

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

CAITHNESS AND SUTHERLAND AREA COMMITTEE 11 FEBRUARY 2014

Agenda Item	9a.
Report No	CS/7/14

Dornoch Academy Associated School Group Overview

Report by Director of Education, Culture and Sport Service

Summary

This report provides an update of key information in relation to the schools within the Dornoch Academy School Associated School Group (ASG), and provides useful updated links to further information in relation to these schools.

1.0 ASG PROFILE

The primary schools in this area serve over 200 pupils, with the secondary school serving 274 young people. (Appendix 1 provides the primary school rolls breakdown).

ASG roll projections can be found at:

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourcouncil/highlandfactsandfigures/schoolrollforecasts.htm>

There are currently no acting Head Teachers in this ASG.

1.1 Attainment and Achievement

1.1.1 Dornoch Academy

Attainment – Performance Summary

Level 7 = Advanced Higher

Level 6 = Higher

Level 5 = Standard Grade Credit Award

Level 4 - Standard Grade General Award

Level 3 – Standard Grade Foundation Award

Attainment in S4

Attainment in S4 last session was strong in all key measures [L3, L4 and L5] with pupils performing better than previous S4 cohorts in all three measures.

By the end of S4, almost all students achieved qualifications in basic literacy and numeracy. The school has continued its policy of presenting students at Access 3 in English in S3 to ensure that every pupil leaves school with a basic qualification.

5+ Level 3 and 4

100% of the S4 cohort were successful in the measure 5 + L3, this being the highest attainment in this measure in the last three years. Attainment was above national [95%] and authority [94%] averages. The school performed better than almost all of its comparators last year but over a three year period is considered to be performing less well than schools with similar characteristics. There was a significant improvement in attainment in the 5+ L4 measure this year with 98% of pupils achieving at this level. The school performed much better than authority [85%] and national [82%] averages. As in the 5 + L3 measure, the school performed better at 5+ L4 than almost all of its

comparators last year. In addition, over a three year period, the school is considered to be performing better than schools with similar characteristics.

5+ Level 5

69% of pupils achieved 5 + credits which is the best attainment in this measure for several years. This strong performance ensured the school performed better than any of its comparators and in the top 10% of schools nationally. It also performed well above national [38%] and authority [41%] averages in this measure. Over a three year period, the school is considered to be doing much better than schools with similar characteristics. Approximately 30% of this cohort is now predicted to achieve 5 + Highers this session.

Attainment in S5

3+ and 5 + Level 6

Attainment in S5 showed a slight improvement in both key measures [3 and 5 + Level 6] which is encouraging. This helped the school to continue to perform much better than comparator schools over a three year period. Within the 3+L6 measure, at 32%, the school continues to perform above local and national averages [28%] and better than schools with similar characteristics. The school is operating within the top 30% nationally in this measure. It is also operating just above authority averages [28%]. Girls performed significantly better than boys this year [44% compared with 20%].

The school continued to perform strongly in the 5 + L6 measure with 16% of students achieving at this level. Attainment is just above authority and national averages [12% and 13%] and places the school in the top 30% of schools nationally. Over a three year period, the school is considered to be performing much better than those with similar characteristics.

Attainment in S6

1+ Level 7

Whilst performance at Advanced Higher was down on the previous year at 16%, this reflects the ability level of the cohort. Attainment in this measure was only just below authority averages [17%].

3+ and 5+ Level 6

Attainment in S6 was less strong than in previous cohorts at Higher but this reflected the ability level of this cohort [as demonstrated in S5]. Within the 3 + L6 measure [34%], the school performed slightly below national [38%] and authority [39%] averages. This performance resulted in the school dropping in the ratings when compared with schools of similar characteristics but, due to strong performance in the previous two years, the school is still considered to be doing much better than its comparators. Attainment in the 5 + L6 measure was significantly lower than the previous year at 20%. The school is now operating in the bottom 30% nationally and below authority [27%] averages.

Whole school issues

As in previous years, pupils were presented across a broad range of levels and courses. Performance in Art and Design was strong at both Int. 1 and 2 with 80% of students achieving grade As. Presentation rates were, however, low. This department is fairly selective in which students are presented for national qualifications and therefore secures better results than those departments which have a more inclusive policy on presentation.

The level of presentation at SG Biology was the best of the last five years and 96% of students achieved credit passes.

