

Harlaw Academy

Parent Council Meeting

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021

4.30pm via Google Meets

<u>Agenda Item</u>	
1. <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 at these challenging times.</p> <p>Apologies: Emma Williams, Elaine Reid &amp; Councillor Nicol</p>
2. <u>Previous Minutes</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• After Easter stock take of water bottles to be completed for new S1 intake. Mrs Rennie feel they are well used and appreciated. They will receive them in August as a welcome gift.</li><li>• Meeting with senior prefect with Catriona - all introduced themselves and explained they are hoping to have a leavers event this year. The Parent Council have offered to help with the cost of this once they knew what they were planning. They were also asked to assist with a video of thanks to all the staff for all they have done during the pandemic.</li><li>• Just Giving money – would like this to be transferred to the bank account before the end of year account is submitted.</li><li>• Hop Posters – in the hall to promote the project.</li><li>• Shelter update – no real update since last meeting. It's on the agenda for NPFS meeting and the Aberdeen reps held a meeting with Gael Simpson.</li><li>• Chromebooks – there is still a number outstanding to be delivered across the city</li><li>• Funded webinar – link to this is on Parent Council Facebook Page</li><li>• Trip refunds – all monies have now been returned from insurance companies and parents have been refunded.</li></ul> <p><b>Previous minutes – proposed by Tara Todd and seconded by Lorraine McCoig</b></p>
3. <u>Parent Council Update</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We have a Treasurer in place – Lorraine McCoig – welcome.</li><li>• Proposed by Jacqui Lang and Seconded by Katherine Bews</li><li>• Huge thank you to Tara for all you have done and continuing when we didn't have a replacement. Tara will stay on as an elected member until the end of this academic year.</li><li>• Catriona attended the Former Pupil Quiz which was great fun thank you.</li><li>• Catriona had a meeting with the President and Secretary of Former Pupils to hear about their views and links with Parent Council and how we can help each other. Thank you to Mary for organising this.</li><li>• City wide meetings attended by Catriona. Discussions around parent evening and reporting and how this look at different schools across the city. Concerns were raised about schools being used as polling stations since children have missed so much school recently. If any of the ASG schools are closed for the election and have concerns, please contact the Parent Council email address.</li><li>• Catriona and Angie attended Donna Cuthill's termly meetings as they were discussing parental involvement and engagement. It was an interesting meeting, but it was mainly about the Safer Schools App with a discussion and presentation on this by Charlie Love. It will be rolled out across the city next term.</li></ul>
4. <u>Treasury Report</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• £2714.81 in account</li><li>• £92.50 in school bank account from sale of water bottles which we can transfer to PC account.</li><li>• Internet banking is now in place for the Parent Council account</li></ul>

<p><b>5. <u>HOP / Fundraising Update</u></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Haven't been further fundraising but a possible Bingo event being look at</li> <li>• More donations on the Just Giving Page</li> <li>• Wording has changed on the page to make it less COVID focussed and the photos have changed to show the area we are tackling first</li> <li>• Talking about potential events to raise money but really trying to get going and get some work done on the space when we are allowed.</li> <li>• Grants which have been submitted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Little Magic Grants</li> <li>- DPD</li> <li>- Ocado</li> <li>- SCOTMID</li> <li>- Garfield Preston Grant will be put in when we have more money raised as they match the amount raised.</li> <li>- ASDA</li> <li>- CO-OP</li> <li>- Arnold Clark</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Catriona has quotes in for seating and a joiner who is a FP that has offered to help which could save costs.</li> <li>• PC are investigating a school lottery -100/200 club. You pay annually or once a month and part of the monies raised goes into the monthly prizes and the rest is profit. The Parent Council are looking for someone to help with this.</li> <li>• Easy Fundraising – Angie to get in touch with a previous Chair whose email address is attached to the Harlaw Parent Council easy fundraising account. This is a great way of raising funds when you buy items online. For every purchase a donation goes to the school. We will share the link.</li> <li>• Christmas tombola – went so well (£640 raised) that we will repeat with a Summer tombola. If anyone has any links for prizes, please get in touch with Parent Council through Facebook or Email.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. <u>School Update</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Phased Return</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remote learning offers still in progress. In the last 7 days there has been about 98% uptake, so this is fantastic.</li> <li>• Phased return has gone well, and the key worker and vulnerable children have still been in attendance during this time too.</li> <li>• Started to take in socially distanced groups of up to 60 pupils from the BGE with masks on. All pupils were welcomed into the hall by Year Head and Mr McLaren. Then into smaller groups of 30 to do some Health and Wellbeing tasks. It has been a very worthwhile time to see all the children returning and getting back to “normal”. It's been good to see the staff and their friends and for them to be advised what school might be like in April.</li> <li>• Self-testing has been discussed with pupils also and tests distributed. The school feel they are in a good place for returning in April.</li> <li>• Mr McLaren would like to thank the Leadership team, Guidance and SfL staff, teachers and support staff for their hard work over the last 2 weeks especially with getting everyone back into school and delivering the online learning offer.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>SQA Update</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aberdeen City Council have produced document on moderation to help inform and shape quality assurance across the city. It is a great tool.</li> <li>• Faculties have been looking at how to get further evidence for pupils for their awards including in class assessments. Information will be shared with parents. School is also closely monitoring how many assessments each pupil needs to ensure they are only doing what they need to.</li> <li>• Senior reports have been posted out to parents. The parent's evenings will be online in April. These will provide information on progress and where there is room for improvements.</li> </ul>

- When grades are submitted it will be shared with the parents and pupils, so they are aware what has been submitted.

**Q**

**There is SQA webinar on tonight on Eventbrite to register before 6pm. Link will be shared again just now.**

Link will be shared with parent council.

