

Headteacher Update Week 25

At assemblies this week we reminded our seniors about the study support plans - it is great to see our pupils taking advantage of this great offer of support.

I have had meetings with pupil focus groups who have been supported by mentors. The pupils feel that this is having a really positive impact in motivating and encouraging them to achieve their full potential.

I want to highlight the efforts of our Pupil Support Team (Guidance, ASN, EASN and LAs) and the lengths they have went to support our targeted pupils to complete their qualifications. This has required relentless determination to work in partnership with our families and get the best possible outcomes. It will be worth it come August!

During the Easter break we will be offering staff and pupils the opportunity to continue our focus on study. This will take place during the first week of the holidays. SMT will coordinate a timetable for these optional support sessions..... and yes, there will be pizza!

Pupil Talks

It was great to see our pupils and staff getting on with Business. Our S2 English classes have been busy developing their confidence and literacy skills through doing class talks on their favourite film. Well done.



Communication

The frequency of communication and the ways Alloa Academy has been communicating with the community has greatly increased this session. Below is a picture of Jack Mather (S6) advertising our Secondary School App, Show My Homework, Twitter and Website.



Since January, Jack has been busy developing our website and it is looking better each week! We will continue to develop this and improve the functionality and user experience.

Jack is an outstanding leader and role model to others.

Volunteering

Throughout 2017/18 Gillian Freeland (PT DYW) has supported our senior pupils gain voluntary work experience. This has required a great amount of partnerships with our local employers, and has resulted in many of our senior's gain a Saltire Award.



Our Seniors have clocked up an amazing 3588 hours of voluntary work. That's over 102 weeks of full-time work!

Outstanding effort from all involved. Our pupils are a credit to the families in Alloa.

Thanks.

Wi-Fi Access

It was great to hear the Pupil Leadership Team announce that the school community access the Wi-Fi. A special thanks to the Technician team for making this possible.

A great legacy from our outstanding Pupil Leadership Team of 17/18.

Visitors

Marinieves Alba (Children's Aid NYC)

It was a great pleasure to welcome Marinieves Alba (Children's Aid NYC) to Alloa Academy on Tuesday (13) March, thank you to the Parent Forum Scotland and the Clackmannanshire Educational Management Team for their support organising this visit.



There was good debate from the audience that was made up of cross-sector visitors who had a common interest in supporting young people and families to improved outcomes.

I have been told that there will be a section on Marinieves Alba's visit in this week's TESS Magazine. It was a great effort from those involved to have an international speaker in school. We recorded the event and this will be available to staff asap.

The highlight of the event for me was the outstanding welcome from our young people. All of the visitors commented on how the young people made them feel welcome. Leah McLaren was fantastic on the piano and played to a large audience at very short notice. Thank you and well done!

Keith Brown (MSP) and Ellen Forson (Councillor)

We welcomed Ellen Forson (Councillor) and Keith Brown (MSP) to Alloa Academy on Friday 16 March.



This meeting was mainly focused on Pupil Equity and Partnerships within the cluster. Karen Jefferson (PT Active Learning) and Karen Wilkes (PT Family and Communication) updated our visitors on the work of the Support Hub and it was nice to see the positive impact that this targeted support is having on our children and families.

We also shared our universal support strategies including the mentoring programme which is helping a large group of our seniors improve outcomes.

I hope you have a great week ahead and I look forward to updating you on how the Ski Trip and F1 in Schools Competition went in my next update.

Many thanks.

Mr Bruce