# Chryston High School (CHS) Parent Council

# Wednesday 4th November 2020 6.30pm (online via Zoom)

Present: Ailsa Macdonald, Avril Hemphill, Morven Strange, Karen Chapman, Yvonne Sloan, Sharon Bowie

In attendance: Mr Mitchell, Mr Kane, Georgina Cawdron, Ms Bell

Apologies: Michelle Brown

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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. | none |
| 2 | **Minutes of Previous Meeting**  Minutes of previous meeting on 9th September 2020 were proposed by Avril Hemphill and seconded by Morven Strange | None |
| 3 | **School Report**  Georgina Cawdron reported that plans have evolved to introduce a S6 Chryston High Tartan skirt to the uniform which are being individually tailored by the current uniform supplier. There needed to be a minimum order of 36. School tartan masks and scrunchies will also be available from January 2021. 2021 is 55 years from the opening of Chryston High School and provides an opportunity to refresh the school uniform. When restrictions around use of changing rooms is lifted there will be a relaunch of the uniform.  As the annual award ceremony cannot physically take place this year, captains are currently filming for the awards ceremony, which will be available on YouTube. The first digital assembly took place last week again because it is not possible to have pupils congregate in the assembly hall at present.  Captains are also planning interhouse activities and a reverse advent calendar to donate to a local Foodbank.  They have also set up a CHS Captains Twitter page aimed at letting pupils know about activities going on in the school. | None |
| 4 | **Rights Respecting School**  Ms Bell updated that after receiving a Rights Respecting School Bronze Award in 2019 a plan had been outlined to attain the Silver Award. Post COVID, the original plan drawn up at the beginning of the year seemed bitty and so she is currently revising the implementation plan. The aim is to not be another initiative but have an overarching umbrella that encompasses all aspects of school life. It will take time to embed this approach into the curriculum however this has started with the development of lessons to be delivered monthly at PSHE on ‘Right of the month’. Chryston Parliament has been a great addition to the school and can be a forum for debate but not all young people want to be part of this arrangement so another complimentary group may be formed. There will be a drive to increase engagement of the younger pupils with Chryston Parliament (who often express anti-establishment views) and think how to best link with different year groups as there is currently so much restriction for activities across different year groups. What has been encouraging is that there has been broader representation across faculties wanting to be involved with Rights Respecting School this year.  It is anticipated that it will take 18 months to achieve the Rights Respecting School Silver Award. The school is now part of a mentoring system across North Lanarkshire health and wellbeing team for those most involved in the attainment process. Mr Mitchell stated that Ms Bell’s determination will keep the process on track and ensures both staff and pupils are engaged in the process. | None |
| 5 | **Contingency Plans for Further Lockdown**  Mr Mitchell informed that the stance from North Lanarkshire Council’s Chief Executive is that everything will be done to keep schools open.  Microsoft Teams is the contingency plan for teaching with staff still receiving training on how best to use the platform. There is a move to effective use of Class Notebook and with resources such as videos being hosted on Teams it will eventually cut teacher preparation time. Due to safeguarding issues, face to face teaching is unlikely to go ahead. With 12-15 staff off self-isolating at any one time this has put pressure on the remaining teaching staff so that most are teaching constantly between 8:45am and 3:45pm.  With the later start to the teaching year, Mr Mitchell sought Parent Council views on holding the assessment fortnight between 18 January and 1 February 2021. Staff and pupils had both felt that this would allow extra time for more of the curriculum to be covered prior to Christmas but ensure that Christmas holidays were not spent studying for exams. This is as late as the exams could be held without having a knock-on effect on the subject choice/ timetabling for the next academic year. The school is still waiting on clarification from the SQA on what will be included within the examination curriculum. It is likely the assessment fortnight will be invigilated by teachers and be in class as there can not be large number of pupils in the assembly hall and often invigilators fall into a vulnerable group category.  Comments from parent council members were that having the assessments later would ensure that pupils abilities were better represented. It was also encouraging that National 5 pupils will have the opportunity to sit ‘prelims’ as well as class assessments to build up their experience- especially as they won’t be sitting final exams this year. For S5 pupils to sit ‘prelim’ assessments in January will be good experience as some pupils will be sitting 5 Highers in May 20201 without having sat a formal exam to date.  The captains will put together a video on the key messages about sitting assessments.  So far Chryston High has had 4 positive COVID cases where it has been deemed necessary for contingency plans to be brought in to action because the person has been in the school within previous 48 hours of a positive COVID test. There were no positive cases before the October school week. There have been 70-80 pupils and staff self-isolating. Each case requires thorough investigation which takes a member of the senior management team all day to deal with to find the level of detail required for NHS Lanarkshire public health team. Examples are- whether the same bus driver has been in contact for each journey within the 48 hour period (taking them over the max 15 minute contact time) or in PE where the bat was sanitised between each person handling it meant that a whole class did not have to self-isolate. The school want the right people self-isolating for the right reasons and do not want pupils staying at home without good reason. If pupils are off, their pupil support teacher will contact them 4-8 days into the self-isolation period to see how their wellbeing is. | Parent Council members agreed assessment format should be held 18/1/21 to 1/2/21. |
| 6 | **Engagement Survey For Parent Forum**  The Chair thanked parent council members for their initial contributions to designing a short survey to gauge interest of parent and carers with the parent council and Chryston High School Supporters. The aim was to circulate the survey link to the parent forum and have a quick turn around of a week. From this a sub-committee could meet to determine action points on how to increase parental engagement.  It was agreed best ways to communicate the survey link was via Twitter and by including in the next school newsletter due to distribution at the end of this week. Both a QR code and a link will be available. | Secretary to get survey link to Mr Mitchell for inclusion in school letter by Friday.  Parent Council members to meet on Wed 25 Nov 2020 to discuss action points from survey. |
| 7 | **Chryston High Supporters Update**  Chryston High School Parent Council currently have 313 followers and Chryston High School Supporters have 230 followers on Twitter.  There have not been many new members since the summer for the CHS Supporters 500 club monthly draw. Some more promotion will be useful. Funds raised over the first year are now in excess of £1000. | Treasurer to send item for inclusion in school newsletter regarding CHS Supporters 500 Club |
| 9 | **Correspondence**  The chair thanked parent council members for their comments regarding the SQA decision about the examination diet in 2021. North Lanarkshire Council had been keen to hear responses despite the proximity to the SQA announcement on the examination diet content. |  |
| 10 | Date of next meeting **Wednesday 13th January 2021 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.*