# Chryston High School (CHS) Parent Council

# Wednesday 9th September 2020 6.30pm (online via Zoom)

Present: Graeme Robertson, Lorraine Robertson, Ailsa Macdonald, Avril Hemphill, Morven Strange

In attendance: Mr Mitchell, Mr Kane, Karen Chapman, Yvonne Sloan, Sharon Bowie, Michelle Brown, Paris Kelly, Georgina Cawdron, Isla Macdonald

Apologies: Patricia Gachagan

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| Agenda item number | Title and content | Action |
| 1 | **Welcome and apologies**The chair welcomed all attending the meeting and noted apologies. Paris Kelly, Georgina Cawdron and Isla Macdonald were introduced as Captain and Vice Captains for this year. They shared that pupils had adapted well to the new measures in school, particularly the different times for breaks and lunches between S1-3 and senior school. Having no assemblies was making communication more difficult however use of Microsoft Teams as a communication platform was working well. Pupils are appreciating being able to come to school. The captain along with all the vice captains will make up Chryston High School’s parliament cabinet. The parliament asked for pupil experiences at a recent meeting. There is some anxiety amongst S5 pupils that they will be sitting Higher exams without the experience of formal exams previously.Mr Mitchell wished them well in their roles this year. | none |
| 2 | **Minutes of Previous Meeting**Minutes of previous meeting on 15th January 2020 were proposed by Morven Strange and seconded by Avril Hemphill | none |
| 3 | **SQA Result Feedback (see appendix 1 for tables of results)**Parent Forum comments had been very supportive of staff and Mr Mitchell thanked parents and carers for working with pupils through a difficult time and for the dedication of staff.Measures of attainment had superseded previous years looking at comparisons of pre-estimates rather than final awards. Chryston High School measures itself against the North Lanarkshire Council average. Chryston High School had the third highest attainment in North Lanarkshire for Higher results this year. There was a 12% increase on the previous year of pupils attaining 3 Highers or more with half of all pupils achieving this by the end of S5. Avril Hemphill asked for clarification that figures are based on the school role for S4 and that this is the same role that is used for S5 and S6, whether pupils remain in school or leave. This was confirmed. Both Mr Mitchell and Mr Kane stated the school has a strong foundation to build upon and that the measure of 97.7% of pupils leaving school to a positive destination be that employment, training, further or higher education is a more holistic measure of the overall achievement of the school. Mr Mitchell stated that results are evidence that recent work, structures, strategies and approaches are strengthening attainment and ensuring sustainable consistency. The Chair thanked Mr Mitchell for the summary and congratulated the school on their results. | none |
| 4 | **Health and Safety Procedures**A letter will be circulated at the beginning of next week regarding health and safety measures in light of COVID-19. There is a need to be fluid and flexible with changing guidance with some hope of returning to pupils being able to change for PE rather than come in gym clothes. Young people have been great at adhering to safety measures such as going left along corridors, using hand sanitiser and face coverings, sticking to specified social areas for each year group and wiping down desks and computers after each class. Pupils are encouraged to be outside whenever possible. With the increasing school role (currently standing at 908 with a capacity of 922-932) social distancing is difficult. Timetabling to double periods has been a major contributor to safety measures as this reduces transitions to 18 per week. Staggering of breaks and lunches has worked better than expected. National guidance is still awaited for home economics and performing arts.Chryston High School risk assessment updates are on the school website as good practice.Further questions can be forwarded to the Secretary for collation and the school will produce a Frequently Asked Questions in response.Parents should notify the school if their children are displaying symptoms. A proforma is completed to notify North Lanarkshire Council and parents are asked to contact the school when results are received. Thankfully there has been no positive cases yet. If there is one, senior management team will meet with North Lanarkshire Council to determine subsequent actions. | Parents/ carers to notify school of pupils displaying symptomsParent Council members to forward questions to Secretary by Monday 14th September. |
