

REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 15 NOVEMBER 2004

REPORT ON: FOCUS ON ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS CEREMONY

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 771-2004

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report brings to the attention of the Education Committee the Focus on Achievement Awards Ceremony proposed for 15 September 2005.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Education Committee is recommended to:

- i note the contents of this report
- ii instruct the Director of Education to take forward the preparations for and to hold the second Focus on Achievement Awards Ceremony
- iii continue to seek increased sponsorship

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The financial implications of the awards ceremony are contained within the existing Education Department budget.

3.2 In addition to this years sponsors agreeing to support next years event additional sponsorship for the awards ceremony has already been secured.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Citizens of Dundee and, in particular, parents, will have the opportunity to publicly acknowledge and celebrate the success of our young people.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The awards are open to all and will actively support schools in promoting equality of opportunity across the City by engaging all Education Department staff and pupils in identifying and celebrating achievement.

6.0 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The first Focus on Achievement Awards Ceremony was held on Thursday 9 September 2004 in the Caird Hall. Three hundred and fifty guests including elected members, sponsors, staff, pupils and parents attended.

The event was built round a formal dinner and included performances by primary and secondary pupils representing every school in the City.

Sponsorship was received from University of Dundee, University of Abertay, Dundee College, Cycle Life and Corries Office Supplies.

The actual awards ceremony was hosted by three young former pupils.

- 6.2 The winners of the awards were as follows:

THEME 1 – AWARDS FOR SCHOOLS AND SERVICES

Improving the Quality of Learning and Teaching: Brackens Primary School

Removing Barriers to Learning: Powrie Primary School

Developing Partnerships: Sidlaw View Primary School

Creating a Positive Ethos; Building Self-esteem: Lawside Academy

Developing Citizenship: Newfields Primary School

THEME 2 – AWARDS FOR PUPILS

The McManus Award for Citizenship: Gillian Tolmie – Menzieshill High School

The McIntosh Patrick Award: William Grewar – Baldragon Academy

Sportsman of the Year: Ian Cathro – St John's High School

Sportswoman of the Year: Fiona Stewart – Menzieshill High School

Male Vocalist of the Year: Richard Waghorn – Morgan Academy

Female Vocalist of the Year: Kirsty Brown – Lawside Academy

Instrumentalist of the Year: Richard Waghorn – Morgan Academy

Outstanding Performance in the SQA Examinations: Karli Dempsey (Lawside Academy), Keshav Dogra (Grove Academy), Mhairi Murdoch (Grove Academy), Gillian Reid (Harris Academy), Stuart Ross (Morgan Academy), Katie Scott (Harris Academy), Faina Shpira (Harris Academy), Jennifer Speedie (Harris Academy).

THEME 3 – SPECIAL AWARD

The Award for Service to Education in Dundee: Barbara Chalmers, Education Social Worker from the Home School Support Service, based at Lawside Academy.

7.0 EVALUATION

7.1 Feedback, both formal and informal was received following the event (see Appendix 1). In all cases these observations were extremely positive demonstrating that the ceremony had achieved its stated aim viz

"to recognise the energy and commitment demonstrated by education department staff, parents and pupils".

7.2 The planning group subsequently carried out an evaluation and have made the following suggestions:

- that the awards ceremony should continue in its present format
- that the planning group revisit the awards categories with a view to expanding where appropriate the number of awards
- that the planning group fine tune the technical detail eg lighting design, music

7.3 A further report detailing the recommended awards categories will be prepared early 2005.

8.0 PROPOSAL

8.1 The Director of Education be instructed to proceed with the planning and implementation of the Focus on Achievement Awards Ceremony 2005.

9.0 CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and the Assistant Chief Executive (Management) have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

ANNE WILSON
Director of Education

29 October 2004

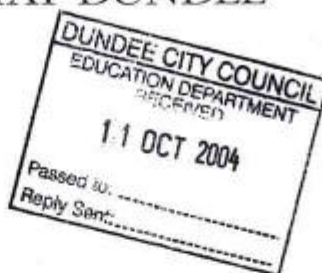
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APPENDIX ONE – FEEDBACK FROM THOSE WHO ATTENDED “FOCUS ON ACHIEVEMENT” 2004



UNIVERSITY
of
ABERTAY DUNDEE

BK/AM
6 October 2004



Mrs Anne Wilson
Director of Education
Dundee City Council
Floor 8, Tayside House
Crichton Street
Dundee DD1 3RJ

Dear Anne,

Focus on Achievement

Thank you for your letter of 21 September 2004. Thank you, also, for giving us the opportunity to sponsor the “Focus on Achievement” event this year, and for inviting me and my colleagues to attend the award ceremony itself in the Caird Hall. The enthusiasm of the young people was quite wonderful, and we were pleased to have played some small part in support of the occasion.

We should be delighted to sponsor “Focus on Achievement” next year again, and look forward to hearing more about the event, in due course.

