



## **Parent Council end of year report August 2017 to June 2018**

We are fast approaching another end of school term in another successful year for the staff and pupils of St Aidan's High. As your parent council, representing the broader parent forum, we are proud to share some of the highlights from our year working in partnership with Mrs Connolly and all her staff.

### **School Attainment & School Improvement Plan**

A key area of collaboration and consultation at the Parent Council is reviewing the year on year improvement that's taking place within the school. This involves the following:

Reviewing various indicators such as:

- Exam Results for the school across all levels and comparison groups
- North Lanarkshire Council internal audit reviews
- Progress with targeted initiatives to increase attainment
- Results from both the parent and pupil surveys.

Through the year we have also requested and received updates from departments within the school, on topics such as:

- An overview of developments with the Scottish Qualifications Authority
- Updates on various attainment programmes & Pupil Equity Fund initiatives

### **School Captains**

We created a standing opportunity for our School Captains to represent the voice of the Pupils at our forum. It has been a pleasure to hear both concerns and fresh ideas presented in such a professional manner by both Eamon Kelly and Niamh Giffen. We would like to thank them for their excellent contributions and for taking time out to attend our meetings.

### **Pupil Equity Fund & Scottish Attainment Challenge**

Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) - In 2017 the Scottish Government allocated a significant sum of money to schools (not the council) in the spirit of allowing Head Teachers and their staff the freedom to invest in initiatives that will continue to support improving attainment for our children. The parent council discussed and agreed proposals on targeting this funding. This covered a range of activities such as purchasing equipment, freeing up teaching resources to coordinate action plans and activities to support specific groups of children and extending the use of specialised support staff.

### **Parental Engagement – Scotland & North Lanarkshire Council**

In the past year, Parent Council members have actively participated in a range of forums to discuss & influence Policy and Strategy for parental engagement nationally and within NLC.

We have participated in:

- National Parent Council for Scotland Conference
  - Participated in conversations with Mr John Swinney (Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills)
- NLC Parent Consultation Groups - reviewing the Strategy for Parental engagement within NLC, helping to shape Policy and NLC Improvements.
- Parent Council Training Sessions - to improve skills and contribute to the school improvement plan.
- Sharing Best Practice across NLC, High Schools, Primary Schools and Early Years Learning Groups.

## **NLC Concerns re Standard of External PE Facilities**

For several years the PC has been in dialogue with NLC regarding what we strongly feel are the sub-standard facilities we have for external PE provision. We have no synthetic surface, floodlights or sporting equipment, to provide all year round use for sporting activities for PE, Active-Schools sessions or a facility that could be used by our local community.

Following the most recent levels of investment in excess of £200m across both Primary and High School facilities across North Lanarkshire, we have raised this with the Assistant Chief Executive (Education, Youth and Communities) Mrs Isabelle Boyd. Our goal is to work in partnership with NLC over a reasonable period of time to secure funding to meet our needs. We have received acknowledgement of our most recent correspondence and await a review of our concerns. We will update on progress as we proceed.

## **Fundraising**

Across the year we have actively led some fundraising working with our senior pupils on activities such as bag packing and raffles. These raised in the region of £1200, this coupled with other funds were reinvested back into the school through:

- Purchasing tablet PCs for Social Subjects
- Providing sports vests for Athletics
- Contributing to Home Economics funding
- Prizes for educational attainment competitions within departments
- Funding to school trips and other activities.

We would like to especially thank all of the Senior Pupils who planned and coordinated the Bag Packing event in November. We would like to thank Mr Robert Nimmo (Parent Council) and Morrison's Supermarket for their continued support

## **200 Club**

To extend our fundraising the Parent Council in collaboration with Mrs Connelly and the school have agreed to launch a 200 club. This will help provide an extra boost in the year ahead where the school in particular are looking to support the purchase of new IT equipment and replace ageing Interactive TV screens, PCs and more.

You will hear more about the 200 club as we launch this at our Junior and Senior Award Ceremonies in June and again when we open for the new school term in August.

We hope that this summary provides a flavour of the work of the Parent Council and our commitment to representing the voice of all parents in the school for the benefit of our children and the staff.

Yours Sincerely

Stephen Blair

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