

Parent Council meeting

18.11.21

LHS attendees: C Hornell, A Mitchell, L Struthers

Apologies: R Watson

J French welcomed everyone to the meeting, final meeting of 2021.

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

No Councillor present for update.

House Captain Update:

Apologies from Grace.

Lockers

ParentPay should be used to pay for locker use, up and running by Monday 22nd November.

Question from R Lewis – parent struggling to pay on Parent Pay for locker. This is being looked at by our admin staff. If parents have any issues accessing Parent Pay, they should contact the school office. If family can't access Parent Pay a barcode letter can be given to parents as an alternative.

LasswadeHSoffice@midlothian.education

Charities committee

Remembrance - sold poppies for a week, delivered to classes etc and during break/lunch times.

Students were very receptive. Remembrance assembly was a success, led by pupils. Thanks to staff who supported this, tannoy for all year groups except S6 who held a socially distanced assembly.

Also attended the Bonnyrigg Remembrance service. CH was in attendance.

Dress down days - arranged, donate what you can approach. Midlothian Foodbank and SAMH will be the beneficiaries.

Foodbank Friday – consideration of one Friday per month donations to support local foodbanks from December if all in place.

Christmas Fair – free of charge, Thursday 2nd December, 6-8.30pm split into 2 timeslots to allow for 150 people to attend and adhere to Covid restrictions. Masks will need to be worn, requesting negative lateral flow proof from attendees. Lots of stalls applying for a space at the event, 30 stalls in total will be present. Macy spoke to the Parent Council about supporting with tea and coffee facilities. Whole event will be risk assessed which CH will lead – entry will be via the main door, exit via the fire doors along the D&T corridor. J French asking that we sort through the items for the tombola and check dates etc for items. CH requesting that Parent Council advertise to the wider community to hand in any donations to the school office for the tombola. Suggest handing all donations into the office by Friday 26th November. Instagram posts and physical posters are on display. Lots of fun activities will take place from various groups within the school.

Prom – location agreed Intercontinental Hotel, George St, 10th June. Deposit will be requested. Deadlines will be negotiated to make payments easier and ensure things run smoothly.

SQA Committee – all going well from pupil perspective. Looking to increase the study sessions available across the school.

School Values – W Easterbrook

Brief update given by WE. Recognition that the needs and priorities of the school have changed since they were first established. Review of whether they still suit our needs as part of the Values Review work with Columba 1400. Key priority is that this work is led by the students. Phase 1 established whether DREAM values are fit for purpose.

3 groups of students established: student views, staff views, community views.

Community Group students' feedback presented to PC. PPT can be added to minute. Parent responses to questions saved by CH.

Phase 2 is ongoing and is consultative.

Equipped for Learning

Brief update offered from Lynsey Struthers. Chrome Book roll out has taken place this week for S4-S6 students. Approx. 600 devices have been handed out. Some still to be collected. Stronger response from S4 and S5 students. Period on Friday 19th Dec for S6 to increase uptake. Smooth process so far, learning to take forward includes parental response turnaround. S1-S3 roll out will happen next on 6th December and completed by 8th Dec. Parent permission form put out on the website and via Groupcall. Updated laptops for staff also completed now which we hope will improve overall experience for staff and students.

Parent Council Report

Supporting charities committee

Connections with P7 parents/carers

Head Teacher Report

CH can send on for the minute

200 Club

J French encouraging staff and families to sign up to the 200 club to support fund raising.

Questions Sent In

- Could you ask why parents' emails to student support for particular houses do not get a response? I have emailed Mount Esk on numerous occasions , with no response. **Response:** *Matter has been raised with Mrs Yule; we believe it's been a mixture of new emails as schools switched to Gmail and new staff in Mount Esk. Apologies. Should now be resolved.*
- Also it would appear that no celebration of successes has happened for Mount Esk year groups. I see all other houses being celebrated but not for Mount Esk! **Response:** *Each House had a celebration in June 2021. Nothing since.*
- Hi, we got a message from the school today about the hire of lockers but I can't see it on parentpay. **Response:** *Matter now resolved.*
- When will school lunches be restarting? **Response:** *Lunches resume Monday 29th November.*

- Is there an update on the government providing chrome books for all pupils / wondering if school had an update. **Response:** *Midlothian Council are issuing devices separate to the SG announcement. All LHS students will have their Chromebook by Christmas.*
- I cannot make the meeting but I'd like to bring up the fact they are expecting parents to now purchase new blazers and all black shoes half way through a school year as it's now mandatory... parents have bought uniform for the year and some (myself included) cannot afford to buy a new set now! My suggestion would be waiting until the end of this school year and make it mandatory in the 22-23 year. Doing it mid-academic year isn't fair on parents. Thank you. **Response:** *School gave a long lead in time re revised uniform expectations. Blazers likely to be a challenge. Black shoes were always expected. We understand individual circumstances and ask parents link in with Student Support. Agree it's likely to take until August 2022. To return to our pre-pandemic levels of compliance.*
- Has the wearing of blazers ever been brought up at the PC meetings? The school seem so inflexible with insisting that they are worn while not providing lockers to store them in especially in winter. **Response:** *The desire for blazers initially came through PC. Uniform regularly discussed. Lockers are available for hire.*
- At the moment there doesn't seem to be any catch up work issued for S1 missing classes due to school of rugby. My son is missing 2 periods of social studies. My initial understanding was that they would get work issued to allow them to catch up. What's the plan? **Response:** *Students should link in with their teachers through Google Classroom. If there are specific issues/concerns please contact Mr Graham and/or relevant Student Support teacher.*
- How do we pay for school lunches and are they starting Monday? **Response:** *Parent Pay. Monday 29th November.*
- I have a question for the meeting tonight - sorry for lateness. My son is telling me that when he tries to use the toilet at lunchtime after he has had his lunch outside, he is being told he can't come back in. He then isn't allowed understandably to leave first class after lunch to use toilet. Because of this he is not drinking his water as worried he can't use the facilities when needed. **Response:** *No student is denied access to a toilet at lunchtime. He should come into the Atrium and speak to any of the staff supervising. Sometimes we 'filter' in the students if the toilets are busy, but that should only be a very short temporary delay. .*

Date of next meeting:

18th January 2022