

Harlaw Academy

Parent Council Meeting

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021

4.30pm via Google Meets

<u>Agenda Item</u>	
<b>1.</b> <u>Welcome and Apologies</u>	<p>Welcome: Catriona (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone within school for all that they are doing during these challenging times.</p> <p>Apologies:</p> <p>Councillor Nicoll</p>
<b>2.</b> <u>Previous Minutes</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shelter update – Parent Council Reps Rachael , Aurelie and Tony have taken this to John Swinney and to Aberdeen City Council who have raised it with Councillor Wheeler. No funding for it but the reps are continuing to see what they can do via COSLA</li><li>• Building works at front of building – Plans are that equipment will be put in front of C Block. The tree roots have been taken out in preparation. Council are expecting the work to be completed before the end of this financial year. This work will include - barriers, hedges and 2 x paths to stop cars driving through during school day.</li><li>• Previous minutes – approved – Veronica Strachan and Seconded - Ruth Adair</li></ul>
<b>3.</b> <u>Parent Council Update</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Election of new member for Parent Council - Katherine Anderson who has daughters in S3 and S5 and a son in S1. We thank you for coming and delighted to have you joining. Approved – Ruth Adair and Seconded – Tara Todd</li><li>• Treasurer position is still vacant. Thanks again to Tara for keeping going and everything up to date. Tara explained about the role and offered to go into more detail if anyone was interested.</li><li>• Ruth and Catriona have attended Aberdeen Parent Council Forum Meetings. Last one was very well attended – 30 PC represented. Gael Simpson QIM at ACC, gave update: in 1<sup>st</sup> week 23,000 out of 26,000 pupils across the city had engaged and there were 675 google classrooms undertaking learning which is encouraging.</li><li>• 11,000 chrome books had been distributed across the city with more coming and on order. Within Harlaw an order for another 350</li></ul>

