

ST PETER THE APOSTLE HIGH SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

As you are aware, raising attainment for all our pupils has always been a priority in our school. Although not a specific priority in our School Improvement and Departmental Development Plans, the issue of raising attainment permeates everything we do. This year the authority is making a considerable drive to raise attainment across all secondary schools. To this end, it has financed the creation of 5 Raising Attainment Posts: Mrs Reilly carries out this remit in St Peter the Apostle High School. The authority has also launched its own Raising Attainment website (see below for more details). The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you up to date with developments in our school and WDC.

Appointment of PT Raising Attainment

Whole school role

- to ensure a whole school consistency regarding pupils in danger of dropping levels as a result of pupils failing NABs and / or prelims
- to take a whole school monitoring role regarding tracking pupil progress - an overview of pupils causing concern
- to monitor attendance and timekeeping and any impact on performance
- to support staff regarding attainment data : statistics / tables / grids etc

Identified focus groups

- to identify and work with (in liaison with PT subjects) specific groups of pupils who are on the borderline of a higher pass
- to identify target areas eg folio work / internal assessments
- to develop practical strategies : study skills / confidence / revision planning

Relationships / motivation

- to motivate pupils and establish personal relationships
- to encourage attendance at Supported Study / Saturday morning classes and Easter Revision School.



Raising Attainment Action Plans

- The school, and every department, has developed its own Action Plan which has been submitted to Council. These plans have the following headings:

Use of Raising Attainment Principal Teacher; Effective use of SQA analysis; Learning & Teaching; Tracking; Role of Departments; Parental Partnership; Improvement Planning.

- Every department in the past fortnight has devoted an entire Departmental Meeting to raising attainment. These meetings were attended by the HT and / or link Depute Head. Findings have been collated and fed back to departments with suggestions for improved practice. There was a particular focus on and analysis of S4 Prelim performance. This analysis has identified individual pupils and groups of pupils who may need additional support. Departments are offering specific support for these individual and groups.

WDC has asked for regular updates regarding these Action Plans

Supported Study - Traditional Programme

The school has offered a comprehensive Supported Study programme based on subject columns to S4 and S5/6 since October and will continue to do so between now and the Easter holidays. This term, as a result of departmental prelim analysis, there will be the opportunity for more personalised support. Mrs Reilly will

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contact parents who are not making the best of this opportunity. It is worth noting that departments that tracked attendance at Supported Study noted a direct link with improved performance in the S4 prelims.

Saturday Morning Classes

These classes have been running for S 5/6 pupils since October and these will be extended to S4 pupils over the next few weeks.

Easter Revision School

The authority has provided money for us to run a comprehensive programme of Supported Study during the Easter holidays. At the moment we are in the process of planning a programme which will be distributed to parents as soon as possible.

Lunchtime Classes

Many departments offer a more informal programme of Supported Study when pupils can use resources at lunchtimes to complete folio work etc under teacher supervision.

Teachers in St Peter the Apostle High School are also very willing to give of their own non-contact time to help individual pupils.

S5 Stuck on Study Programme

A comprehensive and innovative approach enabling S5 students to cope with the demands of sitting Highers. This programme will be delivered on Saturday mornings – more detail to follow from Mr Darroch.

Mind, Body & Soul

This holistic approach to raising attainment for selected S4 pupils started in Third Year. A study week-end is being planned for this group, but it will be open to any interested S4 pupil. – more detail to follow from Mr Rainey

WDC Master Classes

WDC is planning a programme of ‘Master Classes’ for English, Maths, Chemistry, History and Geography for S 5/6 pupils during the second week of the Easter holidays. These classes will be taken by teachers from across the



authority and will be concentrating on ‘Exam Technique’. It is likely some classes will be in our school with others probably in Clydebank High School

WDC Raising Attainment Website

A new WDC Raising Attainment has been launched by WDC at

www.wdcweb.info/education-and-learning/learn-achieve-succeed/
This site has useful information and links.

St Peter the Apostle High School Website

Our own website contains a lot of very useful support and info: School Programme of Events / Supported Study programmes / SQA Past Papers / SQA Exam Timetable / BBC Bitesize / Homework / NAB dates. In addition the majority of departments have useful revision advice in their departmental websites.