

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

THE ARTS DEPARTMENT (Art, Drama & Music)
Subject Leader - Miranda Bond

Art – Miranda Bond

- The Owls Sanctuary visited KS4 GCSE Fine Art students for live observational drawing workshops.
- Art hosting November FEC meeting.
- KS4 GCSE Period 7, 3 x week.
- Open evening 'cell painting workshops' well received.
- Careers in Art presentation and talk - Year 9.
- All KS3 baselined.

Drama – Richard Kitchin

- Rehearsals have been going well with over 70 students involved as performers in this year's school show, Disney's "Mulan".
- Year 7 Drama club running weekly at lunchtime on a Monday for around 20 students per session, a mixture of drama games and improvisation and a session on stage combat delivered so far.
- ELIOT European project continues on a weekly basis with 20 year 9 and 10 students devising activities for units of work using drama skills in different subject areas.
- Mr Kitchin attended the TPM (Transnational Project Meeting) for ELIOT in Chania, Greece from 5th-8th November with Miss Dempster to discuss the next 5 day visit students will undertake in January.
- 13 students from Year 11, who are studying GCSE Drama, have been to see a professional production of the musical "Spamalot" in Blackpool on 15th September.
- 35 students and staff will be attending a performance of "Starlight Express" on Wednesday 15th November at The Forum.

Music – Michelle Larcombe

- **'Vocal Force'**: Running and working on performance at Christmas craft fair. 20 members ranging from Year 7 to Year 10.
- **Year 9 G & T**: Group of Year 9 boys have been encouraged to join forces and start forming a band as they are high achievers in the practical element of subject. They have access to rooms at lunch and hoping to possibly perform in their year group assembly at end of year. Also targeted students for KS4 cohort.
- **Intervention sessions**: Half term coursework sessions were held to drive progress for Year 11 and to start controlled assessment for composing element. 2 pupils attended – more have agreed to come in the next holiday clinics.
- **RSL Level 2**: Furness Academy has been accredited to run the course which is being delivered to current Year 10. Students are engaged and enjoying independence that comes with the vocational course and will be looking at producing a concert over this academic year to set up for Year 11 external assessment. Progress is looking positive and certainly more accessible for our students. External link made with school in Nottingham to assist in standardisation and IV process of the course – successful.
- **Equipment**: Eight new keyboards purchased to allow for two classes to be taught simultaneously with JRI now teaching 3 x Year 7 lessons.
- **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. Good attendance and looking to have a concert with parents and friends next term. KS4 students are provided with lessons to run with their course and the attendance and uptake for this is proving positive.
- **Rehearsals**: School show rehearsals in full throw.
- **Arts Pledge**: Took group of 40 x students with RKI to The Forum to watch Starlight Express – used connections to get discounted tickets and we offered it across whole school. Positive uptake so will look in to for the next local production too.
- **CPD**: Attending the middle leaders' course for professional development.

COMPUTING, ICT & BUSINESS STUDIES DEPARTMENT
Subject Leader - Claire Lyons

- Period 7 to support student revision - Business Studies (BS)/Computer Science (CS)/ICT started on Tuesday evenings.
- Initial internal assessment of ICT coursework started, support provided via FEC for UVHS to aid their assessment process on the Edexcel GCSE ICT.
- New specification for KS4 IT introduced - collaboration with Dowdales School initiated to share resources and good practice – outline Scheme of Work.
- DWI attended the first CAS Honorary Teaching Source. Several dates have been earmarked throughout the academic year – great opportunity to network with schools and other CS teachers.
- NEA (None Examination Assessment) sessions for CS starting December with other schools, for best practice and support/advice.
- DWI/CLY attended FEC for a CAS Hub introductory session with outside trainers delivering computational thinking sessions – great opportunity for free training.
- All KS3 students (Year 10 Computer Science cohort) took part in BEBRAS online competition – results at end of November – hopefully some Gold winners will be among the cohort.
- DWI launched programming skills workshop for KS4 students to improve programming techniques and research and revise – Tuesday/Thursday lunch-times.
- CLY and ADE attended the first meeting for iCAP project on innovation, taking two Year 8 students to Gloucester University 29-31 October. Next meeting in Catalonia in March 2018.
- CLY delivered CPD on Deep Thinking with SKY – good feedback and new ideas received from variety of teaching staff.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
Subject Leader - Julia Ingham