**Q**

**In class assessment are they equivalent of what would have been exams e.g. one of my boys has an in-class assessment on 26/04. Will this be part of his final grade or is this more a prelim at this stage with a final in class assessment later?**

This is not an “exam”, it is part of their portfolio that will be put towards their final provisional grade. Within the year there will be different tests/ assessments to cover the learning intentions. Pupils are aware of what they need to do and what they can work on to improve grades. All work in the portfolio are used for grades.

**Q**

**Will those who are allowed extra time to be given this in the in-class assessments?**

Yes, they will.

**Q**

**My child isn't clear what she is expected to do in order to get the grade she wants. How can she get support with this?**

When they are back in school, they must speak to their class teacher and if still not clear then speak to their guidance teacher.

**Q**

**Is there planned last day date for school leavers?**

As it stands, we are keen to be as flexible as possible so all will be welcome in school until the end of term.

**Staffing**

- Successfully recruited 4 newly qualified teachers:
  - Adam Ridley will join our Physics team as a permanent full time teacher.
  - Georganna Wright will join our English team as a permanent full time teacher.
  - Jeremy Watt will join our Modern Studies team as a permanent full time teacher.
  - Joanna MacLaine will join our Business Education team as a permanent full time teacher.

We look forward to welcoming them back in August after their probation year. They are an outstanding asset to our school in a very challenging year and we are delighted to have kept them

- Ashley Wilson, Acting S3 Principal Teacher of Guidance has been appointed as permanent position, great news – congratulations.
- Fiona Lawrence DHT who is out on secondment to the Scottish Government now has had this extended. However, she has had to resign from her post at this time at Harlaw. This had led to a vacancy within the SLT at Harlaw. The school is sad to see her go but means the school can now look at moving forward to a new DHT.
- Please pass on thanks and best wishes from Parent council to Fiona Lawrence.

**Building works**

- Mr McLaren is grateful to Aberdeen City Council for their work with this over the last year. They are on site and de-stumping trees for the works to begin. Over Easter and into April, work will begin to install:
  - Badge/fob operated barriers during school hours
  - Entire front of the school will have a full hedge.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gates and secured access.</li> <li>• 2 x footpaths to the central point at the front of the building</li> <li>• A pelican/zebra crossing from grass over the car park into the school building</li> <li>• All this has a focus on making the pupils safer as they walk into school.</li> <li>• Toilets – lack of cubicles for boys has been raised and discussions are in place. Mr McLaren has a meeting tomorrow to look at getting this work started.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>P7-S1 Transition</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transition is going very well. Letters have been sent to parents within the ASG schools and went to those in zone but at different schools.</li> <li>• Enhanced transition is in place for those who need it.</li> <li>• Lauren Lawson is the P7 Guidance Teacher who will go into S1 with pupils when they start in August. Ms Lawson, Mr McLaren and Mrs Rennie have met with pupils for an introduction and with parents for questions.</li> <li>• Meetings have been held with P7 teachers to introduce Mrs Lawson and her role as P7 Guidance.</li> <li>• There is a booklet being worked on for the pupils for transition and what they are worried about/ looking forward to. This will be completed in P7 along with information from the teachers which will then be used to create class lists. These books will also be used when completing their settling in meetings in September/ October time.</li> <li>• Mrs Lawson will visit the schools and work with pupils once she is able to visit more than one school a week.</li> <li>• Senior prefect team are making a video for the new S1's of helpful places within the school.</li> <li>• Looking at a full year group intake for August.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Session 21/22</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Successful online meeting with S1/ S2 parents around the new curriculum and how we can improve it for the pupils. Proposal was the 4<sup>th</sup> year pupils will not sit 6 exams but instead they will do 8 subjects over S3 and S4. Choices will be made at the end of S2 and the pupils will do the same 8 qualifications over 2 years.</li> <li>• All feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.</li> <li>• Also going to do a much more robust consultation on school day. We will undertake this review after August with a view of putting this in place for the academic year 22/23.</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. <u>Former Pupil's</u></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Had a quiz night to replace annual buffet event as it couldn't go ahead due to COVID. It was well attended and great fun</li> <li>• April dinner will not go ahead this year which is disappointing however plans are in place for next year with a hope it will go ahead</li> <li>• President and Secretary meeting with Catriona was very useful to find out more about the Parent Council.</li> <li>• FP committee had a meeting this week and Mary gave feedback on the questions she put to us at the last meeting. She announced that the FP's will donate £1000 to the HOP Project which is just fantastic news.</li> <li>• Yearly magazine – Editor is always looking for pieces within the magazine. Would Catriona put an article within it to promote the parent council to the Former Pupils? Yes, delighted to. In the past we have had a piece from the head teacher – would Mr McLaren like to put an introductory piece in? Would be delighted to a first piece about his first year in Harlaw.</li> </ul>
<p><b>8. <u>AOB</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Q</u></b>  <b>Any idea when inspectors will be retuning?</b>  Not yet all inspections are on hold now due to the pandemic.</p> <p><b><u>Q</u></b>  <b>Uniform recycling station – could we look at doing this again after Easter once we know what school will look like?</b></p>

Yes, it was a great success – the need will be even greater this year so let’s look at a way of getting this to happen

**Q**

**Councillor Allard thanked everyone within the school and the parents for their hard work over the last year and the work around the safety for the front of the school. He also asked: what was the experience of Chrome Books from a teacher and parent point of view?**

School are delighted with the Chromebooks that have been delivered to date. We are yet to unlock the full potential, but they are a huge asset to the school environment and have given our pupils access to Google classroom over the lockdowns.

**Next Meeting: AGM 10<sup>th</sup> June – will be confirmed nearer the time.**