

Calderhead High School
Parent Council Meeting
Thursday 3rd November 2016

In Attendance:-

Linsey Fairlie
Claire Whyte
Susan Duncanson,
Fiona Forrest
Corrina campbell
Gordon Muir
Elaine Byrne
John Robertson
Maxine Paterson

1. Apologies

- Apologies were received from Alison Barr, Nana McLean, Pauline Marks and Jennifer Hayburn

2. Correspondence

- Emails received from Maureen Moore advising/reminding of the next 2 Parent Council training sessions to be held on 15th November and 6th December. Linsey will look into attending the session on 15th, Gordon will be happy to go along if Linsey does. Linsey will contact Gordon. Claire will consider.

3. HT Report

Before the report was provided John put 2 questions to us:-

What is the purpose of Calderhead High School?

What is the purpose of the Parent Council?

Report

Staff briefing 31/10/16

Photocopier been moved from the staffroom to technology base. New one in the library is limited to 35 prints. Large runs to be with the office in good time. All staff can send bulk prints to office copiers, which will then be held in a queue until office staff are ready to release.

Staffing

Due to efficiency savings two members of the office staff will be redeployed to other schools in January. We expect to have someone allocated to us for 18.42 hours in January.

One of our classroom assistants will be redeployed in January.

No change in Biology

In Modern Languages we have a Spanish National with us two days a week.

What has come out of the departmental reviews?

Number of passes is very important, not necessarily the pass rate.

Course awards for all pupils important.

The number of pupils in S4 gaining five awards or more needs to improve in 2017 and is a priority.

Changing Tracking Reports

WG should be interpreted as “on track to achieve” it is relative measure rather than an absolute measure. It should be based on teacher experience and will provide a better form of feedback. Target Grade remains as SQA overall target.

Doing poorly in the prelim does not mean that pupils will fail final exam. Pupils like all of us need to learn from their mistakes.

We may be too soft on pupils, with pupils undertaking units only so they have a better chance of passing other exams? We have evidence to support this, so pupils who pass all course units will be expected to sit the final exam.

There is value in the hard work, commitment, self-awareness, resilience accrued by studying exams, as well as the value in gaining a qualification.

Slide show

INSIGHT points table, only used by Scottish Government, not by UCAS or employers.

Across Scotland pupils who live in an SIMD 1 postcode achieve on average 550 points, SIMD 10 pupils 1300 points. Politicians want to close this gap.

Calderhead High School Free Meal Entitlement (FME) in 2012 ranked the school 296th in Scotland out of 378 secondary schools. The example school “A” I have chosen was ranked 372 out of 378 on the same measure in 2012.

We have very, very similar Virtual Comparator Schools. 34% of our pupils leave with 3+ Highers, 50% of school “A” leave with 3+ Highers. 20% of our pupils leave with 5 Highers, 31 % of school “A” leave with 5+ Highers.

The big Question is how can we (Calderhead High School community) achieve better SQA exam results for our pupils?

The aim is that no matter your background you can achieve academically. That is our purpose. CEM testing.

Our present S3 pupils sat a CEM test in May and have a battery of results. S2 will also sit a CEM test soon and S1 sat one in P7. These will help inform targets and our strategic planning.

4. Fundraising

Maxine will contact John Robertson (quizmaster) about suitable dates in March for our next quiz

There will be no particular Parent Council stall/duties at the Christmas Fayre. Those who are able will come along and help where needed – possibly hot dogs stand.

Linsey asked the question as to whether there was any real benefit to us trying to fund raise and it became clear that we need to define the role of the Parent Council and consider how we can best support the school.

At our next meeting the main purpose will be to look back to Johns second question – What is the purpose of the Parent Council. Linsey and Claire will look to see if they have any relevant/helpful documentation I.e. The current constitution

Date of next meeting: Thursday 8 December 2016 @ 6pm