



# English, Media & Drama

at Balerno High School



**Where we are Now**

# Results



- Very strong results and an improving pattern.
- National 4 - relatively few pupils presented at this level.
- National 5 - 97% pass rate; most pupils performed as, or better, than estimated. Majority of pupils performed above national average in all 3 elements of the exam.
- Higher - 75% pass rate (107 pupils sat exam); most pupils performed as, or better, than estimated.
- Advanced Higher - 6 out of 7 pupils passed.
- Media - 100% pass rate at N5 and Higher.
- Drama - 100% pass rate at N5; 85% at Higher.

***A year in the Life of...***

# Courses



- **May**: staff and pupil feedback on previous year's courses. Parent/carer feedback to be sought in 2017. Development tasks assigned to staff.
- **August**: Senior Phase courses reviewed in light of SQA results.
- **Pre-Christmas**: SQA Understanding Standards events; sharing good practice at faculty meetings; subject leaders' meetings.

# Assessment & Target-Setting



## BGE classes

- May/August: pupils given **Learner Profiles** to enable them to reflect on previous year and to set themselves targets for coming year. Parents/carers involved.
- Throughout year: Pupils are encouraged to set themselves **individual targets** based on their previous progress. Each assessed piece of work is teacher, self and peer assessed.
- Once per term: Pupils work with class teacher to **review their progress** and set themselves appropriate targets in Learner Profiles.
- Throughout year: Cross-marking & **moderation** of pupil work. Ensures **consistent standards**. Work with **cluster**.

## Senior Phase

- **June**: All faculty staff are **SQA markers** & share highlights from that year's marking process with each other and with pupils. N5 pupils **set themselves targets** based on BGE progress.
- **August/September**: Higher/AH pupils set themselves targets based on N5 **component grades**.
- **October**: SQA **Course Reports** published. Headlines shared and discussed with pupils. **Target-setting** conversations.



- **Before Prelim**: Pupils **reflect** on feedback to date & ensure they've sought help for any areas where there may be weaknesses.
- **Post-Prelim**: Pupils **set themselves targets** based on results.
- **Throughout year**: Focus on **building skills** needed for final exam. Classes need to cover set text, class text, close reading materials and folio pieces. **Class assessments not given too early** because English is skills-based, rather than knowledge-based. **Cross-marking & moderation** of pieces. **SQA exemplar materials** used with pupils.

# Supporting our Pupils

- Highest expectations for all of our pupils (and for ourselves).
  - Pupils are encouraged to approach their teacher with any questions or difficulties.
  - Open-door policy at lunchtimes.
  - Supported Study & folio improvement workshops for senior pupils in advance of final exams.
  - We welcome contact from parents/carers.
- Many lunchtime clubs and extra-curricular opportunities.
  - Pupils are entered in to local & national competitions.
  - Recognising positive achievement in 'non-academic' skills.



**Where we are Improving**

# Improvement Plan

- Among other areas:
- Refine BGE assessment & tracking in line with new Benchmarks.
- Aim to increase the number of high quality passes at N5 and Higher.
- Develop support materials for most able pupils and ensure that least able pupils are adequately supported.
- Improve our links with local community.

