



## **STEWARTON ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL**

### Parent Council Meeting

#### Minutes of meeting held on 17th January 2022

Present: Mr Stuart, Mr Johnson, E Smith, S MacLeod, A Goldie, C Coady, D Cauldfield, J Gaskin, L Jewel, L McKenzie, LA Johnstone, M Menzies, M Sharp, N Shaw, P McCaffrey, RA Cunninghame, T McArthur, W Mcsheffrey, G Wilkie.

Apologies: E Goudie, Eilidh Young, K McIntyre, R Howe

<b>Welcome and Introduction</b>	
E Smith opened the meeting and welcomed those present.	
<b>Presentation on 'The Learning Scientists' by Mr. Burrett</b>	
<p>Mr. Burrett presentation: study techniques. "The Learning Scientists" Cognatitive scientists/educational researchers.  <a href="http://www.thelearningscientists.org">www.thelearningscientists.org</a></p> <p>Mr. Burrett gave a presentation on study techniques which is heavily researched based material by educational researchers. There were 6 techniques detailed.</p> <p><u>Spaced Practice</u>: organising practise over a period of time, long term planning pre-assessments.</p> <p><u>Interleaving</u>: organisational technique, break up into small chunks . Topics within a subject for example. Repeated short bursts, retain, and recall much more effectively.</p> <p><u>Retrieval Practice</u>: Lots of practise, lots of past paper questions. Start tasks in class by the teacher. Useful pre-revision technique. List of learning outcomes, use as a checklist. Highlight ones they know/should know.</p> <p><u>Concrete examples</u>: Building in examples, use as reference work.</p> <p><u>Elaboration</u>: Brief answers. Build them up into more elaborate answers.</p> <p><u>Dual coding</u>: Involving written and graphical or visual information to support written word. Lots of note taking approaches.</p> <p>Each technique is accompanied by videos/posters etc. Mr. McCormack working on making these available to students in the future.</p>	Elaine Smith will get links onto Twitter for the wider parent forum.
<b>Mr. Tim McArthur " Duke of Edinburgh scheme" Presentation.</b>	
<p>Role: Support schools develop capacity and grow DofE award.            EAC – extremely pro-active Early years all the way through. Outdoor learning huge in EA.            He is looking for support of Parent Council, can we support the school for DofE moving forward? Loudon Academy have parent council support.</p> <p>Presentation: DofE: What's it all about?            Demands commitment. Course is personalised for all pupils.            Achievable by ALL. Progressive (Bronze to Gold). FUN. Balanced. Various elements. Voluntary. Personal development. Set straight forward targets.            Age 14+ up to 25.</p> <p><b><u>Volunteering: (SOUL)</u></b>            Regular hour a week to volunteer. 13 weeks.</p>	Mr. Stuart to appeal to parents for possible volunteers.



## STEWARTON ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

<p>Taking local action, volunteering in local community/club/school.</p> <p><b><u>Physical: (BODY)</u></b> Mind/Body/Soul. Yoga/running/rugby/cricket/football. All about commitment. Something to aim for.</p> <p><b><u>Skill: (MIND)</u></b> Coding/cookery/painting.</p> <p><b><u>Expedition:</u></b> Meet conditions. Flexible arrangement. Support available if needed. Time consuming. 2 days/1 night away. Time travelling every day and not distance. Activities to do on their way. Pupils have been transformed in various ways over the years. Examples given by Tim.</p> <p><b><u>Why do DofE?</u></b> Makes a huge difference moving into interview situations but also life changing. COVID are becoming more and more flexible to ensure the project continues. Certificate of Achievement is available to all participants to end 2022.</p> <p>Tim is looking for volunteers. Assessor in various skills, leaders in a skill, encourage others to volunteer. Writing up an assessment at the end of a period of time, training given. EAC will also train you if you wish to become a leader in expedition. Straight forward ways to make a real difference to Stewarton Academy DofE. Need adults to be able to talk to the young people, check in with them. Also need adults to help with online recording. DofE staff member Kerry is currently dealing with the current children in the DofE program and is supporting them. Rose-Ann thinks she is aware of someone who maybe able to help.</p>	
<p><b>PC Update from Mr. Stuart</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Jan 10<sup>th</sup>: S5/6 senior phase assessment diet.</li> <li>○ 25<sup>th</sup> Jan: S2 parents evening.</li> <li>○ Feb 8<sup>th</sup>: S2 and S4 info evening.</li> <li>○ Feb 10<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>: long weekend.</li>   <li>○ Extra curricular activities: All outdoor are running.</li> <li>○ Indoor: Consider year group bubbles. S5/6 count as one bubble. Get as many up and running ASAP.</li> <li>○ DofE to run soon as after school club.</li> <li>○ Senior phase assessments: assessments are progressing well.</li> <li>○ COVID isolating pupils have had assessment rescheduled.</li> <li>○ No COVID teaching staff absences this week.</li> <li>○ Lateral Flow boxes are widely available for all pupils.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Mr. Johnstone: SQA Update</b></p>	
<p>26<sup>th</sup> April: SQA start. 1/2<sup>nd</sup> June finishing. Study leave for a week before. Some topics being removed.</p>	



