

Parent Council Report

13th November 2019

Pupil Council

Primary established our “Kids Councils”. Last session our reps requested an outside blackboard in the upper area and that was organised immediately. Lunchtime indoor clubs were also requested for rainy days and last week we began organising materials and spaces for 4 clubs; a chess club, a drawing club, a drafts club and a construction club. P6/7 were asked to gather the materials we already have for these activities and make sure we have enough complete kits - so hopefully all these clubs should be up and running by the end of this week.

Key events last term

Primary parents open afternoon – amazing attendance.

S1 open evening – very successful and keen to continue this into another year. Possibly introduce a senior phase event.

Staff vs Pupils hockey/football – great event

Key events this term

Successful university trip

Winterball on 21st November

S1 and Primary Parents evening 28th November

S2 Parents night 4th December

Primary Christmas concert 10/11 December

Whole school assembly on the 20th December

Staffing

ASN Teacher – We have appointed two teachers to a 1.0fte ASN teacher post. We are delighted to have appointed Emma Nicolson and Krissi Peterson

EYA – the interviews have taken place and we have a preferred candidate.

LSW – we are shortlisting this week.

PT ASN and Pupil Support – The second round of recruitment is underway. The post is advertised and the closing date is the 20th November.

SIP

Tracking and monitoring – training is taking place tomorrow. All teachers will be trained in using SEEMIS to track and monitor.

3-18 school

Parents as partners – family learning – we tried royal observatory and Resilience documentary, however there was not a lot of interest. Very keen to hear ideas from parents as to what family learning they would like.

The Parent Council Volunteering opportunities letter has gone out, and there have been a few responses.

Values

All secondary year groups have had a Values workshop where they have had the opportunity to define what they feel our values should be. They are keen to have a logo redesign as well. Primary pupils are working on this in class with their teachers. Parents got the opportunity to feed in to that at the open evenings but I will also put out a survey. Staff will also have an opportunity.

Curriculum

Parents had the opportunity to add input to the curriculum refresh with the questions laid out at parents events. We will continue to take this out. So far suggestions made by parents that we are looking to add into the curriculum is BSL in primary and some type of maritime/seamanship learning in secondary.

Attainment Gap

The Breakfast club is underway

Danny Peterson (Active Schools) will be running an after school sports leadership course.

Currently looking for a staff member for targeted work for secondary pupils who are at risk of not attaining. Julie Clark is doing targeted work in primary to close the attainment gap.

Self-evaluation

I am regularly meeting pupils on a Friday to get their views on a range of activities and build that into our self-evaluation.

Learning visits last term focussed on Learning Environment – the action points were that the building needed tidied and more consistency in terms of what is a good learning environment.

Focus for Learning Visits this term is pupils' learning experience; focussing on why, what and how they are learning.

Developing the Young Workforce

We recently met with Gail Bray to start developing partnership agreements with local businesses. If you are aware of any business/opportunities please let us know and we can look into this. We are also looking in to organising a local careers event for the pupils and the community in the new year. We are hoping that Ms Gregory's Admin class will play a big role in the organisation of the event. Gail Bray has offered funding.

Anchor Project

Will be on site from January 2019. The focus is supporting early intervention and looking at making systemic changes to support better interventions.

Work Experience week moving to May – To allow for less disruption to the pupils learning we are moving the S4 work experience to May, this will allow them to have their work experience before commencing their 4th year and will stop their learning being interrupted by work experience in September

School Security – to ensure that we know who is in the building we have reactivated the security system for the school. This now means that all doors are locked, except at the beginning or end of the day and social times. We are also introduce staff ID badges.

Norovirus

Parents will be aware that a substantial number of children were off school/nursery due to the sickness bug going around. Some of these absences were due to children being kept off as a precautionary measure, which is completely understandable. A number of processes were put in place to try to reduce the further spread of the virus, notably a deep clean with extra strength disinfectant, information was given to parents and instruction to all pupils about careful and thorough handwashing. We have reminded all parents to ensure that they follow council policy, which is that any children who do catch this bug are kept away from school for a full 48 hours after their last bout of sickness as this is the only way to stop the bug spreading to other children/staff.