

**Parent Council Meeting 29th April 2024 via Zoom**

**Zoom Meeting**

**Present:** Amanda O’Donoghue (Chair), Geri Collins (HT),Linda Biggins (Clerk), Julie Brown (Treasurer), Gill Docherty, Alison Pearson, Charles Gay, Laura McInally, Jigjit Tait Kaur, Jennifer Cassidy, Julie Waugh (Maths Teacher)

**Apologies:**  Joanne Ferguson, Yla Barrie, Jacqueline Docherty, Katie Ferguson

**Minutes of Last Meeting**

The Minutes of last meeting 4th March 2024 were approved.

**Matters Arising**

We discussed at the previous meeting that we would have a guest speaker in to represent Emily Test, a charity in memory of Emily Drouet, an undergraduate law student, who was subject to a campaign of Gender-Based Violence by a fellow student, to speak to S5 and S6. This very powerful presentation took place and we raised £270 for the charity. Thank you to Fiona, Emily’s mum for speaking so powerfully to our pupils.

**Head Teachers Report**

S4 Parents evening 2 – March 5th

Although there was a reduced number of parents at the 2nd S4 parents evening (44.1%), it was felt by the S4 parents we spoke to that it was a much more relaxed and informative evening. In addition to this the average attendance at S4 parents evening is 62%, over the course of the two this session we reached 73%. This format will continue into next session.

Amanda asked if this was 73% of total cohort parents? Mrs Collins confirmed it was and this seems to be more successful so will stick with it next academic year.

S1 Track 3 to pupils

S1 received their 3rd tracking report on Friday 8th March.

Non-Uniform / Bring a Tin Day Wednesday 27th March

Thank you again for the incredible generosity of pupils and staff for the non-uniform day and Bring a Tin day before Spring Break. Hillpark donated 793 items to the Foodbank and S1-S4 raised £177.25 for the school fund.

Easter Revision

We were able to run an extensive revision programme during the Spring Break for pupils in S4/5/6. There was 9 days available for classes and to avoid clashes/conflicts of interest for the pupils, the days were prescribed, i.e. where possible classes were available according to timetable structure. Over an above this we had a “free for all” for S5/6 for Tuesday to Friday of week 2 and Thursday and Friday for S4. Classes ran from 10am-12noon and from 1pm-3pm.

S3 Exam Experience

S3 pupils had the chance to sit an English and Maths exam in the assembly hall on Tuesday 16th April and Wednesday 17th April.

Although it wasn’t for all their subjects, the idea behind this is to give all pupils an opportunity to participate in an exam hall experience with our team of Invigilators. This means that S4 prelims will not be the first time that pupils will have sat in the exam hall.

S6 leavers Day

Last year tried something a little bit different and allowed the S6 cohort to choose a different theme each day on their final week. As this was a huge success, we agreed a similar thing this year. Again the S6 pupils made us very proud and the day went without a hitch. Some of the younger members of the school however, a believe hoping for some chaos, did bring water guns etc into school but this was quickly dealt with.

Amanda asked if they S6s were still getting Prom? Indeed Mrs Collins was delighted to confirm that they were still able to have Prom given their good behaviour.

SQA exam Timetable

The SQA timetable began on Monday 22nd April and so far everyone expected has turned up for the exam. We have factored in revision days and have invited young people in S4 back to complete work for National 3 and National 4 Awards.

In the weeks between now and the next Parent Council Meeting

We have an Inset day on Friday 3rd May where staff will be learning how to use the new Glasgow City Council Tracking Programme. There won’t be too much change for parents but the mechanics for staff will be a little different. I will also be asking teachers to rate the pupils in S1 to S3 in terms of Effort and Excellence. All this information will be collated and pupils selected to be part of this year’s junior awards ceremony.

The 4th Tracking Report will go to pupils on Thursday 9th May, with the S3 Parents Evening on Tuesday 14th May, the S2 final tracking report will be Friday 17th May and the final S1 Tracking report to pupils on Wednesday 29th May.

We have been asked to host a number of visitors from Virginia USA to discuss our pedagogy, that is the way we teach so we will be focusing on Differentiation, Assessment, Questioning and Feedback, Active and collaborative learning and much more. They will be in on the morning of May 22nd so we will be stocking up on the Irn Brew and shortbread of course.

Year Planner 2024/25

We are just putting the finishing touches to the year planner for next session and of course the Staff Working Time Agreement. I am hopeful that we will have this completed and agreed with staff and unions by the next Parent Council Meeting.