- Following the 2017 exam result of 70% combined English Language and Literature grade 4 and the 48% grade 5 and above, the department has had training on moderating exam scripts recalled from the Exam Board.
- The Bridge, which caters for students with low literacy scores on entry in Year 7, has had success in enabling students to progress in their English work.
- All Year 11 students have completed their Spoken Language oracy exam and had their performances recorded ready to be sent to AQA.
- Two members of staff are enrolled on the Outstanding teaching programme and one on the middle leadership training.
- Gifted and Talented resources have been generated and now populated on OneNote for department.
- Year 11 are registered on The Curve and will sit mock exams, Paper 1 and 2, and receive personalised Smith reports on their individual performance. Pixl will then tailor scripts and exam practice for individual students.
- Reading Thieves presented at Year 7 parents' evening, offering advice on ARR reading and reading texts for Year 7 students.
- Year 7 students in set 4 are entered into a competition called "WordMania" run by Literacy Planet. Round 1 ended last week and they achieved 2nd place in the North West category. Round 2 is this week and we hope to do as well and be invited to take part in the final week beginning 20th November.
- New units of work have been created on The History Boys – Year 11 and a raft of sample exam texts and papers created for English Language Paper 1 and 2.
- Exemplar materials are being used in lessons to boost grades 7-9 in top sets.

HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT (Geography, History & RE)
Subject Leader - Susan Bainbridge

- History led the remembrance assemblies last week. Many staff fed back that they liked the content which promoted a thought-provoking response.
- History are going to trial a booklet for one of the sub-units on medicine and surgery in the trenches with all resources given to students in advance.
- RDO and SWA to attend PiXL conferences in London. They will be feeding back to the rest of the department at CPD.
- The department continues to work on embedding and developing 'Deep Thinking' and Growth Mindset strategies.
- In History, staff have made use of the Edexcel access to scripts service to check where students had or had not scored highly in the exam. This was the first year we were able to do this and it was informative.
- Geography completed their GCSE field trip and residential to Keswick.
- Members of the team are attending the OTI and middle leaders' courses respectively.
- Geography trip to Naples has been launched and has proven very popular with students.

MATHS DEPARTMENT
Subject Leader - John-Paul Duckworth

- Period 7 with Year 11s ongoing.
- Subject lead attended Cumbrian Pixl conference.
- Ofsted conducted learning walk on department and gave positive feedback.
- Growth Mindset display created.
- Assistant subject lead attending conference on difficult subjects to teach at GCSE.
- Bridge curriculum and groups still being developed. Current group have been split into differentiated groups to target their individual needs.
- One to one APA meetings held with all Year 11 teachers to gauge progress of current Year 11s.
- Intervention groups set up and begun in preparation of mock exam.
- Revision display set up and document holder fitted on corridor so Year 11 have easy access to revision materials.
- We have a trainee teacher on placement with us.
- Have a university student on a work placement with us.
- Head of department delivered session to most able Year 11 parents.
- Head of department present at the Introduction to GCSE evening for Year 10 parents to answer any parent queries.
- Form time numeracy activities set up for all year groups

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT
Subject Leader - Anna-Maria Rothnie

- CPD sessions are currently focusing on deep thinking and different approaches to introducing new vocabulary in MFL
- Year 11 preparation for mock examinations taking place
- Organisation of Christmas Vocab Express Challenge for KS3 students
- Looking at possibilities for French trip in 2018
- Supported Music Department during visit of Italian teachers who observed some MFL lessons
- Induction of new member of staff covering HKN's maternity leave currently taking place
- MFL hosting Finnish teacher Tuija Paksula who is looking at different approaches to MFL and EAL
- SL supporting Federico Demaria (on a placement here) with English with a view to taking IELTS qualification

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Subject Leader - Catherine Amison

