**Coltness High School Parent Council**

**Tuesday 26th January 2021**

Welcome

The chairperson Mr Robin Hughes

Present

John McGilp, A Gilluley, D Tahri, J Rankin, L McGowan, N Rae, R Hughes, R Early, S Thorpe, F Torrance, D Farr, E Cameron, D Ramage, Cllr McManus, L Canning

Apologies

Karen Hooper

Approval of minutes

R Hughes

R Early

Correspondence

1. Training – Role of the Parent Council
2. Information email – SQA Update on Nat 5 and Higher issued 14/1
3. Mr Farr survey

Matters Arising

* 50/50 - £370 income of which £185 goes to funds
* Easy Find raising.com has been used by J McGilp. Committee to look into this as a possible means of increasing funds
* Hamper for Easter – offers of support supplied by members
* We Care Academy now called “We Aspire College”- Further visit due 27th January by the Head Teacher of the “We Aspire College”
  + - * Early February expecting initial drawings to be created and discussed
      * Investigating what Capital budget for further school improvements if the proposal goes forward
      * Consultation period will take place
* Code of Conduct- Draft proposal made and will be reviewed and issued next month
* LED Selection training- Informative training session. Good and new information provided on the updated rules and regulations allowing the Parent Council to have representation on interview panel for Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher roles

Head Teacher’s Report

* School roll is approx. 940 with no real change being seen since last meeting.
* Staffing availability remains strong and if anything has improved slightly from previous meeting- 1 self-isolating, 1 short term sick, 2 cover teachers for 2 off on maternity leave
* Effort throughout this difficult period acknowledged by J McGilp
  + The change to home teaching has been a challenge but met fully by all
  + Another update due in February by the government around possible returns and timings. At this stage we only expect small numbers to return
  + 5th and 6th year assessment were due to start 18th January but have been pushed back as a result of the home-schooling period. Assessments will take place 2 weeks after return to allow pupils a chance to settle back in.
* A second set off assessments is still required but timing will be decided when senior pupils return and SQA / Government has sent out updates on requirements
  + School and teachers have kept focus on ensuring the work is done to complete course works as currently laid out.

Q- How many students in the school during the day currently – Answer- 16 to 19 depending on the day of the week.

Q- What % of pupils are joining the courses and teaching on line – Answer- Although we don’t have an exact number it is higher than previous time School will continue to monitor and check on pupils

Q- How are the children coping – Answer- School is trying to phone around to check vurnable kids. The PPS team will monitor other children and the numbers will be split among staff to ensure everyone is covered.

There are options available for parents and carers to contact the school

* We Care Academy now taking place as a more virtual format. There is a proposal to use the area as part of a new ASN proposal. The proposal has still to go through various committees and reviews. Separate meeting setup to discuss with chair and secretary.

Treasurers Report

No movement in accounts

Cheque to be written this month to cover costs previously discussed at meetings around invoices outstanding

Sub-Committee Report

Due to Covid no meetings of PTA have taken place yet.

Any Other Closing Business

Agreed that Zoom meetings would be used again for next meeting due to COVID

Exams covered earlier in meeting

Catch up between Mr McGilp, R Hughes and E Cameron agreed for 16th February

School Communications-

A number of Parent Members of the Council spoke favourably in regard of the level of communication from the school over the past year. No-one broached anything in a negative sense.

One particular parent praised the school for the one to one calls home during the first lockdown, something the school have endeavoured to replicate this lockdown. She was particularly touched that the school had taken the time and effort to go to this length to contact each and every family.

John McGilp also provided a brief summary of the emails the school has sent out. This has been roughly 120 emails since March 2020 and the start of lockdown, this equates to around one email per school day.

Since August 2020, the emails have been 50% COVID related and 50% non-COVID related. The COVID related emails are understandable, as parents need to know their children are safe at school.

He also went on to mention of the school website and Twitter account as a means for the school to give out information, in particular at this time of the pandemic.

It was also highlighted the minutes from the meeting will be posted on the school website when they have been approved and can be viewed by parents as a form of update.

**Next Meeting – Tuesday 23rd February, at 7 pm**