

01 March 2022

## Rector's Report

- Music Technology and Benches:

Great publicity in the Huntly Express this week around the funding for Music Technology and outdoor benches. Thanks to the TGS fundraising group for pursuing the funding opportunity and liaising with the Marr Area committee to secure the funding – very much appreciated.

- Staffing for next session and roll

Current data suggests a static / slightly lower TGS School roll for 2022/23; our estimate is 661; down 8 on this session. Given the link between roll figure and staffing levels and funding, we will only be recruiting for colleagues who are leaving this session and not be able to expand in other areas where we would like to boost our staffing levels.

- Cluster review and Performance review

TGS has hosted our own and another Quality Improvement Manager for a small self-evaluation review this term. The outcome was very positive in terms of ethos, improvement planning and the positive journey that TGS is recognised as undergoing. We are aware of our strengths and areas for improvement and taking active steps to further improve and remedy these.

Similarly, the Senior Leadership Team undertook an online Performance Review, centred around our partnership working to raise attainment, health and wellbeing and inclusion, leadership development and learning, teaching & assessment. Again the feedback from senior Aberdeenshire Officers was very positive and they echoed the views of the Cluster team.

- Staff learning visit to Denmark: Together Growing Sustainability

At the end of November, myself and three TGS colleagues, Mrs McLeod (Modern Languages) Mrs McGowan (Additional Support for Learning) and Mr Wood (Biology) visited schools in the Sønderborg Kommune, Denmark as part of our KA 101 European Union funded project. We were looking to see what we could learn around environmental sustainability and also educational sustainability in terms of practice and collaboration. It was indeed a very worthwhile trip. We hosted 3 Danish colleagues in December and will be looking to build upon our links over the coming months. We also have EU funding to visit The Netherlands in May as part of the same project.

- NASSA X-country

It was great to host our first inter-schools event for two years last week, the North Schools Cross Country event – a taste of moving back towards what used to be 'normal'! TGS is also scheduled to take part in a similar Badminton event and a football tournament this week and next. This is also a welcome boost to positive health and wellbeing opportunities for our pupils.

- Skills

TGS has been engaging with our wider teaching colleagues and has a planned event with local employers to work towards a possible skills framework and common understanding of how we support skills development across TGS. We intend to carry out similar events with both pupils and families and would welcome any participation around this from the Parent Forum as well as Parents in Partnership.

- Prelims

We have successfully completed our first Prelim diet since 2020 for our Senior Phase pupils. It was great to have our new Invigilation Team in action; a big thank you to our new Chief Invigilator, Louise Henderson. It was also lovely to receive a note from Louise after the diet praising the conduct and attitude of our young people during the diet.

- Mental and Health and wellbeing

TGS is being a pilot school for Aberdeenshire looking at an Education Scotland framework and toolkit to support us moving forwards with both pupils and staff in this area. We are also linking with SAMH (Scottish Association for Mental Health) to train-up a number of S4 and S5 mental health ambassadors across our School.

- Pupil Equity Funding and Scottish Attainment Challenge Funding

School are still to receive an indication of their PEF funding for 22-23. TGS will also be eligible to receive a share of Scottish Attainment Challenge funding for the first time next session.

TGS would really appreciate the support of Parents in Partnership and the wider Parent Forum in consulting around the following areas:

- Mental health and wellbeing
- Skills
- Positive behaviour
- Learning, teaching and assessment framework
- Improvement Planning

- TGS School Fund

Finally, a plea to anyone who is able and willing to review and audit the accounts of our School Fund, please contact myself at TGS. Your support is very much appreciated!