

Case Study



Scottish Studies Award (SCQF levels 3, 4 and 5) — Grange Academy

Background

In 2013/14 we are delivering the *Scottish Studies Award* at SCQF levels 3, 4 and 5 to around 75 students. These students — who have all chosen Scottish Studies as an option on their timetable — are from S3, S4 and S6 year groups.

Why did we choose to deliver the *Scottish Studies Award*?

At Grange Academy we view Scottish Studies as a valid alternative to other subjects which increases students' choice and voice. We have been presenting it as an elective choice for several years. We felt that the new qualification provided additional motivation and incentive through certification while also allowing students to continue to broaden and deepen their knowledge and understanding of Scotland.

Our S2 students had experienced a block of interdisciplinary learning called 'My Scotland' and this generated enthusiasm about Scottish Studies as students became aware of how individual subjects could be taught in a Scottish context. Many students have also spoken about being interested in where they live: the history, culture, language, geography etc of Scotland.

Students taking the Award will have a sense of achievement as they complete the Units and become aware of their progress by recording this in their profile. They will gain knowledge and understanding of the local community and town, and gain an awareness of the Scots and Scotland locally and globally.

Delivering and assessing the *Scottish Studies Award*

We offered S3 and S4 students the option of taking Scottish Studies in the same column as Mandarin and French. S6 students saw Scottish Studies as a way of gaining another qualification which would help towards higher and further education. They also felt it provided a useful alternative to study periods.

Teachers involved are subject specialists in History, Gaelic, English and Scottish literature, and Home Economics.

The S3 group are being taught on a rotation covering English, History and the mandatory *Scotland in Focus* Unit, with a fourth optional Unit being delivered between Easter and June 2014.

The S4 group is shared by two teachers and one is devoted to delivering the *Scotland in Focus Unit* one period per week. These teachers are assisted by a Home Economics teacher who is focusing on the history of agriculture and food production in Ayrshire and Scotland with a lead-up to contemporary food issues. This teacher will be working in conjunction with relevant local enterprises.

The S6 group has one teacher who is a subject specialist in Gaelic and, consequently, one of their Units is *Gaelic (Learners)*.

Assessment across the Award will be varied, depending on the *Outcomes* and *Standards* in the relevant Unit Specifications. However, all Units are being delivered and assessed in a Scottish context to ensure that all of the students have the opportunity to achieve the full Award.

We hope the S3 and S4 students will be able to progress to the next level of the Award if timetabling and staffing permit next year — or in S6 if this is not possible because of each student's subject choices.