**Notre Dame High School Parent Council Meeting**

Tuesday 25 September 2018

Parent Council Present: M Watt, K Brough, L Henderson, R Martin, P Picket, C

Apologies: A Miele, C Ewins, AM Ewins

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| **1. Welcome** |
| RM welcomed our new Head Girl, Thelma Ejihkeme and Depute Head Girl Asmaa Zaki. The group congratulated the girls on their appointments. |
| **2.** **Headteacher’s Report**RM discussed the following items:* Excellent SQA results. Almost all measures have seen an improvement. One exception is 5+ at Level 5 – a less academic year group and first year of new curriculum - only 7 subjects
* S1 – settled in well Both Welcome Mass and Information Evening were a great success, particularly the section on social media
* 2018 Former Pupils’ Mass – this was a great success and was well attended, including members of the Parent Council
* Staffing – two new posts have been approved and will be advertised soon – PT Developing the Young Workforce and PT Learning & Teaching, incorporating Digital Technology
* Campus Police Officer – PC Barry Hynds is now with us for two days each week. He has already been involved in some important meetings and interventions
* Motivational workshops – All year groups are participating in Tree of Knowledge motivational workshops (funded by PEF). 45 pupils also attended their free Fire Up Scotland event at SEC.
* Blues Programme – The school will be working with Action for Children to deliver positive mental health workshops to S4 pupils. In addition, we hope to train a group of senior students to provide peer support through Mental Health Foundation
* Uniform – School have been working with Logoxpres. A number of difficulties this session which meant a delay in the delivery of some uniform items. A number of reasons including a significant increase in the number of orders placed, difficulties with suppliers in the chain and a number of very late orders being placed. In addition, a number of late placing requests were received. Difficulties for Logoxpres to predict the number of wool blazer sales – the polyester is now most popular by 25% of families still prefer wool.

Logoxpres have suggested a number of interventions to improve supply for next session. The group discussed the possibility of a pop-up shop in school or providing the school with a range of garments in different sizes on a sale or return basis.**Action**: RM to letter all parents re. uniform supply difficulty and possible improvements. |
| **3. Improvement Planning 2018/’19**RM provided the group with a copy of the agreed Improvement Plan as well as our Standards and Quality report – both will be placed on the school website. |
| **4. AGM Preparation**Agreed for this to take place on **Tuesday 30 October at 6 p.m.** M Watt happy to remain as Co-Chair. New Church Representative required. Discussion on the number of vacancies and it is hoped that these will be filled at the AGM.**Action**: MW to prepare Report on Pupil Council activities over the past year. |
| **5. Parent Council Consultation, June 2018**First Year parents have now been consulted and the results were overwhelmingly in favour of increasing the school’s catchment area to provide more access to girls across the city. The second question focused on the parents views of the school’s single-sex status. Again, this was overwhelmingly in favour of retaining the all-girls’ status. It was noted that these results reflect the opinion of the other year groups completed before the summer holiday. |
| **6. Office Bearer Update**Thelma and Asmaa provided an update on pupil progress so far this year:* Holocaust Survivor – S6 pupils have been fundraising to support the visit of a 93 year old survivor. He will visit school on 24 October to meet pupils. Suggested that local community be invited and alert local press

**Action:** MW contact press, RM contact local community* House System – S6 pupils keen to engage pupils further in house system by introducing a point system. This will begin with points for attending after-school clubs but could be further rolled out to include a wider range of activities. Suggestion to include good attendance and “secret pupil”
* Pupils are preparing for annual Hint of Pink Breastcancer fundraising. S6 will be visited by a representative from Breastcancer Care charity and a survivor, and will in turn prepare information for all other year groups in preparation for Friday 5 October
* S6 Prom – discussion of venues. Parent Council to investigate possible friends and family reductions
* S6 would like to introduce an Instagram page on social media to better promote school events to pupils. Council offered advice on security and safety
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| **A.O.C.B*** Uniform – EH asked the group to consider the issue of trousers. For a number of reasons a small number of pupils have asked for permission to wear brown trousers. RM reminded the group that the uniform policy is created by the parents and pupils but the young people concerned have involved parents in their request and the reasons are justifiable and specific. RM suggested that it may be time to consider our approach and that we would not wish pupils to feel labelled by wearing trousers. Group agreed for the matter to be discussed with Pupil Council but would like the uniform policy to remain as skirt only, unless by request.

In addition, group discussed extending the tartan skirt to S5 and S6, making it more cost effective for families. Pupil Council to be consulted on all of the above. |
| **Next Meeting: AGM - Thursday 30 October, 6 p.m.** |