



Menziesshill High School
2008-09 School Report
 Mon 22 June 2009

Welcome

Lord Provost, Dundee City Councillors, distinguished guests, ladies and gentleman, staff, parents, pupils - honoured prizewinners. It is with great pleasure and pride I present my second report to you. Each year we see many achievements of pupils and staff of the school. It is my privilege to report these school successes.



Our guest

Welcome to Michael Woods, newly appointed Secondary Education Manager with Dundee City Council Education Department for agreeing to address our audience today. Michael was our HMle District Inspector. He has already visited the school on a number of occasions and we appreciate the support given to us. He shares our commitment to the young people of Dundee.



Improving our school

A partnership.

In partnership
Pupils Parents Staff
 Our vision
Together we can

Together we can move our school forward for the benefit of our young people. For our new School Improvement Plan, I consulted on priorities for improvement 2009-10. Pupils and staff were faced with

Challenge set:

Improve attainment

- What can you do?
- What can teachers/ departments do?
- What can the school do?

Further consultation will take place with parents in the autumn.

What did we find?

Our challenge
Improve attainment
 Our priorities
Classroom Curriculum Community

Classroom: Improve motivation, raise attainment and aspiration and recognise achievement

Curriculum: Developing a Curriculum for Excellence

Community: Strengthen leadership, empowerment and partnerships (pupils, staff & parents) Targets and tasks have been identified to achieve the above.

Our achievement

We were delighted that MHS received three awards at this year's ceremony.



SQA Awards went to **Rachel Bell** and **Alistair Shepherd** for outstanding performance in the SQA Exams 2008; and the **Music Department** won The George Duffus Memorial Award.

The Diana Award 2009 Inspirational winners

Laura Gorman, Ray Stewart and



Caitlyn Tadden-Paterson were presented with awards at a civic reception in June 2009.



Internationalists

Neil Archibald, Sian Bruce, Rachel Cathro, Ross Glashan, Logan Shepherd, will be added to our International Board. If you know someone we have missed ... please get in touch with the school.

Scottish IPMS Scale Model Championship Callum Fowlie, Aiden Hancock & Scott Shearer won awards at the national competition.

Our Values & Aims

All young people should have a positive experience at school and when it is time to leave they can be confident about their future having developed a whole range of skills and values.

Our Values

1. Accepting others, with consideration and tolerance;
2. Honesty, fairness and openness in our dealings with others;
3. Accepting responsibility for ourselves, our actions and developing a sense of self worth;
4. Treating one another with courtesy and respect, caring for each member of our school community and helping others in need;
5. Working hard, being positive about our life and learning and committed to education in its widest sense.

The aims of our school community give everyone the chance to develop their skills, attributes and values and require everyone to take responsibility for their actions

Our Aims

All members of the school community:

1. Contribute to a learning environment that will enable them to develop their full potential and achieve the highest possible standards in all aspects of their work;
2. Are actively involved in creating good working relationships within the school;
3. Are valued as individuals, regardless of their race, sex, religion, colour, creed or disability;
4. Are provided with opportunities to develop their personal and social skills to enable them to take their place as responsible, caring and confident members of society;
5. Play their part in maintaining and developing close partnership with parents and the local community.

MHS School Report 2008-09

Our Parents

The Parent Council had a very active year. We have 11 parents and 4 Staff on the Parent Council, healthy, but we can still welcome more! Thanks to parent and staff members for giving up their time to be part of the Parent Council.

We held 4 Council meetings this year. We discussed staffing, parent's evenings, SQA results, improving attainment and ideas to celebrate pupil's successes.

This year transport and parking issues had much discussion and in April we had a useful meeting with Dundee City Council officers. The school received £16500 for work to separate pedestrians and traffic at school entrances which is now almost complete.

In November we had a stand at the Parental Roadshow in the Caird Hall. Thanks to Kerri Abbot who put together display boards and the parents and staff who manned the display throughout the 2 days. We now use the boards to create Parent Council displays at parent evenings.