57% of students sitting Int. 2 English in S4 achieved grades A or B. Levels of presentation have increased from previous years. In Drama at Int. 2 level, all pupils achieved grades A or B which was a particularly strong performance. A significant number of pupils did better in drama than in

other subjects. Presentation in this subject is also slowly rising showing that it is increasingly popular with students.

A strong entry of 30 S4 pupils at Int. 2 French resulted in 80% achieving grades A or B. 17 out of 18 pupils also secured A or B passes in Int. 1 at S4 underlining that the presentation policy within this department is working well. 79% of pupils also achieved grade A or B in German at Int. 2 in S4.

78% of pupils sitting Standard Grade Geography gained credit passes despite a lack of continuity in staffing within this department last session. Performance in Higher History was encouraging with 10 out of 17 pupils gaining A or B grades. The number of pupils [14 out of 29] gaining a credit 1 award at SG was also the best out of the last five years. Presentation at SG has risen steadily in the last five years.

The continued partnership between the school and Northern College for Hospitality [Practical Cookery] has resulted in 4 out of 5 students gaining a grade A at Int. 2.

76% of students sitting Int. 2 Maths gained A or B awards and 61% gained the same in Int. 1. Performance was better than in previous years in these measures. This was not replicated across other measures, however.

All students presented for Int. 1 in S4 - 6 at Rural Skills gained an award.

The link Quality Improvement Officer expressed some concern about the number of students who attained grade D or received no award in a range of measures including Maths and Biology Highers. The HT underlined the very inclusive policy which operates in many departments across the school and that students are not prevented from entering courses despite prior learning indicating potential lack of success. For example, several pupils who did not perform particularly strongly in S4 in Maths were presented for Higher in S5. 50% of students presented then failed to gain an award. In Biology, 7 / 10 pupils failed to gain a credible award at Higher. The school recognises the need to consider its presentation policy and the guidance provided to pupils at subject level to ensure they secure awards which are relevant to their ability level / prior learning. Progression pathways for students need to be well-defined from S3 onwards to ensure that each year of coursework adds value to prior learning.

Achievement in English at Higher was disappointing [10 grades A / B but 9 grade Ds or no awards] and performance at Advanced Higher also gave cause for concern with 3 out of 4 students not gaining a credible award after a year of coursework. Attainment in the Geography department was also less strong at Standard Grade and Higher with 6 out of 11 pupils failing to gain a credible award in the latter measure. The Music department also fared less well last session at Int. 2 [S4] and Higher when compared with comparator schools. Presentation levels within P.E. also give some cause for concern as there was no presentation at Higher this year.

1.1.2 Wider Achievement & Notable Successes

Secondary – Dornoch Academy [Link to Dornoch Academy webpage](#)

Primary School:

School	Link to School Webpage
Bonar Bridge Primary	Bonar Bridge Primary webpage
Dornoch Primary	Dornoch Primary webpage

School	Date of Latest Published Report	Link to Education Scotland Pages
Dornoch Academy	May 2009	Dornoch Academy Inspection
Bonar Bridge Primary	June 2007 (follow up)	Bonar Bridge Primary Inspection
Dornoch Primary	Mar 2010	Dornoch Primary Inspection

© Denotes school part of a "cluster" management arrangement

Nursery	Date of Latest Published Report	Link to Care Inspectorate Pages
Bonar Bridge Primary Nursery GM & EM	June 2013	Bonar Bridge Primary Nursery
Dornoch Primary Nursery	Nov 2012	Dornoch Primary Nursery
No Childminders: 5		

1.1.3 Destinations 16+

Leaver destination information is taken from the School Leaver Destination Return (SLDR) which is a statistical return undertaken by Skills Development Scotland (SDS) on behalf of the Scottish Government. The return is based on a follow up of young people who left school between 1 August 2012 and 31 July 2013. This exercise was carried out during the month of September 2013.

