

# FURNESS ACADEMY

## Headteacher's Report to Governing Body – Spring Term 2017



### 1. Students and Curriculum – Departmental Reports to Governors

#### THE ARTS DEPARTMENT (Art, Drama & Music)

Subject Leader - Miranda Bond

##### Art

- GCSE Fine Art exam paper started - accounts for 40% of course marks. 6 weeks to complete preparatory studies which is 60/80 marks.
- Personalised and resourced Year 11 exam plans created for each student.
- February half term Year 11 clinic - well attended.
- MBN attended AQA standardisation meeting. Also accepted contract to moderate for AQA this year. Training starts end of March.
- Arts SOW audit - Arts central file created on drive and populated with Art, Drama and Music SOW, assessments, homeworks and resources.

##### Drama

- GCSE students have completed all practical sessions for Unit 1 and 2. Initial rehearsals and planning sessions taking place outside of lesson for Unit 3 final performances.
- Big Fish rehearsals going well with 3 weeks to go, tickets on sale, set and costumes coming together.
- Construction of scenery has been undertaken by a group of Year 10 and 11 students.
- Big Fish promotions such as "Big Fish Bricks" and a forthcoming flashmob at break have been organised.
- Two Year 11 GCSE students auditioned successfully and gained places on the Performing Arts course at Kendal College.
- One Year 11 student applied for the annual Duke's Theatre work placement scheme and was successful in securing her place.
- ELIOT project - 20 students from Year 8 and Year 9 are fully involved in using drama techniques and active learning styles to develop work about WW2 and the Holocaust in their weekly lunchtime session. Three of the students will be travelling to Holland for a week long experience.

##### Music

- "Vocal Force" – Choral group continued to run.
- Options Evening – Change of course for GCSE introduced attracting more numbers and more abilities have possibility of undertaking course.
- Intervention sessions – Half term coursework sessions for Year 11. Some pupils attended and this proved very successful.
- Equipment – New drum kit has been purchased and bass guitar. RnT music consulted about coming in to service the guitars.
- Rock/Classix Academy – Being run on Wednesday after school and is used to develop performance skills – some pupils attend via enrichment club on the shorter school day.
- Rehearsals – School show rehearsals have been a huge part of the weekly running of the department working on developing chorus and solo singing for performances in March.

#### COMPUTING, ICT & BUSINESS STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Subject Leader - Claire Lyons

- PRA continued with STEM Robotics club and attended first competition for Tomorrow's Engineers EEP Robotics Challenge 2016-17, with the students gaining the CORE VALUES award for teamwork, sharing ideas, gracious professionalism and helpfulness. PRA due to attend another Space Themed competition at Preston iSTEM college on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March, results to follow.
- 2016 BEBRAS Computational Thinking Competition - 5 students performed extremely well to be in top 10% of students in the country.
- Period 7s continue after school for GCSE ICT coursework completion/response to teacher feedback, Business Studies revision and also Computer Science controlled assessment.
- February half-term clinic for Computer Science CA ran - 10 students.

- CLY delivered CPD on supporting the progress of More Able students – session developed from Optimus training course attended in November 2016.
- Business Studies – controlled assessments submitted w/e 03/03/17.

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

**Subject Leader - Julia Ingham**

- Filmed and standardised 35 Year 11 students' presentations based on a controversial topic for the Spoken Language assessment; these were moderated by the department.
- Delivered training on Pixl and the Curve to the department, exploring new resources and exam tips from AQA.
- Disseminated information regarding Minsthorpe and identified students for intervention and support, creating action plans for up to 6 pupils in each class.
- Reviewed and amended departmental marking policy.
- Created refresher weeks' resources and lesson plans on Jekyll and Hyde and the Conflict poems for Years 10 and 11.
- Created assessment frameworks for Years 7-11 to ensure consistency and clarity of the assessment foci and outcomes.
- Reconfigured AOs for each unit of work in Years 7-9 long term plans to ensure coverage across the key stages.
- Updated and re-established the departmental handbook.
- Year 8 trip to Auschwitz in Ambleside, based on a literary text.
- Cinema trip for Year 8 to watch RSC The Tempest streamed live.
- Year groups 7-10 have engaged in the Wordsworth competition and Alfred Hubermann Award for Writing.
- Year 7 Catch up sessions are now running for identified students who require additional support in literacy. Groups have been identified and each group receives two additional English sessions.
- 222 entries sent for the Young Writers Wonderland competition and 4 entries for BBC Radio 2 500 words challenge.

**HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT (Geography, History & Religious Education)**

**Subject Leader - Susan Bainbridge**

- Y11 controlled assessment will be completed by the first week back and, once each question has been marked, marks will be on SIMS with approximate grades (based on last year's grade boundaries). Appropriate intervention will follow.
- A focus on Year 11 revision running up to the exams. First exam for the department is RS on May 15<sup>th</sup>.
- RE have been working with St. Bernard's on moderation of the new RS spec assessment.
- Geography intervention has taken place with some identified Year 11 students following a visit from Colin Nunn.
- Geography have purchased the whiteboard e-textbook for use with the new spec GCSE.
- KS3 Schemes of Work are currently being updated to include GCSE style questions across all three subjects.
- Year 9 options assemblies and options evening.
- Learning walks with SLT and school governor have taken place.
- We continue to develop the new specifications for GCSE across the three subjects.
- Staff have taken part in school CPD on leadership, behaviour, literacy, growth mindset.

**MATHS DEPARTMENT**

**Subject Leader - John-Paul Duckworth**

- Catch up sessions for Year 7s; below the expected progress in maths have continued to run before and after school. They are following a Numeracy Ninjas programme where they can achieve different coloured belts as their numeracy skills progress.
- Year 11 More Able pupils have been attending Barrow 6<sup>th</sup> Form College to do some additional maths to aid them with the transition between GCSE and A-Level.

- 3 out of 10 pupils received bronze certificates after entering the UKMT maths Challenge.
- A team of Year 10 maths pupils won the maths enrichment day at Dowdales School, run by The Further Mathematics Support Programme.
- Year 11 Saturday Maths booster run. 100 pupils attended a full day booster session looking at key skills required for the exam. This was held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January.
- One member of staff attended a More Able course for KS4 and will feedback to the department at one of the departments CPD sessions.
- HOD has organised 2 CPD sessions for FEC:
  - Mel Muldowney from Just Maths
  - Don Steward.
- Learning walks focusing on KS3 conducted.
- Development Plan & Marking policy have both been amended.
- Assistant Subject Leader spent a day with UVHS Maths department.
- Year 11s continue to receive additional support in period 7s and personal and online tutoring.

### MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

#### Subject Leader - Anna-Maria Rothnie

- Moderation of first Year 11 German Controlled Assessment pieces in Writing has taken place. All should achieve C or higher in this skill provided their second pieces maintain the same standard or exceed it.
- Moderation of written Controlled Assessment grades at FEC.
- Support through CPD sessions to improve Year 11 German Listening and Reading grades.
- The impact of the translation CPD session has been evident in students' exercise books and teachers feel more confident teaching this skill as a result of the session.
- One of our EAL students is being supported by the SL to sit the AQA Italian GCSE paper in the summer. Another will be entered for the Short Course examination in Listening and Speaking in Italian.
- The Vocab Express Global Challenge is taking place from 06/03/2017 to 10/03/2017. All Year 7s, 8s and 9s currently studying MFL have been entered. Students can also access other languages including Polish, Urdu, Italian, Spanish and Mandarin.