- North West Counties PE Conference – attended by Catherine Amison, Oliver Carswell (Schools Games Officer) and Laura Jesson (Teaching Assistant). Focus upon inclusivity in PE – particular link with SEN and autistic students. Link with Cambian Whinsfell School made. Inclusive PE events to be undertaken with their school.
- Promising start made by school teams:
 - Year 9 runners-up rugby festival
 - Good successful wins for Year 7 boys' football v Walney, and Year 7 girls' netball v St Bernard's
 - Girls entered in both the under-14 and under-16 national netball competitions
- Joshua Grieve (under-15), Matthew Roberts (under-14) and Ryan Frazer-Knight (under-13) representing Barrow boys' district football.
- Varied curriculum activities currently being undertaken.
- Good take up for by Year 7 trampolining, just dance, fitness gym and trampolining.
- School Games Organiser - quick stick primary hockey activities being undertaken.
- Active learning sessions – engaging students in Maths and English through movement session.
- BTEC sport revision and booster sessions undertaken for those students re-sitting the online exam.
- Harvey Burns - national representation at judo competition.
- Introduction of Year 7 and Year 8 assessment booklets to check theory and understanding.
- Introduction of new PE kit - majority of students have purchased and wearing new kit.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT
Subject Leader - Abbie Rawlinson

Personal Development

- All students have accessed units of work Emotional Health and Safety (CEOP)
- Yr11 Career Planning: November - February
 - FE and Industrial assemblies have begun with presentations from 6th Form, Furness College and UVHS 6th Form.
 - Mandy Moreland: Mandy Morland, Educational Development, has started working with 15 Year 11 students with an enhanced CEG package.
 - Lunch time drop-ins from BAE Systems commence 22nd November.
 - The Year 11 Careers Fair took place on 16th November, 114 students attended (84% turnout). Improvement from last year which was 73%.
 - More providers supported the event this year, 31 providers in total.
- Preparation for the Careers Fair was in PD lessons and a Period 7 with Sam Avery.
- 50 Year 10 Pupil Premium students attended the National Apprenticeship Show in Manchester in October.

Health & Social Care

- Students have completed two units of the course and are currently preparing for the January exam.
- Students attended a Blue Light NHS careers day on 3rd November – this was excellent!

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Assistant Director of STEM for Science - Emma Coulter

- In September we welcomed Hayley Lappin, an NQT, to our teaching staff and Jessica Birch is our new full-time technician who replaces Liam Brown who has joined BAE as a chemist.
- The science girls team captains, accompanied by two members of staff, visited Slovenia in October for a progress meeting. The remaining girls spent a day touring the GlaxoSmithKline plant at Ulverston.
- Mark Ellingham has taken on the running of the Lego club and Ian Barnes has started 'Race for the Line' with KS3 students.
- Year 10 students have visited UVHS to participate in a 'Medical mavericks' event and a team of 4 students entered the 'Top of the bench' competition organised by the RSC.

SEND DEPARTMENT

SENCO - Emma Elliott

- Implementing a system of performance management and CPD for Teaching Assistants to develop skills. Teaching assistants have chosen individualised CPD to best suit their own roles and areas of interest/expertise. We have Teaching Assistants accessing higher level training in speech, language and communication and also counselling.
- We have welcomed our first student with physical difficulties, who has settled in exceptionally well. We have needed to develop a new skills set in order to support him effectively and have been fortunate enough to benefit from the expertise of his primary school teaching assistant, who has moved with him to secondary school. A number of Teaching Assistants have participated in CPD to develop moving, lifting and handling skills and this has been effective.
- The first cohort of Year 7 students has accessed the Bridge literacy and numeracy catch-up provision. Parental feedback has been positive and student progress evidenced within mainstream lessons. We are beginning to plan for the next cohort of students and also develop an appropriate curriculum for the small number of students who require a bespoke approach following the intervention.
- Year 7 students are benefiting from new social skills groups with their key worker, after school. This has been positively received by both the students involved and their parents.
- We continue to work on assessing students and securing future funding; at the present time, 3 of our students are awaiting their final Education, Health and Care Plans and we have a further 2 applications to finalise. This is good news in a climate of increasingly high level of criteria to meet in order to secure funding.
- Although at an early stage of the current academic year, it has been good to meet with the parents and carers of students who are in Years 5 and 6. We have already been involved in a pleasing number of transitional reviews for students with high levels of need whereby Furness Academy has been named as the school of choice for future provision.