The Partnership subgroup organised two parent forum meetings during the year. At the first we discussed our Behaviour for Learning system and the second Health Education in school. A good format for these meetings has been set

up, allowing people attending to give their views in small groups then giving feedback to the group as a whole. We are looking at ways of encouraging more parents to attend these meetings.

The Finance and Events group raised £620, from a Christmas raffle and Fayre and tombola giving us £1500. After asking staff to put in bids we have given £750 for Prize Giving and 3 small grants of about £50 each to help clubs in the school. **Next:** The calendar of events

**Menzieshill Festival
Sat 19 September.**

for next session has been prepared and we welcome your support to get involved in whatever way you can.

My thanks to Chair Isobel Shepherd for a great job leading the first Parent Council. Lesley Mays takes the chair for the next two years. Thanks to Neil Cathro, Angela Rae and Mark Doherty who retired at the AGM. Welcome to our new members Wendy Jackson and Barbara Porteous

Parent Council 09-10

Chair: **Lesley Mays**

Parent Representatives:

Steve Dalton, Pam Fowlie, Lynda Glashan, Wendy Jackson, Janice Leitch, Lesley Nicoll, Robin Paterson, Barbara Porteous, Isobel Shepherd.

Staff: **Kerri Abbot, Morag Reid, Iris Thomson**

Clerk: **Pauline Crosbie**

Treasurer: **Morag Reid**

Headteacher: **George Laidlaw**

Our Staff

Welcome to: Iris Thompson PT Music back from secondment as LTiD staff tutor.

Kerri Abbot & Barry Thomson Pupil Support Workers, Maureen Boag Young Mothers Support Worker, Fiona Booth Sfl, Beverley Brining English, Pamela Brock Sfl, Kenny Carlyle Percussion, Lawrence Diver Mathematics, Bruce Farquharson, Liam McKenzie & Beverly Smith School Support Workers, Lisa Hill Classroom Assistant (Autism), Nicola McCubbin Technical, Vikki Muir PT Business Studies, Diane Oldershaw PT Chemistry Leanne Raeburn PT Geography, Louse Venter teacher of Business Studies. Russell Brown PT Guidance (Acting), Rhona Duncan who was promoted to PT Physics and Drew Rough PT Physical Education.

Farewell to Mrs Gow who retired in October; To those who are moving, or have moved on: Andrea Cooke Library Resource Co-ordinator, Bruce Farquharson School Support Worker, Diane Griffiths PT Chemistry to Kirkcaldy High School, Lisa Hill Additional Support Needs Assistant, Audrey Hughes Welfare Officer, Elspeth Johnston History, Barbara McCrudden teacher of Art to Arbroath Academy, Karen McMullan to Perth, Barry Millar PT Guidance on secondment to Quality Improvement Officer, David Milne Computing, Ian Roberston Percussion to Harris.

Well done to Craig Edwards Modern Studies,

Samuel Hands English, Sian Simmonds Chemistry, and Laura Wardrope Biology who have successfully completed their probationary year with us. We are sorry to be unable to offer permanent contracts to all our newly qualified teachers (NQTs): Their enthusiasm and skill has made a valued contribution to the school.

Sadly our Principal Teacher of Home Economics Christine Gledden passed away after a long and painful illness which she faced with great courage.

Management Team

Karen Richardson joined the SMT in the new post of Business Manager.

Our support staff

We have a very professional team; in the **office** ...excellent skills in the **technician** team and appreciate greatly the skills that our additional support assistants and workers and Library Resource Centre Staff bring to the school. We could not operate without you.

Our teaching staff

Staff and parents have expressed concern at the effect on pupils where teachers regularly change year on year and permanent contracts are not issued - a national recruitment problem. During the year, we were frequently unable to secure appropriately qualified staff within an acceptable timescale. This does have an affect on pupil attainment.

MHS School Report 2008-09

Our Pupils

In our school community we share values which allow us to be successful. Our Values state:

"All young people should have a positive experience ..."
"...confident about their future having developed.."

How do we know?

Acceptance, consideration and tolerance

As an inclusive school we are proud of the sector leading work done in the Young Mothers Unit. Congratulations on their recent excellent report from the Care Commission.