### PE DEPARTMENT

#### Subject Leader - Catherine Amison

- **Primary Transition – Sports Science**  
All feeder schools were invited to attend a sports science transition event. Year 5 were involved with trampolining and analysis of performance, circuit (circuit training with the use of iPad) and urine drug testing. The event was a huge success with excellent feedback from students, primary staff and parents who attended.
- **Ski trip – January 2017**  
Fantastic trip undertaken with good reports regarding our students' conduct and behaviour from staff who attended and staff, instructors and teachers from other establishments.
- **Indoor Cricket Competition**  
Year 7 girls working with Laura Marshall from Cumbria Cricket – The girls have been participating in weekly classes focusing upon developing skills to play the indoor version of kwik cricket.  
The Under 13 boys have attended the indoor competition, held at Furness College. The boys played several games over the course of the day, making progress and developing their games skills.
- **International Netball Trip - England v New Zealand**  
CAN organised and ran a trip to Liverpool in February to watch international netball. A fantastic opportunity to observe high quality match play.
- **Year 7 Boys Rugby**  
After the success of the Year 7 boys in the Furness Schools final held at Craven Park, the team qualified for the North West Regional finals held in Skelmersdale. They played against a very strong team from Wigan St. Peter's and one Year 7 students was awarded man of the match. Despite losing, the boys played extremely well and managed to score several tries throughout the game. These were the first points that St Peters had conceded all season.

- **Curriculum**  
All year groups have been involved in fitness based activities during the first part of the spring term. Fitness testing was undertaken then all students selected from a choice of 5 fitness based activities.
- **Examination groups**  
BTEC Sport and Outdoor Education revision boosters were held after school (period 7) and in the evenings with a focus upon the online exam which was undertaken in January 2017. The curriculum for the BTEC classes was altered to allow students the opportunity to focus upon the exam. Results have just been received, which revealed major progress has been made, including 20 merit grades and 1 distinction. This includes both Year 10 and 11 students.
- CAN has introduced BTEC and Key Stage 3 tracker systems to monitor the progress of students. Recent ARR data showing good progress made by majority of students.
- There was good attendance at the GCSE PE half term class, which focused upon the scenario work for section B of the exam.

#### **Information from School Games Organiser - Oliver Carswell**

- **Key Step Gymnastics**  
Since the New Year, there have been three gymnastics competitions held at Furness Academy as part of the Cumbria School Games. Primary schools from the local area were invited to enter up to two teams and compete against other schools at the three different levels of Key Steps, in total we had 10 schools put teams in. A total of 24 teams were entered across all three levels. The Evening Mail were invited to attend each competition and a write up went into their Junior Sport section, which have been displayed on the SGO board in the PE corridor.
- **Year 7 student @ Sedbergh**  
One of our Year 7 students made it through to the County Cross Country Finals at Sedbergh, by coming 5<sup>th</sup> overall in the qualifying competition. Out of 60 people at Sedbergh he came in the top 20 which is a very good effort for someone who doesn't do this type of running on a regular basis. The course had numerous steep inclines and declines with the occasional water jump as well!

#### **PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT**

##### **Subject Leader - Abbie Rawlinson**

##### **Personal Development**

- Year 11 career planning – All students tracked on the destinations database, a group have been identified as 'at risk of becoming NEET' this group will continue to work with Inspira. PD team have a regular Inspira update slot scheduled in to Wednesday CPD.
- Students are attending interviews for local colleges and Furness College skills testing is taking place.
- A group of SEND students have visited Furness College individually or in small groups to support their transition to KS5, this offers a direct link for the students and strengthens the students' confidence to progress to FE.
- FE and industrial support sessions remain in progress in curriculum time.
- Year 10 students have completed Building My Skills Checkpoint 3 and will take part in Checkpoint 4 on 23rd March with GSK. The final checkpoint and a celebration planned for the summer term.
- BAE Systems apprentice ambassadors are working with Year 11 students and continue to attend Tuesday lunch or period 7 to support students with the online application and aptitude testing.
- The group of Year 11 students who attended the NHS takeover day (January) have been invited back to debrief the Trusts Board of Directors on their experiences (this will take place in March).
- The Year 9 Careers Speed Dating event took place on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February; this was a huge success, involving over 40 individuals from industry, business and the general world of work. The NWEM reported on the success of the event and feedback from both visitors and our students was extremely positive. A debrief has taken place and amendments to the process and event have been made ready for next year.
- PD staff and pastoral staff are receiving CPD training with The Alcohol Education Trust on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March; this is to support CAP and alcohol education/awareness.

