

Calderhead High School

Parent Council Meeting

Thursday 2nd March 2017

In Attendance:-

Claire Whyte
Susan Duncanson,
Corrina campbell
Elaine Byrne
Alison Barr
Maxine Paterson
John Robertson
Fiona Forrest

Apologies:-

Linsey Fairlie, Gordon Muir, Pauline Marks

Absent:-

Nana McLean, Jennifer Hayburn

Correspondence

Only correspondence received was from Maureen Moore re Parent Council training sessions

Ongoing Biology Situation

Head of the Science Department, Mrs Crosbie, was invited and attended our meeting with a view to explaining the situation with biology in the school, how the situation came to be and what steps are being/have been put in place to best help the current S4 classes who are the worst affected.

Last year the current S4 class had a trainee teacher, it was later discovered that this teacher had not covered what was expected over the year - when Mrs Carson took over in August of this year it was apparent how far behind they were. This problem was then compounded by the authority not providing sufficient cover / replacements for the department where 1 teacher was retiring and the other going on maternity leave - in short from 2 full time teachers to one 0.6 teacher. Steps were put in place to cover as many classes as possible with the help of 2 retired teachers providing part time support. This still left 1 S4 biology class with a teacher for only 2 of their 4 periods. In October Miss Darragh stepped in to cover these periods however her position as a depute meant she could not always provide this cover or not for the full 2 periods. This had a further impact on pupils who already started the year behind.

S4 biology results in the National 5 prelims were not good, although it was explained that the commercial paper bought in for this prelim was particularly tricky.

Going forward to the exams Mrs Crosbie herself will be taking the 4F biology class for the 2 periods Mrs Carson is unable (not one of her working days).

Some ready written notes have been sourced which will assist in pushing on through the topics still to be covered. An order has been put in for 'How to pass National 5 Biology' books, it is hoped these will be received and distributed to the pupils next week. Study leaflets 'Six Strategies for Effective Learning' have also been produced and will be given out. (These were handed out to all present at this meeting). Both Mrs Crosbie and Mrs Carson will be available for assistance during study leave (as they are any lunchtime) and Top up Workshops will also be run during this time - these will be topic specific where the pupils can come in and have extra tuition on the topics they are having most difficulty with.

An assignment, completed in class, also forms part of the National 5 assessment, everything possible will be done to help the pupils achieve the best results as this counts for up to 20% of their marks. The department has worked well on this in previous years with most pupils achieving 14-19%.

It was also explained that for this year if a National 5 exam is failed, assuming all unit assessments for National 4 have been passed (these will be sat during study leave to allow all remaining time to be spent on teaching) then in a reprint in September the pupils will get awarded the National 4 pass.

We very much appreciated Mrs Crosbie's time and it is accepted that the school has found itself in a very difficult position which it had no way of anticipating or preventing and that everything possible is being done to assist the current S4s leading up to their May exams. Mrs Horn will return from maternity leave easing the situation somewhat after summer.

HT Report

S2 Parents' Night

63% attendance

Sports survey

Survey Monkey online survey has been written, pupils due to complete this w/b 6th March

Primary Transition

Transition Morning 6&7 Wed 19th April & Wed 26th April

Two day visit Tues 9th May, Wednesday 10th May

Inset day 4

Numeracy across the curriculum

Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSA) system for implementing change

Scottish Attainment Challenge

Lanarkshire Headteachers, Primary and Secondary attended conference Celtic Park on Monday (handout provided)

Staffing

Since the start of this term the number of classroom assistant has reduced from 2 to 1, a reduction of 30 hours.

North Lanarkshire Council voted to reduce this to zero for 2017/18 for all secondary schools. HT voted to pay for classroom assistants from Pupil Equity Fund

Quiz Night

Claire advised that Pauline had confirmed the booking of the bowling club but that this time they are looking for a £20 deposit. Ok to go with this. Elaine will sort out posters and get something on twitter. Claire will email to the Head Teachers of the feeder schools.

Claire will arrange the wine and easter egg prizes and get crisps for the tables, Alison will bring the bowls. Claire will arrange to contact Nana to assist with gift for quizmaster, Jim Robertson

Self Evaluation Exercise

It was agreed to postpone this until the next meeting when there are more members present. Agreed to make this the focus of this meeting.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 4th May 2017 @ 6pm