Honesty, fairness & openness

We ask pupils, staff and parents their views and we act on them. The evidence at our 2009 Extended Review confirmed how much we value good relationships. Visitors to the school comment on our friendly atmosphere, something of which we are justly proud.

Responsibility & self worth

The success of our 'Behaviour for Learning' system is recognized across the city. Classes with the most awards visit Dundee Ice Rink tomorrow. Individual BfL award winners receive their prizes today.

Through BFL, firmly based on Rules, Sanctions and Rewards, our young people are encouraged to choose the right behaviour. Through BFL we develop good relationships and foster

an ethos of achievement in our classrooms.

Through BFL we work with parents to develop values in our young people. This sits well with our aim to raise pupil academic attainment. Our aim is to support them in achieving success and fulfilling their potential. Parents, too, have played a role in this and we thank you for the support with BFL.

Courtesy, respect, caring, community & helping others

Our S1 & S2 Curriculum for Excellence projects - 'Feed the World' & 'Feel Good Factor' and our social education programme taught by guidance staff, re-inforce these values..

Peer pressure is often negative. In MHS Peer Education is a **leadership opportunity** for pupils. Pupils care and assist others in our school.

It is not easy to appear in front of your peers. We are proud of their efforts.

Charities Committee

Delivered Christmas parcels in our community.



At the end of last session, the S6 charities committee organised MHS's first 'Shades Day', raising a total of £264.00 in support of Guide Dogs for the Blind. Later in the session S6 pupils participated in the Breast Cancer Awareness 'Wear it Pink' event and raised £157.00. The school activities on Red Nose

Day, raised £480.00 for Comic Relief.

The S6 Charities Committee organised the MHS Talent Show to raise funds for The RNLI, Broughty Ferry. The event was a great success and raised £1,420 for the charity. This will be used to off-set the cost of training a new volunteer crew member. S6 Charities Committee activities raised a total of £2,321.17 this session. The trip to Uganda in October was an outstanding success for our pupils and fund raising continues.

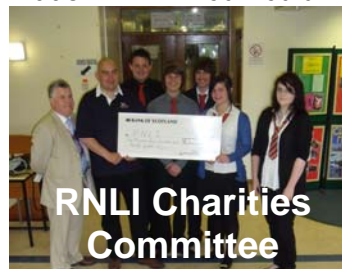


Achieving success in whatever you do comes as a result of working hard and being positive about your life. We should tick that box.

Working hard, positive about life and learning and committed to education in its widest sense.

Learning Together in Dundee

LTiD provides a very clear focus on learning and teaching in every classroom. However learning is not just something which happens at school and we are also committed to education in its widest sense, the hidden curriculum.



Our Attainment

Attainment is our greatest priority. You are judged on the envelope that comes through the door in August; we are judged on the impact we make.

SQA Exam Results

Whilst we were delighted with a number of outstanding individual achievements by our pupils. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all who worked hard and performed well in their exams. Special praise goes to the pupils who achieved A's or 1's in individual exams whether Standard Grade, Intermediate, Higher or Advanced Higher – well done. However there has been a decline in the overall school performance in recent years. Raising attainment must and will be one of our key priorities for next session

Our Achievement

A tradition in Menzieshill is to celebrate the whole child, achievements in the widest sense; in school and in our community.

Today we celebrate our successes; the success of our staff in encouraging our young people, to achieve true potential. The successes of 419 young people in all that they have achieved over the last session and lastly, the achievements of you all as parents in encouraging your sons and daughters to be 'the best they can be'.



MHS School Report 2008-09

Our Success Stories

It is impossible to cover every event, every year. I provide more detail in newsletters and website. I will pick a few highlights.