### **Health & Social Care**

- Year 11 H&SC students are close to completing their third unit of the course (Unit 5).
- January exam results show 16 students gained a Pass or Merit mark. Two students achieved L1P who will be re-sitting in May.
- A group of students identified to work with ARA to improve Unit 2 and 6 coursework, students will access either 'Catch up' or period 7 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

### **SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

#### **Assistant Director of STEM for Science - Emma Coulter**

- Two members of staff, along with the two Year 8 captains have travelled to Greece for the Erasmus project 'Girls in Science' for the first meeting in one of the partner schools.
- Year 11 students travelled to Heysham power station to help to consolidate their work on nuclear reactions, including the safe use and storage of radioactive materials.
- The department helped to host the January transition event with Year 5 pupils. Students practiced how to conduct a fair test by testing for the presence of drugs in 'urine' and 'blood' samples.
- Lots of activities planned for Science Week, details to follow in the next report.

### **SEND DEPARTMENT**

#### **SENCo - Emma Elliott**

- The start of direct work with Assistant Educational Psychologists who are part-funded by the Academy. This involves social communication groups and 1:1 work with identified students.
- Additional Needs Teacher delivering new literacy intervention to Year 7 students; focus is on closing the gap and improving basic skills.
- 5 members of the Additional Needs team working towards an HLTA qualification.

### **DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY / STEM DEPARTMENT**

#### **Director of STEM - Steve Faragher**

#### **Assistant Director of STEM for D&T - Emma Rees**

- Half term clinic in Product Design/Textiles over 2 full days. 12 students attended day 1, 13 students attending day 2.
- Re-launch of Design AM club.
- 2 full assessment days in Catering.
- Rotary Challenge trip planned with 3 groups this year, including 1 STEM Science Girls focus.
  
- Making props for school show.
- Staff attending Kimberly Clarke STEM event.
- Visits to college for Hair and Beauty students.
- 3 teams visited Glaxo for the launch of Go4Set with Mrs Halliwell.

## **2. Students - Director of Learning & Standards Reports to Governors**

### **DoLS - YEAR 7**

#### **Helen Knagg-Baugh**

We maintain a top position in terms of attendance, behaviour and engagement in school. 4 Year 7s were selected to join the school sport's council and were the only representatives in the comedy event. Weekly assemblies contain continued praise, celebrating in school and outside school success. Students have enjoyed another rewards disco and film event. Sadly, a trip to the Sandcastle was unable to go ahead as we couldn't staff it. Looking to Alton Towers on 8<sup>th</sup> April to build Year 7 team ethos.

**DoLS - YEAR 8**

**Philip Moody**

- Following 3<sup>rd</sup> round of data collection 'SP1 term' average effort and progress totals have increased again and are currently at the highest point for the year. Updated system now in place for form teachers to record, track and monitor data collected from these windows.
- Year 8s attended Valentine's disco organised by Year 7.
- Science girls to fly to Greece on 08.03.17 as part of the science project.
- 15 students invited to afternoon tea.
- Lego league winners for effort and participation (trophy received).
- 1<sup>st</sup> student in school for Diamond brick award
- 24 students completing Mentoring course held by Inspiring Barrow. Attended Water Park as part of the project and were praised very highly for their behaviour and participation throughout.

**DoLS – YEAR 9**

**Craig Maclean**

**Year 9**

This term has been a busy term for Year 9s. They attended a careers 'speed dating' where they interviewed potential employers and colleges. They also had their options evening where, along with their parents, they spoke to staff about the subjects and what the GCSE course entailed. They also met with their Year 9 subject teachers to discuss their current subjects and how they are getting on. The turn out to parents' evening was the highest by any year group.

**Ski Trip**

In January, 43 students and 4 staff set off to Alpendorf, Austria, for the annual school ski trip. The students undertook 5 days of skiing tuition and a full package of evening activities, which included tubing, swimming, a disco and a pizza evening. The skiing instructors and resort manager could not compliment the students enough on their attitude, the effort they put in and their politeness and manners throughout the week.

