

Minutes of Hillhead Parent Council Meeting, November 11th 2024

Item 1 – Welcome & Introductions

Martina – Welcomes everyone

Introductions – Martina (Chair), Ali, Ram, Nicky, Vinishree, Yolanda, Bernie
Staff: Karen McAlaney (Head Teacher), Steven Neil (DHT), Jack Richardson (Acting DHT), Tom Carson (DHT) Hannah Christie (PT Pastoral Care and Associate DHT)

Apologies – Sam and Kiki

Item 2 – Minutes and actions from last meeting

Minutes: Approver Yolanda and seconded by Ali

Item 3 - S6 Leadership Team

S6 Leadership team (Francesca and Laura):

Francesca is the vice captain. This year there's been a change on how the vice captains are allocated to each year group and Francesca is the S3 vice captain. They act as a **role model**, provide support for teachers and build a community with senior students and younger years. The S6's reported they had wished they'd known more from older pupils about going into senior phase & want to support current pupils with this.

Laura: One of the big themes of the S6 leadership team is that they wanted to **give back**. Going to S4 & S5 classes, giving them advice and study tips, entry requirements etc. They try to cover things they would like to have known in S5. We would like to give them honest feedback. What they could have done better or continue to do better, help them with a reality check, responsibilities of doing highers.

Martina: Amazing work by the S6 Leadership team. Please come back later in the academic year and share with us how you have been doing.

Item 4 - Positive Male role model work

Tom – Regarding PSE curriculum there is ongoing work to tackle toxic masculinity and positive male role models.. It is complex issue. We have been working on a sustainable way of supporting the pupils with these issues and also a way of making sure that we get feedback on the issues that matter to the pupils and the school. There's a curriculum working group with teachers from subjects all across the school. We are currently working on the PSE curriculum. We are also working on supporting transitions which can cause a lot of anxiety. So we are particularly focusing on the transitions, from Primary to S1, from S3 to S4, from S5 to S6 and from S6 to leaving school. The PSE curriculum is being reshaped as a result of all of this work. Going forward there will be 4 main threads, linked to all of our work on school vision, values and habits.

Four topics:

- Habits for learning.
- Habits for belonging, including barriers to belonging, like toxic masculinity, misogyny, racism, sexism
- Habits for work
- Habits for life
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These are relevant from S1 to S6. How can we build the skills and knowledge of all the way build through.

Hannah – This will also mean that same topics are going on during the same time for all the school.. Everyone is looking at the same focus and same topic though at different levels. Holistic approach, so that the S6 leadership team are doing the same topics in their class and supporting the S1-S3 with the same topics.

Tom: The work has involved We brought it to curriculum leaders and all of the Pupil Support team as consultation with pupils and what would really matter to them.

Bringing to the Parents Council – Consultation to start with a survey and then focused group of parents. We would like to discuss what's missing, key issues which keep changing. So have a cycle of consultation every couple of year.

Martina – Happy to recruit some parents for consultation. Using positive language – positive role model.

Bernie Mitchell: Toxic masculinity is important subject. We can look at people who have left the school and have made a name in the wider community. They can talk to S5 and S6 pupils to see how the school has helped them. We need reinforcement of behaviour anchors, as role models. We need to recognise diversity. Young women who have been prize winners. We need to prepare a plan with the senior management. Make a clearer idea how it can be developed, like a Q&A session. Organise these kinds of things, in the school calendar.

Martina: The pupils want someone they can relate to, and the idea of role models is great, someone more contemporary. Having conversations on social media, and how the algorithms work.

Karen: Much of this has been built into the curriculum and the current work on PSE will also help going forward. We are also looking at a number of things across the school. This week is Careers Week and we are bringing in some former pupils as speakers. We also invite former pupils to speak at prizegiving. Looking at national resources, so we are looking at loads of different resources.

Item 5 Christmas Thank you for teachers

Martina: Every year we bring cakes etc to thank the teachers. We are looking at 11th or 18th Dec. Karen to email dates. Mostly last week. We will have it at the library.

Item 6 AGM

AGM will be in February. For the Treasurer role, Ali is ready to handover, will talk through tasks with new treasurer. All the dates of parent's council on website. We have an upcoming AGM – finances, achievement, and what plans to do next year. The date is 11th Feb in the Chinese Hub.

Item 7 Finance update & recruitment of new treasurer

Finance report by Ali: Balance is exactly same as last time £1796.53. We need to recruit a treasurer as this is as Ali last year. Ali has passed a document around that has the brief outline what needs to be done as a Treasurer. Everything is in order. Bank account is sorted,

systems in place and is documented, if anyone is interested and happy to talk about. Karen: will comeback with finance ideas.

Martina: An S2 parent, he is interested in joining the parent's council and might be interested in standing for treasurer. Appreciate Ali being around with the handover. Thank you Ali and we will miss you.

Item 8 - School update

Mr Neil: S5 and evidence gathering is coming up in Nov-Dec. Prelims were rebranded as Evidence Gathering several years ago. We changed it to Evidence Gathering, to show that our pupils are more than one performance. For S5, it is from 21st November to 5th December. We try to prepare the pupils in the best way for the SQA exam. Jack did a fantastic presentation, with strong messaging in terms of support to S5. Challenging the pupils that they are taking necessary step. We have offered a lot of in-house support to study. A big push to National e-learning offers by school. Pupils can log in, teacher leads them through the online supported study session. Logistic side of things, we have a team of invigilators to create that kind of environment. We go through the logistics of registration in the morning, rules for formal assessment. Group call messages going out to the parents, getting the communication out. Final assembly, will be the last final push. It is the opportunity for them to showcase their knowledge and skills. It's about making sure they are getting a positive approach. Messaging is heavy on that, so that the pupils are in the best position. We know pupils can get anxious. It's a real teamwork approach to prepare the pupils for Evidence Gathering. Repeat the process with S6 group.

Yolanda: Question around Prom for S6

Karen: Prom is for S6 pupils only.

Karen:

- Last Friday, school had a quality assurance visit, as part of school improvement cycle. Every school has a link QIO (Quality Improvement Officer), and ours came and spent a whole day to discuss our improvement plans, attainment, attendance, achievement, school community.
- Hannah is co-ordinating the flu jabs.
- This week is Anti-Bullying week.
- In 2 weeks of time, 26th Nov, new parents P7 visits.
- Christmas Concert
- Christmas pantomime
- End of the term assembly.
- Monthly drop-in sessions, slots online to support parents who are struggling to get online.

Martina: IT refurbishment project. Any parents that have barriers, Martina's charity can help them.

Item 8 - Cuts to education services update

Cuts of finance:

Martina: Martina shared there are lots of articles in the Herald, about the cuts & how it's affecting schools. Cuts that were there at the start of the year, are still in the place, and we don't know what it will mean to the next financial year. Sub sectors will also face cuts, like mentoring will be affected as well. Martina shared that she knew Karen couldn't comment on any of this.

PVG – Parents and carers who would be interested in supporting the school by getting the PVG.

Karen will find out how the PVG can be done. It could be done during the summer.

Yolanda: She has gotten the PVG before.

11th Feb: AGM