English

students gained Readership awards in gold, silver and bronze; supported study and English club; enjoyed trips to the theatre; poetry recitals for Burns assemblies;



Burns night

Ryan Smith prepared a special 'Scotland homecoming tribute' for Burns; pupils Feed the World response from Prime Minister; took part in drama workshops; enjoyed visits from Central librarians to encourage reading; Debating club set up with Ms Smith becoming an accredited trainer; successful S3/4/5/6 supported study; theatre trips to Women in Black; Literacy festival; National Gallery & Library to heroes exhibition; Author visit from Mark Thomson. Ross Dalton, Michael Doig, Iona Young, Megan Scott, Amy Batchelor, Alana Isles, Melissa Lonie, Alissa Dolan, Craig Mays, Fiona McArtney, Amy Jardine, Evie Brown and Prince Chivaka were successful in the Young Writers 'I have a dream' competition and the book will be published on 31 July.

Modern Languages

From a very successful "Passport to Europe" event for primary 7 pupils

to the "Languages Work" event for S4, we work hard to show the relevance of languages.

S2 pupils (40) have just returned from an successful trip to Boulogne and Paris visiting the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, a boat trip on the Seine, bowling, eating out and staying at a French Youth Hostel.

S6 pupils raised £20,000 to help them carry out projects in southern Uganda, among them painting a primary school and 2 classrooms, building a playing field in the bush for the children of Bethany Village Orphanage, and painting two homes at the orphanage. They also visited Namutamba, setting in motion a project to build a borehole for this large, dispersed community, and sponsors of 20 primary children.

Supported study was offered and pupils enjoyed a visit to the International Film Festival. The Chess Club met twice a week, and Duke of Edinburgh Award work is carried out in the department.

Library Resource Centre

provided study support, Paired Reading, organised the Tesco voucher collection and raised £70 to purchase books for the school in Uganda from their World Book day event and organised Abertay Computer Literacy event.



Abertay Literacy

Mathematics

Junior UK Gold:

Graeme Nicoll;

Bronze: Amy Batchelor, Daniel Carr, Marc Henderson, Ross Irvine, Kathryn Leitch, Martin McCabe, Daniel Neave, Shannon O'Neil.

Intermediate UK Bronze:

Connor Anderson, Jessica Digan, Amy Dow, Steven Ross



Maths challenge

Two teams of 4 from S2 & S3 took part in the Enterprising Maths in Dundee Competition. S1 pupils participated in the Mathematics Royal Institution Mini Masterclass, at Abertay University, in which they spent a Sat morning investigating a problem set by a visiting lecturer. A Maths Study Club ran for S4 & S5 students after school on Tuesday & Wednesday Evenings. Two teams of 4 from S2 took part in 'EMID' problem solving competition – poster was highly commended.

Art and Design

joined with **Computing** to take part in Abertay University world leading DARE event, designing a computer games software package from start to finish. Gavin Aitken received a commendation and 2nd place in Peoples prize to design a jute bag competing against older pupils. Nicola Denny exhibited in the Dundee Art Society Roseangle cup exhibition. Ruth Hanlon and Andrew Dunlop represent the school in the McIntosh Patrick competition. The

Travelling gallery visit to the school meant that 80% of S2 visited an Art Gallery for the first time.

Music



The Big Sing

Congratulations to Dundee Schools' Festival of Music and Arts winners: 4 Gold Awards, 12 Silver Awards & 4 Bronze Awards.



Music festival

Mary Livingstone - Silver Leng Medal Winner. Associated Board Exams: Violin: Kieran Cartmill Grade 2 merit, Ian Christie Grade 2, Jack Christie Grade 4 distinction; Piano: Natasha Boyle Grade 4, Lindsay Kernohan Grade 6 merit.

Our musicians excel, at the Christmas concert (all instrumental groups and years S1-6), Summer concert, Dundee Bands and Orchestras concerts and here today. At the Dundee Education Department 'Focus on Achievement Awards 2009' we gained the George Duffus Memorial Award for outstanding contribution to music in the community: The String Ensemble (Mrs Green) played (with Harris) to the Schools' Burns Supper – Vocal trio (3 S5/6 girls) also involved.

