

Kinlochbervie 3-18 ASG

Head Teacher's report to Parent Council February 21st 2018

Quality improvement Visit:

We recently hosted a team of Quality Improvement Officers, Head Teachers and Early Years and Additional Support Needs Specialists in a visit which is essentially Highland Council's version of an inspection. Alison Donald who is our Quality Improvement Manager replacing Barry Northedge was also part of the team. Christine Gordon who is our Quality Improvement Officer has completed her report and this is available on the websites.

3-18 ASG:

We continue to develop the new management structure within the 3-18 set up and I am pleased to report that we are now part of a pilot scheme to establish the role of a team leader in the clerical and admin team. Paula has taken the role of team leader in the pilot and is now leading the clerical teams across the ASG, freeing up management staff to focus on learning and teaching.

Staffing:

In spite of earlier reports from Highland Council about budget cuts it now looks as if we will retain the same level of staffing next session as we have this year. I had a staffing meeting in Golspie on 2nd March at which the staffing levels for next year were agreed and I am very happy with the allocation across the ASG

Mrs MacRae in Durness Primary School has decided to retire at Easter. Her job will be advertised nationally and we are hopeful that we will get a number of applicants.

As always at this time of year there is a little uncertainty about who will be with us next year, there are always staff who plan to move on for one reason or another and there are staff who are with us on temporary contracts who would wish to stay. Given the positive staffing meeting it is likely that we will keep anyone who wants to stay and I will inform parents as soon as I know exactly what the staff across the ASG will be for next session.

Pupil Equity Funding:

This is money which the Scottish Government provided to schools to help close the attainment gap. We have used the money we were given this year to help with transport to bring pupils from Scourie and Durness to Kinlochbervie on Wednesdays. We have also funded a programme of numeracy support in the primary schools which is delivered by Shona Alison on Wednesdays. In addition 10 staff across the ASG have signed up to OSIRIS training, a programme designed to improve the quality of teaching and learning and to improve interaction with pupils. Early reports from trainer and from trainees are very positive and this programme will continue next session.

There has been a degree of controversy surrounding the newly created Flag for Sutherland. We were involved in the competition to design the flag, a number of entries from all the schools were commended and Kieran Day, our Head Pupil was a member of the selection committee. Everyone is free to form their own opinions of the flag but I would remind any objectors that this was a creation of the children of Sutherland and the winning design was selected by a panel which included representatives from the secondary schools across the county. I have ordered a flag for the school which will be flown from our new flagpole during term time.

Kenyan Connections:

Katy Lee, Aileen MacDonald, Rowan Watkins and Sarah Lockhart are in Kenya this week visiting our link secondary and primary schools as part of a British Council initiative to link schools in Kenya with schools in the UK. I am certain they will have an eye opening and exciting trip and will provide a full report on their return.

Kinlochbervie Primary School Inspection:

The primary school was inspected last week by HMIE and their report will be available in the next month or so. The inspection will give us an indication of what Education Scotland see as the areas for improvement but it was an inspection of one part of what is now an ASG so the results may not reflect a true picture of what we are trying to achieve.