

The New School Butterstone

Quality and Standards Report Summary 2016/2017

The New School Butterstone is a specialist residential school for secondary school age children who have been unable to flourish in mainstream schools. The session started with a role of 23 and ended with 19 students, along with 1 in the Adult Services Provision.

Governance

The New School has a Board of Governors chaired by Sir Andrew Cubie. There has been one new addition to the Board this year, Ms Andrea Ross.

The Board meets at regular intervals throughout the year. The sub-committees – Business, Education and Care, and Promotion Group report to Board meetings. The Partnership Development Board meets to consider matters pertaining to school and land development.

Leavers' Destinations

One Student has transitioned to the TNS Adult Services provision, funded by the Local Authority.
One Student to Dundee & Angus College (Social Sciences course)
One Student to the University of Stirling (Nursing course, with the opportunity to undertake the Honours year in the future)
One Student to Glasgow College (Luthiers course)
One Student to Edinburgh College (Creative Industries: Radio HNC)
One Student commencing with an Open University course (English Lit)
Two Students considering options, including volunteering and part time courses at college.

The primary diagnosis of the school cohort over the year included:- Asperger's Syndrome, Autistic Spectrum Conditions, Language processing, ADHD, Global delay, Mental Health, Neurofibromatosis, Psychosis, Foetal Alcohol Syndrome.

The student cohort over the year was funded by Perth and Kinross, Moray, Borders, Highlands, Argyll & Bute, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Western Isles, Dundee, and Fife. Two students were privately funded.

In session 2016/17 the school provided weekly boarding for 16 students, 52 week provision for 1 student, term-time provision for 3 students and 1 adult and had 10 day students. Education and Care work together to provide a 24 hour curriculum for residential students and education and support for day students.

Improvements in session 2016/17 are evident in:

- Accreditation achieved in SQA (up to Advanced Higher in English, and Higher in Biology, Modern Studies and Computing Science), and ASDAN frameworks – building on last year's developments.
- Accreditation at Advanced Higher Level in English and Higher Level in Modern Studies for the first time.
- Duke of Edinburgh Award
 - Bronze Award – 1 student fully completed
 - 6 Students are currently working towards Bronze and 1 towards Silver
- LAMDA
 - Exam presentations LAMDA Grade 8: 5 students received High Distinction.
 - Exam presentations LAMDA Grade 6: 1 student received High Distinction.

- Teachers delivering National 4 & 5, Higher and Advanced Higher awards in a range of subjects.
- Successful achievement of accreditation with the National Autistic Society (NAS). To achieve this specific staff training, completion of audit and visits from NAS Accreditation Advisor which involved classroom observation and feedback were all undertaken.
- Further Development of structure of the Care Team: following the Depute Head of School's promotion to Head of School, the Head of Care position was reinstated with one of the Senior Residential Care Workers being successful and a further staff member was promoted to Senior Residential Care Worker.
- Training of Care staff as required by the SSSC to HNC & SVQ 3 level in Health & Social Care.
- Development of the Main Building to provide en-suite facilities for all dorms. Phases One and Two have been completed, which include the area formerly known as the 'back boys dorms' and half of the main student residential accommodation. The Care Office has been relocated and the former office area is now also a dorm. The rest of the accommodation will be improved in the near future.
- First Adult Service user completed their first year at Culbrae. This has included four days at Perth College.
- Restructuring of the administration support – new job role of 'Administration Officer' was created to provide support to the Head of Education and Head of Care, and the 'Head of School's Secretary' role remodelled to 'Management Secretary' to provide support to the Head of School and Business Manager.
- Head of Education and Head of Care now share an office along with the Management Secretary in Administration building. Positive move in further developing a 'joined-up' response to situations and in communication across the school.
- Basil Death Fund – saw funding granted towards new equipment for the school's fitness suite. A treadmill, rowing machine, punch bag and 2 spinning bikes were purchased. All equipment is being well utilised by the students. Two students are 'Fitness Instructors' and are inducting staff and students to use the equipment. This will count towards their National 4 Skills for Work: Sport and Recreation.
- Lottery Big Awards for All funding for Yoga equipment and lessons.
- OneFamily Foundation – a nationwide fund provider where the public vote for community causes. TNS received funding towards tents, disc golf, hammocks and archery equipment.

Planning For Choices and Changes

College links

- Students were supported to explore college courses throughout the session, young people were accompanied to visit colleges and attend interviews
- Students were supported to attend Open Day events at a range of colleges.

Work Experience

- Individual students had blocks of work experience in various local businesses including Lonely Mountain Skis, Crieff Hydro and Loch of the Lowes.

Education

Educational provision at The New School is individualised to meet the needs of each student. For some students the core provision is through ASDAN accredited courses. These students have the opportunity to pick up SQA accreditation in areas where they have a particular aptitude. Four students achieved Personal Development Award – Bronze Awards in 2016/17.

