

Harlaw Academy

Parent Council Meeting

Thursday 28th November 2019

6.30pm

<u>Agenda Item</u>	
1. <u>Welcome and Apologies</u>	Apologies: Douglas Lumsden, Dell Henrickson, Michael Hutchison, Sarah Souter, Angie Nicol, Mary Michie and Lorraine McCoy
2. <u>Election of New Members</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Angie Nicol has been nominated by Catriona Allan to be voted on to co-ordinate the Fundraising Committee. Tara Todd approved and Lyndsay Hay seconded.
3. <u>Points from Previous Meeting</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Treasurer Post - Tara will be stepping down as Treasurer, her last meeting will be in June. We are looking for someone to be elected before this so that Tara can do a handover. If you know of anyone please let the Parent Council know. Email to go out to advertise vacancy.• School Water bottles - Money made from the sale of bottles needs to go to the Parent Council. A total amount for the year will be checked in June and a cheque for the year will be raised.• Security – This continues to be an ongoing matter with the Council. Due to the current build up to Election, Catriona will chase this up in the New Year.• Playground – All equipment now in place. Donations were given from Aberdeen Airport, Shell, The Former Pupils and also current Pupils. A big thank you to everyone for their donations. Plaques are being put in place within the playgrounds and the Airport are looking to get a photo from the school. Also looking to brighten up the “Quiet Playground”. Murals are being looked at and the Art Department are going to help with this and it will be something similar to Broomhill’s playground.• ASDA Tokens – Lyndsay has tried to make contact with no success – Tara has a contact to help.
4. <u>Parent Council Chair Report</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aberdeen Parent Council Forum - held on 11th November 2019. Main focus was around the School Holiday Consultation. There will be no change for Aberdeen City for the next 5 years. There will be another consultation in the next 2-3 years.• Social Media Training – This training was unfortunately cancelled. New date to be arranged.• S1 Open Evening – Well attended with almost 200 people. Thank you to everyone that attended. Feedback from parents who visited has been overwhelmingly positive. This will be run every 2 years with a careers evening being held in between. It was agreed at the meeting that September was the best time for these events and preparation will begin for a careers event in September 2020 and the Parent Council are happy to help support this event.

	<p>Questions from Open Evening from Parents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can 2 people be on Groupcall/ Expressions for the same child? Possibly yes, Mr Innes to confirm. 2. How often are the sanitary bins in the school emptied? Emptied frequently, Mr Innes will confirm how often.
<p><u>5.</u> <u>Harlaw Parent</u> <u>Fundraisers Report</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swishing Event – unfortunately this event was cancelled due to the pupils not understanding how it worked. There will be an adult swishing event planned for after Easter outwith the school so that the concept can be explained to pupils. • Pupils Voice – A meeting will be arranged so that the pupils have an opportunity to voice ideas for fundraisers for the school • Quiz Night – Planned for 31st January 2020 • Christmas Parking – possibility of paying for parking at Harlaw at evenings and weekends for those coming into town. Mr Innes to look into this and report back.
<p><u>6. School Report</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Learning Festival - two of our pupils were invited to speak at the Learning Festival in Glasgow. Toby Reid & Leila Adair spoke about their work as Young Leaders of Learning to an audience of around 40 educators. As a result several schools have been in contact to praise them and to find out more about what we have been doing. • Ski Team Success - In September, some of our pupils travelled to Braelhead Indoor Ski centre and won the Scottish Schools Indoor Freestyle Championships team trophy by a margin of 1 point. • Children and Young People Awards - We were shortlisted for 6 awards at the Aberdeen City Council Children and Young People Service Awards. We won two of the overall awards: Our Pupil Reps who worked hard to bring new water fountains and playground equipment to the school won the transformation award and Laszlo Hajdu who left for University at summer won the Inspirational Leader award. • Authority QA visit of Safeguarding (2.1) and Wellbeing (3.1) - We had Quality Assurance visits from the Local Authority in September. The focus of these visits was two quality indicators (as above) The Authority were very encouraged by the work done and shared our judgement of being good to very good in these areas. • Business links – Early Learning and Childcare & Balfour Beattie - In September the Aberdeen City Council Early Learning and Childcare team came into Harlaw to work with pupils who had indicated an interest in this as a career. A great Interactive session that we hope to repeat next year. Some of our S3 pupils also had an opportunity to work on a project with Balfour Beattie on designs for the redevelopment of part of Union Terrace Gardens. • Clubs and Activities - A wide range of clubs and activities are on offer and details of these activities are on notice boards throughout the school and on the school website. Details of the study sessions are also posted on noticeboards and have been handed out at parent evenings and will be posted on the website.