| 5 | **Contingency Plans for Further Lockdown**Senior management team’s main focus presently is the business continuity plan. It is flexible and several options are being planned depending on circumstances. Microsoft Teams has been chosen as the platform for learning (rather than various platforms being used by different faculties previously) Most faculties now have Teams set up for curriculum support. Pupils should all know their GLOW password in preparation for using the platform.Morven Strange raised if IT access is an issue for pupils, this could result in a widening gulf between pupils. Mr Mitchell acknowledged this. Negotiations are still ongoing with trade unions and North Lanarkshire Council as to whether online classrooms are an option. Equity and child protection issues will be considered as part of this.SQA are in discussion with partners at present as to whether the exam diet will be modified for 2021. Frustration was raised by attendees of not knowing this yet; especially as an announcement had been promised last week.Karen Chapman added her thanks for the support of the school during COVID-19 which wouldn’t have been received from all schools. | Updated risk assessments will be posted on school website |
| 6 | **Chairperson’s Report (see Appendix 2)**Graeme Robertson gave his final Chairperson’s report as he is stepping down from this position now that both children have moved to higher education. Both Graeme and Lorraine Robertson were thanked for their commitment to Chryston High School and the Parent Council over the past 8 years by other parent council members, Mr Kane and Mr Mitchell both on behalf of the school and for the personal support they had given him. | none |
| 7 | **Election of Office Bearers**Morven Strange agreed to take on the role of Chair, following the retiral of Graeme Robertson.Avril Hemphill agreed to remain as Deputy Chair, Treasurer and to be responsible for Twitter.Ailsa Macdonald agreed to remain as Secretary.Karen Chapman, Yvonne Sloan and Sharon Bowie were voted to become members of the Chryston High Parent Council. This will build flexibility as there needs to be three members present to constitute a meeting.The role of chair is to liaise with the school and the senior management team and take part in discussion groups. The Parent Consultative Group meets every 1 to 2 months with some meetings having useful information around North Lanarkshire Council policy. It is also an opportunity to put forward views. The chair also participates in fundraising events. | none |
| 8 | **Chryston High Supporters Update**The treasurer gave a summary of the Chryston High School Supporters Club which had started in October 2019. It is essentially a lottery with 70% of the funds going to the school and 2 prizes of 15% of the money. After 11 draws £950 has been raised. The permit for continuing for a further year has been received. The treasurer was hoping that there could be some help from Higher accounting pupils going forward in preparing the accounts. At present there are 52 numbers sold at £2 per number per month. Mr Mitchell thanked Avril for her efforts in establishing this and noted she had done a terrific job starting out over the past year.It is hoped to continue to actively promote the Chryston High School Supporters and move towards bids for monies for school activities. | Promotion of CHS Supporters with wider Parent Forum and staff |
| 9 | **Promotion of Chryston High Parent Council**Item not discussed due to time restrictions. | none |
| 10 | **AOCB**Mr Mitchell advised on the current senior leadership team including faculty heads, year heads and pupil support team. The pupil support structure remains horizontal for each year group and should be the first contact for parents as that teacher should know the pupil well and pupils know who to go to if they need to talk to someone.Mr Mitchell also shared changes to staffing for the coming session. As part of North Lanarkshire Council contingency planning, Chryston High School has more staff than expected.**New colleagues:**Lesley Potts Home Economics (permanent) Ms. Fiona Lyon PT Performing Arts (permanent) Connor Devine Maths (starting on 14/9/20) (1 year temporary) **Probationer Teachers for the 2019-20 session:**Benjamin Ng Biology (Science) Zyrah Habib Business Studies (ICT)Rebecca Geddes English Katie McClymont Modern Studies (Humanities)Eve Flanagan HistoryRachael Currie PELaura Campbell Technical**Returning colleagues:**Christine MacKenzie Technical (1 year temporary fulltime)Nicole Slavin Physics (Science) permanent)Megan Gibson Music (Perf. Arts) (1 year temporary fulltime)Chloe McMullan Geography (1 year temporary fulltime) Karis McQuiod Biology (Science) (1 year temporary fulltime)**Other info:** L McTavish returning to substantive post (PT Pupil Support S2)Morven Strange commented that on a local Facebook page over the summer there were lots of positive comments about Chryston High School in response to a question about provision of local high schools, particularly about the care for young people’s wellbeing. Mr Mitchell stated that the school is aware of its strengths but also realistic considering the expanding school role by over 150 pupils since he joined as head teacher 4 years ago. |  |
| 10 | Date of next meeting **Wednesday 4th November 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.*

