

October 2004

Dear Parent

I am very pleased to provide for you, on behalf of the Governing Body of Highfield High School, the annual report for 2003-4.

The report includes information relating to the school's performance in providing a high standard of education for your child. It demonstrates the school's commitment to improving the quality of education provided for all pupils in school, including extra-curricular activities.

I would like to give my personal appreciation to all the staff involved with Highfield High, teaching and associate, who through their constant commitment to the pupils and their professional approach toward all they do, have contributed to the improvements made during 2003-4.

Yours sincerely

Cllr. Mrs L. Henderson
Chairman of Governors



**Highfield High School 'Quad Squad'
Winners of the Blackpool Civic Trust
Environment Award 2004**

SCHOOL GOVERNORS

Blackpool Education Authority Representatives:

		Term of Office
Cllr. Mrs. L. Henderson [Chair]	425 St Annes Road, Blackpool, FY4 2QN	01.09.03 - 31.08.07
Mrs. P. Jackson	26 Burgess Avenue, Blackpool, FY4 3LW	01.09.03 - 31.08.07
Mrs. J. Seddon	12 Fernhurst Avenue, Blackpool, FY4 3AY	27.02.01 - 26.02.05
Mrs. J. Tittley	5 Whinney Heys Road, Blackpool, FY3 8NP	06.10.03 - 05.10.07

Parent Governors:

Mrs. J. Cartwright	234 Watson Road, Blackpool, FY4 3EG	19.12.02 - 18.12.06
Mr M. Hems	128 St Lukes Road, Blackpool, FY4 2EH	17.11.03 – 16.11.07
Mrs. L. McConnell	22 Ash Street, Blackpool, FY4 2JN	26.04.04 - 25.04.08
Mrs. M. Silburn	38 Roseacre, Blackpool, FY4 2PL	09.12.02 - 08.12.06
4 vacancies [pending ballot]		

Staff Governors:

Mr. K. Cartmell	Highfield High School	16.06.03 - 15.06.07
2 vacancies [pending ballot]		

Co-opted Governors:

Mr A. Fisher	10 Walkers Hill, Blackpool, FY4 5BN	11.09.04 - 10.09.08
Mr. G. J. Bromley [Vice]	41 Arnott Road, Blackpool, FY4 4ED	11.09.04 - 10.09.08
Mr. W. Walker	567 Lytham Road, Blackpool, FY4 1RD	25.09.04 - 24.09.08
Mr. D. White	1 Avondale Crescent, Blackpool, FY4 5AS	05.11.01 - 04.11.05

Headteacher

Mr. I. Evans	Highfield High School	Ex. officio
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School Aim

To meet the individual and collective educational needs and aspirations of pupils, their parents and society, within the context of legislative and social frameworks by:

- Providing resourced experiences;
- Encouraging acquisition of attitudes, skills and practices which are valued and valuable in society;
- Recognising the importance of individual worth;
- Managing physical and human resources;
- Providing a community resource;
- The pursuit of excellence;
- Working together.

In adopting this Mission Statement Governors are reflecting their belief that the purpose of the School reflects the interdependent nature of how the school community works to ensure everyone has the best opportunity and environment to achieve their individual excellence.

Intake

Governors set the intake of Year 7 at 224. The school remains heavily oversubscribed with more than 274 first preferences expressed for the September 2004 intake.

Prospectus

The School Prospectus is published annually.

A copy is given to all parents of pupils seeking admission to the School and to others on request. No major revisions planned for 2004-2005.

Governors Consultation from the last report raised no formal motions.

Attendance Records 2003-2004

Number of pupils on role for at least one session	1147
Percentage of half days missed through authorised absence	8.2%
Percentage of half days missed through unauthorised absence	1.2%

Destination of School Leavers 2004

Information correct as of 21 October 2004

Full time courses at Sixth Form or Further Education Colleges	61%
Employment : Youth Training	17%
Employment : Non Youth Training	2%
Not Known	14%
Others [including illness, caring for parents etc]	2%
Unemployed	4%

Staffing and Professional Development

Extensive training has taken place in National Curriculum Key Stage 3 Subject development and GCSE examinations.

A programme of staff development has taken place with LEA consultants, Specialist providers and Highfield staff leading the various sessions.

In October the Teaching and Learning Core Group delivered a whole School INSET on developing a deeper understanding of the different learning styles preferred by pupils and adults. Staff spent more than 12 months on research, working with a consultant from St Martins College. Having developed an expertise in Visual, Auditory and Kinaesthetic learning, our own staff led whole school INSET in their own area of expertise.