STEM DEPARTMENT / TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Director of STEM - Steve Faragher

- Successful completion of the second STEM transition week (6 days). Maths, Design Technology and Science based activities for all the primary feeder schools. Extremely positive feedback from all schools involved.
- Attendance and stall at the STEM recruitment fair, Lancaster University, developing links with external agencies and future potential employees.
- Attendance and STEM competition display at the STEM/Engineering bursary awards, Furness College.
- Identification / purchase of the academy's new 3D printer, Erasmus+, 3D4KIDS.
- Re-launch of the Key Stage 3 Lego league club, supported by regional STEM ambassadors.
- Launch of the 'Race for line' competition and 'Rocket car club' (Key Stage 3 students).
- 60 x Year 9 students identified to take part in the BAE STEM event 'Robot Rescue'.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Subject Leader – Emma Rees

- In DT – Planned and delivered a very successful STEM transition for Year 6 students working with staff from DT, Maths and Science. Delivered to 13 primary feeder schools with support from BAE staff each day.
 - ERE attended the opening meeting for the 3D Printing for Kids Erasmus project.
 - ERE attended a CPD event at BAE regarding careers in engineering
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2. Students - Director of Learning & Standards Report to Governors

DoLS - YEAR 7

Rebecca Roseblade

- It has been a positive start to Year 7. Some who have struggled with transition have worked with Ian Chatfield (Learning Mentor). We are also in the process of setting up our Social Skills group of six boys to work with Laura Jesson (Teaching Assistant).
- Attendance remains high and above our overall target, there have been limited lates and these are being addressed through meetings with parents.
- I have met with over thirty parents and carers at a tea and coffee drop in. They were keen to tell us how well their children had settled in.
- Students have volunteered to be part of the Student Voice team and Aimee and Sky are our Junior Leadership Team representatives.
- The year group completed their PASS surveys which showed that they had settled in well. This was reflected in parent feedback on Year 7 parents' evening. From the 71% that attended, 100% said that they would recommend the Academy to others.
- To support Growth Mindset, MADE training delivered workshops to Year 7 and their parents. To build on this, with few exceptions, the Year 7s attended an outward bound day at YMCA, Lakeside. We all had a great time.
- Our first reward event took place – a fancy dress Halloween disco with Year 8. The students who have received the highest number of Bricks were invited to our first Afternoon Tea of the year and their success was recognised in front of their families.
- Behaviour in lessons has been great and this was reflected in interim data. Behaviour issues that have arisen have been dealt with as per the Academy behaviour policy.

DoLS - YEAR 8

Helen Knagg-Baugh

- Year 8 has started well. We have lost our attendance top spot to Year 7 after a bout of sickness tore through the year group but late marks remain low and behaviour issues minimal. We remain above our annual attendance target at this stage.
- 73 of 184 students were invited to participate in our first reward – a fancy dress Halloween disco. This was a fantastic event. Those in receipt of the highest number of Bricks were invited to our first Afternoon Tea of the year and their success was recognised in front of their families.
- Over 66% of our year group have positives recorded on our DoLS spreadsheet from activities completed in school or within the community – amongst many; parents' evening support with the Book Thieves advanced reading group, Air Cadets and their work to raise money for the British Legion and their participation in the remembrance services at the cenotaph, helping at open evening, being part of our school show, Halloween literacy competitions, pumpkin carving competitions, sports teams in and out of school and so it continues.
- In assemblies students are still winning the "Be Kind" award for going above and beyond to help another student/member of staff.
- Disadvantaged students have been targeted with interventions with Ian Chatfield (Learning Mentor) and Kickstart and noticeable improvements are being made in the classroom.

- SEND students remain strongly supported by the team and appropriate and timely interventions are being implemented by the SENCO and her team.
- Behaviour issues are dealt with swiftly to avoid repeat and Mrs Byrne works hard to enable this during my teaching commitment time and through attending external support meetings for our most vulnerable students.
- Deb Warbrick was appointed to my temporary maternity position and as part of the Year 8 team already I know she is the right person to drive the year forward in my absence and I wish her every success.