	% Positive Destinations		
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Dornoch Academy	81.8%	89.6%	93.3%
Highland	89.4%	90.7%	93.1%
Scotland	88.9%	89.9%	91.4%

Leaver Destinations for Dornoch Academy School

Number of pupils leaving in school year:

Total No. Leavers	Dornoch Academy	HIGHLAND	SCOTLAND
2010/11	55	2575	54073
2011/12	48	2495	50892
2012/13	45	2580	52801

Destinations of Pupils (%)

DESTINATION	Dornoch Academy			HIGHLAND			SCOTLAND		
	10/11	11/12	12/13	10/11	11/12	12/13	10/11	11/12	12/13
Higher Education	34.5%	47.9%	35.6%	33.2%	34.6%	33.7%	35.8%	37.3%	36.5%
Further Education	16.4%	18.8%	31.1%	22.3%	21.2%	23.7%	27.1%	26.8%	27.8%
Training	0.0%	2.1%	0.0%	2.0%	2.5%	1.9%	5.6%	4.6%	5.0%
Employment	29.1%	18.8%	24.4%	29.2%	29.7%	31.2%	19.3%	19.8%	20.4%
Voluntary	0.0%	2.1%	0.0%	0.5%	0.9%	0.7%	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%
Activity Agreements	1.8%	0.0%	2.2%	2.2%	1.8%	1.9%	0.5%	0.9%	1.3%
Unemployed Seeking	10.9%	2.1%	4.4%	7.7%	5.9%	5.6%	9.6%	8.4%	7.1%
Unemployed Not Seeking	5.5%	2.1%	2.2%	1.8%	1.9%	0.8%	1.2%	1.3%	1.2%
Unknown	1.8%	6.3%	0.0%	1.1%	1.5%	0.5%	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%

Note: National averages have been calculated from the figures for all available local authority and grant-aided schools, whereas the local authority averages are based on local authority schools only.

There are currently 2 open Activity Agreements involving Former Pupils of Dornoch Academy School.

1.2 Pupils

Roll and Looked After pupil number have been taken from the Pupil Census extracted in September 2013.

School	Pupil Roll	Looked After	EAL Pupils	Free Meals Eligibility	Free Meals Uptake
Highland Primary				16.4%	87.9%
Scotland Primary				22.0%	88.4%
Bonar Bridge Primary School	52	<5	<5	30.2%	71.4%
Dornoch Primary School	156	<5	5	9.9%	78.6%
School	Pupil Roll	Looked After	EAL Pupils	Free Meals Eligibility	Free Meals Uptake
Highland Secondary				11.4%	78.8%
Scotland Secondary				15.5%	74.7%
Dornoch Academy	274	<5	<5	9.6%	100.0%

Free School Meal information extracted from Healthy Living Survey collected February 2013 Free Meals Eligibility is the percentage of the present school roll registered for free meals. Free Meals Uptake is the percentage of those present on census day who were registered and took free meals.

1.2.1 Attendance/Absence/Exclusion Profile 2012/13

Scottish Government collect Attendance, Absence and Exclusions on a bi-annual basis, comparative national information will be next available for academic year 2012-13.

SCHOOL	% Actual Attendances	% Authorised Absences	% Unauthorised Absences	No of Exclusions and Rates per 1000 Pupils	No Pupils Excluded and Rate per 1000 Pupils
Highland Primary (2012-13)	94.8%	4.3%	0.9%	8/1000	5/1000
Scotland Primary (2012-13)	94.9%	3.8%	1.3%	10/1000	6/1000
Bonar Bridge Primary School	96.0%	4.0%	0.0%	0/1000	0/1000
Dornoch Primary School	92.4%	6.9%	0.7%	7/1000	7/1000
SCHOOL	% Actual Attendances	% Authorised Absences	% Unauthorised Absences	No Of Exclusions and Rates per 1000 Pupils	No Pupils Excluded and Rate per 1000 Pupils
Highland Secondary (2012-13)	90.9%	6.4%	2.6%	39/1000	28/1000
Scotland Secondary (2012-13)	91.9%	5.4%	2.5%	58/1000	33/1000
Dornoch Academy	92.7%	6.6%	0.5%	66/1000	56/1000

1.3 School

SCHOOL	ECO School	Travel Plan	Improving through Self-Evaluation and Improving Services	No of Placing Requests In	No of Placing Requests in Granted	No of Placing Requests Out Granted
Bonar Bridge Primary School	green flag	No	Good (2009)	0	0	0
Dornoch Primary School	silver	Yes	Good (2005)	5	5	0
Dornoch Academy	green flag	Working On	Good (2009)	13	13	4

It should be noted that all placing requests in/out of these schools were able to be accommodated this year. There were therefore no parental appeals lodged for this ASG.