The Guitar Group (Mr Sinclair), Percussion Group (Mr Carlyle) and Recorder Ensemble (Miss Thomson) met and performed regularly. Carol singing with Choir (Mrs Coull & Miss O'Neil)

MHS School Report 2008-09

at Carseview & Ninewells Hospital; Music trip to see 'Mary Poppins' at Edinburgh Playhouse; Choir took part in 'Big Sing' – record breaking attempt to have as many people as possible singing the same song at the same time. Pipe band performed at Meadowside St Pauls Christmas Celebration; were involved in Primary events, the Menzieshill Community fun day and opening of new South Road Tesco.



Physical Education

Extra-curricular, senior PE Skills Club, S5/6 PE lunchtime study tutorials, boys & girls football, badminton, hockey, dance, roller skating, basketball, athletics, and S1/S2 activities club all took place.

Evening and Saturday morning swimming took place as well as Learn to Swim and Water Polo linked with Menzieshill Whitehall Swimming Club. Competitions included the annual School Swimming Gala, Primary Schools Swimming Relays; School Sports; Dundee School Sports and Community Sports Leaders worked in the community with football, swimming and hockey clubs.

Internationalists

Representatives at regional and national level were:

Neil Archibald – Scottish Basketball Internationalist
Sian Bruce – Great Britain Skeet shooting Squad. Also in the Elite Athletes Programme at Dundee University

Rachel Cathro – Scottish Basketball Internationalist
Ross Glashan - Scottish Hockey Internationalist

Logan Shepherd - Great Britain Water Polo Training squad and Scottish Internationalist.

Martin Strachan – East District School Golf Handicap Champion

Martin Strachan & Scott Grant - East District School Golf Handicap Team Champions.

Football

FOUR schools finals. U18s won the 'Johnstone Trophy' and runners up - U18 League, U16 won the 'Caira' Trophy & runners up - U16 League and Dundee United cup. U17 runners - 'Grant Trophy'.

Sports Champions

Aberfeldy 538, Weem 532 & Fortingall 487.

House Champions

Aberfeldy 56340, Weem 43708 & Fortingall 36593. Champions.

Champions



S1 Sports: Amy Neave, Christopher Snee; **Swimming:** Beth Fyffe, Jamie Bell

S2 Sports: Louise Fox, Sean McNamee; **Swimming:** Louise Fox

S3 Sports: Heather Phillips; **Swimming:** Kirsti Adams, Blair MacDonald

Senior Athletic: Stephen Whyte; **Swimming:** Rhianna Brown, Logan Shepherd

Active Schools

Four clubs were on offer: Athletics, Hockey, Girls

Football and Urban Moves.



Girls football – Team attended several festivals & events. Included Soccer one and Coca-cola 7's. They always represented the school well and had great fun.



Funky feet
Urban Moves – Group attended Funky Feet Festival at Caird Hall and entered into school talent show. Also did a demo dance at the parents forum. Group are hosting P7 to introduce them early to the Urban Moves Class. The group prepared a dance to teach to their future S1 peers.

Geography

S1 tsunami newspaper report and S2 Health and Wellbeing poster competitions won by Isla Philip & Shannon Dunn. The department offered study support for S4-6 and an S2 trip to Dynamic Earth -95 pupils.

History

During Thanksgiving Celebration, S2 feasted on American "dirty rice", Barbecue chicken, Banoffee Pie and Real "American" Lemonade. Pupils looked into the origins and history of the celebration in the USA.

For Homecoming, we invited Bill Murray – Scots born Australian to speak

to S3 pupils about the reasons he moved abroad and what he has done since.

Speakers from The Black Watch Museum gave S4 a talk on regiment history. They dressed up in soldier's uniforms from the First World and handled weapons such as grenades and rifles and bayonets – no injuries were sustained in the action!!!!

Rachel Bell S6 has been entered into a UK wide 5000 word national essay competition.

Modern Studies

Competition winners were: Kirsty Smith 2W2 – national winner S1/2 Front Page newspaper;



Becky Coleman– national winner S3/4 Powerpoint; Laura Gorman– national winner essay writing; and Louise Cairnie– School winner Harry McLevy Memorial Award. Helen Dalzell Cup – Shannen Harte.

