

S6 Pupil Focus Group 1



Tuesday 10th November 2020



Welcome and Prayer

Present:

P. Marshall (Year Head for S6)

T. Low (Pastoral Support Teacher)

Emma Murray

Christopher Flannagan

Lottie Ross

Patrick McBride

Robbie Innes

Alisha Aslam

Sam Parker

School Prayer

Jesus, as a child you grew in learning and wisdom.

Bless Saint Ninian's High School,
a community of faith and love
where young people learn,
work and grow together.

Help us to make our school a place
where teachers are valued for their dedication;
where pupils are encouraged
to develop their talents
and where all
staff, young people and parents -
work together
in trust and friendship.
Live among us now and forever.

Amen



Our Learning and Teaching

PM – Are on line resources available?

- *Some subjects had put more work online than others*
- *Microsoft teams and Google classroom were good (some pupils preferred Google Classroom, some preferred Microsoft Teams)*
- *For the most part yes, resources were available*
- *Google Classroom easier to use*
- *Microsoft Teams good for Notifications*

PM – What are your subjects like now after lockdown?

- *We are not able to do practical work as much e.g. experiments*
- *In Drama there are lots of things we can't do because of the restrictions in place*

PM – Are you receiving a good experience?

- *Yes.*
- *Teaching feels just the same from the teachers although we can't do experiments etc.*



Our Learning and Teaching

PM –What is it like wearing masks during lessons?

- *When teachers wear them it is difficult to understand what they are saying*
- *Wearing a mask is a problem for people with glasses as they steam up*
- *Everyone has been wearing masks in class*
- *Becoming used to having to wear mask*
- *Pupils have been compliant*

Our Health and Wellbeing

PM – Do pupils feel safe in school?

- *Yes feel safe*
 - *Only so much that staff can do*
 - *Wearing of masks in some common areas could be better from younger pupils*
 - *Outside pupils not wearing masks as much*
- *S6 asked why they cannot sit at tables during break times.*
 - *PM – Explained that it is to limit contact between pupils from different year groups.*
 - *Being in Carmichael hall allows pupils to remain in bubbles more easily and also stay in smaller groups.*
 - *Confirmed that sitting at tables to study (when not timetabled to be in class) in very small numbers is fine*

Our Relationships

PM – Are pupils managing to contact teachers via online platforms?

- *It is difficult sometimes as there is no privacy when asking questions on open forum so pupils sometimes feel uncomfortable posting questions*
- *PM commented that the time that pupils are commenting on platforms (late into the evening) is a concern.*
- *Pupils feel more comfortable in S6 when talking to staff about their subjects*
- *PM commented on how well S6 pupils have done since coming back to school after lockdown and getting on with work.*
- *Pupils said they liked studying at the tables but the flexibility of going home is also very good*
- *Allows time to focus more and be more purposeful in our study*

Our School and Community

PM - How well does the school provide an environment which allows you as pupils, to learn effectively?

- *There is a lot of awareness of what we can and can't do*
- *Understand that we can't volunteer in the community like in past years*
- *PM commented on the Super-curricular activities which Universities are looking for from pupils . These are activities that pupils are involved in outside of class that directly relate to the area in which they are applying to study*

PM - Helping out and Volunteering

- *PM commented that he has tried to spread out the responsibilities amongst as many pupils as possible.*
- *He urged more pupils to volunteer and give something back to the school and younger pupils*
- *Pupils commented that they feel that a lot more pupils have now stepped up their efforts to volunteer.*



Our Successes and Achievements

PM - Do you feel happy that the school recognises achievements of pupils?

- *Happy that the school tries to recognise achievements of everyone*
- *PM discussed success of S6 pupils and how well they had performed in their exams over S4 and their results from S5*
- *Some pupils said they were worried about going to University because they didn't get to sit their exams this year*
- *PM stated that pupils should be proud of their achievements and that pupils deserved the results they achieved. He said that he is happy for pupils to come and speak with him and discuss courses that they want to apply for and offer support.*



Any Other Current Business

- *Pupils asked about wearing hoodies in class – PM said that pupils were not allowed to wear hoodies in class. PM stated that teachers had received updated guidance regarding ventilation in classrooms.*

- *Mr Marshall thanked pupils for their time and contributions*