

## Online Parent Council Minutes 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021

### **Present:**

Parent Council Members:

Douglas Archibald, Jacqui Bennett, Neil Bennett, Jane Boyce, Lynn Bryce, Claire Cameron, Wanda-Jane Field, Claire Fitzgerald, James Heron, Pauline Heron, Katie Massie, Katy Master, Morag Mazzoni, Emma McDevitt, Helena Richards, Debbie Rutherford, Diane Sinclair, Jane Taylor, Anna White.

School:

Bruce Robertson, Claire Grant

Guest:

Cllr Carol Hamilton

### **Apologies:**

Nil.

### **1. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**

Minutes approved from the last meeting in December.

Matters arising:

No progress has yet been made regarding parents evenings, the Rector is attending a Headteachers meeting this week where possible methods will be discussed.

### **2. Social Subjects Curriculum**

Claire Grant gave a presentation on Social Studies. This covered the suggested topics within History, Modern Studies, Geography, RMPE and the S3 Citizenship class content. The Curriculum content has been debated and altered whilst also being influenced by Educating Scotland benchmarks which need to be met. The Curriculum will be fluid, evolve and be open to change as necessary. Claire fielded questions on the topics that had been chosen. The new structure was well received, and Jane Taylor thanked Miss Grant for her informative presentation.

### **3. Chairs Report**

Douglas has attended meetings for PC Chairs and forwarded on any relevant correspondence. There is a further meeting this week to discuss the extension of restrictions which he will attend.

### **4. Treasurer's Report**

The current bank balance is £2,602.48, the only transaction this month was payment of £1,761 for the praise postcards. The 200 Club balance is £718.47.

### **5. 200 Club**

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize - £21.60	Kathy Huffman
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize - £10.80	Debbie Rutherford
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize - £5.40	Morag Mazzoni

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

In addition to the report, the Rector added that it is very difficult to teach and learn remotely. Maintaining the timetable is important and stressed that 'quality over quantity' is his message. The situation regarding the SQA is unsatisfactory. He is aware that not having clarity of what's required is causing anxiety amongst students.

The Rector fully understood that many parents had chosen not to send their child to school in the last week of term. Parents wondered if children were being recorded as absent. The Rector would check and report back to the Chair.

There was much discussion regarding Home Learning. It was felt that learning was much improved. Many parents believed children were engaging with lessons but there was concern from parents of senior pupils who spend day light hours on screen, followed by homework causing an overload of screen time. Some struggling with workload, causing a loss of focus. Some now unsure of their futures and struggling with direction. What assistance could be given, or guidance on preparing students for the future?

The Rector explained that the senior phase would normally have supplementary work to do or follow up tasks from class, but he is mindful of what teachers are requesting from students. He suggested an Assembly for seniors to reiterate that they will still have futures.

There will be an extended leadership meeting to discuss remote learning this week.

Whilst aware that there will be no normal exams, this also means that the lower school will miss out on the usual excursion/activities period. As soon as key assessments are done it is hoped to move up into the new school year.

## **7. Matters raised to discuss.**

Options Sheets have been sent out for pupils to complete but there is no guidance attached. Some have only been received today, with a return date of Friday. The Rector confirmed that they should have been sent out earlier. This would normally be covered within PSE classes. He will ensure that proper guidance and instructions are issued to all pupils. Pupils will complete their confirmed choices sheet at the end of February/beginning of March.

## **8. Any other business.**

The Rector proposed that we discussed 'The Curriculum' book at the next meeting. Parents who had purchased the book were in agreement.

## **9. Next Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 at 7pm via Microsoft Teams.**