

Falkland Islands Community School – a snapshot



Context

The Falkland Islands Community School has approximately 230 students between Year 7 and Year 11. Cohorts vary year-on year – the largest year group is 60, and the smallest currently 37. It provides the only secondary provision on the Islands – including for those students who have significant SEND or significant behavioural needs.

Our facilities

Our building was opened in 1992 and has all the facilities one would expect in a UK-secondary school including three science labs, art and music rooms along with design and food technology workshops. The community leisure centre is attached to our school, providing our sports facilities and a swimming pool. We do not have an exam hall – our students sit their GCSEs in hall at the opposite end of Stanley.

Our curriculum

Teaching and learning follows the National Curriculum for England in Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4, enhanced by local content and enriched by the unique opportunities presented by the history and environment of the Falkland Islands, culminating in GCSE or IGCSE through UK awarding bodies. An ever developing programme of Personal Health Social and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) augments the main curriculum with a number of external agencies contributing to its delivery: including the King Edward Memorial Hospital, Members of Legislative Assembly, the Police and the Social Services. There are a variety of extra-curricular activities available ranging from homework support to music groups to science club to sporting clubs and uptake is high. There is also a strong Student Council and our house-system helps generate identity and ethos.

Our teachers

All teachers are fully-qualified; the majority have trained and worked in UK. We work within the UK Department for Education Teachers' Standards. Most of our teachers work on a 'contract basis' – typically for two years – which brings challenges in terms of continuity. Although we are outside of the system of Ofsted inspections, we base our school self-evaluation and external review on its framework. There is a strong focus on evaluating impact and delivering continuous improvement through well-developed SEF and SIP processes.

Our students' examination results

Examination results have been on an improving trend for the past three years, with our progress-8 measure calculated as +1 over the past four years. The percentage of students gaining 5A*-C has risen to 67% (with 71% gaining both English and maths at grade 4 or above)

Our students' destinations

The school and the Education Department have very close links and a long standing partnership with Peter Symonds Sixth Form College in Winchester and Chichester College of Further Education and are developing links with other colleges.

Our recent priorities

We have focussed over the last two years on ensuring that basic systems are in place for managing student behaviour and a common approach to teaching and learning including ensuring our curriculum is well-documented. The success of this can be seen in the marked improvement in behaviour in lessons and at unstructured times and teachers and students knowing our systems and processes and applying them consistently. A significant current focus is to embed these systems and develop our restorative approaches to behaviour management; we are also working to improve literacy and reading across the curriculum.

