

## **‘Sharing the Classroom Experience’**

The main aim of the working group is to improve learning and teaching through the observation of lessons by colleagues and Principal Teachers, with feedback. This practice also aims to increase dialogue about the teaching and learning process with staff, pupils and parents and use this information to inform and improve practice.

A series of assemblies have been led by Ms S Cook and the Pupil Council to all year groups on ‘learning and teaching’. Pupils and staff were then given the opportunity to discuss these issues at Tutor Group and complete a questionnaire. The results of this were then analysed and a more searching questionnaire followed up in PSE. The results below represent the main findings.

It should be noted that a parent focus group have also been consulted on learning and teaching via an online questionnaire. The results from both the pupil and parental questionnaire will be used to reflect on learning and teaching at Leith Academy. This will mainly be done by staff sharing classroom experience with each other both within their own departments and across the school as a whole.

### **Pupils’ view of Learning and Teaching**

Following a series of S1-4 assemblies on learning and teaching, discussions with S5/6 at PD and an on-line survey (281 pupils – S1-6), pupils raised a number of points as being important to enable them to be successful with their learning. The following information summarises the main findings.

#### **Q1. What makes a good lesson?**

Positive staff attitude  
Humour/fun within teaching  
Teachers who listened to the pupils

#### **Q2. In what ways do teachers help you learn?**

Praise  
Examples and demonstrations  
Practical work  
Listening and valuing pupils  
Use of ICT

#### **Q3. What do you think are the best ways to help you learn?**

Through practical experience  
Fun lessons  
Praise  
Interesting lessons / variety of media

#### **Q4. What type of classroom makes for good learning?**

Good relationships in the class (pupil/pupil and teacher/pupil)  
Interesting topics and variety of approach

#### **Q5. What can you do to improve your learning?**

Work hard  
Listen  
Attend regularly  
Revise  
Behave  
Have a positive attitude  
Have respect for yourself and others  
Attend supported study  
Have a breakfast

#### **Q6. What do you think teachers do to help you learn?**

Be good humoured  
Encourage you  
Give you appropriate work  
Make you think

(1/4 of pupils believed that teachers did nothing to help them learn. When explored further with pupils they felt that the discipline in some classes was such that it prevented them from achieving their potential. They felt some staff needed to be stricter.)

#### **Q7. What improvements could be made generally to ensure that learning is a more enjoyable experience?**

More trips  
More practical lessons  
Punishments should be fair and targeted  
More subject choice  
Respect and good relationships  
End lessons on time

The responses to the parental questionnaire are currently being collated. The main findings from these will be presented early on next term on this website. There will also be an overview of staff comments relating to their experiences of sharing classroom experience, looking at what they believe the benefits are to both themselves and pupils in terms of improving learning and teaching.

If you have any views on this information or the learning and teaching process in Leith Academy, then please contact Ms S Cook directly. Your views could be helpful in taking the project forward and improving education for the youngsters.