

Harlaw Academy

Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022

6.30pm @ Harlaw Academy & online via Google Meets

<u>Agenda Item</u>	
<u>Welcome and Apologies</u>	<p>Welcome: Catriona (Chair) welcomed and thanked everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies: Kevin and Jacqueline Rinchey, Abigayle Morrison, Emma Williams, Elaine Reid</p>
<u>Previous Minutes &amp; Action Plan</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recycling bin – many places don't allow school uniform to be recycled. Looking into alternative options.</li><li>• Information submitted for the induction booklet.</li><li>• Calendar of Easy Fundraising posts – Angie will cover this below.</li><li>• Source donation for Chromebook covers – Lyndsay still looking into this.</li><li>• Google form for feedback - it is possible to leave feedback and a link could be provided but it doesn't give an alert to the school. Ross looking into a portal for this and this will be ongoing.</li><li>• Photos from Former Pupils - historical photos of the railings – PC has received some but Mary is going to put in magazine report to source more.</li><li>• Water bottle stock take – Avril Kessack and Lauren Lawson to complete.</li><li>• Possibility of an in-house career's fayre before Christmas for next steps opportunities for all leavers. Ruth &amp; Catriona to organise.</li><li>• Fundraising – the policy on poverty proofing and fair for all has been delayed and was raised at city wide meeting but no feedback yet.</li><li>• Google Suite – thank you to Graham Blance this has been added to Facebook page, school website and P7 admission booklet. Google Guardian – work behind the scenes by Laura and Graham making sure all parents are invited to Google Guardian to get weekly summaries of their child's week. It is also within the admissions booklet.</li><li>• No updates currently on the murals for the quads as department is busy with SQA work.</li><li>• No feedback on the dyslexia champion from Craig McDermott.</li></ul> <p>Approved – Veronica Strachan Seconded – Angie Nicol</p>
<u>Parent Council Update</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rachel Price &amp; Catriona had raised lack of shelters within the LA during COVID with the Scottish Government. Have not heard back from Scott Johnson yet but will look at this moving forward to support outdoor learning.</li><li>• Lyndsay Hay &amp; Catriona attended a social media event to gain tips on how to promote the Parent bodies. Feedback was that our parent Facebook page was well utilised.</li><li>• DHT interviews – Catriona has been involved and they went well. Looking for more volunteers to help with this and to do the training to have more people available to help with interviews</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At last Aberdeen City Parent Council Meeting there was a session on Compassionate and Connected communities. It has been trialled in some schools and is now being rolled out across the city. This has been built into the staff development within Harlaw. There are 3 final sessions to be completed at the end of June the whole school team will be trained in this initiative.</li> <li>• Typically, APCF pay the insurance for Parent Council's insurance to run on top of the budget given. This year ACC's Parental Engagement Officer paid for all PCs to have membership to Connects, which includes insurance for all Pc's and a wealth of other resources. It could be possible that the Parent Council budget may be reduced for the 22/23 year based on this.</li> <li>• Aberdeen Parent Council Forum asked Catriona to raise that the Chair of this organisation is leaving and is looking for a replacement. APCF gives Aberdeen a voice National Parent Forum of Scotland and at the Education Operational Delivery Committee at ACC so it's vital to get someone in post for this. Next meeting for this is next Wednesday if anyone is interested.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Treasury Report</u></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £8844.72 in the bank now but this is due to a lot of money for the S6 events. So actual balance is £4945.96</li> <li>• Last year the income was: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ £345.55 for Parent Council Funding</li> <li>○ £4975.01 of donations</li> <li>○ £4924.42 of fundraising</li> <li>○ £7,619.00 from the S6 events</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Expenditure last financial year was: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Clerk payments - £120</li> <li>○ HOP Project - £7,634.80</li> <li>○ S6 Events - £3720.34</li> <li>○ Raffle - £113.93</li> <li>○ Miscellaneous - £750.00</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Accounts are ready to be verified and need to be audited for the AGM.</li> <li>• Angie to find out how Easy Fundraising can be transferred to account.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>HOP / Fundraising Update</u></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Just Giving – to date has raised £5930 but some has been withdrawn. Current balance is £2990</li> <li>• Easy fundraising balance– £675.64</li> <li>• Co-op balance - £152.38</li> <li>• £3817 not currently in the parent council account</li> <li>• Looking for more people to get signed up to Easy Fundraising and the Co-op.</li> <li>• Look at creating calendar of events for reminders for fundraising pages.</li> <li>• Uniform events have been successful. If you have any old uniform that is still in good condition, please pass on to the parent council and come along to the uniform events and get new uniform for a small donation if you can afford it. More events like this will be organised.</li> <li>• Looking to have an in-person quiz night and will get a date in the calendar.</li> <li>• If anyone has any fundraising ideas, please get in touch through parent council email or through the school – ideas are always welcome.</li> <li>• Grants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ £1000 application into Shell for outside table tennis table</li> <li>○ Ford – £3000 for high benches for the second quad (outdoor classroom)</li> <li>○ Creative funding scheme – Bonnymuir gardens visited to offer support for making the quads look nice. Emma Williams Is going to see if this ties in with this scheme.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<p><b><u>School Update</u></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staffing – Lauren Lawson, S1 Guidance Teacher is expecting and is going on maternity leave at summer holidays. Looking to offer an acting role for 1 year and this will be done as soon as. Depute Head Teacher post has been successfully filled; Val Esslemont from Bucksburn Academy will join us on 23<sup>rd</sup> May and will be the S5 &amp; S6 head. Avril Kessack (Administrator) is moving to a different role within the school.</li> <li>• School role – 205 pupils into new S1 which takes the role to 1050. Timetable has had to be amended to support larger groups of children. This will bring more funding for staff though and will be up to 78 full time staff.</li> </ul> <p><b>Question</b> <i>How will this increase in numbers impact the school as a building?</i></p> <p>School has been creative with the space and curriculum knowing what was coming. In terms of teaching, gaps will be filled with new recruitment of staff from funding. Infrastructure – HOP Project is helping with this. Canteen space remains our biggest challenge especially with wet Weather or FSM provision. School continues to work with ACC to look at how we can improve facilities, but it is difficult with the old school building.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PEF funding has been announced and it will be around £81,000 and will be supplemented with a carry forward from last session. This will be confirmed in the next few weeks. This will help fund a Raising Attainment Principal Teacher to work with those children who come into the PEF margin</li> <li>• Looking at laying astro turf in parts of the playground. Tarmac in the third area to be replaced. Meeting with contact to see how funds can be used.</li> <li>• Over Easter break, there was works to be completed in the toilets and the quads. However, this was not completed. The works should go ahead during the summer holidays. Schools across Scotland have been sustaining damage in their toilets. This has been a constant battle within school. Before Easter 2 x toilets were very severely damaged (two pupils were caught for doing this and were excluded for the damage that was done.) An inventory of the toilets has been done and tradespeople will be in during the coming weeks to carry out repairs. SLT are out at break and lunches monitoring the toilets.</li> <li>• Quads – janitorial reshuffle has taken place during the Easter holidays. Albert &amp; Sean are now with us full time. They are making great progress within the school. Will ask the new janitorial team to move the items in the quad.</li> <li>• Last session a lot of work was completed in the curriculum review moving to 8 subjects. This session has been around the quality and consistency of learning and teaching. Looking at what makes great learning and teaching, evaluating their teaching and an observation framework to ensure it is all going to plan. The school is now at a stage of pulling a policy together by August. Would like to reach out to parents to organise a focus group. Please contact the school or the Parent Council if you are interested in this</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Prefect Update</u></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prom is planned</li> <li>• Abigail and Timmy have spoken to S5 about the recruitment process to help them with it for their move into S6</li> <li>• Team have been doing door duties etc, but it can be tough to deal with peers</li> <li>• Mr McLaren commented that he impressed with the prefects and how well they are working. Huge thank you to all the prefect team from the school and the Parent Council.</li> </ul>

