

## Online Parent Council 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020

### **Present:**

Parent Council Members:

Douglas Archibald, Neil Bennett, Jane Boyce, Sarah Donovan, Wanda-Jane Field, Katy Master, Diane Sinclair, Jane Taylor, Dougie Turner, Anna Whyte

School:

Bruce Robertson

### **Apologies:**

Cathy Anderson, Lynn Bryce, Claire Beattie, Morag Mazzoni

### **1. Welcome to our new Rector – Bruce Robertson**

### **2. Minutes of last Meeting and matters arising**

Minutes approved from the last meeting in March

Matters arising- it was agreed to delay these to discuss at next meeting due to the change in Senior leadership.

AGM to take place at next meeting

### **3. Chair's report**

Various reports have been circulated by the chair and he has participated in 3-4 online forums.

### **4. Treasurer's report**

Avril Hamilton intends to step down as Treasurer and from Parent Council. She was thanked for her years of service.

Accounts at present: Main Account ££3,163.48, 200 Club £1,453.17(outstanding cheque for £5.80 and Refund of £24 due to one family) therefore balance is £1423.37

### **5.200 Club**

1<sup>st</sup> Prize- £23.20 Melanie Short

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize- £11.60 Vivienne Archibald

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize- £5.80 Stephen Loudon

Money will be paid directly into Bank Accounts.

### **6. Rector's Report**

Our new Rector shared the presentation he delivered to staff and pupils on the first day of school. He also shared his background: Chemistry Teacher and taught in Berwickshire High School 2007-2012, Depute Head at Eyemouth High School then six-month secondment to Hawick High School, Quality Improvement Officer for Scottish Borders Council. He chose to be known as Rector as eight Previous Rectors of Berwickshire High School.

## VISION

Berwickshire High School to become the best state school in the country.

1. Quality of Teaching
2. Support, challenge and inspire every student
3. Enjoy Work and to feel proud of the school

## AIM

To create outstanding individuals

1. To learn
2. Achieve the very best they can
3. Contribute to the school and local community

## VALUES

1. Committed- mindset of continuous improvement
2. Respectful
3. Enthusiastic
4. Supportive
5. Safe- look out for each other

## IMPROVEMENT MODEL

To have a calm ordered school, Diagram of PACE Pedagogy, A, Curriculum, E

Use of The Teaching Delusion written by our new Rector and used as a discussion and learning aid for teachers.

## STAFFING

Leavers:

Sophie Shorthouse(Depute Head), Pauline Stirling(Head of Science) retired, Barbara Jess (Office),  
Caroline Butler, Clare Day , George Pagonis , Nicola Keir, Richard Shaw, Re , Kirsty

Other Changes:

Peter Macklin (back as Depute Head), Karen Thomson(Depute Head), Hannah Patterson,  
Louise Bell (expressive Arts),K Parker( Business)Eric Amia(Maths), Emer Allan(Languages), Robert  
Stewart(Physics), Ana Consteplance, Jo Nevin

Newly Qualified Teachers:

Jayne Gavana(Science) D MacArthur Ruia Campbell, Paul Gibson

More recent changes:

Harry Meadows, Alice Caldock leaving, Hayley Hinnigan had a baby Girl

16 applicants to replace the Principal Teacher of Science. Jen Addie was appointed. Sarah Hughes has been appointed as Principal Teacher of Student Leadership, Participation and Achievement in a temporary role one day per week – to promote Pupil Voice, committees, Prefects, the House system working with Mrs Morrison.

Clare Farmery been appointed as replacement English Teacher. Her start date is not yet known, Mr. Robertson will check with Miss Currie that there is appropriate cover especially for Higher Class.

#### Senior leadership

Rector – Bruce Robertson, Depute Head Peter Macklin who has overview of S4-6, Karen Thomson who has overview of s1-3,

Extended Leadership Team of 19 including Principal Teachers as well as Colin Gracey- Vocational Curriculum and Partnerships and Pedagogy Role- To mentor staff and an external advert has been placed as person not yet appointed.

There have been several room changes and the S6 Common room has become a conference room. A Turn Around area has been created for pupils with social and behaviour problems overseen by Kathy Huffman and Colin Gracey to give extra support when needed.

The open area near Social Subjects to be turned into a study area for S6 pupils and currently awaiting a sum of money to refurbish this area.

