**Hillhead High School Parent Council Meeting Minutes** – **Thursday, 3rd September 2020, 19:00**

**Parent Council Member:** PC members: Catriona Futter (Chair), Chirsty Hamilton (Treasurer), Jerome Boué (Secretary), Karen Leeson, Andrea Fisher, Ali Downes, Tariq Ishaq, Bernie Mitchell, Kate Temple, Annabel Wright.

**School Staff:** Mrs Karen McAlaney (HT); Mr Steven Neil (DHT), Ms Nicola Higgins (DHT)

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| **Topic**  | **To do**  |
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| **Welcomed to PC meeting by PC Chair** |

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| **Lunchtimes – options for bad weather****Headteacher update:*** Staggered lunch, all pupils allowed out of school at lunchtime
* Fuel zone = 2 hot options, sandwiches etc. space to eat in Assembly Hall and also space for eating packed lunches
* Pupils encouraged to go out during lunchtime, some go home, some go to shops. Pupils encouraged to spend time outdoors at interval and lunchtime
* When very wet, pupils allowed to stay in, however challenging as space is limited inside;
* **Chair**: The school could perhaps send out a communication to the Parent Forum clarifying lunchtime rules? Can the PC purchase more picnic benches?
* **HT**: Grassy area at front of school already has benches and back playground currently used for PE therefore currently not an option though when PE guidance changes this can be reviewed; adding more tables would be a challenge in terms of space; school is still looking into this + looking at what other schools are doing. Will send out an update to all parents.
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| **PE – What, where, how?****DHT Mr Neil Update*** Health & safety guidance continues to be subject to change
* Constructing PE timetables and coordinating facilities already challenging at the best of times
* Currently using school back playground and Kelvingrove Park
* If bad weather, there is a classroom area for pupils to go to, however need to ensure time used as a PE-related session
* PE team have mapped out some community safety walks, linking with community partners, local shops (eg shop owners presenting what they expect in terms of rules when visiting shops, not dropping litter, etc.)
* Mrs Trobe leading S5/6 core PE through SQA mental health awards
* PE team has been working on plan for indoor activities:
	+ Gym 1: marked out as grid w/ markings on floor, to be used for fitness activities
	+ Gym 2: table tennis - all the way from S1 to S6
	+ Games area to be used for badminton as can be well controlled and equipment easily cleaned
* PE staff has been working with PC co-optee Bernie on using outside facility.
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| **Return to school****HT Update*** 1st day back for staff used for reconnecting – important as there was some anxiety, some excitement, some relief to get back to normal. Miss Black (DHT) led a session on focussing on what we can control.
* Important to not pass on any anxiety onto pupils – something important to all staff
* Lot of great of teamwork and discussions around planning and supporting learners
* Pupils have been amazing, working, ready to learn

**DHT Ms Higgins Update*** Working closely with Pastoral Care and her link Departments
* SLT and PT have been going around classes, ensuring they are visible and ensuring everything working well in terms of movement around the school

**DHT Mr Neil Update*** Focus has been on health and wellbeing
* When pupils come in, normal school activity kicks back in
* The way Mrs McAlaney has dealt with everything as HT since the start of lockdown has been amazing, what she has done, values, honesty, genuineness, as a staff member and teacher, couldn’t be happier
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| **SQA Exams – 2020 results, plans for 2021****HT Update*** Had initial results, very robust process for what we put in
* Process for appeals explained
* SQA has launched a consultation, open for very short time; unsure yet when they will publish outcome
* If prelims don’t go ahead, need to ensure we work as a team to plan/coordinate assessments

**DHT Mr Neil Update*** Message given to S5-6s: importance of consistent hard work, everything done in class, homework, class tests has value
* Important to change the mindset and move away from "if exam had happened, I'd have worked harder"
* Increased communications to pupils and parents/carers on what was happening could have helped, however, at the time, decision was made to deal with everything on case by case basis

**PC Members feedback*** Some obtained predicted results, process worked for them
* Some parents/pupils had to reach out to teachers to get their Nat5 grades.
* Maybe parents could feed the lack of direct confirmation of results to pupils back to SQA
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| **S5 prelims, homework, assessing stage pupils are at, curriculum, iPads****PC Members Ali*** Key concern: prelims exam condition uncertainty, if exam hall set up is not allowed
* Keen to ensure S5s get more exam practice (perhaps in core subjects)
* Unsure what S5s should doing, what should be expected, how much work they should be doing, unsure if on track

**HT*** **Prelims** are important but not everything
* Met with with Principal Teachers last night, robust on-going assessments
* Team reviewing how we gather evidence, tracking system changing, need more regular tracking
* **Chair**: study skills, discipline of regular learning, time management, life skills, study support are all key
* **iPads**: tomorrow, a letter will come out explaining the rollout of iPads, how pupils will have to show their parents/carers as part of an agreement when taking their iPad (video coming out tomorrow)
* Expecting iPad to become part of learning toolset
* **Lockdown impact**: potential gap in education for some pupils due to lockdown period, however pupils now keen on working since they got back
* **S5 Leavers**: more coming out over the next few weeks to support S5s who are planning to leave before the end of S5, though the school’s position is always to encourage pupils to complete the year.
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| **Communication with parents, and Parents' evenings – how to do these and when****HT*** Unsure yet how Parents’ Evening will happen, lots of options being considered; will advise Parent Forum once they know

**PC Feedback*** The school could perhaps reiterate communications channels for parents/carers to contact teachers (via newsletter)?
* Maybe communications could be increased via iPads once rolled out?
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| **PACE group - social media presence? How to build on success of GCPG****PC Member Annabel*** Important to connect with school community
* Considering having an online presence (ie FB subset group of PC + Instagram – a link could be added on the school website)
* Team reviewing a name change

**DHT Mr Neil*** One member of the S6 pupil leadership team (vice-captain) is interested in joining the group
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| **Parent Forum Languages*** **PC Member Annabel:** do communications only get sent in English
* **HT**: 65 languages now in school; currently, comms only sent in English though website and Groupcall app have facility to be translated.
 | * HT to confirm 3-4 top Parent Forum languages
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| **Communications****PC co-optee Bernie*** School should have a Head of Communications to help with Parent Forum uncertainty and lower workload of SLT
* There is a gap there for a person to deal solely with communications – significant workload for staff maintaining all communication including social media
 | * Bernie to raise with GCC Director of Education
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| **Kelvin Way Closure****PC member Tariq*** Issue of weather as we get into winter, concerned about safety of young persons and walking home in the dark
* Closure may be maintained to help with social distancing of parents/carers at Hillhead Primary school gates on Kelvin Way side
 | * Tariq to raise with GCC
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| **Support for Learning****DHT Ms Higgins*** During lockdown, SfL team doing an enormous amount of work, big focus on new S1s
* Team having meetings with pupils and teachers on how to best support pupils
* A lot of work has been completed, a lot more to be done
* Weekly meetings with SfL to discuss priorities
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| **Miscellaneous*** Next Thursday, Q&A with John Swinney, can attend or submit questions before hand
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| **Next PC Meeting****Chair*** Would like to host a PC meeting open to the whole of the Parent Forum, w/c 14-Sep
* Online Zoom meeting, with set agenda, with questions submitted in advance
* Would be useful for parent forum to hear from SLT. This was agreed by all and PC agreed to hold meeting on Monday 14-Sep, 19:00 start, duration 1hr 30mns
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