

**Report To:** Education & Lifelong Learning Committee      **Date:** 25 January 2011

**Report By:** Corporate Director Education and Communities      **Report No:** EDUC/08/11/WB

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**Subject:** Update on Vocational Learning Programme in Partnership with James Watt College

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## 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Committee members with information about the Vocational Learning Programme that is offered to secondary school pupils and delivered locally by James Watt College.

## 2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Curriculum for Excellence recognises that relevant and effective learning and teaching can take place in a variety of settings other than school, eg colleges. This is reflected in the entitlement for all children and young people to have opportunities to develop skills for life, learning and work.
- 2.2 The national publication '*Building the Curriculum 3*' reports that children and young people should have access to specific opportunities for learning through Skills for Work courses or other vocationally relevant qualifications, and so enable them to develop the skills, confidence and abilities to become the employees, employers and entrepreneurs of the future.
- 2.3 This report provides a summary of the secondary schools' Vocational Learning Programme that will be delivered in partnership with James Watt College during session 2010/11.

## 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Education and Lifelong Learning Committee is asked to note the range of vocational courses being offered by James Watt College and associated uptake by pupils from Inverclyde secondary schools for session 2010/11.

Albert Henderson  
Corporate Director Education and Communities

## **4.0 BACKGROUND**

Curriculum for Excellence aims to achieve a transformation in education in Scotland by providing a coherent, more flexible and enriched curriculum from 3 to 18.

The curriculum includes the **totality of experiences** which are planned for children and young people through their education, wherever they are being educated.

As part of a national Vocational Learning programme, Skills for Work courses for 14 to 16 year olds have been developed to broaden the range of educational experience for young people and support the development of skills for life, learning and work. These courses are delivered across local authorities in partnership with local FE colleges. Inverclyde's partner in the delivery of Skills for Work courses is James Watt College.

## **5.0 PROPOSALS**

5.1 None

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS**

### 6.1 Finance

National funding is provided for school/college partnership activities and this is distributed via the SFEU (Scottish Further Education Unit). Transport costs for pupils attending James Watt College are funded through Education Services' core budget.

### 6.2 Legal

There are no legal implications

### 6.3 Personnel

There are no personnel implications

### 6.4 Equalities

The range of courses on offer is open to both male and female pupils.

## **7.0 CONCLUSION**

This report outlines the range of courses (vocational and academic) that have been offered by James Watt College to Inverclyde pupils from S3-S6 during session 2010/11, and includes the attainment results of those pupils who participated in Vocational Learning courses during school sessions 2008-09 and 2009-10.

## **8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1 None

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Education and Lifelong Learning Committee Meeting – 25 January 2011**

#### **PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES WITH JAMES WATT COLLEGE**

##### **VOCATIONAL PROGRAMME**

###### Rationale

Curriculum for Excellence is designed to enable young people to understand the world they are living in. The focus is on a curriculum that will enable all young people to reach their highest possible levels of achievement, and equip them for work and learning throughout their lives.

One of the aims of Curriculum for Excellence is that every child and young person should benefit from learning and teaching that strikes a better balance between equipping them with the skills for passing exams and skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

National Skills for work courses for 14 to 16 year olds have been designed to broaden the range of educational experience for young people. These courses are designed to help young people to develop:

- skills and knowledge in a broad vocational area
- Develop the following core skills – communication, numeracy, information technology, problem solving, and working with others
- An understanding of the workplace
- Positive attitudes to learning
- Skills and attitudes for employability

###### Local Context

Inverclyde's S3/4 Vocational Programme is delivered in partnership with James Watt College, and is open to pupils of all abilities. Course options include:

- Engineering
- Sport and Leisure
- Construction
- Early Education and Childcare
- Hairdressing

Courses are delivered ½ day per week and course qualifications are equivalent to a Standard Grade eg Intermediate 1, SVQ 1, SPA (Scottish Progression Award).

## APPENDIX 1

Appendix 1a shows the attainment result of S4 pupils, and S5/6 pupils from the 2010 exam diet. During November/December 2010, the college conducted a comprehensive review of their current skills for work programmes to enhance the quality of their programmes, and ensure the college's provision is meeting the needs of all learners. This included gaining the views of those pupils who withdrew from their programme during session 2009/10 before course completion. Permission was given for college staff to conduct an interview style questionnaire with these pupils to find out their reasons for withdrawing before course completion.

Appendix 1b shows the uptake by S3/4 and S5/6 pupils for courses during session 2010/11.

