**Hillhead High School Parent Council Meeting Minutes** – **Monday, 13th September 2021, 19:00**

**Parent Council:** Catriona Futter (PC Chair), Ali Downes (PC Treasurer), Jerome Boué (PC Secretary), Karen Leeson, Andrea Fisher, Bernie Mitchell, Annabel Wright, Astrid Azurdia, Sandra Huettenbuegel

**School Staff**: Mrs Karen McAlaney (HT), Mr Steven Neil (DHT), Ms Leanne Black (DHT), Mr Jack Richardson (Associate DHT and PT Skills and Achievement), Miss Kirsten Campbell (PT of Pastoral Care)

**Parent Forum:**  47 members of the Parent Forum

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| **Topic** | **To do** |
| |  | | --- | | **Welcome to PC meeting – PC Chair**   * Welcome to all, especially if 1st time at PC or P1 parent/carer; it’s the most parents/carers we've ever had in attendance * 9 in PC, all attending + 5 staff, thank you all for coming, busy time for all * PC intros:   + Catriona, daughter in S5 + 1 who just finished S6, chair for 1.5 yrs   + Jerome, son in S3, secretary for 1.5 yrs, meetings minutes, Facebook, Twitter   + Astrid, children in S2, S4, involved in PC past few yrs, joined PC earlier this yr   + Karen, children in S2, S4 + a leaver, 7th yr on PC   + Ali, 2 boys S3, S6, on PC a few yrs, taken over as treasurer, Zoom set up   + Annabel, daughter in S4, PACE leader   + Andrea, children in S1, S4, S6, member of PACE   + Sandra, child in S1, co-opted onto PC in summer 2021 * Staff intros:   + Karen McAlaney Head Teacher for 4.5 yrs, previously Depute in another school for 3.5yrs   + Steven Neil, Deputy Head Teacher S4/5, HHS since 2011, head of PE 5.5yrs, then DHT for time after that   + Jack Richardson, Associate DHT, PT Skills and Achievement, PE teacher, 7th year at HHS   + Kirsten Campbell, 3 yrs at HHS, Principal Teacher of Pastoral Care and Music Teacher   + Leanne Black, DHT for S6 this year, at HHS since 2015, previously head of Support for Learning, moved to DHT in 2019 * Minutes of latest PC meeting in May approved during the meeting by >2 members of PC * Some parents/carers have offered to join the PC – AGM to take place in January, during which PC members election will take place (moved AGM to allow parents/carers to get whole term of experience before actually joining); parents/carers can still get involved and support the PC in other ways – please email Catriona via PC mail address if interested. | |  |
| **Headteacher Update**   * 4 weeks since return of pupils, still with mitigation – to be reviewed by the Scottish Government within 6 weeks of return. * 2020-21 SQA results were very strong - hard work of pupils and staff – thanks also to parents and carers * End of year – celebrated values, awards - videos available on HHS YouTube channel. * Been working on nurture since return – brought work together in terms of improvement plan: focus on equality, developing young work force, nurture, sustainability. * School to apply for UNICEF’s Rights Respecting School Award (bronze to gold levels), around Nurture & relationships – in line with COP26; Pupil Council/S6 leaderships/parents forum to be involved – work starting this week again – feeds into learning around sustainability + COP26 * MTA not back yet, however Friday 5 remains in place. * iPads about to arrive for new S1s, information out soon from Mr Brown * High uptake GroupCall Expressions app which really helps with communication * There is also a Cost of the School Day Group and if one or two parents would like to get involved, please get in touch with the Parent Council * Series of online Information Evenings planned for parents and carers this term and all information will be in newsletters as well as sent out via school app and email * Examples of what is going on in the school can be seen on our Twitter account @HillheadHS   **Comment from Chair**: If you would like to get involved in the values group at school or can offer work experience or cost of the school day, please email hillheadhighparentcouncil@gmail.com We would love to hear from you!  **Parent Question**: Could the parent Council put out a little email about the different groups parents can get involved in that have been mentioned or any others? I know I'll forget what they're all called and what they mean/involve. **Answer from HT:** I will send Catriona a list of the groups so she can forward   * Outdoor seating very limited due to lack of space around the school - PC has money available, which will fund some outdoor seating * From this week water cooler in the Assembly Hall can be connected and be used   **Parent Question**: Has water quality been checked?  **HT Answer**: Yes, water is tested regularly | * Chair to send out the list of groups in which parents/carers can get involved |