1.4 ECS Staffing

School	Teaching Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	Non-Teaching (FTE)
Dornoch Academy	24.00	10.00
Bonar Bridge Primary School	3.80	2.58
Dornoch Primary School	9.30	4.77

Nursery	Teaching Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	Non-Teaching (FTE)
Bonar Bridge Nursery EM & GM		1.70
Dornoch Nursery		1.86

School staff information from Staff Census collected Sept 2013. Please note that only certain types of teaching posts are counted here: Normal complement, Long term sick absence replacement, secondment replacement, maternity leave replacement, other replacement, temporary contract, covering a vacancy. Teachers who teach at the school but are centrally employed are excluded.

Core staffing is calculated using the Highland Staffing Model, which takes account of national agreements for P1 to P3 class sizes. As a result, all primaries in this ASG are staffed according to the model.

- [Staffing Table DSM Annex 4 PDF](#)
- [Primary Teacher Staffing Arrangements Admin Circular 9/2010](#)
- [Primary School Rolls as at 17th August 2013 – Appendix 2](#)

In addition to core staffing for each school, a model will be used to provide an appropriate level of ASN cover to each school within the ASG. This model was approved at Adult and Children’s Services Committee, 26th September 2012. Report [ACS-33-12](#).

This session we are funding additional staffing for the ASG as follows:

- 2.0 FTE ASN teachers
- 12.3 FTE PSA staff (assuming FTE = 27.5 hrs)

The identified level of need at start of session was:

47	Pupils at level 2
11	Pupils at level 3
1	Pupils at level 4

1.5 Funding

School/ Nursery	Devolved Budget 2012/13	Cost per pupil	Carry Forward from 2011/12	Devolved Budget 2013/14	Cost per pupil	Carry Forward from 2012/13
Dornoch Academy	1,582,798	5,515	-81,441	1,524,040	5,562	-30,052
Bonar Bridge Primary	197,333	3,723	-1,523	188,288	3,303	-1,776
Dornoch Primary	442,105	3,049	-24,487	454,627	2,914	-19,623
Bonar Bridge Nursery EM & GM	32,395	2,160	67	29,484	1,966	-42
Dornoch Nursery	40,751	1,101	-808	40,914	1,106	-1,422

Members are asked to note that devolved funding is generally sufficient for school needs.

School	Suitability	Condition	Occupancy (2012)	Current/Future Investment (last 5 yrs)
Dornoch Academy	B	C	77%	£1460395 includes Electrical Upgrade, Fire Safety, Window Replacement
Bonar Bridge Primary	C	C	38%	
Dornoch Primary	B	B	64%	£335212 includes Roof, Oil Burner, Biomass Boiler

3.0 HIGH LIFE HIGHLAND IN DORNOCH ASG

HLH Facilities and Services within the Dornoch Associated School Group Area	User Information	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Bonar Bridge Library	Issues	7,601	6,604	5,326
Dornoch Library	Issues	16,488	16,298	14,486
Mobile Library	Issues	37,102	36,504	36,402
Active Schools Coordinator	Unique Participants	Different info collected prior to 2011/12	175	210
Youth Development Officer	Contacts with Young People Young Scot Card percentage uptake (National average – 72%)	2133 98%	3402 100%	2994 99%
Adult Learning	Unique Participants	54	179	162

Programme information

Bonar Bridge Library:

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/leisureandtourism/libraries/yourlocallibrary/bonarlib.htm>

Dornoch Library:

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/leisureandtourism/libraries/yourlocallibrary/dornochlib.htm>

Mobile Library:

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/leisureandtourism/libraries/mobilelibraryservice/default.htm>

HLH Youth Services –

- Work directly with young people in NEED
- COORDINATE local provision
- Support PARTNER organisations
- Ensure young people have a VOICE
- Support and develop ACHIEVEMENT frameworks

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Area Committee is asked to scrutinise and note the content of the report.

Signature:

Designation: Director of Education, Culture and Sport

Author: Graham D Nichols

Date: 28th January 2014

APPENDIX 1

PRIMARY SCHOOL ROLLS

Session 2013-14

SEED Code	School Name	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	TOTAL
5107725	Bonar Bridge Primary School (EM)	8	9	2	5	8	6	5	43
5107725	Bonar Bridge Primary School (GM)	0	2	2	1	0	3	1	9
5110629	Dornoch Primary School	29	17	25	25	19	20	21	156

SEED Code	School Name	N3 (Sep)	N4(Sep)	N3(Jan/Apr)	No Sessions
5107725	Bonar Bridge Primary School (EM)	8	7	1	5
5107725	Bonar Bridge Primary School (GM)	3	2	0	4
5110629	Dornoch Primary School	15	28	7	10