## Appendix 1: SQA results for 2020 awards in comparison to previous 3 years and North Lanarkshire Average

Table 1: SQA results for S4

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| **SQA Measure** | **2020 NLC Av. (Pre Est.)** | **3 Yr. School Av.** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020 (Pre Est.)** | **2020 (Post Est.)** |
| **5 @ SCQF 3** | 79.0% | 84.7% | 76.15% | 86.36% | 88.5%  Over 2% increase on last yr. 4% increase on 3 yr. school average. Almost 10% above NLC average. | 91.67%   |
| **5 @ SCQF 4** | 74.0% | 71.5% | 58.46% | 71.97% | 78.2% Approx. 6% increase on last yr. and almost 20% increase on 2018 Approx. 7% increase on 3 yr. school average. Over 4% above NLC average. | 83.97% |
| **5 @ SCQF 5** | 42.8% | 46.54% | 33.85% | 50.0% | 48.1% Slightly lower than 2019 although still our second best on record (2019 – best ever on record) Slight increase again on 3 yr. school average. Over 5% above NLC average. Second Best ever CHS Result | 55.77% Best ever CHS Result |

Table 2: SQA S5 results

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| **SQA Measure** | **2020 NLC Av. (Pre Est.)** | **3 Yr. School Av.** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020 (Pre Est.)** | **2020 (Post Est.)** |
| **1 @ SCQF 6** | 57.2% | 56.1% | 54.7% | 53.8% | 59.8% 6% increase on last yr. Over 3% increase on 3 yr. school average. Over 2% above NLC average. Second Best ever CHS Result | 62.88% Second Best ever CHS Result |
| **3 @ SCQF 6** | 32.6% | 36.9% | 32.9% | 32.3% | 45.5% Over 12% increase on last yr. Almost 10% increase on 3 yr. school average. Almost 12% above NLC average. Best ever CHS Result | 50% Best ever CHS Result |
| **5 @ SCQF 6** | 11.9% | 15.3% | 14.6% | 11.5% | 19.7% Over 8% increase on last yr. Over 4% increase on 3 yr. school average. Almost 8% above NLC average. Best ever CHS Result | 33.33% Best ever CHS Result |

Table 3: SQA results S6

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| **SQA Measure** | **2020 NLC Av. (Pre Est.)** | **3 Yr. School Av.** | **2020**  |
| **1 @ SCQF 6** | 67.2% | 62.48% | 58.46%   |
| **3 @ SCQF 6** | 41.9%% | 37.59% | 43.08% Above 3 yr. school average. Above NLC average. 2nd highest ever CHS Result |
| **5 @ SCQF 6** | 27.2%% | 27.99% | 29.23%  Above 3 yr. school average. Above NLC average 3rd highest CHS Result |

## Appendix 2 Chairperson’s Report

Parent Council Members, CHS Senior Management Team, School Captains & Senior Cabinet & fellow parents,

I would like to thank all members and attendees for their continued commitment and support over the past year and for their contribution in helping the school develop its ideologies and philosophies.

Over the years the P.C has continued to support the school with the development of school policy and how that is distributed and disseminated to parents in the right way. The P.C has collaborated with the SMT on Curriculum Improvements, Bullying Policy, School Improvement Plans amongst others.

Both teachers and our young scholars have attended P.C meetings showcasing current policies, clubs and roles the school has implemented. Many of these initiatives such as school parliaments etc were pioneering within North Lanarkshire if not further afield and should be commended.