DoLS – YEAR 9
Philip Moody

- Increase in 'good' effort grades, decrease in 'insufficient' and 'poor' effort grades.
- PMO met with parents of 37 targeted boys and shared information gathered from Underachieving Boys' conference in London and shared with them plans for the next twelve months.
- Edge Hill University trip set for 21st November for 37 boys (includes lecture, design your won university and tour of the campus – focus on sports labs/facilities).
- Successful afternoon tea for brick achievers.
- Mental health assembly completed to highlight issues around taboo subject.
- Year 9 boys' rugby through to town semi-finals.

DoLS – YEAR 10
Craig Maclean

- At the end of September a group of students, selected by the Director of STEM, took part in the Big Bang STEM event at Furness College.
- At the beginning of October over 60 students went to Manchester and took part in a careers fair where they were looking into apprenticeships.
- In October the whole year group took part in MADE training, delivered by an external company, to enhance their learning and develop their memory and recall capabilities.
- The parents and students from Year 10 attended a GCSE forum at school which informed parents of the GCSE process, how they can support and help their child through Years 10 and 11 as well as reinforce the skills developed during the MADE training.

DoLS - YEAR 11
James Riley

- Good start to the year for behavior.
- Prefects have been given their duties and they have been completing them.
- Senior prefects have led assemblies and aided after school events.
- Matthew Shaw won the KS4 pumpkin competition.
- 'High Ability' seminar for students and parents.
- NCS partnership working to encourage students to try the project.
- Enrolled some students onto the free taster sessions running at Furness College/Barrow Sixth Form College.
- Ulverston Sixth Form/Furness College/Barrow Sixth Form College in assemblies to promote further education.
- Form time sessions and extra assemblies to promote Educake and Hegarty.
- Period 7 timetable support for many students.
- Supported geography field trip.
- Lesson withdrawal or plan set up for some students who have fallen behind to catch up (with either teacher or with Year Manager).

INCLUSION LEADER

Linzi Stanway

Rewards and Behaviour:

- Three permanent exclusion hearings this term that were all upheld.
 - Behaviour presentation to SLT showed that behaviour detentions and exclusions were all improving.
 - Afternoon tea was held in November with over 70 parents attending. This rewarded the students receiving the highest number of bricks.
 - Coffee morning next week for parents of pupil premium students to allow them access to food bank vouchers.
 - Preparation is underway for the praise assemblies this term and also the Christmas bonanza.
 - DoLS end of year reviews are taking place this week.
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3. Assistant Headteacher Reports

ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER – Personal Development, Behaviour & Safety

Pauline Hughes

- Co-ordinated updated Prevent e-learning for all staff
- Sourced Safer Recruitment training for SLT and completed it
- Delivered Safeguarding training to new staff and trainee teachers
- Attended 'Signs of Safety' training, which is new to our LA, for use in early helps and other assessments
- Organised Red Box - free sanitary protection for students who are unable to afford it
- Liaised with the local foodbank regarding Furness Academy being able to authorise food vouchers for needy families
- Updated Relationship and Sex Education policy
- Updated Allegations about Staff policy
- Updated Education of Looked After Children policy
- Updated Dignity at Work policy
- Updated Single Equality policy

ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER – Teaching & Learning/CPD/Research & Innovation

Stephen Kelly

- Deep Thinking training took place for all teaching staff in October, focusing on 12 key strategies to help develop thinking in the classroom. As a result, staff now have a clearer understanding of how to make learning more challenging and all departments have added the development of Deep Thinking into their DDP's. The strategies are beginning to be seen in the classroom and were evident in 58% of lessons seen during the last round of 'drop ins'.
- Further training took place in October on questioning strategies to support a thinking climate. The training exposed staff to some key research underpinning effective questioning and also provided them with a number of strategies to help develop effective questions which impact on the whole class.
- Behaviour training has also taken place on the use of scripted interventions. This has added a further dimension to the behaviour toolkit and as a result of the training a number of scripts have been created and shared. A good behaviour climate was reported in 94% of lessons across the last QA cycle.
- Ten staff from Maths, English, Science and Humanities have begun the Outstanding Teacher Intervention Programme. They have all completed the first unit which is on engagement and will now undergo video observations to help them reflect on their practice. Feedback for the first phase of the training has been very positive.