Highfield High School was the host to Alistair Smith, an internationally renowned leader for the development of Accelerated Learning. LEA officers and representatives from other Secondary and Primary Schools in Blackpool and the Fylde, as well as lecturers from local Teacher Training Institutions joined all Highfield Staff.

Special Educational Needs

We have ended a very successful year in Special Educational Needs and this was reflected in a very positive OFSTED report.

The SEN Department grew in many ways; the SERF came online and allowed for 'drop in' support for students with Physical Needs, as well as a base for Hearing Impaired Students. The new SEN policy was produced and is available. As reflected in the OFSTED report the standard of SSA support is, as always, outstanding and the school thanks all SSA's for their efforts and contributions. The Hearing Impaired Team has also grown. Mr Joe Lally from the authority encouraged this; he introduced Mrs Ann Mitchell into the school to lead the Hearing Impaired team.

There have been a number of SEN organised visits away from school this year. They are numerous and will not all be recorded here; however thanks again to Mrs. Horne for the Beacon Fell trip, which as always, proved a great success.

This year we have 46 students with statements of Special Educational Needs. This reflects the growth in this area and I believe is a consequence of our excellent reputation for helping children.

School Security

The School has made major investments this year into the security at school. We have installed a new locking system which is run by computer and is timed to allow the doors to open but, ensures that the doors are locked from the outside to deter unwanted visitors to the site at all other times. The doors obviously open from the inside to ensure safe exit in emergencies.

School Refurbishment

We received major funding from Blackpool Borough Council to re-design the Design Technology Department. Although this has caused some disruption, we will have a magnificent new department when it re-opens in October. We also have a rolling programme of repairs and renewals, which is being continually updated.

Gifted and Talented Summer School

Mr Foolkes is now working alongside Mrs Pomeroy as the Assistant Gifted and Talented Co-ordinator, following his appointment last year.

There have been a wide range of activities and events funded through the Gifted and Talented initiative this year, many of which have benefited a large number of pupils who are not on the official Gifted and Talented cohort. For example:

- Forty Year 9 pupils participated in a Learning Performance Seminar
- Thirty five Years 10 and 11 students took part in a Dance Masterclass
- All of Year 9 attended a 'Rainforest Experience Roadshow'
- Thirty Year 10 students attended a GCSE French revision seminar at Salford University and fifteen Year 10 GCSE German students attended a similar event
- All Year 7 attended a performance given by a visiting theatre company of 'A Christmas Carol'
- Ten Year 8 students attended 'Tetrahedron Day', a Maths challenge event
- Sixteen Year 7 students participated in an Archaeology Masterclass
- Ten of our previous Year 11 pupils spent 2 days at Oxford University and ten of our current Year 11 students spent 2 days at Cambridge University
- All of our Year 9 attended a 'Shakespeare for SATs' performance, which was presented by an outside theatre company
- Fifteen of our students have now been accepted as members of the National Academy for Gifted and Talented Youth
- Thirty Year 6 and 7 pupils attended the Gifted and Talented Summer School. This year's theme was 'Greece and the Olympic Games'. The pupils participated in a wide range of activities ranging from learning Greek dancing to tennis and trampolining coaching. Trips included Old Trafford Football Ground, Lancaster University and an on-board tour of Concorde at Manchester Airport.

The Gifted and Talented initiative is also funding a wide range of teaching and learning resources for a number of subject areas. These range from Interactive Whiteboards and cross-curricular ICT packages to Outdoor Pursuits equipment for the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme and digital drum kits!

Sporting Achievements 2003-2004

Football

Year 8 League Winners
 Year 8 Cup Winners
 Year 9 League Winners
 Year 11 Represented Lancashire in the English Schools Cup



Golf

U16 Blackpool Schools Tournament Winners

Rugby

Year 9 League Winners
 Year 11 Unbeaten

Cross Country

Year 9 boys Winners
 Year 10/11 boys Winners
 Year 7/8 girls Runners-up
 Year 9 girls Runners-up
 Year 10/11 girls Runners-up

