

Hermitage Academy Parent Council

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 10th September 2018 – 7pm

Hermitage Academy (Library)

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

The session 2017/18 has been a year of change given the appointment of our new Head Teacher Mr Robert Williamson in October 2017. Hard to believe Mr Williamson will have been a year in post next month.

This past year has seen a number of changes; one being the new alignment of responsibilities for the Senior Leadership Team following the appointment of Mr Frank Hotchkiss to the SLT who brings a wealth of experience from his previous role as DHT at Irvine Royal Academy and his role with SQA.

Given the outcomes of the 2017 Education Scotland inspection the parent council are pleased to see changes beginning to be implemented to address the concerns the report evidenced.

The report highlighted 4 key priorities:

- Improving strategic leadership and leadership at all levels to drive change underpinned by robust self evaluation.
- Strengthen partnerships with local colleges and other providers to increase the range of learning available
- Ensuring learning across the curriculum takes better account of young people's prior learning and an integrated approach to teaching, assessment and moderation. Ensuring appropriate levels of support and challenge for all young people.
- Monitor the progress of young people in S5&6 ensuring high quality support to maximise successes and achievements.

As a parent council we hope that Mr Williamson has found sufficient time now to settle and review Hermitage and continue to drive change which sees our children receive the best learning experience they can as they progress through each phase.

It seems obvious that a profession which bases its fundamentals on research; review and evaluation uses this same triangulation in all areas of the school improvement planning and its day to day subject delivery.

The parent council will continue to work with the senior leadership team across all areas of improvement and provide the support to the parent forum to better understand the cause and effect of any change.

We particularly look forward to improved communication with parents; by using google classroom and show my homework to begin the real time engagement with parents.

I would like to give my thanks to all who have served on the committee this year, all year group representatives have worked to ensure their voice at our meetings represents that of the parent forum. Your time and contributions to the committee are much appreciated. As are the lockers by those who voiced a strong desire!

The parent council of course thank our dedicated teachers and support staff at Hermitage Academy for their continued commitment to the pupils. As parents we see that dedication in the form of lunch and afterschool clubs, supported study and that simple open door policy that so many provide.

Some people dream of success; others wake up and work hard at it and that's very true of work done by Hermitage PC. I do believe there's a bright future ahead for pupils at Hermitage Academy where the collaboration between pupils, parents and the school continues to search and celebrate the excellence this school can offer.

Stella Kinloch
Chairperson 2017/18