

School Improvement Plan

Literacy

**CBS Thurles
2014 – 2017**



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR LITERACY May 2014 TO MAY 2017

Themes: Engagement in learning & teaching approaches

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| Summary of main strengths | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STen scores of 1st Year students for reading are above the national norms. • Attainment in the majority of subjects at both JC & LC is above the national norms. • 70% of students are reading fiction for enjoyment. • There is a critical mass of teachers already using comprehension. • There is willingness to share good practice. • Students are getting some opportunities to develop oral language and are confident working in pairs and small groups. |
| Summary of main areas prioritized for improvement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers to focus on the development of literacy as well as knowledge and skills. • Increased expectations in standards of student's written work across the curriculum. • Increase in self and peer assessment. • The development of comprehension, note making and group-work strategies across all subject areas to include at least one on-line tool. • Increase the number of students taking higher level in certain subjects for both Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate. |
| Actions to support implementation of School Improvement Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (a) Inclusion of literacy pack in student journal to include grammatical terms & commonly misspelt words, Reading for enjoyment section. (b) Blooms taxonomy posters to assist teaching strategies, (c) Information evenings for parents/guardians on literacy skills with regard to state examinations. |

| IMPROVEMENT TARGET 1 | REQUIRED ACTIONS | PERSON/S RESPONSIBLE | MEASURABLE OUTCOMES SUCCESS CRITERIA | TIMEFRAME FOR ACTIONS | REVIEW DATES |
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| Increase the percentage of students surveyed reading for enjoyment for more than 70% | 1. Reading for enjoyment class timetabled for 1st and second year students. | Senior management encourage reading for enjoyment class by allowing time on the timetable. Students bring in and read their own books. English teachers organize media | Increase in the number of students reading for enjoyment as measured by the student survey. At a minimum, maintain the number of students scoring a STen of 5 or more and reduce the number of students | Reading for enjoyment class every week during 2014/15 for current 1 st and second years. | Updates at staff meetings. Survey administered in April 2014 to track progress & analysis |

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| May 2016. To reach 75% by May 2017 | | notice boards and nominate students responsible on a rotational basis. | scoring a STen of 4 or less in the standardised 6 th class reading test in 2014/15. | | of STen in 2014/15. |
| | 2. Create awareness amongst parents in relation to the benefits of reading for enjoyment by administering a parental literacy survey. | Core team conduct survey and liaise with 1 st Year Maths teachers to analyse the survey as a cross curricular activity. | | Information session and survey administered to parents at 1 st Year parent teacher meeting in Jan.. 2015 | Parents at PTM 2 nd Years Feb 16 3 rd Years Feb. 17 |
| | 3(a). English Dept. will purchase 5 sets of 30 different books per class based on teacher recommendation & students preference. | English Department & students. | Records of books read in students' journals checked by English teacher. An increase in the number of books read by students as measured by the survey. An increase in the number of students joining & using the public library as measured by the survey. | Every month in 2014/15. | May 2015/116 |
| | 3.(b). Restock School Library, more shelving and paint the room also. | School Management | Use of room by students will be monitored by teachers | Termly | May 2015/16/17 |
| 5. CSPE students will hold a competitions in first and second year | 1 st Year CSPE teachers 1 st Year CSPE students Languages, Science, English, Geography, Humanities & Maths departments can use as a resource also. | An increase in the number of students reading from digital media as measured in the student survey. | Yearly. | Updates at CSPE subject department meetings in 2014/15/16 | |

| IMPROVEMENT TARGET 2 | REQUIRED ACTIONS | PERSON/S RESPONSIBLE | MEASURABLE OUTCOMES SUCCESS CRITERIA | TIMEFRAME FOR ACTIONS | REVIEW DATES |
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| <p><i>Re: attainment in state exams</i></p> <p>To improve learner outcomes in state examinations and increase uptake of subjects at higher level. Specific targets are outlined in the plans</p> | 1. Generate awareness of Blooms Taxonomy classroom displays and school artwork. | All teachers and students. | Understanding of Blooms Taxonomy and key examination words by all students as measured by teacher observation and results in state examinations. | Classroom posters on Blooms Taxonomy in all classrooms by November 2014. | Jan 15/16/17 |
| | 2. Focus on questioning techniques in classroom practice. | All teachers | | | |
| | 3. Key examination words included with study skills seminars for 1 st 3 ^r and 6 th year students. | Literacy Core Team Super Generation Team | | Study Skills for students in September 2014 15 16 & 17 | November 2014 15 16 17 |

| IMPROVEMENT TARGET 3 | REQUIRED ACTIONS | PERSON/S RESPONSIBLE | MEASURABLE OUTCOMES SUCCESS CRITERIA | TIMEFRAME FOR ACTIONS | REVIEW DATES |
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| <p><i>Re: Reduction in Literacy errors</i></p> | | | | | |
| To reduce the literacy errors made by students both with classwork | 1. Staff agreed on a common writing editing | All teachers. | Survey analysis | Staff meeting in May 2015. | September 15/16/17 |

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| and homework. | checklist and ensure that students self-edit written work consistently across the curriculum. | | | | |
| | 2. Writing editing checklist will be incorporated into student diary from 2015. | Senior management. | An increase in the number of 1 st Year students who use an editing checklist as measured by survey. | Survey to be administered & analysed in September 15/16 | September 15/16 |
| | 3. A sample of work will be taken from three students from each of the five 1st year groups from a range of subjects and analysed against an agreed set of criteria. | Literacy core team. | An increase in the standard of written work as measured by the tracking of sample students from a range of abilities, classes & subjects. An increase in the number of students who refer to the key exam verbs in their journal, as measured by survey. | September 14/15/16 Samples will be collected and results of error analysis will be collated & analysed. | September 15/16 |
| | 4. Use of iPads (padlet and Oxford English Dictionary App) for 1 st year students with focus on media. | English teachers | An increase in students interest in their own achievements as measured by survey | May 2015 | September 2015/16/17 |