Netball

Year 11

Played 6 Won 3 Lost 3

5th in Division 1

Tournament semi-finalists

Year 10

Played 17 Won 12 Drawn 1 Lost 4

4th in Division 1

Tournament semi-finalists

Youth Games Winners

Year 9

Played 9 Won 8 Lost 1

Division 1 Winners

Tournament semi-finalists

Youth Games Winners

Year 9B

Played 9 Won 8 Lost 1

Tournament 3rd in section

Year 8A

Played 12 Won 10 Lost 2

Tournament 3rd in section

Year 7

Played 6 Won 1 Lost 5

Tournament 5th in section

Youth Games 5th in section

Football - Girls

U14 Played 7 Won 4 Drawn 2 Lost 1

Youth Games Winners

Blackpool Schools Runners-up

U16 Played 3 Lost 3

Badminton

U15 boys Youth Games Winners

Non – Competitive events

- A ten-week course of Circus skills was attended by 30 pupils
- Year 11 pupils led a Dance Club that performed at the Carol Service and were part of the Drama Production
- Year 7 Dance Club was well attended
- An 8 week sports co-ordinators course of Boxersize was followed by Year 10 and 11 girls
- The following groups met regularly during 2003-2004:
 - Aerobics with Miss Rimmer,
 - Year 7 Gymnastics Club at lunchtime
 - Badminton Club and
 - Cricket Club.
- The Sports Breakfast Club was introduced on a Wednesday morning from 7.45am

Individual Achievements

- Yasmine Sakly [Year 7] won a Silver Medal at the World Kick Boxing Championships held in Basel, Switzerland
- Lamia Sakly [Year 8] won a Bronze Medal at the World Kick Boxing Championships held in Basel, Switzerland
- Rachael Bramhall [Year 11] representing Lancashire U16 Netball Team
- Bobby Counce [Year 11] representing England U18 Roller Hockey Team
- Chad Briggs representing Great Britain Ice Hockey Team
- Carly Haworth [Year 11] regained the World Champion for Line Dancing
- Daniel Penswick [Year 10] Blackpool School of Excellence for Football

School Performance Relating to Targets

Our aim to enable each pupil to achieve their potential, underpins everything we do in school. We have agreed with the LEA the following targets for 2005.

2005 GCSEs

	Targets
At least 5+ A* to C	45%
At least 5+ A* to G	95%
At least 1+ A* to G	99%
Average Point Score	36

2004 GCSEs

	Targets	Achieved
At least 5 A* to C	42%	34%
At least 5 A* to G	94%	85%
At least 1 A* to G	99%	94%

2005 KS3 SATs

	Targets
English [level 5+]	80%
Mathematics [level 5+]	78%
Science [level 5+]	89%
ICT [level 5+]	86%
Average Point Score	35

2004 KS3 SATs

	Targets	Achieved
English [level 5+]	80%	61%
Mathematics [level 5+]	72%	69%
Science [level 5+]	73%	62%
ICT [level 5+]	80%	47%

OFSTED Action Plan 2004 - 2007

The inspection concluded that, “the school is an improving school” and recognised our commitment to raising achievement. The Action Plan builds on our strengths and helps us to achieve higher standards.

Key Area of Focus	Action Points to be addressed in the three year development plan
<p>Improve the overall quality of teaching and learning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit KS3 strategy within school and report to governors. • Intervention support strategies planned for targeted pupils. • Develop curriculum continuity especially KS3 to KS4. • Teaching & Learning Group to investigate learning skills and deliver whole school INSET on teaching learning skills. • Humanities Departments committed to using Accelerated Learning techniques in line with Humanities College Plan. Other departments to develop Accelerated Learning cycle. Lead staff to work alongside staff trialling Accelerated Learning.
<p>Develop and implement a more effective programme for monitoring the quality of teaching and learning that involves Heads of Departments, Senior Managers and the Governing Body.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff involved with identifying good practice to monitor teaching and learning across the school. • A model developed that emphasises practice and accountability. Implement from September 2004. Leadership Group will devote time to support the model. Cover Assistant time will also be used to support the model. • Department work to be scrutinised on a regular basis. Link Governors attached to departments.
<p>Improve the use of assessment data to plan work and guide pupils on how they can improve.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modifications in reporting procedures to develop levelling activities so that pupils are better informed of achievement and how to improve. • All departments identify key pieces of work that will be assessed and levelled each term throughout KS3. All Departments to explore and provide opportunities for pupils to become involved in peer and self-assessment. • Monitoring and evaluation procedures established in consultation with LEA consultants. Monitoring and evaluation procedures shared with staff at INSET day. • All staff develop confidence in using Assessment for Learning techniques. “Learning” high on agenda in Department meetings, in teacher talk and in pupil talk. All staff have an understanding of good practice with specific examples to use as guidance and for ideas.
<p>Ensure that the school’s behaviour management policy is rigidly and consistently applied.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop agreement on preferred practices in the classroom. Monitor to ensure practices are effective and consistently used. • Work with LEA behaviour strategy consultant to support identified classes for the improvement of behaviour. • Develop the Learning Support Centre and the Isolation Unit • Develop a rewards system to promote positive behaviour and academic success.
<p>Ensure the consistent use of information and communication technology in all departments and to meet statutory requirements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up ICT group to ensure ICT statutory requirements are met for each subject. Training needs identified for hardware and software use. • Take active involvement in the LEA ICT cross-curricular strategy as part of the Key Stage 3 Strategy. • Incorporate Interactive Whiteboard or LCD projector into departments. • Investigate ICT technical support in school to determine the type and demand of support and match to the current supply. • Investigate state of the school network. Decide on proposals for Network development.

