



Annual report to parents

from Barry Comprehensive Governors

Summer 2012

David Swallow 'retired'



In the past year Barry Comprehensive has continued to raise standards, and to provide high quality care and provision for our students. GCSE results demonstrate significant value added. A majority of students achieve their potential, with a significant number exceeding expectations. The graphs on page 3 show recent performance and our 2012 targets. The Level 2+ figure is particularly important as Maths and English are key qualifications in order for our students to gain future success. We are committed to providing courses to suit our young people and links with Cardiff and Vale College are well established. Skills across the curriculum, in particular literacy, have continued to be a key focus; curriculum provision for English has been extended at KS4 to allow our students every opportunity to

succeed.

Barry Comprehensive is a community school and we are delighted to have achieved the prestigious International School Award in 2011. This award reflects the school's commitment to establishing curriculum links with a range of schools in Sri Lanka, Ghana, Kenya and Italy. Two members of staff have recently returned from Ghana where they worked on developing the curriculum; this work involved a live Skype debate—a first in the school's history! Through these links our students gain real opportunities to share cultural experience and develop their own sense of identity. Welsh identity and Cwricwlwm Cymreig was celebrated with great pride at the school's annual Eisteddfod, led by our new Head of Welsh. The school is also proud that



Evita

International students



one of its younger students carried the Olympic torch●● this summer. He was selected because he demonstrated the Olympian values of respect, pride and commitment. The school continues to celebrate a wide range of achievements, ranging from sporting success to West End performance.

Our School Parliament has gone from strength to strength, developing student leadership and a growing interest in parliamentary structures and organisations. In January Baroness Finlay visited the school, inspiring young people from year 7 to year 13 with her knowledge and insight into the House of Lords and her lifelong commitment to improving the lives of others. She convinced us all that politics is an integral part of our everyday lives and how we can all be empowered to change the *status quo* for the better.

Festival of chemistry



Shelter sleepover

Author Dan Anthony



Teaching research

A key priority over the last year has been the development of a more effective data tracking and monitoring system. The purpose of this is that no child gets left behind and that we take every opportunity to stretch our more able and talented students. This system is currently being piloted with year 7 and will roll out to other year groups in September 2012.

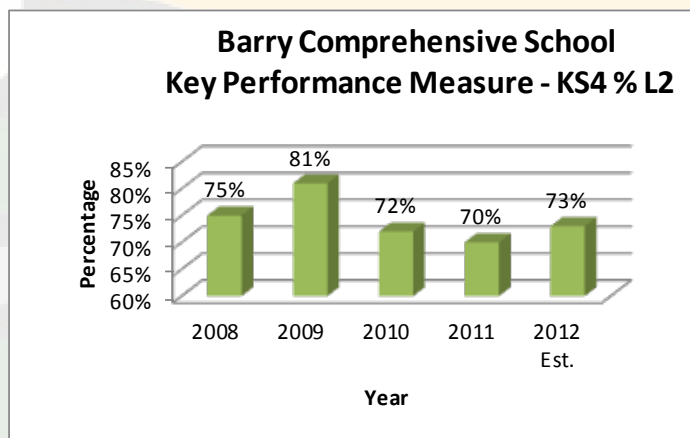
Over the last two years the Senior Management Team has led curriculum reviews for each department. This has ensured that self evaluation strategies are embedded and that we know the strengths and areas for development for each department. Teaching is predominantly good across the curriculum and many students have excellent provision. Teachers in the Learning and Assessment group are taking on action research projects to improve the learning experience for our students. Professor David Egan has paid tribute to Barry Comprehensive's investment in Continued Professional Development by choosing our school as the focus of his book *Developing Teachers and Leaders in Effective Schools*.

Last but no means least. At Christmas we said good-bye to David Swallow, who led the school for thirteen years. David has been an exceptional headteacher, whose achievement is nationally recognised. He is held in great affection by students and staff. In September we welcome our new head, Gerard MacNamara. We look forward to working with him and know that he will build confidently on the successes of David Swallow's headship.

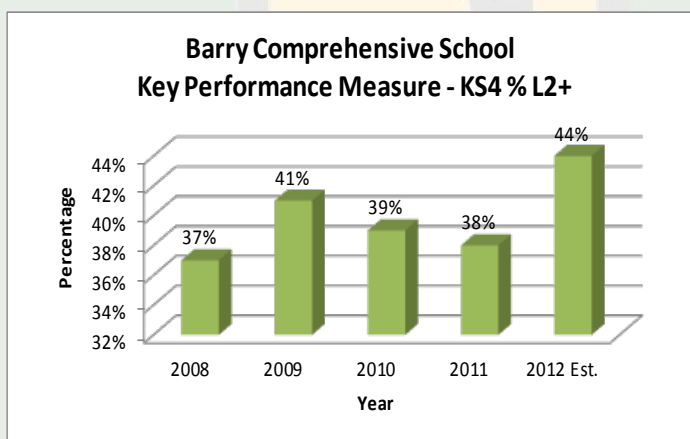
Above all, a good school does not work alone; we work closely with parents and the community. Our strong partnership with families is something we value immensely (recognised by our recent Investors in Families Award). Thank you for all your support.

Barry Comprehensive Governors

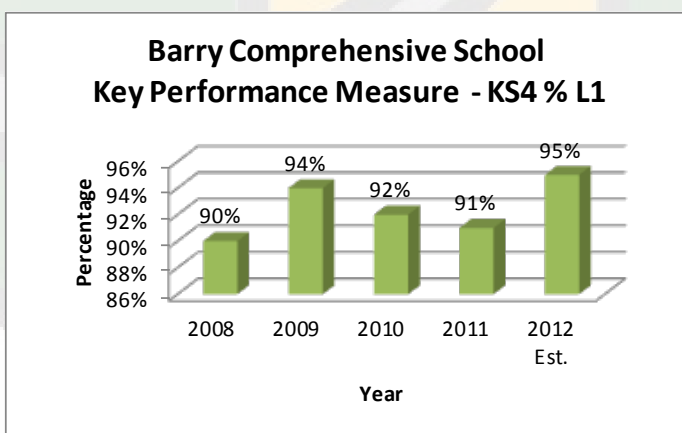
Key performance data and targets for 2012



L2 is the level 2 threshold which equates to five GCSEs at grade C or above



L2+ is the level 2 threshold which equates to five GCSEs at grade C or above, including English and Maths



L1 is the level 1 threshold which equates to five GCSEs at grade G or above

For each year, from 2008 to 2011, we have achieved 91 *percent* attendance.
 We forecast the same figure for the year 2012-12.



Annual Parents' Meeting

6 pm
Thursday, 28 June
2012

Please take this special opportunity to discuss with governors issues relating to the management and performance of the school.



School aims

- To provide a pleasant, safe and attractive learning and teaching environment.
- To ensure that students receive a high quality education so that regardless of ability, they will achieve their true potential.
- To treat learners as individuals, promoting the well-being of students and staff, so that they grow in confidence and contribute to the wider community.
- To provide a caring and respectful community for staff and students, encouraging a respect for individual differences and a developing social conscience.
- To promote the achievement and hard work of students and staff so that the community can be proud of its school.