



# Bo'ness Academy

## "BUILDING AMBITION"

# Standards & Quality Report

## Session 2015-2016



**Falkirk Council**  
Children's Services

## A WORD FROM THE HEADTEACHER

The purpose of this report is to share with parents and other stakeholders in our school a summary of the progress we have made in the past year; the attainments, achievements and experiences of our pupils, and our plans for continuing improvement.

Last session was a time of great change, after 13 years of being Headteacher at Bo'ness Academy, Mr David Mitchell retired at Christmas 2015. I took up post as the new Headteacher in January 2016. Previously I was on secondment with Falkirk council for 3 years in the post of Opportunities for All Coordinator ensuring that all Falkirk Council school leavers progressed onto a positive destination. Prior to this I spent the majority of my teaching career in Bo'ness Academy, and my appointment as Headteacher has further strengthened my commitment to the school and the wider community.



The school was inspected in October 2016 by HMIe and the findings were published in December 2015. This recognised the positive work around "Meeting Learning Needs" and "Learners' Experiences". It also highlighted that there is work to be carried out around "Improvements in Performance", "The Curriculum" and "Improvement by Self-Evaluation". This work is currently underway and is a major part of this year's School Improvement Plan.

Between January and June 2016 the school began to change the way in which subjects and departments were grouped together and to create new "Faculties". The school recruited five new Faculty Heads to give us seven in total, and three Pastoral Head posts were created to ensure that every pupil can link to a dedicated pastoral teacher. The Pastoral Head is also the first point of contact for parents or carers if they have any questions or concerns about their child's progress or welfare.

These changes have entailed a significant number of new teachers joining the school for the start of this session and I'm confident that their skills and expertise will allow us to continue to improve to "Be The Best We Can Be".

This report presents only a sample of what we do. I hope you find it interesting and informative. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss any points raised in the report.

Steve Dougan  
Headteacher  
October 2016

## Context of the school

Bo'ness Academy is the only secondary school serving all of the Bo'ness community. At present the school roll is 642 with this due to rise slowly over the next few years.

The majority of our pupils move on to Bo'ness Academy from our cluster primary schools, Blackness, Deanburn, Grange, Kinneil and Bo'ness Public Primary Schools. We also have pupils from St Mary's Primary School and others who have submitted placing requests to attend the school.

The school is led by a Senior Leadership Team comprising a Headteacher, a Resource Manager and 3 Depute Headteachers. This team have the overall responsibility for the curriculum, attainment and behaviour of the pupils within the school.

After making significant changes to the middle leadership team within the school, this now comprises of 7 Faculty Heads, 3 Pastoral Heads and a Head of Pupil Support. The Faculty Heads quality assure a number of subjects and promote high quality learning and teaching within their area. The Pastoral Heads ensure all of our pupils are supported as they progress through school. Our Head of Pupil Support makes sure that any pupil with short or long term needs is identified and helped to achieve their potential.

We have a committed and highly skilled teaching and support staff, with a wide range of experience. This balance enables us to work together to improve the overall quality of learning, teaching and attainment for our pupils.

We are also fortunate to have an active Parent Council who are keen to support the work within the school and encourage as many parents as possible to become get involved.

### ***School Improvement priorities – last session***

Following on from the inspection by HMIe and my appointment as Headteacher the school priorities were realigned.

During the period from January until June 2016 the key priorities were to:

- Consult with as many of our stakeholders as possible
- Create new faculties to make sure similar subjects are grouped together
- Recruit new staff to fill vacant posts



- Create a new system with a Pastoral Head responsible for the health and wellbeing of the pupils within their House.
- Improve the communications between school and home. This has resulted in:
  - o The creation of our newsletter “Best of Bo’ness”
  - o Improved use of social media to make parents/carers aware of what’s happening across the school
  - o A far larger number of parents are now involved in our Parent Council effective contributors to society.
- Our school of dance has been winning top awards across the authority at both junior and senior level.
- Some of our young mathematicians have received the highest awards possible in a national Maths Challenge competition.
- The number of our young people staying in a positive destination after leaving school is above the national average.
- This session pupils and staff have been to Italy, France, China and most recently CERN in Switzerland to improve their knowledge both culturally and educationally.