With kind regards,

*Yours sincerely
B. King*

Professor Bernard King CBE
Principal and Vice-Chancellor

FROM THE PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR

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Faculty of Education and Social Work

Dean
Liz Gillies

LG/AMG

16 September 2004



Mr Glen Taylor
Education Services Manager
Dundee City Council
Education Department
Floor 8
Tayside House
DUNDEE
DD1 3RJ

Faculty Secretary
Lesley L Potter

Dear Glen

**FOCUS ON ACHIEVEMENT
A Celebration of Success in Dundee Schools**

I am writing to thank you and your colleagues for the opportunity to share with you in your celebration on Thursday 9 September. The commitment, enthusiasm and quality of all of those involved shone through. My colleagues and myself were delighted to be able to participate and it was a very good occasion for meeting many of our partners in schools in Dundee.

I was very honoured to be able to present the award for Creating a Positive Ethos. The schools and staff involved had clearly shown real initiative in some of the activities which they had pursued. These are certainly projects which our students should know about. It was good for us to get insight into what it really going on in the schools around us. Thank you for briefing me prior to presenting and for coordinating the slides.

So, from many perspectives the evening was both extremely worthwhile and highly enjoyable.

With all best wishes,

Yours sincerely

Liz Gillies
Dean

>Anne
>
>I just wanted to say congratulations to yourself and the Department for the glorious event that was 'Focus On Achievement' last night.
>
>Sitting at a table which included a number of non-department personnel, it was evident that they left with a very positive view of the pupils, schools and services which the City Council has encouraged and developed over many years.
>
>Once again, many thanks for a great event.
>
>Regards
>
>Ralph Donaldson, Macalpine Primary School

>Dear Anne
>
>On behalf of Lawside Academy I would like to congratulate all those involved in any way with the Award Ceremony last night.
>
>We had a wonderful night. it was a great opportunity for some of our staff to be together. The ambiance, entertainment, food and decor was superb.
>Indeed it was a great night had by all!..... and what's more we won an award when we thought it was just about taking part!!
>
>Regards and thanks to all those responsible for the evening.
>
>Moir

Niall.
I thought the evening was a resounding success, and thank and congratulate all involved. I thoroughly enjoyed the evening.
Regards,
Andy Macgregor, St Fergus Primary School

As Focus on Achievement co-ordinator for Morgan Academy, Alan Constable has asked me to respond to your e-mail. All the staff who represented Morgan Academy on Thursday evening had a truly memorable night. We all felt the event was exceptionally well organised and was a fitting tribute to the many talents and awards on display. The evening ran very smoothly due I am sure to lots of rehearsal and planning.
I trust that given the success of this first event, that plans are already in place to have this established into the education programme for many years to come.

Karen Scott
Focus on Achievement Co-ordinator
Morgan Academy

Niall,

My initial thoughts are very positive about the event with the pupil presenters being a huge success. The entertainment was also very good and helped to create the correct sort of balance. I will try and get feedback from the other staff who attended.

David May

Niall - thought the event went very well. Good to have the young people entertaining, and indeed hosting. Thought the choir was great! (as were the others)
There was a super atmosphere, I thought, with lots of support for the winners.
I enjoyed the opportunity to mingle with colleagues on a social basis...
Congrats to the organisers.
Edith Maude

Hi Niall

All 4 representatives from school thought evening was a great success. It was just fantastic seeing the pupils and schools receiving their well deserved awards. The entertainment was excellent - great to see so many talented kids!
Food and service were both excellent too!
The Caird Hall looked fantastic and helped to make the whole event very special indeed.
Please convey our thanks to all concerned.
Katherine

Congratulations and many thanks for organising such a worthwhile event.

Dear Mrs Wilson,

>

>I would just like to record my congratulations and thanks for a very special evening on Thursday at the Awards Ceremony. I was very proud to be part of the Education Department of Dundee City. The organisation of the evening was superb and the young people performed exceptionally well.

>To see such a large group of teachers so happy and motivated was a real highlight as much of the very hard work of teachers goes unsung. The feedback from the schools I have visited in the course of my work has been very positive and has given a real boost to morale. To be appreciated always has a motivating effect!

>

>I hope this will continue in the future as I believe it is very good for pupils, staff and the city.

>

>Yours sincerely,

>

>Margaret McFarlane

>NQ Staff Tutor

Hi Niall,

My staff and I would like to say thank you for such a marvellous evening. It was great to meet colleagues in a relaxed setting and the format of the evening was perfect. The atmosphere was buzzing with expectation and everyone was thrilled for those who won.

The entertainment was excellent - congratulations to all who took part and to all those who were involved in the preparation - well done!

I certainly hope we can do it again.

Regards

Karen Payne
Mossgiel Primary

771-2004 Focus on Achievement 15 November 2004

Niall

Thoroughly enjoyed the Focus on Achievement Awards - the whole night went well with a mix of entertainment and professional development.

Ann Creegan

Dear Mr Joss

Thank you very much for a fantastic evening at the awards ceremony. I was asked to give feedback on this and mention any improvements that might be made. The only improvement I can think of is to award a prize to Braeview Academy (my school) next year!

Thank you again for a superb evening.

Yours Lorraine Morrison
Braeview Academy SFL