

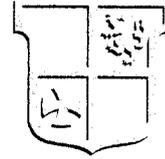
**Headteacher: Graeme Lloyd B.A.Hons**

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FIRST THINGS FIRST

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### Head Teacher's Report May 2006

The untimely death of Archie Howat has come as a great blow to the school. Students and staff have struggled to come to terms with the news and even now, some weeks after the event, there is a sense of disbelief among those of us who knew him well. School has received many messages of condolence from Archie's wide circle of friends and acquaintances in the world of education and beyond. Indeed, it is astonishing to see the extent of that circle. It is clear that Archie touched the lives of many people over the years and left a lasting impression on them both as an educationalist and a human being.

It is of particular regret that he was unable to enjoy his retirement for longer than he did. However, I for one find some comfort in the fact that Archie fitted so much into the last seven months of his life and that he spent his final hours in the country he loved so much.

I am looking to arrange a Memorial Service in school some time in the future and will be discussing how best to mark Archie's achievements as Head Teacher of the school.

#### Current Numbers on Role

Year 7	134
Year 8	102
Year 9	146
Year 10	117
Year 11	121

#### Staffing

Welcome to Maryssa O'Connor who joined us after Easter as Deputy Head Teacher (Social Inclusion) and has already introduced new procedures and systems relating to behaviour the impact of which I am certain will be immediately evident. As a result we have at last been able to put into place our Inclusion Room. This alone has already reduced the number of students being excluded.

Michael Pierson has tendered his resignation with effect from the end of the summer term. His partner is expecting their first child and Michael intends to take on full time parenting duties. Michael has been with the school for three years. I would like to thank him for the contribution he has made to the school and wish him, his partner and new family well for the future.

I have taken steps to fill the resultant vacancy.



Marilyn Fisk has also handed in her resignation having decided to retire at the end of this term. Marilyn has played a key role in our hardworking and busy office not least as P.A. to Archie and since September last to me. As she herself put it, Marilyn originally agreed to 'help out' for a week and ended up staying for ten years! Marilyn's knowledge of systems and procedures relating to the business of the Governing Body has been of particular help to me since my appointment. I owe her a great debt of gratitude. I wish her a very long and happy retirement in beautiful Rothbury.

### **Curriculum Developments**

#### **School Sports Partnership**

This is a national initiative involving all secondary and primary schools in England and Wales. The aim is to address the perceived lack of good quality P.E. provision in primary schools. Funding has been provided for Secondary Schools to employ P.E. teachers to work for two days per week on developing sports activities in partner primary schools. It was in knowledge of this that I decided to appoint Alison Cessford last July. Alison has proved to be a great asset to the department and the school. I welcome this development as an opportunity to further develop our links with primary partners.

#### **Preparation for GCSEs and SATs**

Leadership, departments and Mr. Hinnighan (C.o.L. Y.11) have been hard at work since September in preparing Year 11 for the coming examination season. There is much more preparation work to be done throughout the key stage than previously since now both Mathematics and Science are modular courses. Students have been very carefully monitored in Year 11 and as a result there has been more targeted intervention.

#### **Year 7 Progress Tests; Year 7 and 8 Optional Tests**

I have reintroduced progress tests for Year 7. These are non-statutory externally marked tests for those students who arrive in Year 7 not having attained level 4 in either Mathematics or English. I believe these are objective assessments of which we should be taking advantage to more accurately judge the progress in the first year of key stage 3 of this group of students.

Optional Tests are for all students in Years 7 and 8 in Mathematics and English. They are externally set but marked within school. Again, the results of these will enable staff to judge progress through the key stage and facilitate early and more accurately targeted intervention.

### **Planning**

Key staff have already begun Year on Year planning from summer term – beginning with Year 10 so that problems can be anticipated and interventions put in place. I hope in this way to avoid the 'end loading' of Year 11. Specifically, I want to create the Red –Amber-Green information on student progress this term and map out times in the next two and a half terms when this will be revisited.

Future developments may include beginning the Key Stage 4 timetable in the summer term.

### **Ofsted Inspection**

I refer to my detailed report attached.

### **School Action Level**

The school continues to be monitored on School Action Level 2.

### **Exclusions**

The introduction of the Inclusion Room under Maryssa O'Connor's direction and the supervision of Graham Comer has impacted on exclusions as follows:

Fixed Term	Boys	64	(37 pupils)
	Girls	<u>13</u>	(9 pupils)
		77	

Boys with statements 5

Girls with statements 1

### **Records of Racist Incidents**

1 Racist Incident recorded

### **Records of Homophobic Bullying/Bullying**

5 Bullying/Homophobic Incidents recorded

### **And finally...**

This is Jim Brown's last Full Governors' meeting as Chair of Governors. Jim's association with Tanfield goes back many years as a governor and as chair. He has been, and I am sure will remain, a true ally, supporter and promoter of Tanfield in the community and beyond. I informed our Ofsted inspectors that the relationship between the Governing Body and the leadership of the school was a strength at Tanfield and they agreed. When it comes to school ethos and belief in the almost limitless potential of our young people, I know that Jim speaks with the same voice as the school.

On behalf of the school, for his commitment, energy, unflappability and tireless devotion to our cause, I thank him.

I would also like to express my personal gratitude for the help and support Jim has given me in this first year of my headship. There have been many challenges since September, but through them all, I knew that Jim was always at the other end of the phone to offer advice and guidance.

Graeme Lloyd