Timetable for session 2024/25

We are in the process of fine tuning the timetable for next session as it actually starts on Tuesday 28th May. For senior pupils who have picked College options or Advanced Highers at another school, this will be confirmed after the summer break. For the new S2 pupils, they will receive one period a week on IDL or Interdisciplinary Learning. This is essentially the developing of skills across different subject areas and working in teams to achieve a number of project-based activities. As this is a new programme of work it will be reviewed as the weeks progress and young people will impact on any changes made for the following year.

Linda asked if there was an updated on the Teaching Headcount? Mrs Collins confirmed that they had been asked to reduce teaching from 80.6 staff to 79.9, with a 0.7 FTE Teacher reduction. However, there was a staff shortage in LCR of 0.7 FTE so had proposed to move headcount to cover this. So far no response negating this so hopefully will remain a positive result. Linda asked if PEF funding had also been reduced? Mrs Collins confirmed that it looks like approx £200k again this year but the number is yet to be agreed formally. Once it is she will approach Parent Council once again for input into how this will be spent.

Amanda asked re 6th years and their subject choices - had all children been able to get what they wanted? Mrs Collins confirmed that there are 9 students who have chosen subjects which they were not able to fulfil at the School. However, delighted to confirm 11 AH would be offered. For those students who had chosen subjects where they could not form a class, it would be after results that this would be determined. Noted that they would support the students "in school" in June to ensure that they did not fall behind AH subjects until the new scholastic year commenced and this could be put in place. Understandably this does cause stress and concern for those effected.

Our ASPIRE Values

As you are aware our Vision and Values for Hillpark lie within our acronym ASPIRE – Achieving, Supportive, Positive, Included, Respectful and Equal. Are you happy with the words chosen? Are there any that you would change? Parent Council will have a look at and bring any ideas...

Please indicate below what words you would chose to replace them:

A:

S:

P:

I:

R:

E:

Any other comments:

Agenda Items

Inventory of movies for classroom use

A query was raised regarding films which are shown in classrooms and if they are "vetted" or watched first and if there could be an agreed list? Mrs Collins confirmed:

We of course have an entertainments licence that covers watching films for educational or reward purposes. I have asked all departments to send me this year’s list of movies which have supported young people educationally. As you can appreciate, certain departments use movies to support the educational journey of young people whereas other departments never use movies unless for rewards purposes at the end of term. I did pull together a list of movies that have been used for educational purposes this session (listed below but now read out at Parent Council). Going forward as a matter of course all films will be prior watched by the teacher to ensure content is suitable for the year group (and in line with the certification granted to the film). Parent Council agreed this was a good course of action going forward.

· ‘Africa United’, S1 PSE. (It’s a 12 so teacher waited till after the end of February). Context of protected characteristics, awareness of discrimination, resilience etc.

· ‘The Shawshank Redemption’ National Five English - S5/6 class as their text for the critical essay.

· 'Ratatouille' S2 ML: at the end of our Food and Drink Unit.

· ‘Coco’ S1 Spanish Cultural Unit El dia de los muertos

· ~Mr Bean's Holiday at the end of our S2 Holidays unit

· ~Petit Nicolas on Holiday at the end of our S2 Holidays Unit

· ~ 'Les choristes', a well-known feel-good French language film about a young-offenders institute where a teacher engages pupils to form a choir, at the end of our S1 School Unit

· ~'Nico's Weg', a series of German-language films for Beginners (shown in 20 minute episodes once per fortnight)

· ~'Les intouchables' will be used as project work with our S3 Core classes - selected bits only with several scenes taken out.

· Aladdin (live action film) to analyse form, genre, structure and style.

· Goosebumps (PG) whilst they worked on the play "The Bone Orchard" to help create mood and atmosphere and build tension.

· Me before you (Social Subjects)

· Braveheart (Social Subjects)

· The boy in the striped pyjamas (Social Subjects)

· He book thief (Social Subjects)

· Suffragette (Social Subjects)

· 1917 (Social Subjects)

· Hidden figures (Social Subjects)

· Dantes Peak (Social Subjects)

· Day after tomorrow (Social Subjects)

· Everest (Social Subjects)

· The Witches S2 English

· S3 English Lord of the Flies and The Hunger games

· S4 English Alcatraz documentary

· S1 English Coraline (critical essay)

· S2 English Blackfish documentary

· The Truman Show - S3 English

· Freedom Writers - S3 English

· The Outsiders - S3 English

· To Kill a Mockingbird - N5 S4 English

· A Streetcar Named Desire – Higher English

Cycling

GC contacted Janis Malone at Glasgow City Council to take the bike cage for 20 bikes to the next stage 6th March 2024. Janis Malone from the council replied with “Good afternoon Geri, Great! Thank you for confirming. I will add Hillpark Secondary to the waiting list. I will be undertaking site visits in April after the easter break. I will be back in touch nearer the time to confirm dates and times”. As I hadn’t heard from Janis, I emailed again in preparation for tonight and received an automatic reply stating she was back from holiday tomorrow. Although we are still in April and I believe there is a waiting list – I don’t want her to forget about us.

