

MINUTES OF PARENT COUNCIL MEETING 7th SEPTEMBER 2021

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSIONS	ACTIONS
Introduction & Welcome	John French welcomed all	
Minutes & Apologies	Approved	
Councillors Questions	<p>Cllr Milligan attended: happy to answer any questions.</p> <p>JF asked re COVID in education. DM some primary classes and a couple of secondary now remote learning. Parents seem confused on rules - numbers of cases are placing pressure on services. Health Protection Scotland deem school children are at such a low risk that schools can be open as learning is crucial. CH - the biggest change is the definition of close contacts. The school has a number of cases and these are growing but the school has not had any contact at all from Test & Protect. School sends a warning letter to highlight to parents.</p> <p>DM - personal view is that it looks like we are now being asked to learn to live with the virus and hopefully that will build up resilience. Guidance changes fast and it is difficult to keep communication up to date.</p>	
School Captains Introductions	<p>Seven School Captains. Some of the Captains will attend this meeting regularly.</p> <p>Grace, Elena, Sarah, Finn, Bethan, Caleb, Maisie introduced themselves. So far the captains have been involved with: School lockers aim to re-launch; helped with some staff recruitment. Mr Chisholm also meets with the House Captains. Caleb discussed his aims to work with students moving on from school and wants to work with the younger students also. Maisie wishes to look at Music Theatre, Fashion awards. Finn wants to connect the students, teachers and parents to improve the school as a whole.</p> <p>CH will pull together all the ideas presented from all the applicants and select some of these to move forward. School is hopeful that we can have a Prom this year.</p> <p>JF - added his congratulations and wished the team good luck with their initiatives.</p>	
School Communication Practices	CH presented on this and is attached.	
Parents Council Agenda Items for this Session	<p>Meeting with CH last week. Chairs welcome people raising issues so they can take to the school and bring to these Parent Council meetings; please send in items on PC Facebook via PC school email etc. JF asked that people speak with other parents to highlight how these meetings can be a very effective method of being involved with the school and to make a difference. JF discussed</p>	
P7/S1 Transition Review	CH asked new S1 parents to add to the chat for comments on what went well and what we could do differently or improve for next session.	

<p>Head Teacher's Report</p>	<p>CH discussed the Report. Exams results were known in June and CH is pleased with the results. We need to continue to plan to ensure assessments continue to be in place to be prepared for how these exams will take place this year.</p> <p>CH - Mrs Brown is going on maternity leave and thanked her for her work with the Family Learning and Pupil Equity. Mrs Sarah Fleming was successful at interview for the Acting DHT role for Mrs Brown.</p> <p>Real investment from Midlothian in resources that have come into schools. Government is changing next year to reduce teacher's time by one hour which will require more staff numbers. We have a few vacancies in the non-teaching side of the school.</p> <p>Uniform: from October break school expects all S5/S6 to be in full school uniform every day and those doing PE will have access to changing rooms. S1-S4 expectation is 4 days out of 5 they will be in uniform. Core PE impacts on changing room space regarding COVID infection. S3 & S4 students will get priority to use changing rooms as these are much less in number. Mr Chisholm will undertake a communication to all to clarify. School of Football and School of Rugby can use the swimming pool changing rooms. Uniform footwear and blazers are an issue just now. School will be engaging highly on expectations on uniform coming out of the COVID pandemic. Publicity coming from next week.</p> <p>Question on covered bike sheds: we cannot use these for bike storage as the new PE changing rooms will be placed in this area.</p>	
<p>Question & Answer session</p>	<p>Question on covered bike sheds: we cannot use these for bike storage as the new PE changing rooms will be placed in this area.</p> <p>New S1 parent asked re information not being in place for first week and not being on registers correctly. Hoping to raise this especially for parents coming out of catchment. CB explained how this may happen if electronic records are not transferred on time.</p>	
<p>Live Chat to answer questions sent into the chat function on the evening</p>	<p>Parents Evening: will these revert to face-to-face? School will wait for updates as we get through this next phase in COVID. There are at least three options: face-to-face; telephone calls or video calls. We will review these and update nearer the October break - there are pros and cons to all options.</p> <p>Google Suite move: gives the school better functionality. Not the smoothest changeover at the start - lack of clarity. Will take some time to move over. Google classrooms need to be clear.</p> <p>Question from parent: Extra Curricular activities. CH - Wednesday 15th September there will be a sign up in school Atrium to offer a variety of different options. Risk Assessments will be written for those that require them.</p>	

Live Chat to answer question from chat function	Chat attached and questions answered throughout.	
200 club draw	200 Club Draw - Numbers £24 per year £2 per month and this helps greatly for fundraising for the benefit for the school. Please support events that are upcoming.	
AOCB	Three weeks till AGM, JF closed the meeting	
Chat saved from meeting is attached.		

Contact names for information: If you wish a query or comment to go to a particular person, please add their name to subject field in any e-mail into the dedicated Parent Council email address and this will be forwarded to them, thanks.

Joint Chair - John French (JF)

Joint Chair - Rebecca Lewis (RL)

Treasurer - Chris Hurst (CH)

Skills Bank - John French

Head Teacher - Campbell Hornell (HT)

Ruth Watson - School Business Manager (RW)

Parent Council dedicated e-mail:

ParentCouncil.LasswadeHS@mgfl.net

Next Meeting date 29th September 2021 at 19.00 via Zoom meeting