Chryston High School (CHS) Parent Council

Wednesday 15th January 2020 6.30pm

Present: Ailsa Macdonald, Avril Hemphill, Morven Strange (acting chair)

In attendance: Mr Mitchell, Mr Jopling, Travis Russell, Sophie Livingstone

Apologies: Graeme Robertson, Lorraine Robertson, Mr Kane, Karen Chapman

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| 1 | **Welcome and apologies**  The chair welcomed all attending the meeting and noted apologies. Good wishes were sent to Graeme Robertson | Action |
| 2 | **Minutes of Previous Meeting**  Minutes of previous meeting on 6th November 2019 were proposed by Morven Strange and seconded by Ailsa Macdonald |  |
| 3 | **Matter Arising**  **Bullying Policy**  Comments to be returned to Ailsa Macdonald for collation by 24th January 2020 which will then be forwarded to Ms Kay.  **Curriculum**  Similar feedback was received from all groups consulted as part of the curriculum review. Almost unanimous to move to 3 periods per subject in S3 with the plan to implement for S3 timetable starting May 2020. Curriculum will continue to meet statutory requirements until the end of broad, general education (BGE) in S3. Will now move to reviewing model for other pupils in BGE in S1 and S2. | Parent Council member to forward comments to Ailsa Macdonald by 24th January 2020 |
| 4 | **School Report**  **Assessment Fortnight**  Pupil feedback was that they preferred exams prior to Christmas for 3 reasons  a) able to contact teachers if struggling during revision as not on holiday  b) feel refreshed after Christmas break and more willing to learn  c) Able to focus on assignments earlier and feeling less stressed about completing in short timescale.  Pupils felt that there had been enough time to cover course work and gained similar insight to progress sitting assessments before Christmas despite having covered slightly less of the curriculum. Acknowledgement was made that there was potentially less studying in preparation for the assessments, particularly as those with part-time jobs tended to have more shifts in the run up to Christmas.  Mr Jopling is meeting with Faculty Heads in coming week to review outcomes of assessments.  UCAS application deadline was today. The S6 UCAS class had helped pupils explore options (apprenticeships, college, and university) and understand expectations at University. Mr Mitchell commented the school was exploring delivering a similar class to earlier years.  **Interhouse Activities**  House captains organised a series of competitive activities that all years were involved with in the run up to Christmas including an S1 Christmas Quiz. The next event planned is Highland Games for S1-S3.  The Christmas reflection and ceilidh took place on the final day in which the whole school participated.  Due to the assessment fortnight, the Christmas concert was held in Chryston Parish Church showcasing the musical talent of our pupils. Approximately 100 people attended the event and thanks go to the performing arts department, music tutors and families for supporting the pupils.  Mr Mitchell shared the tragic news of the death of David Sullivan, lead for the clerical and account staff in the school on 23rd December 2019, aged 40. He is missed in a personal and professional capacity. Thanks go to the senior management team for cascading the news to staff prior to returning to school, Rev Mark Malcolm for his pastoral support to staff and pupils and North Lanarkshire Council (NLC) for the support they are providing in the interim. Thoughts and prayers are with the family for the funeral of both David and his father being held on Friday 17th January. 16 staff members are attending, 5 school captains and a Chryston Parliament representative from each year group.  Chryston High has entered into a rental agreement via NLC for a 16 seater mini-bus between now and June 2020. Costs cover maintenance and breakdown cover and fuel keys are issued to drivers after they have attended training. There are currently 4 drivers trained (require D1 category license). It is anticipated at a cost of £112 per month, that thousands of pounds will be saved in bus hire and, on occasions, taxi fares. Having the minibus creates flexibility and opportunities for attending activities at short notice as well as saving the time resource to source buses. Avril Hemphill stated this was an excellent rental price as the companies she had looked into were approximately£475 per month for a Flexi-lite minibus. If the initial 6 month trial goes well, it may be the school will look for parent volunteers, recognising that PVGs will be required. Mr Mitchell thanked Avril Hemphill for her research and options will be revisited after June 2020. |  |
| 5 | **CHS Supporters update**  Avril Hemphill asked if there could be a further push for the 500 Club and another letter go out to parents/carers. Upcoming information nights can be used to promote the 500 club again. More leaflets will need to be produced. Current income is approximately £100 a month. No-one has one twice in the past 3 draws. There is £316 in the bank. It was suggested for promotion purposes, that we could link monthly income from 500 Club to the monthly rental cost of the minibus.  It was agreed that request forms for funding will be left until 2020/2021 session so that there is a decent fund pot initially. |  |
| 6 | **Twitter Update**  Now 266 Parent Council (+8) followers and 144 (+21) CHS Supporters followers. |  |
| 7 | **Food Festival**  Gary Maclean is happy to support a Chryston High Food Festival with a preference for Friday 27th March. Fees for attendance had not been discussed.  Ailsa Macdonald reported that NLC departs for alcohol license or environmental health had not foreseen any obstacles with holding the event in the school.  It was agreed that a sub-group will be set up to plan for the event. Sophie Livingstone was invited on to the group as she has applied to Events Management courses. Mr Mitchell will liaise with hospitality staff and the music department regarding contributions to the night and book hall. | Sub-group to meet Mon 20th January |
| 9 | **AOCB**  Morven Strange stated she was struggling with message to take from the assessment fortnight- some subjects stressed importance of results and other departments stating that pupils wouldn’t be expected to pass the exam at this time. Mr Mitchell stipulated that results give an *indication* of a pupils’ confidence in a subject. Mr Jopling stated the message going to pupils was to keep the assessment fortnight in perspective; it is another assessment to help you prepare. Pupil representatives stated it allows for identification of areas you are not performing so well in and develop an action plan. Mr Jopling meets with Faculty Heads four times a year to discuss all individuals’ progress. Principal teachers for pupil support are involved to provide a holistic overview and plan support structures to be put in place. Tracking reports are used to mark progress throughout the year. If there are discussions regarding changing the level at which a pupil will sit a subject, parent/ carers will be notified by a telephone call from the Faulty Head, or if more than one change the pupil support teacher. Parents can contact the school if clarification is required. |  |
| 10 | Date of next meeting **Wednesday 18th March 2020 6:30pm** |  |

*Please note:*

*Should anyone have any items for Agenda or any apologies please contact Office Bearers or leave a message at school office. Many Thanks.*