Our Bikes

We have 15 pupil bikes and 1 teacher bike. There are 7 helmets.

Charles is very kindly leading this on behalf of parent council. He is looking at the action plan by Alex and will send on a list of questions for a Parent Survey (noted these have now been forwarded to Mrs Collins and indeed the survey has been sent out to the school audience for completion). Geoff (future parent at school) joined the meeting. He is an avid cyclist and is keen to support this venture. Noted there is no funding from Cycle Scotland at the present time but we can explore other grants. Julie advised she has sent on a list to Charles of possible grants we can apply for, but at present she is supporting the Malawi Trip and undertaking funding applications for this - with little capacity for futher applications at this time. Charles will very kindly look at the grants Julie has sent on. Geoff confirmed he has maintained bikes for years and on a budget so may have some input next year into this side of maintaining the school bikes. Charles asked if Geri could contact Bikeability - Collette Carol - in order to try and promote this for the next academic year - Minuted and reminder sent to Geri - to try and get this in place. Mrs Collins thanked Geoff for coming along. Although this is just in its infancy we have identified that Stgoreage is possibly (other than the hill) the biggest barrier to kids cycling. In order to try and get support for this for next year there is a possibility to have a cycle afternoon at the school where kids can bring their bikes and perhaps do a trail around the school? Possobly the week commencing the 17th of June might be one to target. Geoff asked if this could be done at Pollok Park as there are some great cycle tracks. However, from an insurance/needing a qualified instructor point of view if it is held in the school that is negated. Outside of school it is not. Jigjit asked re insurance, Mrs Collins confirmed that on school grounds any injury etc is covered by GCC insurance. Further update at next meeting.

**Any Other Business/Parent Questions answered**

Charles asked if the vaping / toilet pass was having a positive effect? This has been an ongoing issue. Mrs Collins confirmed it had been a comedy of errors with plumbing and toilets being blocked (possibly because toilets were being refurbished to bring back into use). The next layer of data is being looked at relating to toilet passes, with some students looking to leave class each period, is there a way to better support these pupuls or underlying issue which needs to be addressed. With regard to vaping there has been a small reduction, however St Pauls Campus Officer has come and undertaken a presentation to the S1/2 pupils about the harm which may be caused by vaping, hoping to stop things before they start.

Amanda asked if the Mini Bus had been repaired? Mrs Collins confirmed that the bus had been vandalised for a second time, but thankfully the motor had not been effected. However, repairs were outstanding. Once these were completed the other factor to consider was that it is not compliant with the LEZ in Glasgow - proving another barrier to use. Maybe longer term we may need to look at a funding drive to replace this.

Amanda also asked re the Basketball hoop and the insurance claim. Mrs Collins confirmed that it is still ongoing, though she thinks there may be a positive resolution for this - it has taken the best part of a year. Noted that residence still complain about the basketball hoops being used after hours - this is not by the school cohort but by others and there is little she can do to stop this.

Julie asked if everything was on track for the Malawi Trip? Mrs Waugh confirmed that the kids have all made their 2nd deposits. However she was looking for them all to concentrated on exams at the moment. There is a fayre on 1st June at Eastwood Church where wares will be sold by the children who are attending, and the school Malawi fund will benefit from other funds raised there. She is encouraging the kids to get back into fundraising again when they return in August for the next school session.

The Parent Council would like to thank both Jennifer and Jill for their hard work over the years on Parent Council. Their insights and inputs will be missed and we wish both of them and their families every happiness.

General discussion re getting Zoom - it is approx £10 per month for a basic licence, if not we may need to come back into the school for meetings. To be discussed a next meeting (which Jen has generously offered to host again off her Zoom).

**Chair, Correspondence & Treasurer report**

All up to date. Treasurer confirmed £723.08 in the account, however still awaiting the £500 from GCC which is hopefully expected in June.

**Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 3rd June 2024, via Zoom