

Hillhead High School Parent Council Zoom Meeting**Thursday 11 June 2020 7.30 – 9.00 pm****Present:**

Parent Council Members – Catriona Futter (Chair), Chirsty Hamilton, Alasdair Downes, Kate Temple, Karen Leeson, Tariq Ishaq, Annabel Wright, Andrea Fisher, Bernie Mitchell (Co-opted member). Apologies from Jerome Boue.

Teaching Staff – Mrs Karen McAlaney (Head Teacher), Mr Stephen Neil (Deputy Head Teacher), Ms Nicola Higgins (Pastoral Care)

1. The Parent Council expressed many thanks to the teaching staff for how proactive the school are being in communicating with parents and pupils, and for all their work over what has been an incredibly challenging and demanding term.
2. The Parent Forum had been asked in advance of the meeting for any questions on the process of school return in August 2020, via the school newsletter, the Parent council Facebook and Twitter pages. The following questions were submitted:
 - Are S3 pupils likely to be studying a reduced number of subjects when schools return, because of the need to focus on S4-6? Are any subjects going to be dropped from the curriculum?
 - What mechanism can be set up to allow parents to see directly what work pupils are being set to work on at home, especially as the blended learning model continues?
 - What teaching time is being planned for the new S5, what are the options for reducing the number of subjects they are taking, and what are the options for exam practice, given that they missed their exams in S4?
 - When will the prelims be?
 - What model of blended learning will HHS be operating from August? Will it be possible to co-ordinate days that pupils at HHS attend with any younger siblings at Hillhead Primary?
 - What options are there for promoting cycling and walking to school – given issues around public transport currently, and also as a longer term solution that is better for the environment?
 - What length of time is Education Scotland proposing to run the blended learning model, and what review processes are in place?
 - How are the practicalities of re-opening the school being addressed?
 - In light of George Floyd's death, what is being done to address diversity and equality and incorporate Black lives matter teaching into the modern studies/history curriculum?

There was discussion around these issues, especially timetabling and school return and how the blended learning model might look. This is an incredibly complex situation that is constantly evolving, with input from multiple different sources and factors to consider. Much work is being done on this at present. A different model will be used to that at Primary schools.

There will be more information in the next newsletter from Mrs McAlaney, and more information will be available before the end of this term on what the timetable will look like for all school years in August.

This will remain subject to change as the situation with lockdown continues to change, and based on new input from local and national government.

3. Mr Neil reported on a very successful new S6 induction month, with great uptake from the new S6 pupils. They were focusing on the new opportunities presented by blended learning, using the hashtag #newnormalequalsnewopportunities . A new committee has been set up to look at equality and diversity, prompted by recent events around the Black Lives Matter campaign. Thanks were expressed to Mr Neil and Ms Hamid for all their work in putting this induction programme together.
4. Ms Higgins reported on all the work the Pastoral Care team have been doing during lockdown to support all families at Hillhead. Phone calls to families have been well received and much appreciated. Many thanks were expressed to her and the whole team from the Parent Council.
5. Annabel attending a session organised by Connect (Scottish Parent Teacher Council) on Learning at Home, on 11 June. She gave a brief report, emphasising the importance of promoting a love of learning, opportunities to do things differently, connected learning, concentrating on learning rather than ‘schoolwork’ and emphasising that school is a community not a building. These themes fit well with some of the approaches for the S6 induction.
6. Chirsty is attending a Zoom Question and Answer session on Tuesday 16 June with John Swinney, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills. This is being arranged and hosted by the National Parent Forum of Scotland. Chirsty will represent Hillhead High school, and feedback to the Parent Council outcomes from this meeting.

The Parent Council acts as a communication link between the Parent Forum at Hillhead (all parents/carers of pupils) and the staff.

Please follow the Parent Council on Twitter @HillheadParents

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where you will find lots of useful information and links.

Please send any questions on school return or other school issues to the Parent Council at hillheadhighparentcouncil@gmail.com