**DoLS – YEAR 10**

**James Riley**

- 32 students were eligible for our cinema rewards event, where they were invited to watch a film of their choosing with a free drink, popcorn and a certificate being awarded.
- We have had our first student to receive a 'Platinum' achievement certificate after she has gained 75 praise points through the brick reward system and as a year group we managed to receive a huge 17 golden bricks just for last half term.
- 14 Year 10 students attended the ski trip to Italy and our Top of the Form team have been vigorously training for their first heat.
- 13 students have been training to become Peer Mentors after successfully applying to the programme where they will be working with several Year 8s and 7s next half-term.
- 9 Year 10 students were selected to compete in the UK Maths Challenge organised by the University of Leeds; three of these students were successful in achieving the bronze award.

**DoLS - YEAR 11**

**Rebecca Roseblade**

- Supporting final preparations for Big Fish.
- Visit to Heysham Power Station.
- Completed applications for Post-16 and attending interviews.
- Accessed the range of support available to them – Period 7s, additional sessions.
- Organised and supported the Christmas Craft Fair. Prefects also went to Christmas celebrations at Chequers Hotel.
- Attended the NHS Drop Down Day.
- Attended Year 11 Parents' Evening
- Maintaining good attendance.

## **INCLUSION LEADER**

**Linzi Stanway**

### **Rewards and Behaviour:**

- Year 9 Engagement Strategy - Started 27<sup>th</sup> February. Focus to get ready for GCSEs. Students who have not been engaged in lessons removed for a week.
  - Week 1 - Positive response from both staff and students after week 1 that the pace of learning has significantly improved.
  - Week 2 - Majority of students have been reintroduced into lessons.
  - All students that were fully engaged in core subjects last week rewarded in assembly.
- DoLS working on data and students with gains from last data window all received letters home.
- Pastoral learning walks created to ensure that they have evidence of the good work that is being completed in form time.
- Year 7 parents invited to “drop in” on Wednesday 8 March if any concerns over their child’s progress.

### 3. **Assistant Headteacher Reports**

#### **Assistant Headteacher – Personal Development, Behaviour & Safety**

**Pauline Hughes**

- Reviewed and updated Medical Needs, Behaviour and Child Protection & Safeguarding policies.
- Completed LSCB safeguarding audit.
- Completed LSCB Train the Trainer course which verifies my ability, skills and knowledge to deliver Safeguarding and Child Protection training (to level 3).

#### **Assistant Headteacher – Teaching & Learning/CPD/Research & Innovation**

**Stephen Kelly**

- Whole school training on growth mindsets has taken place. Staff feedback on BlueSky shows high levels of engagement with the training, which raised awareness in terms of mindset theory and practical classroom strategies.
- Following on from the training a growth mindset working party has been put in place, with the group receiving additional training. They have identified ‘mindset’ language as a key development area and have created statement banks and art work to be displayed in all teaching areas. Staff have also contributed to a wide range of ‘inspiration’ quotes from figures of note. These will be displayed on every door in the building and will underpin further work to be done with students through form time and Personal Development lessons.
- In addition to growth mindsets, ‘stretch and challenge’ training has also taken place for a key cohort of staff to help push the most-able. As a result of the training staff have developed a range of practical strategies and there has been a consolidated focus on using circular questioning to help provide challenge.
- Leadership training has taken place for a cohort of middle leaders. The session was used to introduce a new data model to help track progress. It has subsequently been used to target and identify interventions across all departments.
- A literacy development group has also met for the first time and as a result extended writing has been identified as a key priority, with all staff involved creating literacy mats to help support key writing tasks.
- The final CPD development has been to provide behavior training for an identified cohort of teachers. As a result of the training they have widened their range of classroom strategies, which will help to ensure that they are less reliant upon school systems.
- All performance management interim reviews have taken place. Most staff are making clear progress against their targets and the adoption of BlueSky to record performance management now means that we have a far clearer overview.
- We have received our second SCITT student, with Adam Morris, joining our Maths department for a two term placement.

