



Solway Community School

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Dear Parents/Carers

IQ lesson

You may remember that after Christmas we changed our timetable to introduce a new 25 minute lesson into the school day. The specific aims of this were to enable us to look at different ways of learning – in different age groups, different approaches, different subject areas, developing different skills, all of which we think will have an impact on our students' progress. I said I would write again to let you know how things had gone.

After half a term, we have asked staff and students what they thought and the results have been very encouraging and overwhelmingly positive. For years 7 and 8, who were doing extra reading and red line objectives in Maths, we carried out baseline assessment to measure the impact and our results show that almost all the students involved have improved knowledge and skills, whether it be accuracy rates in reading or understanding of different topic areas in Maths. Many times, reports Mr Hailwood, students said, 'Oh, I understand that now!' The students reading with our VI formers have all asked to continue as they enjoyed the experience so much.

Students working on their handwriting in year 8 self assessed; they said their writing was 'neater, more joined up, faster'. Year 9 girls reading *Pride and Prejudice* can now explain what prejudice is, although I think they liked the popcorn most! Perhaps the two most successful projects were with Mrs Hurst in RMT, where Year 10 students learnt to use new CAD software with excellent progress being made, and in Year 11 Spanish, where students learnt additional A and A* grade material for their GCSE speaking exams, and their results showed a clear positive impact on the quality of grades.

We are very pleased with the initiative so far. This term, we are running different classes. Year 11 are all following an intensive exam preparation programme in English and Maths. Lower down the school, Year 7 are continuing with reading groups; those who worked with VI formers last half term are developing research projects based on the books they read.

Year 8 and 9 are involved in three different lessons – a local History project with Mr Murray completing a Roll of Honour for Silloth, learning how to use our greenscreen resources to produce animated DVDs with Miss Dakers and Mrs Hurst, or a joint Geography and Art project looking at Art around the world. Year 10 are all in the Science labs with the Science department where this week they set fire to things (completely safely); next week they are going to be dissecting eyeballs... rather them than me.

Our aims remain to raise the status of learning in KS3 and consolidate and support learning in KS4. We have been able to target particular students' needs and I am

delighted with the way staff and students have responded to the challenge and approached these lessons in such a positive manner. We are looking forward to the remainder of this half term when we will evaluate again before moving on in the summer in an attempt to improve our provision still further.

Please do contact me at school if you have any questions or comments – I am always pleased to hear your views.

Yours sincerely



Judith Schafer
Headteacher