



Fraserburgh Academy

March 2019

raising aspirations – reaching goals – releasing potential

Rectors Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

SQA Exams 2019

Preparations for the SQA exams due to start on Thursday 25th April 2019 are well ahead of schedule with only individual learner timetables to be issued on return from the Easter break. All letters regarding Additional Assessment Arrangements have been issued and the final touches to allocating rooms and invigilators is near completion. This year several exam times have had to be changed to accommodate the increased amount of exams and those exams with amended times are shown in red on the timetable displayed on both the school website and school Facebook page, the amended timetable is also on display on the school screens and we would ask that parents ensure that their child checks all their exam times against the school timetable and not the one found on the SQA website. Letters for parents regarding the exams have been issued to all pupils in S4, S5 and S6 and a copy of this letter can again be found online. Learners will have study leave from Wednesday 24th April to Monday 3rd June (inclusive) with those returning for S5 and S6 returning on 4th June 2019. Learners will still be able to attend school during study leave to seek support and advice from their teachers. Fraserburgh Academy's exam results have steadily improved over the last six years and with both parental and school support we hope that this year will be another successful year for all our learners.

Retirement

To allow me to focus on other areas I have decided to retire from the post of Rector as from August 2019. Being Rector at Fraserburgh Academy has been the most fulfilling time in my professional life. I will miss the strong, dedicated team of staff, our wonderfully talented young people and the supportive community that we serve. Thank you for all that you have done to support the school over the last six years.

P7-S1 Transition Update

The P7–S1 Transition process for 2019 began on 6th February with a very well attended P7 Parents' Information Evening. Almost three hundred parents and carers appreciated a tour of the school led by senior pupils and a number of presentations were given by Irene Sharp, DHT, Elizabeth Bruce, the school's Career Coach, Derek O'Halloran, School CLD Worker and four S1 pupils – Isla Barnstable-Stuart, Ellen Bartolome, Alanna Davidson and Sarah Melvin, all from 1C1. The girls gave a comprehensive account of their experience of moving from primary to secondary.

On Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th March all P7 pupils came together in the assembly hall to take part in “Visit Fraserburgh”, an enterprise event during which they formed their own companies to develop, create and market tourist memorabilia. Each P7 assumed a role within their company and worked well together with pupils from other primary schools. This very successful event was led by our S3 Enterprise Leaders who supported each P7 company, ran the resources store, manned the bank and acted as buyers of the products created. The event was very much enjoyed by all the pupils who took part and academy staff were very impressed with their creativity, enthusiasm and positive behaviour.

A number of S1 pupils accompanied our Pupil Support Workers to visit all eleven Fraserburgh Cluster Primaries during week beginning 11th March. During these meetings P7 pupils received more information about the academy and had the opportunity to pose questions to the first year pupils.

The next event on the transition calendar is the “Transition ‘19” event on Tuesday 14th May, to be held at the running track in Fraserburgh. This event will give pupils the opportunity to work with other P7 pupils who will be in their S1 house group in a series of challenges run by a number of academy staff and school partners.

Enterprise Festival

March saw our second year of the highly successful Enterprise Festival, led by PT DYW and the Employability teachers. Some of our most hard to reach youngsters were receiving praise for running their businesses, creating products and generating profit for the school’s three charities: £200 profit made, and lots of enterprising S3s!

BEET

BEET (Broch Employer Engagement Team) has been very successful with now 40 employers secured for next year’s careers fair; work placements continue to grow from S3 upwards with the coordination of our Guidance Team and our recently appointed DYW coordinator.

NESCOL Applications

There has been a Herculean effort from the Guidance team to get over 200+ NESCOL applications processed for our new S4-S6, including over 50 Foundation Apprenticeship applications. Fraserburgh Academy is the leading school in the authority for both utilising the college and for launching FAs. We also have 3 applicants for the SRUC (Scottish Rural University College) for the first time.

NPA's/New Highers

New courses on offer are looking highly popular, with Highers in Philosophy and Politics drawing lots of interest from senior pupils; National Progression Awards are really starting to gain the credibility they deserve as we now have NPAs in Science, Travel and Tourism as well as Scottish Studies.

Yours In Partnership

David Clark
Rector