Mr Edwards ran U13 football team & debating Visits took place to: Scottish (S3) & UK Parliaments (S5/6); Cornton Vale, Perth and Castle Huntly prisons; HG conference, S3 Harry McLevy research competition, S4 Ppt. Challenge and S1/2 Quiz; visits to local sheltered housing, Jobcentreplus & Claverhouse Group; external speakers from STUC, One World Centre and Jim McGovern MP.

Religious and Education **Social and Moral**

Organized and led Duke of Edinburgh expeditions to Loch Ordie & Glen Almond. S6 visit to Al Maktoum Centre for Senior Pupil Conference on Multi culturalism. Abbie Clark and Kirsty Ingles visited Auschwitz through the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' programme.

Biology

Whodunnit? was offered during the primary transition programme.



A jewellery club met for S1 girls and hand massage was offered at the MHS festival. S4 visit from Professor Jaspars – Drugs from the Deep during Techfest. S2 Science was visited by Sensations – Genes in a Bottle. A two week visit from third year medical students undertaking an elective course in Medicine and Education & Abertay University made an outreach visit to S3 Biology.

Chemistry

Led a Netbook project with s2, 3CE and Access 2 science and the national Glow project pilot. Activote used to give pupils a revision teststrategy. Pupils S2-4 took part in "Top of the Bench". Seniors attended the Christmas lecture held at Dundee University S1 took part in 'Lab in a Lorry' while S2 took part in the Abertay Roadshow. S1&S2 competed in Techfest

Setpoint Engineering challenge. S3 all built temperature sensors during a course by Robert Gordons Univertisty. AH pupils attended Dundee University to carry out experiments. Supported study was offered in the department.

Physics

Science and study support club. AH visited Dundee & St Andrews University for ideas for investigations and a tour of the Physics & Engineering depts. Pupils took part in the S1/S2 Science & Engineering challenge. HG pupils spent a week at Dundee Uni piloting materials for the new HG course. A pupil attended the Space School.

Business Studies

Harriet Gilzean, Carly Jeffrey, Lindsey Kernohan, Daniel Miller, David Prebish, Heather Young and Stephanie Wallace completed the European Computer Driving Licence. HG Business Management attended Café Connections in the Apex hotel where they had dinner with local business people. Took part in the Stock Market Challenge in the Bonar Hall and in Business Dynamics days (S3-S5/6)

Computing

Success at Abertay's Dare to be Digital team challenge – citywide event led by Mr McIntyre & Mr McCaffrey. Kyle Fuller was runner-up programmer. Lunctime 'drop-in' sessions for S6 AH. AH trip to Dundee Uni. Christmas lectures



Home Economics

Home Economics pupils had success in cake making competitions. An Enterprising Education groups have provided hospitality at school events. They used their skills at the recent Summer concert. REHIS Certificate awared to Danielle Bryce, Claire Whitton, Aidan O'Neill, Nat Hampton, Rebecca Donald. Masterchef Lunchtime & Supported Study clubs. Trip of S4-6 to Abertay University to learn about New HE Courses being offered.

Technological Education

offered study support, a Young Engineers Club and a MATROV club. The MATEROV (Marine Advanced Technology Education Centre Remote Operated Vehicle) club competed in the 'international'at RGU Aberdeen just losing out to the winners. Our ROV design was judged to be the most innovative and well engineered.



We won the **Excellence in Engineering award**. Our pupils were younger than all the other competitors with most involved being S5-6 and our pupils being S3-4: Louis Cuthbert, Shannen Harte, Paige Henderson, David Lynn,

Nicole Crosbie and Andrew Rae.

We were runner-up in Creative Spaces (by one point!) competing against 40+ schools from Angus, Dundee, Fife, and Perth. We were asked to showcase our ROV at this year's Young Engineers conference in Glasgow. The ROV caused quite a stir with many interested people wanting in pool demonstrations. We were presented with a rapid prototyping machine (a 3-D printer) worth over £1000 to use in the development of next years ROV.

