Online Parent Council Minutes 3rd March 2021

**Present:**

Parent Council Members:

Douglas Archibald, Jacqui Bennett, Neil Bennett, Jane Boyce, Lynn Bryce, Wanda-Jane Field, Claire Fitzgerald, Morag Glen, James Heron, Pauline Heron, Morag Lamond, Ann Lindsay, Katie Massie, Morag Mazzoni, Emma McDevitt, Val Redpath, Helena Richards, Diane Sinclair, Jane Taylor.

School:

Bruce Robertson, Peter Macklin, Karen Thomson.

**Apologies:**

Katy Master, Anna White,

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

Minutes approved from the last meeting in January.

**2. Depute Heads’ Presentation**

Karen Thomson and Peter Macklin gave well received presentations on their respective roles as Depute Rectors. This covered the ongoing work on the Curriculum and specific faculties, including overseeing the effect of the new PT pedagogy role. There was a detailed breakdown of actions in response to the inspection report, including restructuring and introduction of BIG. They also covered the introduction of wellbeing surveys and lots of initiatives under the student voice.

**3. Chairs Report**

Douglas has continued to attend meetings with SBC who are attempting to keep in regular contact throughout lockdown, however the main focus has been on Primary Schools.

**4. Treasurer’s Report**

The current bank balance is £2,552.48, and £780.67 within the 200 Club.

**5. 200 Club**

1st Prize - £21.60 Jim Heron

2nd Prize - £10.80 Jane Boyce

3rd Prize - £5.40 Morag Mazzoni

**6. Rector’s Report Questions**

The situation regarding the Vine Trust was further discussed. Deposits have not yet been refunded, any additional funds that have been paid will be returned. Will this alter relationships going forward? Will we pursue other avenues in the future and publicly denounce the Vine Trust if student deposits are not refunded?

Not all parents are currently seeing learning logs and some parents of lower school pupils do not believe they have had tracking reports. The Rector would verify what the situation was but confirmed that parents would be notified through the SMHW app of all learning logs issued.

Parents raised the question about the planned assessments for S4-S6 pupils. The Rector confirmed that there would be one assessment towards the end of April and a further assessment at the end of May. The best grade from these two assessments would be put forward. Instructions will be issued shortly and pupils will be given time to prepare.

The Rector spoke about the forthcoming Inspection which is likely to be late August/September 2021. He has been meeting with the Inspectors and whilst they are happy with the improvements being put in place it is likely that the school will not get signed off on the first re-inspection.

**7. Matters raised to discuss.**

Claire spoke about her concerns over mental health, in particular with S6 boys. With 7 hours on IPads each day trying to attain good grades with so much uncertainty and no understanding of what will be required when they do return to school. The Rector reassured everyone that they will not go straight into assessments, that the first assessment will be used as informative to give them a guide to where they are at with the knowledge that they have the second assessment window to make any necessary improvements. He will speak with guidance teachers to ensure that pastoral care is being provided.

Some parents feel that purchasing new school clothing now for the sake of the 9 school weeks upto the Summer break may be a waste of money when their child may need bigger clothing come August. Is School uniform necessary? The Rector is firm that uniform is required for all. If children have outgrown clothing and parents have been unable to get hold of new uniform there could be some flexibility if needed in the short term.

**8. Any other business.**

The proposed discussion on ‘The Curriculum’ book did not take place. It is hoped to start this at our next meeting.

**9. Next Meeting 28th April 2021 at 7pm via Microsoft Teams.**