

## **Parent Council Meeting – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 6pm.**

### **Agenda:**

1. Welcome - V Stokoe - PC Chair
2. Head Boy / Head Girl update – L Stokoe / M Grant
3. Support, Guidance and Anti-Bullying Update (K Gibb, DHT)
4. Curriculum and School Day consultation (C McKay, HT)
5. School Updates (C McKay, HT)
6. Staffing (PC)
7. AOCB

### **Head Boy / Head Girl update (Mirren tonight)**

- Seniors feeling under pressure. Lots going on with College/University applications as well as trying to complete course work.
- Bullying policy is being shared with pupils and information about how to report it in different ways.
- Reminder of annual pathways evening on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> Jan for parents.

### **Support, Guidance and Anti-Bullying Update (K Gibb, DHT)**

#### **Bullying**

- There has been a focus group with young people regarding how to recognise the different ways of bullying and how to report it. Please see attached poster and presentation provided by Mrs Gibb for full information. These presentations will be shared in assemblies and a check in with pupils to ensure their understanding of the issues. It is also important to point out that reporting of any form of bullying can be done anonymously.

### **Curriculum and School Day consultation (C McKay, HT)**

- Please see attached PowerPoint presentation for full details.
- Few points raised by PC included difference in teaching time (hours per year) for certain subjects, impact of removing tutor, bus times, lunch provisions for a Friday. There is a feedback form attached to the document sent out on Monday which the school is encouraging all parents to comment on during the consultation period. All comments will be taken on board and discussed before finalising the proposed changes. If you do have any comments, please be sure to do this within the formal consultation period which closes on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

### **School Updates (C McKay, HT)**

- There has been a high staff absence since November mainly due to seasonal illness. The school is trying to prioritise pupils needs where there are staff shortages.
- There were two new temporary posts created last year, DHT - closing the gap and PT - engagement. Both posts have had a significant positive impact, and the decision has been taken to make these permanent posts. Interviews will be taking place shortly for these posts.
- Due to long term illness of PTC's in Maths and Science, Mr Jones has taken on this role from Miss Grubb (Maths) and Mr Fleming is now PTC for Science.
- Miss Black in supported learning has taken on the role of PT Supported Learning, taking over from Mrs Wilkie.
- Overall, the school has been more settled in comparison with this time last year.

### **Staffing (PC)**

- Parent question – Is it possible to have same subject staff covering colleagues' absence? CM – We try our best to use subject qualified teachers where available, but this is not always possible. Look at pupil priority, for example a senior class approaching exams, requirements are higher than an S1 class short term. For short term absences the school has to react at the time, but for longer term absences the school will look to bring in subject qualified staff and / or plan appropriately for learning based on what is available. Unfortunately supply staff for particular subjects are not available.

### **AOCB**

- It was brought PC attention that an S4/5 pupil has been trying to sell vapes to S1's for £5. Mr McKay has asked for more information confidentially so he can look into this.
- Mr McKay mentioned a similar incident last week and the police are now involved along with Karly Campbell our School Community Police Officer.