## STEWARTON ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

<p>Some assignments being removed. Some profile content reduced.</p> <p><b>Scenario 2 (Moving towards Scenario 2 IF more disruption.)</b> Monitor levels of disruption, staff and pupil absences. Provide more support for pupils. Stewarton Academy communicating with SQA, a recommendation to move to this ASAP. Staff would really like to be best prepared and need timescales sooner rather than later. Subject matter reduced. "SQA have adjusted the course" they say but Stewarton Academy need more adjustment. Elaine Smith supports this option. David C. just asks for clarity and cross-country policy and not cross-council. Everyone has the same set of rules. Mr. Stuart: Linda McAulay-Griffiths is putting pressure on the SQA.</p> <p><b>Scenario 3: Go back to last year's model.</b></p> <p>SQA: priority is exams. Evidence from school: staff to provide an estimate in advance.</p> <p>Appeals process: 2 main approaches</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prelims: high stakes value. Best evidence of grades.</li> <li>2. Post results evidence. Remark scripts, admin checks of evidence.</li> </ol> <p>School will communicate as soon as they hear anything. Concern from staff and parents: QA process. They verify pupils work and staffs' understanding and marking. Pupils will continue to learn new units. Continuing with adjusted portfolios, practical elements. Ensure staff/pupils got theory content covered.</p> <p>Pupils will be fully supported: Easter school, supported study. Mr. Stuart: continue to study for exams. Exams likely to take place. Mechanisms in place if pupils don't sit exam for any reason. Any individual worries, contact pupil support.</p>	
<b>HWB Surveys</b>	
<p>HWB Survey: Gail Wilkie Different decisions different councils are making. Are they looking for parental engagement? Mr. Stuart: it's on hold at the moment. It's not an education decision so no further update. Mr. Stuart assures there are tools in place to enquire/help pupils communicate how they are feeling. Staff are on hand where needed.</p>	
<b>Extra-curricular clubs.</b>	
<p>Clubs should quickly resume. Staff are under pressure Jan/Feb for exams and reports so hopefully staff can continue to support clubs that are running, will open more clubs later in the year when the pressure is off.</p> <p>Michael S: No direction from EAC for indoor activity in schools? Mr. Stuart: We can continue to do indoor but within bubbles. Staff pressure with a range of clubs, need to keep an eye of this. They are finding it</p>	



## STEWARTON ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

challenging. Need more time planning lessons due to catch up from COVID. Having a single lunchtime will make a big difference if it happens. Some staff teaching while some pupils are having their lunch due to split lunchtimes.

S6 hopefully will do lunchtime clubs. They are doing leadership courses. They are keen. Some S6 pupils are finishing off portfolio's and work for assessments for exams so it's an important time for them and they are not available at lunchtime currently.

### **Dates of Upcoming Meetings**

21st February 2022

28th March 2022

16th May 2022

AGM 13th June 2022