

## Developing Active & Responsible Citizens



September 2002



**SCHOOL** →

**Notre Dame High School, Glasgow**

**FOCUS** →

**Encouraging active citizenship amongst S6 pupils**

### ***Initiatives or projects to encourage the development of Education for Citizenship***

Our school Programme for Education and Citizenship is designed to address two of the national priorities – Values and Citizenship and Learning for Life.

From S1 onwards pupils follow a planned programme of opportunities which encourage full participation in school and the wider community and prepare them for adult life in a changing world. A current example of one project the school is involved in is *Learning for Living and Earning*, a partnership project between NGfL and Glasgow City Council.

S6 pupils have a particular focus as their leadership role within the community is highlighted. In their final year S6 are enabled to demonstrate, develop and experience a range of skills and increasingly see themselves as active citizens or 'leaders'. The overall approach to S6 in this context is empowerment – new challenges and a wide range of opportunities are designed

to promote confident learning skills as part of their preparation for becoming active citizens in the wider community. Working with school staff and Community Education, S6 begin their year with a specially designed Conference. This is chaired by an S6 student, which gives them a full day out of school during which they participate in a motivational presentation/workshop and a range of mini training workshops. The motivational session provides a forum for the students to genuinely consider what they want from life and the workshops provide a basic training in areas such as Mentoring, Communication skills, Team-building and Committee skills. These workshops are preparation for areas of school life where S6 will be extensively involved.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Notre Dame High School**  
160 Observatory Road  
Dowanhill  
Glasgow  
G12 9LN  
tel: 0141 582 0190  
fax 0141 582 0191

**Contact:**  
**Patricia Lennon**  
**Assistant Head Teacher**  
  
e-mail  
[PLENNON@notredamehigh.glasgow.sch.uk](mailto:PLENNON@notredamehigh.glasgow.sch.uk)

Additional training in Mentoring is provided by Community Education support in the following 3/4 weeks.

During their year S6 students are involved in activities such as: –

- ✓ Mentoring
- ✓ Lunch clubs (partly funded through Barclays)
- ✓ Peer Tutoring
- ✓ IT Support
- ✓ School Council
- ✓ House Group Meetings
- ✓ Event Planning & Organising:
  - Halloween Party
  - Christmas Talent show
  - Fund Raising
- ✓ Enterprise
- ✓ Young Achievers
- ✓ Pro Life
- ✓ Voluntary work – wider community
- ✓ Worldwide – Lasallian World Project and St Margaret, Scotland Youth Group (international volunteer groups)

### ***How are these initiatives monitored and evaluated***

- ✓ Formal evaluation with S6 – questionnaires
- ✓ Informal – regular discussion during PSE
- ✓ Client satisfaction

### ***What are some of the biggest challenges faced by teachers and young people in implementing the initiatives?***

- ✓ Ensuring students are aware of and have the opportunity to develop their potential –
- ✓ Selling this to other staff who may regard some of these activities as time wasted (not in subject)
- ✓ Risk taking – having faith that young people can and will be able to meet what appear to be extraordinary challenges.

### ***What has worked well?***

The overall development of self confidence / self esteem and the recognition that young people can and should participate fully in society

### ***What did not work / lessons learned***

We have learnt that we must take time to involve pupils in early discussion and give them the big picture of what is going on and why. It is clear that they will understand and this approach will help them to be clear about what they are involved in and why. Preparing the way and setting the agenda at the critical early stage helps ensure success of the project.

### ***Future Plans***

To continue to develop opportunities while making sure balance of the year (re academic needs etc) is retained.