

Calderhead HS Parent Council



Minutes - Thursday 1st September 2022

Present: Audra MacPhee, John Robertson, Maxine Paterson, Steven Purdie, Jennifer Hayburn, Corrina Campbell, Gordon Muir, Lisa McAllister, Kenneth Stevenson and Margaret Hughes.

Apologies: Susan Duncanson, Lynn Prentice, Kyrstie Connor, Alison Barr and Martin McCulloch.

	Action By:
<p>Introduction Meeting was opened and new members welcomed and introductions made.</p>	
<p>Staff / Department Presentation – Steven Purdie PT Humanities Steven introduced his role as PT Humanities and gave a broad overview of the subjects and how these are taught within various year groups. Steven talked about staffing and the challenges of staff teaching 3 subjects - it was clear that the staff within humanities are experienced staff on the whole, several of whom have dual subject qualifications. It was interesting to hear about typical topics studied for the various subjects. Steven's presentation showed his passion for the subjects, teaching and the school. Steven has offered to help with any further questions about his department or subjects - if anyone does have any questions please feel free to get in touch with Steven direct.</p>	
<p>Correspondence</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> NLC Have stipulated minimum standards for Parent Councils across the local authority to work to – it is great to be able to confirm that we are already working to these standards. CHS is represented on the NLC Parent Consultative Group – if anyone has any feedback that they would like raised at this level please submit to Audra. Date of next meeting TBC. Communication has been sent out via NLC in relation to gaining parent feedback on Scotland's qualifications for young people including exams and the way they are assessed. Could all committee members complete this survey so that we can have our say. Survey to be distributed to group via email. 	<p>ALL / AM</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>AM</p>
<p>Headteacher Report</p> <p>Staffing Laura Abbas, Expressive Arts PT, has taken a career break to try to maximise her recovery from Long Covid. She is scheduled to return in August 2023. She has been absent from school since August 2021. Pamela Cupples is 1FTE until August 2023.</p> <p>Katie Phee is still on Maternity Leave; her teaching commitments are being covered by Urte Jankauskaite on a temporary basis. Her Principal Teacher Pupil</p>	

Support remit is being covered by Stephen Leitch. The knock on effect of this means Rachel Duddy of 0.2FTE PT PS, Louise Carson is 0.5FTE.

We have three Probationer Teachers for this session. Two of the Probationers, Konur McCartan, Mathematics, and Aimee Townsley, English, are in addition to our staffing and are not costed against the school budget. Liam Donnelly, Home Economics, is paid for from our PEF Budget.

Jillian Hamilton Cooper, Biology & Chemistry, has been seconded to the NLC Pedagogy Team for this session. Colin Couples, Chemistry, is covering the is secondment. Louise Carson, Biology, is now 1FTE.

Kate Sharp and Chloe McCann, 0.5FTE, are our Covid Recovery Teachers for this session. Both are trained Primary Staff and are focusing on literacy and numeracy interventions in S1 and S2.

TeenTalk, Pupil Counselling, there has been a change in personnel this session we now have two counsellors who are both relatively new to the school. Louise Charnley, ASNA has left to follow a career in teaching. She has not been replaced.

Aidan Mennie, 0.5FTE Technician, was moved during the holidays to another school due to staffing at Coltness High School. We are still waiting to be officially informed of the new arrangements. We are again without a Technician in Technology.

School Office we are still short of Office Hours and hope to advertise for new staff soon.

