

St Ninian's High School Parent Council

Annual Report 2021 – 2022

It is our privilege to report to the Parent Council and the entire Parent Forum on what has been a year of transition for pupils, parents and staff as we gradually eased our way out of COVID restrictions and back to full "in person" immersion.

New Head Teacher

The Parent Council said goodbye to Mr John Docherty with deep gratitude and fond regard after 17 years of exemplar headship. We wished him a long and happy retirement on behalf of all current and all past serving Parent Council Members. And it was our great pleasure to open a new chapter of Parent Council partnership with the newly appointed headteacher of St Ninian's High School, Mr Gerard O'Neil, in January 2022. We continue to work closely with him and his Depute team to support and promote the School as an exemplar community of Catholic faith and educational excellence.

Parental Communication and Listening

We worked hard to introduce new modes of communication with the Parent Forum and have been extremely encouraged by the engagement and response to those efforts. We now have new Gmail, Twitter, and Facebook accounts up and running and the PC website is kept updated timeously with minutes of meetings and other important parental communiques. We started a Newsletter from the Parent Council to the Parent Forum and were pleased with its reach and have been greatly assisted by the school's agreement to send emails to all parents on our behalf. We'd like to think we have listened to the Parent Forum and tried our best to help where possible. Anyone can email the PC on: pcstniniangiffnock@gmail.com

Major Building Works in Eastwood Park

ERC's planning application to build a leisure centre in Eastwood Park (in front of the School) was granted. We made robust representations of the interests of St Ninian's High School to ERC over the past 12 months and we await clarification on the timescale for this development and ERC's plans for the School's pupils to benefit directly from this major development.

Health and Well Being Census (The Sex Survey)

We represented the expressed robust opposition and non-support of the St Ninian's High School Parent Council (among others) to the distribution of the Health and Wellbeing Census to our pupils. Unfortunately ERC proceeded with its roll-out of the controversial Census - albeit, thankfully, in a significantly amended and improved format. The PC was grateful to ERC's Education Department and Director for their careful consideration of our concerns. We posted regular updates on the progress of our endeavours on our social media pages and those communications are still available to view there.

Diocesan Parent Forum

Bishop John launched this new Forum for Parent Councils across the Diocese. He quoted St Jose Maria “the most important people in the school community are the parents/guardians” as first and best teachers in the ways of faith. We were heartened by the potential for this new initiative to connect the Diocesan Education Department, Diocesan Education Committee Representatives and Parent Council Members and Church Representatives and look forward to much fruitful partnership.

Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis

The Parent Council expressed profound sympathy and support for the people of Ukraine, following the Russian invasion. We invited discussion and proposals from the Parent Forum as to the best ways in which the PC and the School might respond to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and strongly supported the School in all its fundraising efforts.

Spiritually, the School’s Faith Committee in conjunction with the Parent Council and other parents prayed the Rosary in the Oratory every day, during Lent, for peace in the world. Faith in action.

Cost of the School Day

We were pleased to be able to work with the School Leadership Team to look at this important issue for parents and families and delighted to see the School Uniform Recycling Project get up and running last term and over the summer holidays. It has proved to be a great success.

ERC Parent Chairs Forum and Other Council Committees

We regularly attended all such meetings and it was our privilege to be able to represent St Ninian’s High School across such forums.

Thanks

Once again, we would like to place on record our formal thanks to the outgoing Chair and Vice Chair, Mr Michael McKenzie and Mr Joe McLachlan. We also thank all the members of the Parent Council who have contributed so much time, energy and enthusiasm this year and Mr O’Neil and his staff for their patient and tireless support of the work of the Parent Council.

Stuart Reid
Joint Chair

Jacqueline Stewart
Joint Chair

Aundrie Wilmott
Vice Chair