

ST LUKE'S HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

A meeting of St Luke's High School Parent Council was held at 5.30pm on Tuesday 16th February 2021 on Zoom

MINUTES

1. The Meeting opened with a prayer.
2. Present: C. Goodenough, C. Downie, P. Gibson, D. Hone, K. Hunter, K. Jones, G. McKeag, M. Pollock, C. Ross, M. Ross, Fr J. Whitworth, K. Wilson, G. McKinlay (minutes)

Apologies: P. O'Donnell
3. Correspondence
 - Items have been communicated as received. Another Parent Council Chair meeting is due.
4. Financial Update
 - There has been no movement on the account and the balance remains £1, 069.00
5. School Update
 - C. Downie gave an update on the improvements in the remote learning offer to young people during this second lockdown phase. These include live classrooms which add to the overall learning experience, and Google Guardian which gives parents weekly feedback. Additional needs support is offered through Google meet and there are daily/weekly phone check-ins with pupils and families.
 - Having the SLHS Hub has added to pupil engagement and the School's ability to support young people in maintaining their focus. We are now able to offer some extra-curricular activities on Google meet such as sign language, further supporting pupil interaction and giving wider learning opportunities.
 - Mr Chalmers and Mr Jordan have supported the whole School community in offering mass and other faith activities.
 - The School is reporting very high pupil engagement numbers and C. Downie is delighted with our young people's motivation, flexibility and engagement. We are now working on year transitions within the school and with P7 in our feeder Primary Schools.
 - The School's approach has been identified as demonstrating best practise and is being taken forward to the ERC Education department.
 - M. Pollock gave an update on Primary 7 engagement which has begun, and the further activities planned. There will be opportunities for pupils and parents to ask questions and be reassured at the start of this important relationship.
 - There was an update on the School Newsletter.
 - C. Ross gave an update on the procedures in place supporting year transitions for S2, S4 and S5. Google assemblies have been held in place of the usual Transition evenings, and a Google Classroom made for parents to access with their children.
 - Pupils complete transitions forms and their Pathway forms are reviewed to ensure subjects chosen match requirements for careers identified, many examples are available.
 - Each Pupil Support Teacher is holding a Google meeting with their House to answer questions.

6. Response to First Minister's Announcement

- K.Hunter gave an update on S4-6 pupil attending practical classes in school from 22nd February. They will attend mornings and/or afternoons for a triple period dependant on their subjects. These classes will be 8.45-11.15am and 12-2.30pm (Wed & Fri) or 1-3.30pm (Mon, Tues & Thur).
- Bus companies have been made aware of the new arrangements and Abbey is running a lunchtime bus service to support pupils in for a half day. Our pupils have worked in triple periods for a number of months so this change has less impact for them.
- The next three weeks up to Friday 12th March have been planned and pupils will be advised of classes to attend through their Glow accounts. Parents will be texted during the first week. Social distancing measures will continue throughout the School and have been put in place for bus journeys. There will be no PE classes at present, pupils instead working on their folios.
- There has been no update from SQA at present, this will be advised as we hear. Our current emphasis is on teaching and learning, with assessments further down the line.
- Usually our years transition to their new year at the start of June and this year this will be delayed slightly to mid-June. This affords every pupil the chance to do their best in assessments. S6 will attend till mid-June.
- Assessment grades will be with SQA by 25th June having been reviewed and agreed by the School.

7. Remote Learning Q & A

- There was discussion around the use of Google meeting. Teachers have quickly become more confident and are able to replicate the classroom experience.
- The School is aware families are having to share devices and not everyone can attend live classes when they are on. Support calls are being made on reviewing attendance.
- A remote 'Easter School' is being currently being considered, it is likely there will be a standard offer across the authority.
- Some pupils may feel they have more work to do than usual. C. Downie advised that parents use the weekly planner issued to all years as a guide, and rest their children if it is felt they are 'burning out'. Phone calls and follow up actions are in place as part of the support strategy.

8. AOCB

- There was discussion around the Education Department Local Improvement Plan that C. Goodenough sent to members previously. Initial emphasis will be on recovery rather than new developments.
- The Caritas deadline has been extended. K. Hunter and R. Chalmers will each review the other class's assignments rather going externally. The new S6 Caritas programme will begin earlier.
- S6 hoodies and yearbooks will be here by June.
- Parents complimented the whole School team on all the efforts being put into supporting their young people, this is much appreciated.

The Meeting closed with a prayer.