Staff

The Social Committee had a busy year with a successful 'Bonus ball competition, social fund for cards/flowers also benefitted. A charity curry lunch raised £200 for Dog Aid Society End of spring term charity lunch raised £260 for Woodland trust. Thanks, also, for Christmas and end of term events

Support for Pupils Guidance

40 S6 undertook Abertay Peer Support training, to become leaders in SE Classes. In September S4 pupils had the opportunity to go on a weeks Work Experience placement resulting in the award of Intermediate I qualification and Working with others core skills. Our pupils were praised by employers for their positive attitude and were a credit to parents and the school. Events

MHS School Report 2008-09

included Prefects induction Barry Buddon, East of Scotland Golf, IPMS Perth Competition, WHAN Medical Careers (our pupils were chosen to attend the national conference), St. Andrews, HE careers fair, 5+level 5 Abertay University.

As well as their considerable pastoral care, Guidance and Support for Learning staff found time to organize a number of in school events such as the Baldy Bane Theatre, trips took place to Abertay Peer Support training, Prefects induction Barry Buddon, East of Scotland Golf, IPM Perth Competition, St. Andrews, HE careers fair, 5+level 5Abertay University IPMS Perth Competition

Support for Learning

Organised Paired Learning and Reading Programmes throughout the year supported by our Senior Peer Supporters. Our pupils were also involved in transition work with P7 pupils; went into primary schools to speak to P7 pupils about coming up to high school, and also ran sessions for P7 pupils at the Get Together Days in June.

Strong Links with our cluster primaries help us provide appropriate support for our pupils with Additional Support Needs, helping us promote inclusive practice. The Pupil and School Support Workers run a Breakfast Club every morning and Classroom Assistants run a Break and Lunchtime Club in our sheltered environment. There is also a weekly Health Drop-In which provides

information and activities on a range of health issues. This is run jointly with Janice Coull, our school nurse and Shelley Day, our Youth Information Link Worker. Pupil Support Workers also arrange for the Sports Development Team to come and run activities for young people at lunchtimes; football sessions and dance sessions as well as art and guitar groups and drop-in sessions in the Health room. The support offered by Laura Duncan has enhanced our provision.

The reputation of the school was enhanced as pupils from the Pupil Representative Council (PRC) met with the NHS Tayside Chairman Sandy Watson to discuss how the Health Board may develop better linkages with young people. He was so impressed with their ideas that a further invitation came to meet the Director general and Chief Executive of the NHS Dr Kevin Wood.



Peer Education

Christine Greig and our Pupil Support Worker Kerri Abbot led twenty S2 pupils to earn a Youth Achievement Silver Award volunteering for weekly training (2 hours) and delivering a Smoking Prevention programme to P5 pupils in our Cluster

primaries. They also supported transition work making the move from P7 to S1 easier. Abigail Burns, Shannon Chmylowsky, Michael Doig, Shannon Dunn, Louise Fox, Marg Griffiths, Grant Hamilton, Jack Hayes, Shannon Kiddie, Meghan Lynch, Bronwyn Livingstone, Melissa Lonie, Danielle McLaren, Shaun McNamee, Rebekah Maxwell, Lynn Rollo, Kirsty Smith, Vhariri Urquhart, Iona Young.

Quality Contact Group (QC2) continued throughout the year for S1 & S2 pupils. S2 continued with their gardening project, which proved highly successful at the Dundee Flower Show. S1 worked on their project "From where I sit" and held an exhibition at Dundee Contemporary Arts Centre. We have been working with Ancrum Outdoor Centre and have taken over 25 young people on Outdoor Ed blocks through the year. Pupil Support Workers and School Support Workers, have continued to run a variety of groups and activities including the 6th Year leaver's coffee morning and a programme of individualised support.

Quality Contact

The QC2 programme has enhanced and eased transition, described as 'very good' in our extended review. The development of an organic market garden in the school grounds has gone from success to success.



A small group of pupils took part in the Rotary Disability Sports Tournament. We have been working with Ancrum Outdoor Centre and have taken over 25 young people on Outdoor Ed blocks through the year. This has been extended to ensure that all pupils have an opportunity to take part through the S1 and the BfL reward system.

