119 S2 students achieved the Bronze level Crest Award for their work in STEM and 101 students across S1-S6 were awarded School Colours following their successful applications in October. A number of young people achieved Colours in more than one area.
- Marr College has retained the Barbarian Conference with presentation scheduled for 4th December
- Fundraising - Well done to the team S6 who had their heads shaved to raise money for Ayrshire Cancer Support. At the last count the team had raised a whopping £2786 – a fantastic achievement
- S6 Captains and members of the Brass Band represented Marr College at the recent Remembrance Service at the Troon Cenotaph. A special Assembly was held on Friday 9th November led by one of our school Chaplains, Derek Peat
- Last week, the Baldy Bane Theatre Co. delivered the entertaining production 'School Daze' to our S1 as part of the Road Safety Theatre in Education programme
- An S3 pupil has won the South Ayrshire Christmas Banner competition and her winning design will be displayed in the Sandgate, Ayr
- Two Senior Debating Teams progress to the second round of the Donald Dewar Memorial Debating Tournament following an exciting and informative evening of debate against two teams from Wellington School, Ayr. The motion for debate was: *'This house believes Google does more harm than good'*.
- Two S4 students won the Victim Support Scotland National Schools Speaking Competition held at UWS on 12th November
- On Wednesday 28th November we will be hosting the annual Rotary Young Musician of the Year competition from 7pm in the Assembly Hall
- S6 Captains have written their own Student Improvement Plan, making use of the new *How Good is OUR School* document published by Education Scotland. The plan focuses on developing house ethos and engaging with the wider Community

Staff

- Mr McClymont has been appointed temporary Teacher of Physical Education following Mr McPike's recent temporary move. Mr McClymont will start on 7th January
- Miss Walker, Mr Alford and Ms Gunn continue to support young people in their acting PT Guidance role

Parent and Partner Engagement

- S5/S6 reports have been issued. Young people commented that the reports are more individualised and focus on next steps
- On Friday 30th November, we will be hosting a Business Breakfast with invited guests from a range of local employers and training providers. Young people will share their experiences of career education and we will also be looking for our partners to support a Mentors in Business initiative

School Improvement Plan (SIP)

- Progress was reviewed by the Senior Leadership Team
- Departmental Reviews are taking place in December for Maths and History/Modern Studies
- Two members of staff visited Stewarton Academy to share practice in self-evaluation
- A further two members of staff are visiting Carrick Academy on 3/12 to meet their 'House Ambassadors' related to developing House Ethos
- The Prince's Trust have agreed in principle to two additional Developing the Young Workforce Projects. Next term we will be offering Rural Skills, a horticultural based course, and Cycle Maintenance. These will complement our Nail Bar and Barista courses that are already established

Communication

- News updates have been sent to the Ayrshire Post, Troon's Going Out and South Ayrshire Live (a new online newsletter)
- Groupcall/Xpressions leaflet issued at recent S2 Parents' Evening. Similar approach for upcoming S4 Parents' Evening

Upcoming Events

- Christmas Dances 11th – 13th December
- Christmas Concert 19th December
- Christmas Assembly and Rewards Afternoon 20th December
- School closes 2.30pm on 21st December

G Docherty

27/11/18