Key Area of Focus	Action Points to be addressed in the three year development plan
<p>Ensure that achievement is improved, especially in French and Design Technology and ensure full national curriculum coverage in both Art and Design and Design and Technology.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Art & Design: emphasise drawing skills in KS3 and KS4. Departmental evaluation of exemplar work to guide and standardise expectations across the department. Thematic approach to the development and coverage of drawing skills. Develop ICT input into schemes of work to ensure National Curriculum coverage. Install a set of digital equipment that will facilitate digital manipulation of images. • Thematic approach evaluated and amended to develop more emphasis on drawing skill development. Rolling programme of installation of digital equipment to facilitate image manipulation. • In French: liaison with local Language Specialist College to improve KS4 planning and delivery, to include observations of KS4 lessons. Improve resources for higher ability pupils by investing in published materials specially written for the KS4 syllabus. Install multimedia interactive whiteboard(s) in the department. Also install LCD Projector(s) to facilitate ICT use within schemes of work. Department spearhead Learnwise and Vector Learning as a teaching tool and promote this throughout the school. Investigate appropriate KS4 courses that better match the needs of pupils within school. A French assistant appointed to work with groups of pupils of all abilities, to develop speaking skills. • Head of Department and the team have systematic practice of intra- and inter-departmental observations. Schemes of work evaluated and further improved by Liaison with Language Specialist College. Appropriate KS4 courses determined and extended to all pupils. Learnwise and Learning modules further enhanced with capability of access from home. Schemes of work posted onto the department's website for access by pupils in school and at home. Further installation of ICT equipment into classrooms, interactive whiteboard(s) and LCD Projector(s), so that all rooms are similarly equipped. • In Design Technology: Graphics, Resistant Materials and Textiles Rooms refurbished by LEA. Consistent approach developed across all subject areas in the department. Clear schemes of work developed in Key Stage 3 meet the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum. Full complement of specialist staff deployed within the department. Interactive whiteboards installed into each of specialist rooms to ensure national curriculum coverage. Graphic room to have suite of desktop computers for CAD/CAM facility. • Head of Technology appointed to lead the department. Pupil targets used to determine expectation of achievement. As part of the monitoring teaching and learning procedures, cross section of work from all years and all subjects scrutinised to determine achievement and progress of pupils. Use of LEA Advisory and Inspection Services to audit department and report on coverage.
<p>Provide a daily act of collective worship for all.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governors to evaluate the facilities in school that can accommodate active Collective Worship. • Governors to commission the Leadership Group to draw up proposals for Collective Worship within school. Proposal to be based upon the evaluation of the available facilities and alternative ways in which Collective Worship can be provided for the whole school each day.

HIGHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL TERM DATES

Autumn Term

INSET DAY for staff	01 September 2004
School Opens	02 September 2004
School Closes	21 October 2004
INSET DAY for staff	22 October 2004
Half Term:	25 October - 29 October 2004
School Opens	01 November 2004
School Closes	22 December 2004
Christmas Holidays	23 December 2004 - 05 January 2005

Spring Term

INSET DAY for staff	06 January 2005
INSET DAY for staff	07 January 2005
School Opens	10 January 2005
School Closes	11 February 2005
Half Term	14 February - 18 February 2005
School Opens	21 February 2005
School Closes	18 March 2005
Easter Holidays	21 March - 01 April 2005

Summer Term

School Opens	4 April 2005
INSET DAY for staff	29 April 2005
May Day Bank Holiday	02 May 2005
School Closes	27 May 2005
Spring Bank Holiday	30 May 2005 - 03 June 2005
School Opens	06 June 2005
School Closes	20 July 2005
Summer Holidays Begin	21 July 2005