| **Update on Nurturing – DHT Ms Black**   * Outlined school approach to nurture: started as a discrete group, small group for pupils with difficulties emotions, etc.; has developed over 10 yrs to become a whole school approach * Robust triangulation/assessment of where we were – then started nurture promotion group within staff * in Jan 2020, kept things going, response to developing wellbeing materials, reconnecting in classroom, all connected with Glasgow City Council's policy * Staff training, different levels of development with new staff, so put on differentiated approach, from complete beginners/probationers, developing particular (so that all pupils view the school as a safe place) * Teenage brain, work being done around understanding it better; fits in with what's happening in GCC, re nurture, emotional, wellbeing, plan moving forward * Work being done on developing Relationships Policy, help from psychologist services   **Parent Q**: I was wondering when daily registration was going to be introduced again? **HT Answer**: Once we can return to the normal school day, we hope to be able to return to this - once Scottish Government sends out new guidelines, we will review.  **Parent Q:** why can't we have MTA at the moment as it could be used as a whole class focussing on sustainability and COP 26?  **HT Answer:** Effectively that is what Friday 5 is going to be for the next few weeks at least with all groups taking part in lessons linked to COP26. For now, we are going with Friday 5 as many S1 &S2 pupil would not know what MTA is! Friday 5 has been in place since last August as part of mitigations in school. It will continue until the mitigations change. Currently the school day finishes at 2.30pm om a Fri for S1-S3 and 2.35 for S4-S6. This is because we have had to extend the school day slightly Mon-Fri to allow staggered movement around school. If/when we can return to normal then the day would end at 2.55pm on a Friday. |  |
| **Update on S4/5 – Mr Neil**   * New normal: all work undertaken during pandemic = lessons learned which have been reviewed with staff during inset days, over past 4 wks * Broad General Education = S1-3 * S4/5 sit 2-year courses + S6 1-yr * Senior phase – slight change in terms of Senior Leadership Team (Mr Neil moved as DHT for S4/5, and Ms Black for S6) * First step has been to know 400 pupils, lot of conversation, subject choices, etc. * Support pupils and challenge them – got to find the right balance * Coaching. mentoring programme being run by Mr Carson with psychologist support – will be launching programme, which will start in S4 and run throughout duration of S4/5 * Important to use these skills to help pupils * Pandemic has been a very difficult time for all pupils so additional layer of support helps, to ensure they remain challenged (every piece of work has value) * Along with that, S5s coming into 2nd year of 2yr programme – important to support – meeting with educational coach JP Fitzpatrick to put support in place for S5s (as interrupted year last yr) * Working groups organised, inviting staff to develop areas of Curriculum for Excellence * Celebration of school values, leading value-based leadership approach, want to take this forward and ensure celebrating success and values * Mr Neil would like to connect w/ 2 PC reps (1 in BGE, 1 in Senior), keen to hear ideas – parents/carers to contact chair if wanting to get involved with Values subgroup with Mr Neil * Lot happening around exams at the moment, part of Ms Black’s SQA coordinator role, is to assess where we are – traditionally, would be S5 prelims end Nov/beg Dec + S6 prelims end Jan/beg Feb, taking place in the hall – however we still don't know where we will be in terms of space; started discussions with faculty heads, around possibility of evidence gathering; looking at how things were pre-Covid, during lockdown and since, to ensure catering for all; advantage of continuous assessment is that there’s an abundance of evidence of pupil performance | * Mr Neil to connect with Chair |
| **Update on Wider Achievement (S4) + Duke of Edinburgh; pathways evening – Mr Richardson**   * S4 wider achievement Monday pm, all classes assigned, received accreditation, working towards qualifications, drama, games dvpt, more info on website, additional DoE places this year, all 4th yrs have had either 1st/2nd choice * S6 – introduced DoE for all pupils, mostly to develop leadership, really important, by far the biggest provider of DoE in city, all free, even equipment * S4-6s keen to volunteer to do litter picking in community, to support environment * Pathways evening 5th of Oct for S1-6, anyone can come and find out about S5/Highers, college options, university, apprenticeship, training, etc. * Developing young workforce (DYW), ensure all pupils ready to go out and succeed in world of work. Group started within school to see how to meet that need. Plea to all parents/carers- meaningful work experience, if you know someone who could help with work experience, pls reach out to Jack Richardson. * Zoom has opened up a range of work experience opportunities * More info sessions coming up in December for S2/3 subject choices, etc. * Feel free to email Mr Richardson if any question   **Comments from Chair/HT**   * Very grateful about DoE places for all S6s * Mr Richardson has put up info on Career-Ready programme on website. Lots of information is shared on pupil Teams pages and senior pupils in particular should check their year group Teams page on a daily basis. * It is excellent that we have been able to offer not only DofE to so many S4 but also to all of S6 this session and to fully fund and staff it. All credit to Mr Richardson, Mr Gillespie and Mr McFarlane! |  |