	<p><u>Question</u>  <b>When will the process for the current S5's prefect for next year?</b></p> <p>With the new DHT comes into post this will be a priority and hopeful a member of the parent council can attend too to support the process.</p>
<p><b><u>Former Pupils</u></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a dinner this weekend and looking forward to meeting Mr McLaren in person rather than online. This will be the first dinner in almost 3 years.</li> <li>• Publication of magazine at the end of May/ start of June.</li> <li>• After the dinner, the next event is the coffee morning on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in September. It will be held in the Rubislaw Church Centre and hopefully be back in school next year.</li> <li>• Memorabilia groups are keen to get back into school.</li> </ul> <p><u>Question</u>  <b>How does the former pupils work for people joining?</b></p> <p>Not really a path currently. However, a leavers event is going to be reinstated within school, so could the FP's come along to this to speak to pupils? Yes, this would be great.</p> <p>Need to look at other ways to get people involved in the former pupils.</p>
<p><b><u>AOB</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Parent Questions</u></b></p> <p><b><i>Is swimming an option for Nat 5 and PE and how can this be accommodated as we don't have a pool at Harlaw?</i></b>  It is an option; it can be booked through Sport Aberdeen and Mr Connor is particularly good at organising the use of external facilities. It is numbers directed.</p> <p><b><i>Study leave - when does it start/ finish?</i></b>  27<sup>th</sup> of April to start and 6<sup>th</sup> of June to return.</p> <p><b><i>Do pupils need to come to school on the Monday and Tuesday before their exams?</i></b>  Yes, they are expected to be in school.</p> <p><b><i>Can pupils who are on study leave, come into the class times to see their teacher?</i></b>  Yes - They need to arrange this first with the teacher and should not assume the teacher is free.</p> <p><b><i>S4 Uniform - Do they need to have their new uniform for the start date before summer? What is that date?</i></b>  16<sup>th</sup> May will be the changeover date. Pupils do not need to wear the senior uniform for these weeks before summer.</p> <p><b><i>Going forward to living with covid will parent evening be keep online or back to in person?</i></b>  School will seek feedback and look to do whatever we can to support the wishes of our community. It is possible we could look at some kind of hybrid event as this has worked very well for the Parent Council meetings tonight.</p> <p><b><i>Will the school be rolling out the LIAM project from CAMHS?</i></b></p>

Yes, it is something we are looking into as an ASG group

**Next Meeting Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> June (AGM) where Ruth and Catriona will be stepping down.**