### Assistant Headteacher – Student Progress & School Improvement

#### Helen Robinson

- Year 11 mentoring programme launched, targeted ‘**crossover**’ students (46). Each identified student with his or her own individual mentor.
- Targeted intervention plans for KS4 under-performing students have been implemented using a wide range of strategies.
- Continued to develop a clear vision for disadvantaged students.
- To have further developed systems of intervention across KS3 and KS4.
- A Governors’ detailed timeline of activities for link visits and production of governors’ calendar.
- Student surveys and PASS completed by all year groups.
- Staff survey completed and action plan produced.
- HRO and ABU visited Sheffield Park Academy to look at the good practice with ‘disadvantaged students’ and in particular with regards to progress in English and Mathematics.
- Produced a proposal for a ‘Bridge’ provision at FA.
- Development of a Middle Leadership programme – ‘Ambition School Leadership’ programme.
- Implementation of the ‘Catch Up’ programme.
- Visits by Governors and Board members took place, including learning walks and link meetings with a focus on disadvantaged students, Science and aspects of the SDP.
- Range of transition activities continue with over 400 Year 5 students attending and 100 parents attending tours of the Academy.
- Planned programme of collaborative work between UVHS and Furness Academy.
- Development of partnership work with Inspiring Barrow.
- Range of STEM activities and projects have taken place, including preparation for ‘Top of the Form’ competition.
- Student Voice and Council have continued to be actively involving themselves in many events, fundraising for the Academy’s two charities and organising a School Voice conference with another local school.
- Half term clinics saw over 80 students attend across the three days.
- Parents evenings were held for Year 9 (84% attendance) highest ever, and Year 11 (63% attendance).
- The parents’ survey feedback from the parents evening (Years 9 & 11) was very positive: 96% in both year groups said, ‘Their child is happy at school and feels safe’, 96% said, ‘Their child is making good progress at Furness Academy’ and 99% said, ‘They would recommend it to another parent’.
- Continued representation on the FESP strategy group, exploring the accessibility to the Cumbria Skills Plan (LEP) and the FEDP Skills and Employment Group.
- Involved in the development of the CECATS working group, a strategic approach to skills and career development for students from infant age to post-16 across Cumbria.

### Assistant Headteacher – Curriculum & Data Innovation

#### Angela York

- New APA system in place in January and being used by all middle leaders.
- Training session on the new APA (Assessment Point Analysis) data system delivered with Helen Robinson to middle leaders.
- Year 11 and Year 10 written reports were published in February.
- Year 11 students in need of intervention identified from the data for Helen Robinson to work on for both the crossover group and for the disadvantaged students.
- Year 9 parents’ evening and options evening were combined for the first time, feedback from parents was positive, looking now to repeat this for current Year 8 if the logistics will work for a larger year group.
- Year 9 options process started, all forms were back in school by the deadline and the process of creating the blocks and putting students in to groups is ongoing.
- Draft model curriculum for 2017/2018 is ongoing.
- Year 11 parents’ evening took place.



**Business Director  
Andy Bush**

Work over the period December 2016 to the end of February 2017 has been focused on the following:

- Submission of the accounts to the EFA and Companies House.
- Submission of the new Annual Accounts Return to the EFA which was successfully completed.
- Continued development work on both the ScienceGirls and Eliot projects including hosting a 1 week training course on drama, music and comedy as tools to support learning engagement for 19 participants from 7 EU countries.
- Development of bid and project work for new EU submissions for March 2017.
- Site project development work aimed at future proofing the organisation to accommodate 1,000 students on catering, ICT open learning zone and ICT infrastructure improvements to be presented at Finance and the Full Trust Board.
- A successful day of comedy following on from 6 weeks of training for students and adults with shows held on Friday 17 February with around 200 guests from the community in attendance. This is expected to generate around £1,000 for the student Inspiration Fund and its formal launch.
- Furness Academy PTFA is now formed and in the process of officially being registered as a charity with the Charity Commission.