## ***Successes & achievements***

I’m delighted to report that yet again our pupils have achieved a great deal of success both locally and across the authority. Below are some of the many areas where these have occurred.

- Our intermediate and advanced Young Technologists are the best in West Lothian and Falkirk Council.
- Our Enterprise team “Pine and Twine” were the top performing Falkirk school and won more awards than any other school in Forth Valley with Fraser Preston being recognised as the overall Outstanding Achiever.

- All S2’s have worked with scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians from across the country to help them think about their future careers.
- All S1’s have completed a team building event with the ICT, Technical and Science departments around the use of Microbits.
- Our senior Sports Ambassadors have been recognised at the



annual Falkirk Council sports awards as being the best across the authority.

- We have created fantastic links with Tesco and their food share scheme which is helping to support our highly successful Community Café and other initiatives across the town.
- Some of our more senior members of the community now have good IT skills and can use their phones and tablets thanks to working with some of our pupils on a Wednesday morning at the ICTea café.
- We have more and more young people volunteering to support others in the community.
- We have a very active Parent Council.
- Our school improvement plan is now being generated by pupils, parents, teachers and members of the local authority. Again we will be one of the first schools to do this not only within Falkirk but across Scotland.

## ***Next steps (Where are we going) – SIP***

Our priorities for this session are focussing on recommendations from our School Inspection Report and from information generated from extensive consultation with pupil, parents/carers, staff and the local community.

The diagram below gives an overview on the key areas that we are working on and how they take account of both local and national priorities.

Four of our priorities were developed by working closely with the Scottish Parent Teacher Council (SPTC).

These are:

- To provide opportunities for pupils to take a leadership role in their own learning.
- Review the design and rationale of the curriculum.
- Review and improve the pupil support systems in place for all pupils.
- Develop a communication strategy with parents, partners, and the wider community.

In addition to these we are also:

- Providing opportunities for all staff to engage in collegiate working.
- Ensuring a consistent approach to high quality learning and teaching across the school.
- Enhancing opportunities for our pupils to engage in wider achievement opportunities.
- Striving to make sure all pupils that leave Bo'ness Academy move onto a positive destination. These include, higher and further education, apprenticeships, employment or an opportunity to take part in further training.

## Pupil attainment

Last session we saw a significant improvement in the attainment of a large number of our pupils. The information below reflects their Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA) data.

### Other qualifications

A number of pupils have gained a range of awards through a variety of activities, including:

- SCQF Level 5 Award in Community Sports Leadership
- John Muir Awards
- UK Maths Challenge Winners
- Level 5 Award in Community Sports Leadership
- Young Enterprise Scotland
- Saltire Volunteering Awards
- Duke of Edinburgh Awards
- SQA Employability Award

## S4

5+ at Level 3 (Nat 3)			5+ at Level 4 (Nat 4)			5+ at Level 5 (Nat 5)		
2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
74%	69%	85%	66%	63%	78%	18%	31%	34%

## S5

1+ at Level 6 (Higher)			3+ at Level 6 (Higher)			5+ at Level 6 (Higher)		
2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
43%	41%	51%	21%	22%	29%	13%	6%	9%

## S6

3+ at Level 6 (Higher)			5+ at Level 6 (Higher)			1+ at Level 7 (Advanced Higher)		
2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
32%	33%	30%	22%	23%	25%	12%	13%	10%

## 16+ Positive destinations

A national measure of school performance is the percentage of school leavers from the previous session who have made a positive transition into employment, training, higher or further education. This is reported to the school during

December with a follow up report issued in May/June.

Last session we had 87.6% progressing into an initial positive destination. This had risen to 92.2% in May/June which demonstrates our continued support towards our pupils after they have left school.

# Reader's Evaluation

## Standards and Quality Report 2015-2016

It would be helpful if you could take some time to answer the questions below.

Your answers will enable us to report effectively to you in the future. Thank you for your help.

Question	Yes	No
1. Is the information in the report generally helpful?		
2. Is the layout attractive?		
3. Is it easy to read and understand?		
4. Is there any other information you feel could be included in next year's report?		

### Comments:





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