- **Website** - Our website has been overhauled by Rob Stephen, one of our previous Maths teachers. We are working on a plan to start utilising it more to communicate with parents and the community. We really do thank the parent council for funding this refresh.
- **Reports & Parent Evenings** - S1, S5/6 & S4 have had parent's evenings. S3 will be in February and S2 in March and all year groups have had progress reports. S2 full reports will be issued before the Christmas holidays. S3,4,5 & 6 will receive full reports in January and S1 an interim report.
- **Staffing** -
 - Fiona Lawrence (DHT) has started a 23 month secondment as a National Development Officer working for the Scottish Government. Angela McLellan is now Acting DHT and has taken over as S5 Year Head.
 - Heather Paterson will increase her role to full time Acting Faculty Head of Technologies.
 - Ashleigh Wilson (Social Subjects) has returned from maternity leave. Ashleigh is currently doing 0.5 in Social Subjects and 0.5 as Acting PT Guidance for Holburn house, with responsibility for S1 to S3 Holburn pupils.
 - Dan Price Davies is now 0.5 Acting DHT and 0.5 PT Guidance, with responsibility for S4 to S6 Holburn pupils and has taken over as S1 Year Head.
 - Chris Duncan, PT Guidance for Albyn House, has started a new job as PT Guidance at Banchory Academy and Erin Kermath has picked up the role of Acting PT Guidance for Albyn House. Interviews for a permanent PT Guidance for Albyn will take place next week.
 - Nic Fyfe joined us at the start of this session as Faculty Head of Social Subjects.
- **Senior assessment windows** - As stated in our school calendar we have two senior assessment periods this year. One is before Christmas and the other is the second week back in January. Each Faculty has made the decision on when they feel would be best for pupils to sit their subject preliminary exams and teachers have been busy preparing pupils, informing them of the assessment period that they would be sitting their exams in. The assessment schedule of exams has been published and is on the school website and has been group called out. We aim to ensure that in future years that the assessment schedule is published further in advance than this year and would like to apologise in the delay of getting this out.
- **Christmas concert** - Our annual Christmas concert will take place on Tuesday the 17th of December.
- **Course choice** - We are in the process of putting together our course choice offer for 2020/2021. We have a wide range of subjects that our senior pupils can choose from in school or via NESCol, the Aberdeen City Campus and through the Open University YASS program. For our current S2 pupils going into S3, they will soon be making their pathway preference choices. It is important that the pupils have personalisation & choice, but it is also essential that we provide pupils at this stage with enough

<p><u>7. Former Pupil Report</u></p> <p><u>8. Treasurer Report</u></p> <p><u>9. AOB</u></p>	<p>breadth. We have taken on board some invaluable feedback that we received last session from parents and pupils and plan to introduce a S3 Social Subjects pathway to go along with our existing Science, Expressive Art & PE & Technologies pathways.</p> <p>Course Choice Evening - The senior course choice evening will take place on the 23rd of January.</p> <p>Dates for your Diary –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 24th January 2020 is the deadline date for S2 pupils to submit their S3 pathway preference. - 14th February 2020 is the submission date for S4 course choice. • 21st February is the submission date for S4/5 course choices. • Northsound 1 Quiz - Through to semi finals. • HMIE Inspection – We have recently been inspected. 12 inspectors were in school for a full inspection. It was a huge amount of work to pull everything together and it was a very demanding but a good week. School was seen to be strong in the areas of numeracy and wider opportunities for pupils. The report will be published in February 2020. An action plan has already been put in place and work has begun on the areas highlighted. - A new president has been elected - Hopes the inspection wasn't too traumatic for staff - Enjoyed the open evening event – thank you for invitation - Thank you to the school for opening up for the FP Coffee Morning and to the Senior Prefects for showing them round the school <p>Report given at meeting. £1052.94 currently in account.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uniform – a parent at the meeting asked about uniform standards and if there were rules about the lengths of skirts and wearing leggings. Discussion held and action to speak to pupil rep groups noted.
--	---