SQA Results

By end of	Awards	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2022 Estimates
S4	5+ Awards at National 3 or 4 or 5							93.5	92.3	90.3	84.4	88.8	77.1	92.2	72.1	85.2	81.5	58.30
S4	5+ Awards at National 4 or 5							77.9	91.2	87.5	76.6	76.2	75.4	88.9	67.7	80.2	70.4	55.56
S4	5+ Awards at National 5							28.6	29.7	31.9	29.9	26.1	33.9	37.7	30.9	40.7	30.5	31.48
S5	1 or more awards at National 6	20.2	20.4	18.1	31.5	33.7	23.8	30.8	42.9	46.2	40.3	45.57	52.2	41.0	63.3	33.8	40.7	40.48
S5	3 or more awards at National 6	10.5	10.2	5.3	7.9	15.8	13.3	13.5	19.5	26.4	25.0	17.72	17.4	23.3	40.0	25	24.7	25.00
S5	5 or more awards at National 6	1.8	5.6	0.0	2.2	6.9	3.8	6.7	6.5	6.6	5.6	6.33	5.8	6.6	15.6	10.3	8.6	8.30
S6	1 or more awards at National 6	25.0	21.1	25.9	25.5	39.3	44.6	41.9	39.4	54.5	48.4	44.4	55.6	66.7	49.2	65.5	36.8	
S6	3 or more awards at National 6	10.2	14.9	13.9	12.8	24.7	29.7	25.7	25.0	35.1	36.3	31.9	24.7	24.6	30.7	45.5	26.5	
S6	5 or more awards at National 6	4.7	10.5	10.2	3.2	13.5	19.8	16.2	15.4	18.2	18.9	16.7	11.7	10.1	16.1	24.4	13.2	
S6	1 or more awards at National 7	0.8	3.5	5.6	0.0	5.6	4.0	5.7	2.9	6.5	9.9	12.5	7.8	11.6	9.7	18.8	8.8	

These results are pre appeal. They do not include Foundation Apprenticeship awards which are the equivalent of a Higher Grade B. We have begun to analyse pupil take up of a subject and those who were then able to progress to an award and this will be a particular focus this session. In S4 twenty pupils did not gain five course awards. This was due to very poor attendance in S4. As well as our normal procedures we also deployed PEF financed PTs and DHT to ensure as many pupils as possible gained 5 or more awards.

Number of course awards	S4 Pupils
0	8
1	4
2	2
3	3
4	3
5	15
6	27
7	46

In S5 the number of pupils gaining 3 or more Highers was in line with expectation and also in line with previous years, similar for 5 or more Highers.

In S6, the base cohort was quite small only 68 pupils at census time in S4, the relatively large number of pupils who left at the end of S4 and S5 limited the percentage of pupils who could gain Highers in s6. Again, results were in line with expectations and pre covid results.

News

- Drama and Cake Decorating are new subjects being offered this year. Hospitality is being offered in S3 to S6 for the first time. Hairdressing is not being offered due to staffing and relocation of the Hair Salon across the corridor.
- Support and Challenge meetings. Scheduled fortnightly meetings between HT and each DT. Monthly meetings between the link SLT and PT. These are to ensure the smooth running of the school and to improve communication. Two PTs have been invited to join the weekly Senior Leadership Team meetings again to improve communication and decision making.
- Ready to Learn and Uniform. Pupils have returned to school focussed and ready to learn, nearly all are in school uniform. Covid Recovery is still ongoing.
- Transport. SPT act as agents for a number of local authorities to secure best value contracts. Unfortunately, 10 local authorities do not believe that this has happened this session. We were affected on two bus routes. These initial issues seem to have been resolved within the first week. I am not aware of any current issues.
- Music Tuition. healthy uptake for Pipes and Drums tuition, a new initiative which started in Primary School.
- Opportunities for Personal Achievement. We continue to provide transport for after school activities for those that would normally get school transport. This is financed from our own budget. We are only one of a few schools who do this in Scotland.

John Robertson informed the group of an incident last term where a parent had contacted the school to disagree with their child being issued a punishment exercise. The parent was offered a meeting with Steven Purdie PT for the relevant department however this offer was not accepted. John Robertson was later contacted by NLC Education for his response to issues raised by a journalist about Modern Studies materials being used by CHS. This subsequently resulted in adverse publicity in the press and on social media for the school. From a parent council perspective advice to any parent raising a complaint, regardless of topic, should be to contact staff at the school for resolution in the first instance.

AOB

1. Code of conduct forms distributed to remaining members.
2. Contact details for PC members updated for NLC records.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 6th October 18:00 (CHS)