PSWs and School Support Workers have run a Behaviour support group; a Nurture Group, and an S2 group work, who are working toward a Key Steps ASDAN award. Finally we have strengthened links with Leisure and Communities, the Lochee Community Planning Partnership. We value their support for the PSW Easter and Summer Programme

Support Staff

I must acknowledge the work of the Support Staff in the school. We have a great Office Team; excellent Technicians and appreciate greatly the skills that our Classroom Assistants and Library Resource Centre Staff bring to the school. Our Facilities staff, canteen staff and cleaners.

Our School

In summer 2009, the Education Committee approved £100,000 to be spent on replacement windows. £16,500 was allocated to improve school access.



MHS School Report 2008-09

Our website

Continues to improve and is regularly updated providing up to date information on school activities and is seen as one of the best in the country. Following good practice, the site contains pictures of pupils but they are not always identified. If you do not wish your child's picture to appear on the website, please get in touch and it will be removed. We use it to reflect the successes and excellent work of the school. The website has been adopted as a model of good practice.

Our Review

Dundee City Council carries out Extended Reviews of schools every three years. Our review took place during Feb/Mar 2009.

School strengths:

- Behaviour for Learning policy is having a positive impact on the school
- Schools providing a good range of opportunities for pupils to engage with
- LTiD strategies are being implemented and embedded across the school
- Parents view the school to be open and friendly
- Transition arrangements from Primary to Secondary are very good
- Well developed web-site contributes to improving communication with parents
- Good opportunities for celebrating success within the school and the community
- Welcoming ethos to the school
- Partnership working well established
- School gives very good support for vulnerable learners
- Parent council is established and informs decisions about school improvement

Main points for action:

- Improve Attainment
- Develop leadership capacity across all levels of the school
- Ensure that tasks and activities provide sufficient challenge to meet the needs of all learners
- Raise staff and pupil expectations
- Strengthen approaches to learning and teaching

Our rewards

At the end of session we focus our assemblies on what the pupils thought an excellent school should be and our expectations for new courses as pupils move on a year.



This year we had a special presentation made on DVD. Well done to Mr. Doherty and the pupils concerned – it made us all very proud. In Menzieshill we value all the achievements of our youngsters. Within the Curriculum for Excellence we will continue to develop awards for achievement and recognition for all our pupils.

School Trips

At the last count, over **120** trips and events took place this past session. These assist our young people to achieve in a variety of other ways. Thanks to the staff (and their families) who give up their time. This makes a great contribution to the school and reflects their commitment to our pupils. We are fortunate in having a committed and hard working staff that goes that extra mile to

provide opportunities for our young people that extend beyond the classroom.

To achieve school improvement we have identified three key projects – Classroom, Curriculum & Community. Over the next three years these will be our priorities. We will target

Classroom

- Improve monitoring and tracking of pupil progress and recognition of achievement
- Improve attainment strategies across the school
- Continue to develop learning through LTiD

Curriculum

- Develop cross-curricular experiences and outcomes
- Build the Curriculum for Excellence framework
- Improve vocational course opportunities

Community

- Improve Leadership
- Review and develop school support resources

Thanks to Staff

On behalf of parents and pupils, I would like to thank **all** school staff for their hard work and dedication.

From my report you can see our staff go that extra mile to serve our school community and I am sure you would join with me in wishing them well for the future.

Thanks to Pupils

I would also like to thank you, our pupils, for what you have achieved this year through your hard work and dedication.

Thanks to Parents

On behalf of the school I would like to finish by thanking all parents for their interest, help and encouragement over the year.

When you look back on our achievements and the life of the school, which is clearly good, the message was:

Together we did! School Improvement

Improved working between pupils, staff and parents is one of the keys to improving the life chances of our young people. Curriculum for Excellence emphasises the importance of Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing. Our priorities are Classroom, Curriculum and Community.

We have the capacity for improvement. We - Pupils, Parents and Staff have to work together to improve our achievement.

Together we can

My School Report shows how our aims and values are being met. I commend the work of our school to you and today I share in your pride.

George Laidlaw
Headteacher

Please have a relaxing summer break.

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