

Grange Academy Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday 17 September 2019

Attendance

Samantha Waddell
Fiona Paterson
Diane Patterson
Claire Bryson
Mary MacKinnon
Robert Johnston

Alison Holland
Samantha McEwan
Nicola Newlands
Richard Crawford

Apologies - Arlene Jackson, Lorette Dunlop, Elaine Crawford
Resignation - Alison Houston

Welcome

A very warm welcome to 2 new members - Richard Crawford and Nicola Newlands, its great to have you with us.

Approval and Recap of Minutes (28 May 2019)

The S6 Prom was a great success
The School Show was also a great success
The Junior Awards Ceremony went well
Christmas Fayre - Date confirmed 23 November 2019 11-1pm

Head Teachers Report

This is the 5th week back in the new 2019/2020 session
Busy house - over 1250 pupils
1st Year pupils are settling in well
Stephen Cowan - new Deputy Head Teacher will be starting in his new post tomorrow - Wednesday 18 September

Staffing - currently fully staffed.

Grange Academy is fortunate to have a high degree of quality of staffing

Accommodation - the school is a busy house, there has been an increase in demand for space. There will be a review of how accommodation is best used on the campus between Grange Academy, Annanhill Primary and Park School. Linda McAulay-Griffiths, Head of Schools for the EAC may want to meet with parents to get their views on accommodation on the campus.

SQA Results - the attainment review is in February 2020.

Focus is on making certain that most pupils attain at the very least the basic literacy and numeracy levels when leaving school. Last year 98% of pupils moved into positive destinations and this is as a result of excellent partnerships with guidance staff and targeting vulnerable groups.

Attainment for all - the lowest 20%, top 20% and middle 60% is measured against a virtual comparator. Grange is not performing as well as the virtual comparator. To combat this various areas have been looked at ie. a change in the 4th year curriculum which was found to be quite narrow and restrictive - some additional subjects have now been included and this is already showing a positive improvement.

The management team will continue to monitor and track and will be more vigorous and forensic about examine the results.

The Ethos of the School - Mary MacKinnon

The ethos of Grange Academy is to celebrate achievements by deliberately crafting the culture in the school to build great relationships between teachers and children. Mental health has become a feature in the School Improvement Plan.

Mental Health - Fiona

Background for new attendees. The Parent Council wanted to organise a mental health or wellness event that parents could attend. After some deliberation it was a concern that putting on an event would not draw the support of the parents. Also mentioned that the school is doing a brilliant job already with raising awareness and encouraging wellbeing.

Samantha McEwan suggested that perhaps the school website could signpost mental health and general well being, school stress, exam stress, study guidance links that parents could access should they have a specific requirement.

A group of 10 students have recently attended a event at Dumfries House to become Mental Health Ambassadors for the school. It was suggested that the Parent Council could organise some event to coincide with Parents Evening in February.

In the meantime the school will organise an event before prelims are due to start that will deal with exam stress and preparing for exams.

The Christmas Fayre

Main organisers- Arlene Jackson and Alison Holland

Date confirmed 23 November 11am - 1pm

Alison has already started advertising for stall holders - some interest already and Alison has set up a PayPal account that payment can be taken up front this year. Not as much interest as in the past - all parent council members to ask around and generate interest.

The Scouts have generously offered the use of their tables to help keep costs down - thank you Claire.

It was suggested that we invite the children and parents of this years P7's.

Mary MacKinnon

Mary wanted to thank the Parent Council for funding the Junior and Senior awards. The Senior Parent Council Award was awarded to very deserving Jack McArthur in 5th year who was nominated by the guidance team for his resilience and battles fought and won. Jack and his very proud mum were very great full to the parent council for this award.

Thank you to Claire Bryson for presenting the award on the night.

Mary was pleased that areas with regards to the awards evening that was raised by the parent council had been taken on board and put into practice. ie...that the letters going out have the name of the award on them, that the awards ceremony was now in the evening allowing more parents to attend, and also that the letters have gone out to parents earlier.

Other business

Fiona - East Ayrshire Steering Group - contact was made to find out when next meeting was to be held - the meeting had been held the night before.

Fiona will attend the next meeting to be held of 7 November.

It is noted the East Ayrshire is not being represented at the Scottish Parent Council.

Alison - was approached by another parent and wanted it raised at the parent council meeting if all the proceeds from Children in Need must go to the charity or if a percentage of the proceeds can be used directly within the school for children in need.

Fiona - Lorette (from WhatsApp) had mentioned that ILF Scotland is a Scottish Government fund that's helps those with recognised disability's achieve or help with independent living. They are looking for contacts in schools to get the message across. The SMT will look into this.

Next Meeting

12 November 2019 at 19h00
Meeting adjourned 20h20