Some students follow an initial course based on Curriculum for Excellence then work through SQA qualifications ranging from National 3 to Advanced Higher. Individual subject Quality and Standards reports will be available giving details of courses and student progress.

In session 2016/2017 the following subjects were offered:- Core subjects of English, Mathematics, Computing Science and HWB (Health & Wellbeing), also PE, HE, Music, Art and Design, Biology, Chemistry, Geography, Modern Studies, Business Horticulture and Drama. Woodworking was offered as an evening activity.

SQA Exam Results 2016/2017

Note: shaded boxes indicate new course levels undertaken for the first time at TNS.

Subject	Level	Grade/Band	No of Students
English	National 5	A/2	1
English	National 5	C/5	1
English	National 5	C/6	1
English	Higher	B/4	1
English	Higher	D/7	1
English	Advanced Higher	A/2	1
English	Advanced Higher	C/6	1
Geography	National 5	B/3	1
Human Biology	Higher	A/2	1
Human Biology	Higher	B/3	1
Human Biology	Higher	No Award/9	1
Lifeskills Mathematics	National 5	D/7	1
Mathematics	National 5	A/1	1
Modern Studies	Higher	B/3	1
Computing Science	Higher	B/3	1
Computing Science	National 5	A/2	2
Chemistry	National 5	B/3	1
Chemistry	National 5	D/7	1
Physics	National 5	B/3	1
Lifeskills Mathematics	National 4	Pass	1
Chemistry	National 4	Pass	2
Business	National 4	Pass	1
Sport and Recreation	National 4	Pass	2

Compared with last year's results (note course levels):-

SQA Exam Results 2015/2016

Subject	Level	Grade/Band	No of Students
English	National 5	A/2	1
English	National 5	D/7	1
English	Higher	A/1	1
English	Higher	B/3	1
English	Higher	B/4	2
English	Higher	D/7	1
English	Higher	No Award/9	1
Geography	Higher	A/2	1
Geography	Higher	C/6	1
History	National 5	No Award/9	1

Subject	Level	Grade/Band	No of Students
Lifeskills Mathematics	National 5	A/2	1
Lifeskills Mathematics	National 5	No Award/8	1
Mathematics	National 5	No Award/9	1
Mathematics	Higher	B/4	1
Mathematics	Higher	C/5	1
Modern Studies	National 5	C/5	1
Sport and Recreation	National 4	Pass	1

Care

- Current care staff: 16 plus Head of Care, and 3 Senior Residential Care Workers.
- Weekend boarding continues to be developed and regular contact in long holidays provided for carers.
- The development of Care Plans continues with young people having a Care File and a Reference File.
- Risk assessments for each young person have been maintained, and are assessed on an on-going basis.
- Child Protection training for all staff.
- Child Protection Policy reviewed annually.
- Bespoke planning for 1:1 student needs and clear guidelines.
- Each student has an assigned Key worker, identified where possible by the young person, who works collaboratively with key tutor to ensure student needs are being fully met across Care and Education - the concept of a "Team Around the Child".
- Care staff help deliver a range of evening activities and sports to encourage students' personal and social learning and development across the 24 hour curriculum.
- Care staff trained in dispensation of medications (refresher course for the majority of staff).
- Care and teaching staff trained in CALM techniques.

Highlights of the Year

September 2016

- Whole school trip out to Blair Drummond Safari Park, provided by Variety Club Scotland.
- TNS assessed for National Autistic Society Accreditation
- Farewell to Susan Penny, ASDAN teacher who had worked at TNS for 13 years.

October 2016

- Halloween party at the School

November 2016

- Trip out for residential students - Firework display in Dundee
- Farewell to Linda Winton, Secretary who retired after working at TNS for 20 years.
- The New School welcomes Gillian Creedican, ASDAN Teacher.
- The New School achieves Accreditation with the National Autistic Society

December 2016

- Pantomime of 'Aladdin' in the Birnam Institute
- Christmas lunch and party
- Christmas Service in Dunkeld Cathedral featuring readings and musical performances by staff and students.

January 2017

- The New School welcomed new Administration Officer Dawn Gardner to the team.

March 2017

- Prelim exams in school
- The New School welcomed SSE volunteers to carry out improvement works in the grounds alongside the School's estate team.

April 2017

- LAMDA exams undertaken by 6 students, all achieving high distinction.

May 2017

- SQA Exams are undertaken.
- TNS welcomes two American students, Matt & Paige, for a fortnight. They provide support in classes alongside teachers and create a virtual yearbook.

June 2017

- Sports Day
- Drama Showcase – sketches performed by the young people of TNS
- Activity Week - residential in Northumberland and trips from school for other students
- Outdoor Day
- Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Silver expeditions
- Prize Giving and Leavers' Service
- Farewell to Simon Pree, Science Teacher who retired. A collection for the SCAA as requested by Simon.

Further information about The New School Butterstone can be found on our website:-
www.thenewschool.co.uk