- The Academy has increased the number of ITT placements this term and, for the first time, has trainee teachers working in Science and Computing. Further links have been created with the Ripley SCITT and, to help encourage recruitment in the area, we will start to use a variety of marketing strategies to promote ourselves as a place you can train to teach.
- Our CPD programme has been widely recognised and, as well as positive feedback from Ofsted, we were nominated for a Golden Apple in the Employee Development Programme category.

ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER – Student Progress & School Improvement

Helen Robinson

- Following on from last year's successful Open Evening, this year again saw us welcome over 1,000 visitors from our local and wider community on 19 September. All of whom were considering Furness Academy as their secondary school of choice.
- 'Open Week Sessions' and parent tours were held w/c 25 September.
- The early indications for 'September 2018' are looking positive with Furness Academy having 225 first choice, 85 second choice and 43 third choice.
- Awards Evening, 19 October, marked the final farewell to our Year 11 leavers. It was an evening for celebrating students' successes and achievements. James Higgins (Editor - NWEM) was the guest speaker and presented the leavers with their GCSE certificates and awards.
- The introduction of 'The Bridge' programme has enabled Year 7 'catch up' students to receive extra weekly numeracy and literacy interventions to help accelerate their progress in these areas.
- A number of visits by governors and Board members took place, including subject drop-ins and exam review meetings.
- Implementation of the 'MADE for Education' programme taught our students specific thinking strategies that build confidence and enable them to think about their own learning more explicitly (Years 7, 8 and 10).
- Student Voice and Student Leadership have been active, including assemblies launching the Student Voice structure and voting for representatives to sit on the council.
- An identified group of students in Year 10 and Year 11 attended a 'More Able' seminar at Barrow Sixth Form College.
- Opportunity to meet Professor Brian Cox at the 'Infinity Science and Technology Festival', Cumbria.
- Half term holidays saw the start of the annual 'Holiday Clinics', a variety of clinics on offer and well supported by the students.
- November has seen the start of the formal examinations for Year 11 in Engineering and Food & Cookery.
- Implementation of the Middle Leadership Programme 'Ambition School Leadership' - 15 middle leaders engaged on the programme.
- A variety of parents' forums were delivered by a variety of key staff giving information regarding next steps, in school, after school support, and guidance for parents to support their child through their GCSEs.
- Revision packs produced for all Year 11 students which included a range of information and strategies to help them plan through to the final examinations in May.
- Completion of the '*Pupil Attitudes to Self and School*' (PASS) survey by all students.
- Parents' evening was held for Year 7 (71% attendance), the largest attendance achieved for a parents evening.
- The parents' survey feedback from the parents' evening was very positive: 100% of Year 7 parents said, 'Their child's transition from primary school to the Academy had been well managed'.
- A wide range of assemblies have taken place, including remembrance assemblies which were led by the History department and senior student leaders.

ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER – Curriculum & Data Innovation
(Vacant post)

BUSINESS DIRECTOR
Andy Bush

- Financial year end for 31 August 2017 has been closed off with the Academy finishing with a small operational surplus on the year as per our original budget projections.
- Financial internal controls audits conducted by RSM Accountants show that the organisation is operating tight and effective financial controls.
- Annual Report for 2017 has been prepared ready for the AGM on 6 December 2017.
- Key site works, including the development of the new courtyard catering facility, works to open ICT, Library and ICT infrastructure have been completed.
- All organisational policies are now up to date and on a revised schedule for update monitored by the Clerk to the Trust Board.
- EU Projects and the EU Future Projects team are running effectively and the four existing projects: ScienceGirls, ELIOT, 3D4KIDS and ICAP are all on track with an identified project manager and teaching lead.
- Development work for the new trading subsidiary for the MAT continues to progress.
- The support staff team have been working on the development of new lettings bookings to increase income generation from facilities.
- Comedy2 The Sequel: training takes place from 9 November 2017 for students and people from industry with the main comedy show on Friday 8 December 2017.