The P.C has been represented in the interviewing and appointment of the School Captains / Senior Cabinet, which highlighted the maturity, enthusiasm and vision many of our young students have in regard for their school. The recent diversity and inclusivity of the Senior Cabinet has been admirable considering recent global issues.

This 2019/20 school year has been unique and unprecedented, and the Coronavirus pandemic has been instrumental in the severely reduced capacity of the U. K’s academic institutions. Schools, colleges and Universities have been impacted in a way never seen since the Second World War. This has resulted in pupils home-schooling, cancellation of exams and the uncertainty and stress to many of how the situation will affect their futures.

Our 5/6th years missed out on Leavers Day, their Hoodies and School Prom. These I know will be re-scheduled to allow them a day to celebrate with their peers and that they deserve.

I know it has been hard on everyone in different ways and we feel for those you have lost loved ones to this virus.

Mr Mitchell has informed us of the schools Health & Safety Policy to protect teachers and pupils now the session has re-commenced. We hope and pray that we have an uninterrupted year, that positive infections within the school are minimised and we return to a degree of normality soon.

Year upon year academic attainment has been a major focus of the school’s SMT and department heads. This focus has seen positive improvements across the spectrum of attainment with our young students consistently improving their grades and the number of subjects awarded. This year, despite the pandemic-affected exam process, the results have been excellent. The statistics for pupils obtaining a minimum of 5 Nat 5’s, 3 or more Highers and 5 Highers, in 5th year, are the highest the school has ever achieved. I have it on good authority that these results currently place the school in the top 3 schools in North Lanarkshire. I’m sure the school will be justifiably proud of these achievements and will look for ways to further improve.

With the addition of new P.C attendees / members hopefully will come fresh, innovative ideas that will benefit the school. Financially we continue to look at ways of assisting the school departments given the North Lanarkshire Education cutbacks. This year we tried to investigate alternative revenue streams in conjunction with the CHSS Monthly Draw. The P.C commenced assessing the feasibility of a Food Fayre as an alternative to a Xmas Fayre. Unfortunately, recent events impacted on this event coming to fruition.

Twitter / CHSS – A huge vote of thanks is due to Avril for her dedication and hard work in continuing to push this social media platform and the awareness of the Twitter account. The account currently has a positive 306 followers and has proved to be a useful means of highlighting school events and promoting awareness of the school. Also, the fundraising arm of the P.C commenced at the beginning of the 2019/20 session in earnest and has steadily provided a revenue for future ventures. Avril has kindly agreed to continue with these responsibilities going forward.

As has been intimated in the meeting invitation, this will be the last Parent Council meeting for my wife Lorraine and I. Lorraine has also acted as Chairperson in the past and we will miss our involvement with the school.

Between us we have been 8 years at the school; approx. 2920 days; 16 Parent Evenings; multiple enthusiastic and motivational speeches by Mr Kane; almost 48 P.C meetings; 3 headteachers; attendance and support of numerous multi-sport and academic events; as well as renewing acquaintances with one of my primary / secondary school classmates in Elaine Dover.

Being active in the PC has provided us both an opportunity to understand and contribute to our children’s academic and personal journey at the school and we consider many of the teaching staff, & SMT as friends supporting not only myself personally before and after my surgery but for the wider pastoral support to our son Kyle who was affected not only through his sister’s illness but also following his Gran’s death and more recently my own recovery.

As Chair for the P.C I would like to thank Lorraine for her support of the school and assistance over the years and I know it will allow her to concentrate fully on other projects.

I personally have been buoyed by the new attendees to the meeting tonight. We have slowly been losing members over the past years and we were concerned for the operability and functionality of the P.C with a dwindling committee. It looks as though CHS P.C will be in good hands over the coming years.

Finally, Lorraine and I wish the Parent Council and Chryston High School continued success with all they aspire to.

Thank you…