PTA 16th Jan 2023

Present – Clare D, Laura, Mr Marshall, Mr McEwan, Moya, Claire H, Shauna, Siobhan, Jenna, Leanne, Alket

Apologies – Claire B, Alison D, Julie D, Claire J, Maureen McC

* Please note that Jenna doesn’t want to join the PTA WhatsApp group and would prefer email communication instead.

Update from previous minutes

* Didn’t get the funding for the school library upgrade. Look at other ways to source funding. Ikea? Co op funding? Siobhan knows staff that work in Ikea and will approach to ask for advice. She will also keep a look out for the next round of Co op funding.

Head Teachers Report

* Furniture order for the school including chairs for auditorium and classrooms and staff base. The flooring in three maths classes has been upgraded and the fitness suite flooring is due to be completed by next month.
* Staffing – there are currently 925 pupils on role with an expected minimum of 185 first years for Aug intake.
* Staff vacancies will be out by Easter.
* Six student teachers in placement at Trinity for variety of subjects.
* Family Festival event ran in Dec and had positive feedback.
* Pupil choir went to sing at St Francis nursing home and looking to strengthen relationship.
* Advent activities were split into two junior and senior. Mass, ceilidh, and karaoke were led by Mr McEwan and were a great success.
* Family study skills event in March
* Mass is open to families on Tuesday at 8.30am. Invites will role out to cluster schools and can form part of a transition exercise. This will be for groups of 10 as that is what the minibus holds to return pupils to primary schools.
* Prelims started today and run for 2/3 weeks. Any exams scheduled for 27th Jan (proposed strike day) will be added to the end of the exams. All pupils affected will be informed as soon as possible. Claire J raised the question of why prelims are after Christmas and some schools choose to sit before. Mr Marshall replied that after January prelims maximise time to cover more course content.
* Mock options taking place with S2. Lots of prep and discussion in SE. Parents are keen for warning of this, bulletin in order to have discussion with pupils in preparation.
* This year S3 will be the last who drop a subject going into S4. Claire H asked if parents could be involved in the discussion process with pupils prior to the mock choices.
* There is recycling in the school as a local authority initiative.

Event Planning

* Spring Event to promote the school, groups and clubs. Raise money for general school pot to support a variety of activity and events.
* Would like to invite cluster primaries.
* Mr Marshall would like to form a sub committee of parents, pupils and teachers. A message will go out in the HT weekly blog.
* External stalls will pay a table fee
* Pupil stalls
* Feeder primaries can be offered stalls (PTA?)
* Entertainment
* Cake and coffee/tea will be available.
* Hoping to utilise the assembly hall/canteen space.
* Possibly 25th March

6th Year Activity

* Parents raised issue with lack of communication for prom details. The prom committee couldn’t decide on a venue and that has held up correspondence. Letters going out this week with all the relevant details.
* Friday 16th June in Village hotel. £40 per head. Includes dinner, mocktail DJ and transport.
* Pupils will meet at the school for refreshment and photos then head up in buses.
* Payment will be instalments on Parent Pay.
* Two teachers will oversee the committee to support.
* Yearbook cost is £26.50
* Hoodies are available but not part of the school offering and can be ordered direct from the website.
* 6th years will be encouraged to fundraise for next year’s school leavers.