

SHPP Meeting of 21st May 2013 – Headteacher’s Report

Staffing

- English – Mrs McKeown is recovering well and is hoping to return on a phased basis early next term. A Newly Qualified Teacher will also join the Faculty in August.
- Social Subjects – Mrs Watson, PT Social Subjects, retires at the end of this term. Her post has been advertised and interviews to appoint a replacement will be held before the end of term.
- Expressive Arts – Mrs Thompson, Art & Design teacher, who has been officially ‘winding down’ over the past 2 years and currently holds a .6 timetable, retires at the end of term. Mrs Sophie Dyer, a Music/Drama teacher, has recently been appointed to replace Mrs Thompson and to release Mr Rimmer, PT Expressive Arts, to carry out SBC duties. Mrs Dyer’s appointment means that we will reduce (not remove) the time allocation to Art & Design in S1 & 2, and introduce Drama. Certificated courses in Art & Design will continue to be offered in S3 and S4-6 and we hope, in the future, to extend opportunities in Drama. Mr Cawthorn’s absence continues to be covered by Mrs Wanslass.

33 period week

- Following consideration of comments from staff, students, and parents, and meetings with SBC’s Transport Department, we are moving to a 33 period week from June 10th. A letter has been sent to parents confirming details.

Curriculum

- The 2013/14 S3 curriculum structure has been agreed as has the 2014/15 S4-6 structure. Both structures were discussed with staff, and shared with small groups of parents and at a Parent Information Evening. Amendments were made as a result. Mock choices were also carried out to ensure that plans, as far as possible, meet student demand.
- The additional 3 periods gained from moving from a 30 to a 33 period week have been used to enhance curricular provision in S1&2 and enhance choice in S4-6. Details can be accessed via SHS’s revamped website.
- SHS has been invited to take advantage of two opportunities to extend choice in the senior school next session. One involves participation in the Queen Margaret University Academies initiative, the other by offering a Creative Industries/Creative fashion course. The details of both are currently being discussed.

Additional resources

- Additional government funding provided for schools to develop the CfE Senior phase has been allocated on a bids basis to subjects.
- Funding allocated to Learning Boards for the purpose of CfE moderation has enabled some subject colleagues from Earlston High School and Selkirk High School to work together.
- The SBC refresh has resulted in new ICT equipment including PCs, Notebooks and printers replacing older models. To enable us to maintain provision, the school's budget supplemented the Refresh budget.
- Thanks to the generosity of Andrew Bird Consulting Limited, we have been able to purchase 4 Interactive Whiteboards to add to those in situ. Demand for Interactive Whiteboards is increasing as teachers see and hear about the benefits.

Refurbishments

- The main corridor leading to the assembly hall has been painted, and we plan to redecorate the senior end during the summer holiday.

Synthetic pitch

- We are delighted that, at last, we are to get a synthetic pitch which will bring huge benefits to our students and the local community. We are very grateful to those who have supported the project over the years and have continued to fight our corner. Thank you!

Progress with 2012/13 Improvement Plan priorities

- Work associated with the move to a 33 period week, and the development of our S3 and S4-6 curricular models is complete. The impact will continue to be monitored and evaluated.
- Teachers have continued to work hard developing S3 courses, and National 4 and 5 courses. Time permitting; some subjects have reviewed s1/2 courses.
- Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing working groups continue to develop a whole school approach to these 3 areas, both in terms of teaching and learning, and monitoring student progress.
- A number of teachers have been involved in SBC's Tapestry initiative, which is a structured programme that promotes effective teaching and learning.

- The reporting structure has continued to be developed to reflect the SEEMIS system and CfE. Parents' views are being sought regarding how meaningful our reporting information is for parents.
- The reporting system and the use of e-portfolios have continued to be developed to promote evidencing progress, and identifying next steps in learning.
- The school's website has been redesigned by a professional company.

Next session's Improvement Plan priorities

All staff are currently involved in reviewing progress with the current session's priorities, and identifying what developments should be included in next session's plan. 3 broad areas have been identified.

1. Continued development of the S3 curriculum
2. Continued preparation for the introduction of Senior Phase
3. Continued development of Literacy, Numeracy, H&WB, and T&L through involvement in Tapestry

The detail associated with each will be agreed over the next few weeks.

W. Burgon
May 2013