**Craigroyston Community High School- “A Curriculum For All”**

Craigroyston Community High School is set in an area of multiple deprivation and as such is part of the Scottish Attainment Challenge. The majority of its pupils live in SIMD 1 and 2.

The school’s vision, developed over the last three years is for all pupils to stay on until the end of S6 and for each pupil to leave with experience, qualifications, a portfolio of skills and knowledge of the job market whether or not they are going on to higher or further education.

Initially, the Headteacher shared his vision for an egalitarian approach to developing the curriculum with staff and established wide support and enthusiasm from the outset. The approach sat well with the school’s well established nurturing approaches towards their pupils but this new direction would provide more of the rigorous “push” required to raise aspirations and attainment.

The school decided to begin by redesigning their senior phase and the Headteacher set about building networks and establishing crucial business links. Strong links were established with the Chamber of Commerce, a range of business partnerships were set up and a pre-apprenticeship programme was created which is seen as a bridge to employment. Pupils are mentored through their pre-apprenticeship making the chances of success much more likely.

 In the senior phase the school put the pupil at the centre of the timetable and created a range of vocational courses around pupil choice. Following success in developing the senior phase the school looked at the BGE and increased their focus on employability skills and personalisation and choice. They brought in 2nd and 3rd year electives e.g. Schools for Chefs programme. Vocational courses were established which built on the skills, expertise and passions of staff. The approach has provided wide opportunities for teachers to exercise leadership and one major impact has been on the embedding of distributed leadership across the staff as a whole.

The success of the school’s innovative approach can be measured in a wide range of ways and the positive impacts include: Learning and Teaching- is being delivered in a range of different styles and in a range of venues-sometimes off campus e.g. Gorgie Farm

Personalisation and choice is embedded throughout. Pupils understand the relevance of their academic and vocational learning and its link to the world of work.

Numbers staying on to S6 have increased from 50% to 98% in 3 years with the numbers of pupils moving on to positive destinations increasing to 93%. Marked rise in attainment, with an increase in percentage of pupils gaining qualifications at almost every level including higher as well as numbers of pupils going to university.

The numbers of young people participating in pre-apprenticeship programmes have increased from Year 1 and 9 young people working in 4 different companies to 25 young people working across 10 companies.

The school is continuing to build on this approach with the opportunities afforded by its inclusion in the Scottish Attainment Challenge which has for example allowed them to appoint one to one teacher mentors for targeted pupils.