James Watt College also offers progression for those S4 pupils who have completed a 2 year Vocational Programme and who wish to continue their vocational learning in S5.

S5 options include:

- Sport and Recreation
- Auto Engineering
- Early Years and Childcare (Higher)
- National Progression Award – Construction 1
- National Progression Award – Construction 2
- Cosmetology (Hair)

In addition, courses in Higher Psychology (levels 1 and 2) are offered to S5/6 pupils across all Inverclyde secondary schools, and this has proved to be a popular course choice of our senior pupils. Higher Drama is also running this session.

A range of additional courses, such as Sociology, Mental Health, and Nursing, was offered to senior pupils by the college. However, due to limited expressions of interest, it was not financially viable to run these courses.

### Schools/College Liaison Group

A Schools/College Liaison Group has been established involving a Depute Head Teacher from each of our secondary schools and the College's Young Learners Service Coordinator. The quarterly meetings are chaired by the Director of Learner Services and attended by Inverclyde Council's Head of Education, and MCMC Development Officer.

The focus of these meetings is on monitoring the progress and success of the vocational programmes, addressing any associated concerns/problems, and looking at ways of improving the schools/college partnership.

### Future Provision

James Watt College is not exempt from budget constraints as a result of the current national financial climate. While national funding is in place to support school/college partnership activities, efforts are being made to sustain the current course provision offering a range of courses and course progression for Inverclyde pupils. The Schools/College Liaison Group is

## **APPENDIX 1**

also looking at creative ways of maximising opportunities for pupils to experience vocational learning including the future delivery of courses, such as Hospitality, within a school setting.

Inverclyde Schools S5 & S6 Programmes 2009-10

Programme	enrolled	completed	passed	withdrawn	outcome	comment
EARLY YEARS HIGHER	16	13	11	3	84.62%	
MENTAL HEALTH HIGHER	8	8	7	0	87.50%	
HIGHER PSYCHOLOGY	15	8	7	0	46.67%	In line with national results
HIGHER SOCIOLOGY	2	2	1	0	50.00%	based on only 2 learners
INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY	15	12	12	3	100.00%	
NATIONAL CHILD LINE TASTER	1	1	1	0	100.00%	
AUTO	12	8	8	4	100.00%	3 transferred to another programme
BASIC WELDING PRACTICE	1	1	1	0	100.00%	
ADVANCE LAB	16	16	16	0	100.00%	
SCHOOLS BEAUTY SKILLS FINNART	14	14	7	0	50.00%	replaced with NPA award
SCHOOLS HAIR AND MAKEUP	22	12	8	11	72.73%	9 withdrawals winter leavers
WINTER LEAVERS	14	14	14	0	100.00%	
SCHOOL DRAMA WORKSHOP	8	8	8	0	100.00%	
HIGHER DRAMA	11	11	10	0	90.91%	
SCHOOL LINK (MUSIC)	5	5	3	0	60.00%	
GAIN PROJECT (SCHOOLS)	23	23	21	0	91.30%	
GLENBURN - ART - SCHOOL LINK	9	8	8	1	100.00%	
SKILLS FOR WORK HOSPITALITY	18	13	10	5	76.92%	
QUICK SERVICE HOSPITALITY	7	7	7	0	100.00%	
	217	184	155	27		

Inverclyde S3&S4 Programmes 2008-2010

	enrolled	completed	passed	withdrawn	outcome
EARLY YEARS CHILD CARE	37	22	20	15	90.91%
ENGINEERING	22	13	13	9	100.00%
CONSTRUCTION	18	9	9	9	100.00%
SPORT	11	10	10	1	100.00%
HAIRDRESSING	15	6	6	9	100.00%
	103	60	58	43	

**Inverclyde Schools' Vocational Programme 2010/11 – Course Choice/Pupil Numbers as at 14 December 2010**

<b>S3 Pupils Skills for Work Courses</b>		<b>S4 Pupils Skills for Work Courses</b>		<b>S5/6 Skills for Work National Progression Award Higher Grade</b>	
Construction	29	Construction	10	Auto Engineering	16
Engineering	30	Engineering	14	Construction (NPA 1 and 2)	20
Early Years and Child Care	18	Early Years and Child Care	21	Cosmotology - Beauty	25
Hairdressing	24	Hairdressing	6	Cosmotology - Hair	16
Sport	35	Sport	9	Drama (Higher)	10
				Early Years and Child Care (Higher)	20
				Psychology (Higher)	44