



Berwickshire High School Parent Council AGM 7th Oct 2020
Chairs Report School Year 2019/20

It's fair to describe the school year of 2019/20 as one of the most tumultuous in the life of Berwickshire High School, until 2020/21.

Following what can only be described as a hugely disappointing HMI visit in early 2019 the PC was ready to continue supporting the school in their quest for improvement & continue to assist with fund raising & other support activities.

Regular monthly meetings were held from Sep – Dec 2019 & also in late Jan 2020 & early Mar 2020 & HMI re-visit was to take place in mid March by the time Covid 19 struck & caused visit to be cancelled, both Kenny Manson the permanent Depute had moved on & Headteacher John Clarke had been signed off.

We welcome local councillors John Greenwell & Carol Hamilton to meetings following concerns raised re recruiting teachers & PC keen to see a more creative approach from SBC (given similar scenarios where BHS senior management had been sent on secondment to schools elsewhere in local authority). Kevin McCall & Michelle Strong from SBC also attended meetings.

Neil Bennett organised the setting up of separate domain to assist office bearers with PC communication & this has worked well despite the issues with BT Internet addresses & Chairs aversion to IT matters.

Neil also worked on a revamp/relaunch for 200 Club & following an initial boost following use of Katy Master's unique persuasiveness, Covid 19 killed the momentum.

The Xmas Fayre 2019 also had a revamp with impetus from Ann Lindsay/Jane Taylor & many others & was considered a great success.

Following March 2020 lockdown/exam cancellation/exam results etc the next involvement of PC was around new Rector appointment when it was announced John Clarke would not return. Anna White & Neil Bennett took part in interview process on behalf of PC & result was appointment of Bruce Robertson.

In Sep 2020 the first virtual meeting of BHS PC took place.

Douglas Archibald

Chair

5th Oct 2020