



## HOLY ROOD RC HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

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Head Teacher: **Lorraine F Legrix**

Chair: **Simon Collins**

### ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

The School session of 2015-2016 has been another eventful and successful year for Holy Rood RC High School. At the start of the session in September 2015 Mrs Legrix reported on the attainment levels of the senior pupils in the exams at the end of the previous session. We were pleased to note continued high achievement, with noted improvement in S4 and the school's best set of Higher results, with 7 pupils achieving straight A grades at Higher. The Parent Council was pleased to note that the School continues to provide an environment where the pupils thrive academically as well as personally. We were sad to learn that the funding for the Schools Improvement Partnership Programme came to an end in September, but it is good to note that the relationships between Holy Rood, Ayr Academy and Arbroath Academy have continued, with good practice being shared amongst the schools. The three schools had been selected as leading examples of schools with mixed catchment areas ensuring that there was no gap in the attainment levels of pupils from different socio-economic backgrounds. The recognition of the good practices within Holy Rood is a credit to the Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teachers and staff and pupils of the School.

In November we were sad to say goodbye to one of the School's Deputy Head Teachers, the long serving Mike Wilkins. His contribution to school life, not to mention time-tabling skills, will be greatly missed. We were pleased to note that Joan Daly was appointed to the role of Deputy Head Teacher, and has settled in to that position over the past few months. We have also seen the introduction of a new system of Parent Evenings being put into implementation on a trial basis, with the majority of those involved reporting a positive experience. The system involves one longer meeting with the pupil's tutor, who has information on all the individual subjects, as opposed to a series of shorter meetings with the individual teachers.

The Parent Council was kept well informed, as ever, about developments within the School. We had the benefit of being addressed by two of the schools senior teachers, Joan Daly on Parental Engagement, and Chris Lowe on Additional Supports Needs, as well as hearing from one of the joint School Captains about the role of the School Captain and prefects.

There were a number of events that helped to showcase the talents within the school. The Micro-Tyco challenge displayed again the entrepreneurial skills of our pupils, and the Young Philanthropy Initiative encouraged the pupils to engage with local charities and compete for funding for their projects. As always it was an emotionally uplifting experience to see the level of enthusiastic engagement and genuine support for the various good causes. At the recent expressive arts event the talents of the pupils in drama, music and art, as well as textiles, film making, photography and many other skills, were shown to the full. The School was also given the honour of designing the poster for the Bio Blitz 2016 event in association with RSPB, with a number of extremely impressive entries.

The only slight note of disappointment over the last year was the lack of significant events and activities for the Holy Rood Association. Other fundraising and social events were planned for the year, and we were anxious not to compete with them. We certainly hope to see the HRA in full operation next year, and volunteers are always welcome.

Simon Collins

Chair of The Parent Council