

Governors' Report – Oak Class, Valerie Henry, November 2017

Teaching and Learning

All ten pupils in Oak Class are now following the MAPP system to track their progress in the learning. Our pupils with complex needs now have five targets, which cover Communication, Thinking Skills, Occupational Therapy and aspects of Personal and Social Development. Each of the 'Sixth Formers' have six targets covering Transition Planning, Independent Living Skills, Sexual Health and Relationships, Mathematics, and Work Experience. We teach four different ASDAN courses, namely, 'Life Skills Diploma', 'Personal and Social Development', 'Transition Challenge' and 'Towards Independence'.

Our Sixth Form students have participated in a variety of activities to support them in the transition process, including visits to Kirkley Hall and Dilston Campuses. Pupils are looking forward to attending an upcoming 'Careers and College' information session at Woodhorn Colliery, and a visit from Tracy Girdwood of the Berwick Campus who is coming to school this week to talk to our students about the options available to them in the local area. Sixth Form have been participating in a 'Person Centred Planning' process with Rachel Usher to help them make decisions about their future on leaving school. Two of our pupils with complex needs are also moving through the initial stages of the transition process.

Achievement and Progress

We are currently changing the format of our pupils' IEP folders and Learning Logs to be compatible with the MAPP system for tracking learning and achievements. We have almost completed this process and staff will be ready to start recording progress four aspects of skill development, namely, 'Prompting', 'Fluency', 'Maintenance', and 'Generalisation'. This new system of tracking will apply to our learners with complex needs, and I will be in a position to report on progress in pupils' learning using the 'Continuum of Skill Development' by April 2018.

Sixth Form students will create a portfolio of their learning in association with each of their targets. Students have been developing their learning and skills in a variety of areas, including cooking skills, Business and Enterprise activities, work experience and prefect responsibilities. For example, some of our senior pupils have volunteered to support younger pupils in a variety of activities such as RDA, dancing and P.E.. One of our Sixth Form students has undertaken work experience at Tweedmouth Middle School, supporting pupils in P.E activities. She has also been offered a college place to study Child Care, starting part-time in January and, if successful, moving on to Level 2 in September 2018.

Behaviour and Safety of Children

The well-being and safety of pupils in Oak Class has been affected by the behaviour of one pupil. Her behaviour and emotional needs have become increasingly complex, and although we have tried a range of strategies to support her, the situation in class has become increasingly risky for pupils and staff. This pupil regularly displays challenging, and often violent, behaviour towards staff and pupils. There is now a multi-professional team supporting the pupil and her family; this team is in the process of completing a referral to Ferndene, where we hope that she will be given the care and support that she needs.

Leadership and Management

All staff in Oak class have been through the appraisal process this term, and the priorities for the year ahead are to develop the sensory and music curriculums. Mrs Henry will lead the class team through the process of change from B-squared to MAPP 'Mapping and Assessing Personal Progress'.