A Practice Teaching room has been set up at the end of the English corridor.

#### HOUSEKEEPING

Registration has been reintroduced each morning Mon- Friday 7 mins and Friday 5 mins to allow notices and bulletins to be communicated

They are currently staggering lunches due to Covid 19 S1-3 then S4-6, S6 pupils allowed to remain in the building all other years to be outside unless inclement weather.

Mr. Robertson intends for all S6 pupils to have 28 timetabled periods, the remaining 5 to be around volunteering /citizenship.

A Head Team has been appointed by Mr. Robertson, Mr. Macklin, and Mr. Fleming after a presentation to their peers and staff members. The Head team is composed of S6 pupils only. Any S6 pupil who applied for Head team but were not successful are either Senior Prefects or Prefects. House Captains also been appointed.

Mr. Robertson was informed that normally S5 and S6 pupils normally have a vote in who is appointed and this would be looked at next year.

They also wish to involve pupils in new staff appointments.

#### DISCIPLINE

There is a change in how discipline is managed. There is a high expectation of calm ordered purposeful behaviour. There will be a staged approach starting with the teacher in charge of the class dealing with the issue before been escalated to Principal teacher then depute Head. Teachers will also communicate directly with home not just the guidance staff.

There will be lunchtime detention supervised by the teacher escalating stepwise to, after school detention supervised by Principal teacher, Friday afternoon detention- Depute Head, Exclusion-Rector.

The RED line not to be crossed is swearing at staff.

Positive behaviour will be recognized on a day to day basis the use of house points or praise postcards.

#### MEETINGS

Teachers will meet regularly, faculties will meet fortnightly and alternate with Staff training. There will be voluntary time for professional Learning. Senior Leadership will have Business and strategic development meetings.

#### EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION

A new school website will be developed with standardized font. A discussion took place regarding the use of Facebook and possible Twitter use. New parents to the school have found Facebook to be useful. The main message was looking for consistency, streamline the messages but not to use too many social media outlets. It was felt that the daily notices and Heads Up has been useful. Sharon Bunyan in the School office will coordinate.

The new school website will show daily notices, Heads Up and General News. They will also aim to get a positive news story in the Berwickshire News on a monthly basis coordinated by Sarah Hughes.

The Parent Council asked for consistency in Approach in communication and discussed the use of Notice Boards.

#### STUDENT MATTERS

All students will have a locker to keep bags/books/phones. The school is mobile free. All mobile phones to be switched off and in bags/lockers when in the school.

#### ATTAINMENT

League tables for 343 Schools showed that Berwickshire High School in 2018 ranked 148 and dropped to 188 in 2019. Leaver achievement – if 40% of leavers obtained 5+ higher it would bring the school into the top 100 schools, 50% obtain 5+Highers in top 40 school.

S6 pupils will be challenged to undertake more Highers and not National 5 classes.

Work Experience is important for Personal statements but in current pandemic will only be allowed if safe to do so.

#### COVID 19

There have been a number Health and Safety visits and inspections. All entrances have hand sanitizing stations. There is a one-way system in operation in certain parts of the school. Pupils keep to the left. During breaks pupils are to go outside except in inclement weather.

If pupils are unable to attend school because they have symptoms of Covid 19/or self-isolating the school will provide work. However, if only kept at home because of Health and Safety concerns there is no obligation to provide work.

Parents are not allowed in the school.

There will be no home rooms, they are not considering extending lessons to double periods for lower school.

The Council has issued exceptional circumstances the school must follow. At present Teaching applicants will not be allowed in the school. Mr. Robertson always like to see a candidate teach before appointing- ongoing discussion with council. The Parent council felt it was important to see how an applicant taught.

The first Parent Consultation is in November- uncertainty on how this will take place at present.

### **7.Matters raised**

Staff supervise break periods. Pupils will remain inside during inclement weather.

There will not be an Awards ceremony due to COVID.

Full catering has returned to the canteen. Food will be ordered during registration.

A staged approach will be taken when responding to complaints.

There were issues about parental consultation post exam results and being able to timetable appropriate courses.

### **8.Any Other Business**

The Rector will supply a summary of his report prior to next Parent Council meeting with the meeting agenda.

Our next meeting will be the AGM.

A calendar of school events will be sent out.

Jane Boyce will continue with 200 Club, but this is her last year.

**9.Next meeting Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020 by Microsoft teams.**