	<p>Chromebooks has been submitted and the school are awaiting their arrival. 500 devices were delivered before Christmas and all Parents who have asked for a Chromebook have been given the opportunity to get one.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catriona took part in interview processes which was really interesting. Mr McLaren will give more detail of this in the school update section.</li> <li>• Catriona wanted to express her thanks to the Elected Members for coming along to the weekly meetings at 6pm. Lots of issues have been discussed with SLT and we are looking at different ways we can help parents with Google Classroom etc.</li> <li>• A parent has requested to go to a webinar on Assisted Technology for children who have processing issues and the Parent Council has agreed to pay for this. Feedback will be shared with the Parent Council. The Parent Council receives around £400 a year for these types of events so please get in touch if there are anything you would like to attend.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Treasury Report</u></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is currently £2784 in the bank account</li> <li>• We spent £236 on the 2 HOP banners</li> <li>• Income has been received from : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Christmas Tombola</li> <li>- Body Shop &amp; WKD Designs</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Bank account is looking positive at the moment and the Just Giving monies is still to be paid in.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>HOP Update</u></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fundraising events – We have recently had tombola and a shopping event that took place before Christmas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- £640 raised on Tombola. Huge thanks to Angie and Ferryhill for organising. Thanks for the donations, especially to Murray Todd for donating a stay at Sandman.</li> <li>- £43.10 raised at shopping event.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Next Thursday we have fundraising meeting for elected member to see how we can push HOP fundraising forward in the current climate</li> <li>• Emma Williams been filling in more grant applications – Tesco has been submitted and will update when we hear back. Asda, COOP, NF Mutual and Garfield Weston all being applied for also.</li> <li>• We won £1000 from the Shell Community Fund and thanks to Ruth Adair who completed a Shell Employee Grant and received £350.</li> <li>• Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful with a bid for £3000 from Screw Fix</li> <li>• Balance for project at the moment is £ 5760. We need about £8k to start on one area.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The banner has gone from Harlaw as it kept falling down - Mr McLaren going to look at options for this. The second banner has moved from Broomhill to Ferryhill</li> <li>• The School is opening for COVID Vaccinations at weekend so posters could be put up at doors etc to promote project</li> <li>• 2 companies in the Harlaw area are keen to support the project but due to COVID this has been delayed. A former pupil has also offered their joinery skills. Catriona has been in touch to inform them that the site clearance part of the project is currently on hold</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>5</u> <b>School Update</b></p>	<p><b>Remote learning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On the 5<sup>th</sup> of January the school were informed about remote learning and they got to work arranging the curriculum. Staff had opportunities to attend professional learning development sessions – there were 70 attendees at workshops to upskill for a better learning experience for the children.</li> <li>• All faculties were asked to prepare a statement for the year groups and this was shared with parents on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January. The school also made sure Google Guardian was set up for each pupil and invites were sent to all parents.</li> <li>• During the 1<sup>st</sup> week SLT met with Heads of Faculties for progress reports</li> <li>• Harlaw saw an 96% engagement on 1<sup>st</sup> week of remote learning via Google - one of the highest uptakes in the city</li> <li>• There was another review with Faculty Heads on 20<sup>th</sup> January which led to the parental survey that was issued</li> <li>• Assemblies were this week with a 70% attendance</li> <li>• Main points to note from the survey will be shared with parents this week and the areas have been broken down and given to Faculty Heads to discuss</li> <li>• The school feel they have definitely improved from 1<sup>st</sup> lock down but still a lot to learn and improve on.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>QUESTIONS</u></b></p> <p><b><i>How did you communicate with parent body about google guardian?</i></b> Each parent was emailed and invited to join and set up Google Guardian. Email addresses that were used were the ones the school have for parents. If you didn't receive this email please contact your child's Guidance Teacher.</p> <p><b><u>SQA Update</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SQA have announced a change in date for submission from May 28<sup>th</sup> to June 18<sup>th</sup> 2021. This allows more time for teachers to consolidate evidence and more time for the Quality Assurance of grades. The message coming from SQA and First Minister is that focus should be on leaning and teaching. With the announcement due on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, we will hopefully then have an update on schools reopening. We are awaiting this information before making changes to assessment week (prelims)</li> </ul>