| **Update on Pastoral Care – Miss Campbell**   * For new S1/new to PC parents/carers – pastoral care role:   + 5 PC teachers, will be your main Point of Contact for child   + Support wellbeing of child, making subject choices, attainment in senior phase, S5/6 entering next steps after school   + Supporting UCAS/college applications, deadline, early application for medicine, vet, etc. In October * S1 PSE curriculum across 1st month back: ensuring pupils are well supported and settled in school community * Well-being survey being done with all S1 pupils, used in conversation, individual with each new S1 pupil * PC - lot of work with outside agencies (Wheel Trust org - lot of work, sleep groups with additional support needs, trained counsellors, end to period poverty, FISO, sustainability, huge focus) * Links into all other work supporting our pupils * Any Q, concerns, reach out via phone, email   **Comment from Chair:** Real empathy, confidentiality, caring for individual despite over 1000 pupils on school roll, thank you so very much from PC group. **Comment from Parent Forum**: Thank you to all the pastoral care staff I think this is extremely important work 💚 |  |
| **2nd Hand Uniform Update – PC Member Sandra**   * Sandra – children in S1, S2 * Used to do 2nd hand unform in Primary – apparel Xchange – collecting uniforms and regular clothes – further info will be avail in next newsletter   **Comment from HT:** That would be great. We have had a stock of clothing available in school for several years so we can discreetly support families l and we are also now passing things on to Apparel Xchange. Happy to look at how best to do this. **Comment from PC member**: great- second hand uniform and clothes is the way forward. makes sense. very popular at primary. | Chair will follow up on best way to collect uniforms at school and how to co-ordinate this |
| **PC Accounts/Funds – Treasurer Ali**   * Bank account: £2694.27 * Thanks to previous treasurer Chirsty for sorting the previous bank account issues. * Changing signatories, Ali going on financial training tomorrow.   **Comment from Chair**:   * New bike shed + outdoor benches needed * Need new sub-group, with PACE and Pupil Council – if interested in increasing access to school by bikes, outdoors, reach out * Need friends in/outside house (Martha Wardrop, cycling people in Glasgow Life may help) * School traffic campaign by GCC ongoing – need to reinforce need to avoid driving round school, encourage kids cycling, walking, etc.   **Comment from Parent Forum**: do you do fundraising, maybe something the kids can contribute to in relation to bike to school? make them feel they're part of the bike shed buying process? **Answer from HT:** yes we are planning to involve pupils in this work, though we are not expecting pupils or families to contribute financially. We did this for the first bike shed a few years ago and it worked very well. |  |
| **PACE Update – PC Member Annabel, PC Member Andrea**   * Annabel – PACE going for a few yrs, helping school and parent community - Annabel stepping down, no longer leading. Taking part in Woodlands community fair this Saturday 2-5pm * Eco gardening, home energy Scotland, etc. all in community fair. * Bring any crisps packets you have to be recycled * Working on eco policy for PC, to work out guidance to follow for all outdoor activities, if want to get involved, get in touch with Catriona * Andrea – part of PACE group, works in Children's Woods, working with school on John Muir award with S1 * Attended monthly Chin wag with Glasgow City Parents Group, really interesting, lot of really good information * Traffic-free - lot of focus on Primary schools, still a lot of work being done * Air quality around schools * Traffic, across school this wk, all classes taking part in annual survey, about journey to school (Sustrans) – encouraging to see so many walking or cycling to school   **Comment from PC Member**: Easy fundraising – parents can sign up, can generate easy money for the school. **Comment from PC Member**: The Co-op and Tesco are now accepting crisp packets and other soft plastics for recycling. | * Chair to issue information on Easy Fundraising |
| **Comments/Questions from Parent Forum via Zoom Chat**  **Parent Question:** are timetables standard? **HT Answer**: Still not currently on a standard school day, no normal registration.  **Parents Question**: PE – taking time to walk to Hughenden and back – possibility to use a closer site to maximise active sport time? Is there any space at Glasgow Uni (Glasgow Academy uses the Stevenson Uni sports centre)? Could there be other creative ways of doing PE using nearer outdoor sites, like the park? or run to Hughenden rather than walk? cycle? **DHT Answer**: Given our limited grounds we do have to use local outdoor areas but none are very far away. Still physical activity to walk there and back– positive feedback from pupils; head of PE Mr Gemmill ensures pupils have range of activities – 6-ks blocks may be in different places ; HH primary accommodating more use of pitch at KP (previously more frustrating seeing pupils in buses stuck in traffic when taking them to Hughenden. We have looked at Glasgow University before but not been able to secure that space. We also utilise Kelvingrove park for PE lessons. As it is open to the public we cannot always secure an area for activities like team games, so we use Hughenden for that. **PC Member Bernie Comment**: Fdbk from PE teacher Mr Docherty: when first started walking to Hughenden, some pupils couldn't manage a mile, after few wks stamina has greatly improved.  **Parent Question**: Change into PE uniform? **DHT Answer:** changing rooms in school can be used, and therefore the child can come to school in their uniform and change into PE kit at school for those PE classes. If PE is at Hughenden, those changing rooms cannot be used because of Covid restrictions and therefore the children need to come into school on those days only in PE kit. Hopefully soon there will be no requirement to come to school in PE kit to go to Hughenden.  **Parent Question**: Does the school have a policy on vaping? **HT Answer**: We do not allow vaping in school grounds – zero tolerance. Not seen any pupils vaping when out in the community at lunchtime but will share concern with Senior Leadership Team. **Pastoral Care Answer**: we also have also introduced lessons on vaping in PSE, in addition to lessons on the dangers of traditional tobacco cigarettes.  **Parent Question:** Is there any way to get money out of COP26 for bike shed? What about bike stands rather than shed? can the school ask Nextbike/ovobikes to add more stands with more bikes so the kids can use those bikes to commute and avoid the issue with no bike shed. **HT Answer**: We are hoping to be able to fund via grant/ parent council fund and some of our funding too  **Parent Question:** Training/supporting for additional languages? My S2 child's language isn't English, how can we catch up and get some help with it? Supporting pupils with English as additional language (with their English) is one thing, but I really support the idea of encouraging pupils to develop their mother tongues other than English as well. we speak several languages at home but I’d say English is my child’s first language, and I often feel it would be helpful if there could be more support in terms of celebrating and facilitating multilingual environment. Are there any plans to review the provision of L3 languages taught at school and expand the range of options available to the children? **HT Answer**: Languages covered in school – S1-3 French, Mandarin, Urdu + option for Spanish if demand in S4; historic reasons, roughly geographical, Glasgow languages group, lot of work being done to increase language experience at school; HT will share at a later date; for Senior phase, more languages possible, depending on staff skills. 65 languages spoken in school. In terms of support for pupils whose first language is not English then it is best to contact Miss McGuire Principal Teacher of Support for Learning. She is also responsible for English as an Additional Language (EAL). Miss McGuire's email address is in every parental newsletter. In terms of celebrating languages that is something we are very proud of and something we will continue to promote. We also have a Glasgow City Council Languages Group and I can share more information at the next meeting if that helps. All staff in the school have had training on supporting additional languages in the classroom. This session in Glasgow there has been a re-structuring of the EAL service across the city and we are discussing next steps in terms of this.  **Parents Question:** What is the difference between Nationals and Highers? To get University admission which subjects to consider? How to get more information on this? Can we have one session from teachers on this? My son is in S3. I would like to know which subjects to take and what to do in S4 to make sure that he will get admission in university. What year does my child start studying on their career? **HT Answer:** Mr Richardson's Pathways Evening on Tuesday 5th October will cover expectations for university. More information to follow. As part of developing the young workforce (DYW) on careers starts in primary school and continues through school. We will be sharing more throughout the year as well as updating our resources.  **Parents Question:** Do you do dance / sports leaders courses? **HT Answer**: We do offer Sports Leader. Currently we do not offer dance but are hoping to, moving forwards.  **Parents Question**: Has school had any after school club? **HT Answer**: There are some clubs and activities beginning to run again and we hope this will increase in the following weeks. Information has been shared with pupils and will be sent out to parents in the next bulletin.  **Additional Questions/Comments:**   * Have masks to be worn for PE indoor activity? * What guidance is available for S1 parents who is new to UK education system? * The tracking reports had minimal information – there is a need for more individualised feedback from individual teachers. * Can S4 still do Crest Award? | * Chair to check who can take up researching of bike shed/stands   Languages will be on the agenda for the November PC meeting   * Chair to address additional questions/comments to HT |
| **Closing Comments from Chair**   * Thank you so much to staff * If questions about your child, contact pastoral care teacher, come to Pathways evening * Sign up to Groupcall Xpressions app as this ia the main way the school will communicate with you * Keep encouraging masks-wearing, LFTs * 2 new school captains will attend the next PC meeting |  |
| * **Next Meeting: Tues 23rd November** |  |
| * **PC Meeting Ended** |  |