



Cumbernauld Academy Pupil Parliament Virtual Parliamentary Meeting



Date: 5th Oct 2021

Present:

School Captains – Chloe Ogilvie and Euan Stirling (s6)

Equalities – Faith Arbuthnot (S4), Alisha Hussain (S1), Declan Bass (S4)

Communities – Lois Dick, Layla Hammadi (S2), Jaipreet Singh (s6)

LGBTQ+ - Shannon McGroarty (s4), Lewis Thomson (s1), Lewis Milliken (S4)

Health and Wellbeing – Cerys Williams (s6), and Erica McNutt (s6)

Sustainability – Mariana Ali (s4), Neve Heron (s1), Abby McKay (S1), Lewis Carlyle (s6)

Mr Cairns, Mrs Marshall, Miss Hart, Miss Watterson

Agenda items:

1. Welcome from Mr Cairns.
2. Proceedings – Mrs Marshall.
3. Committee updates:
 - a. Sustainability
 - b. LGBT
 - c. Community
 - d. Health and Wellbeing
 - e. Equalities

*Questioning of members is encouraged at any time

4. Pupil Voice in the Curriculum – “a sixth committee” - Mrs Marshall.
5. Current Affairs – Mrs Marshall and then open the floor.
6. Volunteers – Notice Board and Year 1 evaluation survey.

Discussion:

1. Mr Cairns wants to continue to build on our progress from Year 1: Parliament will not be a talking shop but action is important too, congratulates everyone on their elections wins and reminds every one of the responsibilities associated with leadership posts as well as giving a reminder to all pupils of how proud we are of them and their hard work so far.
2. Mrs Marshall informed everyone of the proceedings and how the meeting will operate.
3. B – LGBT want to consider adding a CA hoodie to the uniform to help pupils with body dysmorphic issues feel more comfortable. **Mr Cairns suggested, given the substantial nature of the proposed change to the school uniform, the committee would have to present a white paper to parliament, and we could take it from there.** Considering the scale of the of change, even after parliament has voted, other stakeholder views would have to be considered such as staff and parents before a final decision could be made.

The committee are still pursuing gender-neutral toilets and keen to increase awareness around trans issues, who are often forgot about.

C – The Community committee want to hold more events this year to bring the school together. An online talent show was discussed. **Mr Cairns approved this and said the show should be planned to be online but if the restrictions allow, at the time, there could be the possibility that the show could take place in person.**

The committee will also plan to help the wider Cumbernauld community by linking with the charity CACE again this year and making Christmas cards and by doing food parcels for the elderly. Updates to come next time but **Mr Cairns said the planning for this should begin now. By next parliamentary meeting, we would hope these would have been actioned (end of Nov).**

E – The Equalities committee presented the two options for the sanitary packs they have been working on in year 1 to tackle period poverty. One pack has extra items in it such as a toothbrush and deodorant and so this would also link to the “poverty-proofing” agenda in the school led by Ms Steggles. **Mr Cairns asked the committee to come back next time with a white paper to present to parliament and we would vote on one of the two packs. These will be funded by the school.** Mrs Marshall asked that the white paper was ready a few days before the next sitting of parliament to give members the time to read the white paper in advance.

BLM and greater racial equality will also be the focus of the committee this session to ensure greater equality for all.

A – The Sustainability committee asked for a decision from Mr Cairns about who would be responsible for emptying the recycle bins. **We decided that to begin with, S6 pupil volunteers will be released from study periods on a rota basis to empty the recycle bins in the staff zones, SMT zone and Office firstly. After this, we can think about the paper bins in classrooms.**

The committee members are also very busy with a request from NLC to be involved in a COP 26 film that is being made about the views of young people on Climate Change.

D – The Health and Wellbeing committee are keen for further discussion on pupils coming to school with kit on if timetabled for PE p1 and 2; to save time. **Mr Cairns asked that the committee come and speak to him more about this to firm up a decision.**

They are also keen for the two-way system in the corridors to be followed to prevent crushing. Parliamentary vote took place on whether to enforce this and the majority voted for this. **Mr Cairns will share this will staff.**

The committee are also keen to think about fundraising events such as the funniest mask competition and the money will be split three ways between house charities.

4. Sixth Committee – Mrs Marshall explained the Pupil Voice in the Curriculum agenda and that faculties are currently giving names of pupils who will form a sixth parliamentary committee to explore the views of pupils on their learning and teaching. **This committee will be in place and leaders elected by the next parliamentary meeting.** Pupils who are current committee leads may also be selected by faculties and in this instance, pupils are able to be on both committees.

5. Current Affairs

- a. Smoking and vaping by pupils in CA was raised. General concern and unhappiness about this as well as “the smokers gate”. Parliament questioning whether this should continue. **Better materials in skills for life were discussed.**

A possibility of a group forming to action this was discussed. Mrs Marshall will discuss with Mr Cairns.

- b. Violence against women / toxic masculinity discussed – link to the S Everard case. Parliament would like to do more to raise awareness of the experiences of young women and men caught in the middle of this societal issue. Mrs Marshall will discuss with Miss Tighe to pick up via the equalities committee.**
- c. Littering and broken glass in and around the school grounds. Committee want to do something about this. Exploration of how we can tackle this as a school community is required. Mrs Marshall will discuss with Mr Cairns.**

Date of next meeting: tbc – late November.