	<p><b><u>Reports</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S1 reports have been posted to parents.</li> <li>• The senior summary reports are being finalised and will be posted to parents.</li> <li>• S2 and S3 reports will follow after this</li> <li>• Process for getting reports out has been complicated. Big thanks to Miss McLellan and team for getting this to happen.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Curriculum review</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr McLaren and Mrs Rennie met with Faculty Heads to set feedback on curriculum models on pupils sitting 8 qualifications by end of S4.</li> <li>• Course choices will be slightly later this year than it would normally be.</li> <li>• Next step of review in February with full staff team consultation. A lot of positive feedback from Faculty Heads and they understand where the direction the school is going. Curriculum review group has been working really well and school have listened to everyone.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Staffing</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interviews have taken place and the following information can be shared; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Principal Teacher of Literacy – will work in the English Department. They will also engage with ASG schools to streamline assessment and moderation of Literacy across the board</li> <li>- Principal Teacher of Numeracy – this post has not been filled yet. The school continues to keep trying</li> <li>- Pupil Support Leader - appointment made and this will be great for the new structure. This teacher will also be the transition Guidance Teacher of the P7s and bring them in to S1.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b><u>Trip Refunds</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A number of trips were booked that didn't go ahead. Whilst most have now been refunded, there is still one trip to be refunded and the school are working very hard to sort this. This is not an Aberdeen City Council or Harlaw issue, it is the insurance company that is holding up the process.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Former Pupil's</u></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winter to Spring is usually a busy social calendar for the FP's however, all events have been cancelled due to COVID. This includes the Annual Dinner which has now been cancelled 2 years in a row. Members are also missing the Saturday morning coffee group and the walking group.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holding a virtual Zoom quiz in February</li> <li>• At the recent committee meeting the HOP project was discussed and the following questions require to be answered before we commit:</li> </ul> <p><b>How will the areas be used when the pandemic is over?</b> The school is a fantastic building but it lacks in social space for the pupils to congregate. Before the pandemic they used corridors. However, they are unable to this now. We really want to create space for them to be outside to get fresh air. Want to create areas they can go to and relax and socialise with peers.</p> <p><b>Thinking of our climate how often will they be able to make use of these outdoor spaces?</b> There is ongoing work with Aberdeen City Council to undertake planned changes to the school building and if they go through, they will increase our social spaces inside the school. Outside area funding is manageable for the Parent Council to fundraise for however the internal plans require bigger funding through Aberdeen City Council.</p> <p><b>As Vaccinations are now happening will the areas will be used within the pandemic?</b> These areas were already being thought of before the pandemic, however the pandemic has brought the HOP Project forward. As soon as lockdown restrictions are lifted and lighter nights come in, we want to get in and get started. We don't know what the future will hold, however COVID has made the lack of space more apparent.</p> <p><b>In blurb on Just Giving page – it says like other older schools - what are other schools doing to change their school/ fundraise?</b> Harlaw was the first school to bring this up at the Parent Forum. Not many other schools are doing their own fundraising but have approached council for funding.</p> <p>The next Former Pupil Committee meeting is in March so answers will be fed back then.</p> <p>Ellie has asked if the Former Pupil Email address could you be updated on the Harlaw Website.</p>
<p><b><u>AOB</u></b></p>	<p><b>Q) Curriculum development – will S2/3's be given a timeline to manage expectations of when they will be making choices?</b> Mr McLaren agrees. Initial consultations with PT will lead to a wider discussion next week with staff. The decisions will determine the timeline and what it looks like. The historic choosing of subjects will not be taking place in February. Guidance staff have been speaking to the pupils about this. The school is looking at other options for parts of the curriculum also and all this will be discussed with staff before the pupils so that we know the curriculum is effective for all pupils.</p>

	<p><b>Q) Will assessment week include an element for S4's?</b>  Not at the moment, it is only for S5 and S6. No exams for S4 as assessments and this will be done in different ways. We are living through an ever-changing situation, however the plan is out and we are sticking to this at the moment. If there are any changes this will be communicated to parents and pupils. Once we know what FM says next week, we will have a better awareness of where we are going.</p> <p><b>Q) I would like to know more about the S4 assessment week involvement</b>  This year departments have had options of when assessments are as long as there is evidence for SQA to support them. Assessments are being done within class time.</p> <p><b>Q) Are the google meets in the calendar or to do tab as they do not appear in the calendar?</b>  Staff have been asked to assign tasks which then goes into Google calendar. If it hasn't appeared in the calendar it means it's not an assignment, if it has happened let the school know so they can let guidance staff know.</p> <p><b>Q) If child is struggling is there an opportunity for a 1-2-1 with that class teacher?</b>  if they are struggling please let teacher know, the teacher will then make a judgment on how to move forward for this. Different teachers will respond in different ways.</p> <p><b>Q) There seems to be a lack of feedback in some subjects for pupils – is there a set amount they should be getting in each subject?</b>  If you have issues with feedback please contact your child's guidance teacher.</p> <p><b>Q) How do the staff feel about the interactive learning? Do they feel pupils are engaging especially in live meetings?</b>  The staff are pleased with numbers attending but it's hard with black screens and no microphones. Try to encourage interaction with teachers if you can from home.</p> <p><b>Q) Discussion at parent council meetings about breakout rooms – are we able to do this?</b>  Teachers were asked if they were keen to try it.  If they are keen to use this then they can be supported with this</p> <p><b>Q) I am not getting Google Guardian for my S1 pupil; however, I am getting it for my S6. Has this been an issue with anyone else?</b>  Please contact your child's guidance teacher directly.</p>
	<p><b>Next full Parent Council meeting March 25<sup>th</sup> 2021.</b></p>