



Parent Council
Wednesday 26 August 2020

Opening Prayer

May God give us
Wisdom to decide what is fair
Strength to uphold what is true
And patience to work together
For the good of the staff
And young people whom we serve.
We ask this through Christ Our Lord.
Amen.

1. Welcome, minute, matters arising

Present: Alexander Kovalenkova, Ena Hamill, Farah Hamid, Esperanza Romera Martin, Ciaran and AnnaMaria Ewins.

Apologies: Anna Miele, Amanda McLaughlin, Leanne Graham

2. Head Teacher's Report

Hygiene procedures

Staff busy putting everything in place for young people and staff to be as safe as possible. RM sought some feedback on Monday from C & A Ewins about wearing facemasks in corridors following advice from WHO. Both thought it was a good idea, later that day Scottish Government announced that they were implementing it anyway. RM reported that everyone has done a great job aiding a smooth start, parents supportive, girls have been very cooperative.

Staff catch up

RM met with staff this week to reinforce new Health and Safety procedures and to gain feedback on the whole school risk assessment. Everything seems to be going well. RM asked for any feedback from pupils would be helpful.

Water Availability

AM asked about the risk of pupils using water fountains. Pupils are unable to access more water if they need it. RM suggested that the school could possibly source cheap bottles of water, to give out for free or to sell at a very low cost.

ERM – can the pupils disinfect the water fountains, they are disinfecting their desks? RM highlighted that we do not have the resources for a member of staff to monitor it all of the time e.g. classroom hygiene is monitored by class teachers. RM expressed her concern about the fluid that we are using to cleanse, if used on the water fountain, it might contaminate the water going into bottles. Other schools may be using jugs of water, but still slight concern over cross contamination.

One Way System

We have had to change the one way system in the Science area of the building because it wasn't working very well (bottlenecks at corridor junction and stairwell). Girls have been very cooperative.

Face Masks

Unfortunately, some of the pupils were not wearing their face masks in some of the shops on Byres Road. Staff have been going down to ensure this is happening. Sarah Watt was monitoring the

subway today, the girls were all wearing their masks and was quite pleased with the conduct of the girls with regard to this.

RM has sent out a message to parents to ask that reinforcement takes place with regard to young people wearing masks on public transport.

Estimates

Caused a great deal of upset for some young people because they did not agree with the estimate. Some pupils have benefited and are happy with the result.

Can they still appeal? Only if:

1. SQA error when updating results
2. School error when entering estimates
3. Evidence of discrimination within the school.

Message to staff for session 2020-21: Assessment practices in each subject need to be more consistent than ever before so that we are building a picture of progress throughout the year. More evidence will be helpful should the same situation arise next year.

Break out space for S5/6 – classrooms being identified for use at break and lunchtimes

3. Learning & Teaching – Parents' Guide to MS Teams

PT Learning and Teaching sent a presentation to parents to view an explanation for parents on how to use MS Teams.

This is a continuation of the work we are doing in preparing for pupils learning at home.

FH commented that it looked good and that the videos were helpful.

She went on to explain that Show My Homework allows parents to be informed step by step what their child is learning in class. RM agreed that it has great benefits. Now that SMH has an iPad solution we would be willing to look at it again.

Unfortunately, Teams doesn't give parents access and you would need to go through your daughter's iPad to do that, problematic.

4. Improvement Plan 2020/21

The local authority have advised there is no requirement to write a new improvement plan for this year, only to add in a 4th priority regarding Recovery, Resilience and Reconnection. Three sections are included: Pupil wellbeing, staff wellbeing and digital learning and teaching that would support blending learning, if required. HT circulated a draft Priority 4 before today's meeting for consideration.

Action: Any further comments to be sent to RM.

5. NDHS – Planning for Change

Planning Building Adjustments for August 2021 intake

Meetings have taken place with architects. Pupils have also been consulted. A meeting has been arranged to gather staff views (optional). RM is trying to be very careful about using the money allocated for changes to the building, it is a good opportunity and wants to spend it well. For example making developments along the lines of zoning the school, better use of rooms. Of course, changing rooms and toilets, but where possible, make an effort to reduce expensive building works that may not deliver best value and suit the needs of the school community. Meeting with pupils was fruitful, they suggested making an outdoor learning space and looking for appropriate creative space for drama and music.

6. AOCB

PE Provision

AM & C Ewins: Concern over the reduction in physical activity in SQA PE. The vast majority of pupils are walking outside. For SQA PE classes, there is an agreement that the pupils can go to Hillhead Sports Club (outdoor areas e.g. tennis courts), starting next week.

Wearing PE kit to school but not allowed to wear it for the rest of the day. RM expressed the concern that half of the school would not be wearing uniform on any one day.

Pupil Absences while waiting on Covid-19 tests

When a pupil is off with the cold, are there robust measures in place to ensure she does not miss the curriculum while she is waiting for a Covid-19 test, which at the moment is taking a number of days and could potentially translate to a week off school. This is a particular concern for Senior Phase pupils following the N5 or Higher curriculum.

RM advised that parents should contact Pastoral Care team to ensure that teachers can post work on MS Teams.

Action: RM will put a general message out to parents regarding this.

Memorial for S Salt / Staff Retirals

Query regarding something that pupils could be involved in to remember Suzanne Salt and also mark the retirement of staff, particularly in light of the significant changes within this dept. RM explained about the 2 masses for staff on Inset Day 1. Frustrating that we were unable to bring all staff together and conscious that young people haven't had a way to commemorate Suzanne's life. Suzanne's husband, Jeff, is aware that we would like to have a memorial event, but we are constrained by numbers of 50 at a time.

Jeff Salt has donated a significant amount of money to the school to support children from underprivileged backgrounds to access school trips.

Action: RM will consult with pupils to collect their ideas.