Faculty Standards and Quality Report Session 21-22

# Faculty Aims

The social subjects team in Kirkwall Grammar School help young people understand the world around them by learning about other people and their values, in different times, places and circumstances. With greater understanding comes the opportunity and ability to influence events by exercising informed and responsible citizenship. Pupils develop their understanding of their environment and how it has been shaped.The department also looks at belief systems across the world, encouraging a respect for the views and traditions of others.

The key aims of the Faculty are:

1. To ensure that greater understanding of these issues helps our young people to become more informed about the world they live in helping them to become responsible citizens.

2. To equip our young people with a skill set which enhances their employability in the modern workplace.

3.To continue to create an inclusive learning environment where all young people can build their confidence as effective contributors.

# Successes and achievement

Uptake has increased in GEO,MODS,HISTORY.

Positive pupil feedback about department.

Successful delivery of SQA exam diet after covid

RMPS teacher won GTCS award.

Show Racism Red Card Entry was a category winner.

Show Racism Red Card Ambassador for KGS.(BL)

Screening of Chotto Xenos Edinburgh international festival for all BGE.

Screening of Scottish Climate Change Documentary linked to COP26 for all BGE.

National winners in the Climate Change Message in a Bottle Competition for Scottish Governments Carbon Neutral Islands Report.

Climate Action Group that is pupil led and supported by the department.

S2 KGS pupil won local Fereday prize judged by Orkney Heritage Society.

Entered GEO/RMPS work to fair trade youth exhibition.

Organised and Lead pupil council with input from S1 Modern Studies elections.

S1 Modern Studies completed work which links to the equity working group “cost of the school day” evidence.

Creation of curricular maps.

**2022 SQA exam diet**

**Geography**

N5 A-C pass rate = 71%

HIGHER A-C pass rate = 79%

ADVANCED HIGHER A-C pass rate = 100%

**History**

N5 A-C pass rate = 79%

HIGHER A-C pass rate = 78%

ADVANCED HIGHER A-C pass rate = 100%

**Modern Studies**

N5 A-C pass rate = 91%

HIGHER A-C pass rate = 86%

ADVANCED HIGHER A-C pass rate = 80%

**Politics**

HIGHER A-C pass rate = 90%

**RMPS**

N5 A-C pass rate = 0%

Higher A-C pass rate = 60%

# BGE and Wider Faculty

Raising awareness of the impact of poverty in S1.

Raising awareness of hate crime in S2.

Holocaust Memorial Day.

Remembrance Day.

YPI involvement.

Staff involvement in a national working group for racial literacy.

All staff offered supported study.

Black History/Black History Month.

Fair Tarde fortnight.

# What are our next steps

Over the coming session some of our key areas of development are:

* To continue to develop Social Subjects Vision, Values and Aims.
* To increase the use of pupil voice as an evaluation tool to increase engagement and enjoyment across Social Subjects.
* To develop and improve Social Subjects transitions from Primary to Secondary school.
* To continue to develop excellence in pedagogy and classroom practice to ensure we meet the needs of all learners
* To continue to develop our BGE and Senior School courses to meet the needs of all learners.

# Work and Life of the Faculty

We are a dedicated group of teachers who are committed to ensuring our students achieve their full potential in the faculty. We are constantly updating our courses and improving our teaching methodologies to meet the needs of our pupils and we offer both lunchtime and after school study support sessions to our students throughout the academic year. A significant amount of time has been invested in developing Microsoft Teams as a platform for more digital learning opening up opportunities for online learning and assessment to support the work we do in class. In addition we are developing a range of out of school and extracurricular opportunities to extend and enhance learning beyond the classroom.

# Our staff are also very active in whole school initiatives. This session we have continued to take the lead role in advancing learning for sustainability. Faculty members have been involved in whole school working groups with a member of the faculty chairing the behaviour working group in academic session 21-22. Faculty members are also involved in whole school initiatives like Duke of Edinburgh and Netball. Staff in social subjects regularly volunteer to get involved in extra curricular sessions such as activities week and sports day.We strive to support our colleagues in other curricular areas by getting involved in interdisciplinary learning such as the BIG BANG STEM DAY.Also, members of the faculty have played key roles in supporting probationer teachers to deliver high quality learning and teaching across the school.

# Vision and Leadership

Our vision is to engage our learners in developing their understanding of the world in which they live and their responsibility to live their lives in a sustainable and compassionate way. We are focussed on developing their employability and literacy skills so that they are equipped for the world beyond school and are able to maximise their opportunities in the future. As such, we encourage our young people to work hard and enjoy learning.

We always aim to do this through engaging our learners in units of work which are relevant, interesting and topical, whilst emphasising the skills of making informed choices and presenting arguments which are supported by strong evidence.