



Hermitage Academy Parent Council
Monday, 07 September 2020
Zoom 7:30pm-8:30pm

Attending

HAPC:		Year Rep	
Kathleen Daly Vice Chair	KD		X
Elizabeth Lambert, Secretary	EL		X
Stella Kinloch, Treasurer	SK		X
Jo Gaughan	JO	S2	X
Nanette Clark	NC	S3	X
Claire Walker	CW	S5	X
Tracey Niblock	TN	S2	X
Thomas Dennett	TD	S1	X
Philip Hartley	PH	S1	X
Lisa Johnstone	LJ	S1	X
Robert Williamson, HT	RW		X

Agenda Item	Actions/Notes
1. Welcome	
Lisa Johnstone Welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
Minutes from meeting	
N/A	
Matters Arising	
N/A	
2. Head Teacher Report - Appendix	
3. Covid and New School Year Update	
<p>All years had settled back in well, those who hadn't had been identified by guidance. The Covid cases had unsettled the situation. RW advised that while he understood parents concern keeping any child off who is not ill or has not been advised to self isolate will affect their education.</p> <p>In regards to cleaning both ABC and MITIE are following the advised cleaning regime.</p> <p>In response to the windows being open this is to improve ventilation and has been mandated by the government. If the weather gets colder and windows need to be closed then pupils may have to wear masks in class. Pupils should be able wear jumpers or jackets over their uniform if they are cold in class.</p> <p>Parents are advised to make sure pupils have waterproof jackets and shoes because of the increased amount of time they will be outside.</p> <p>There are 3 areas made available for wet weather lunches. Games Hall, Main Hall, Upper Assembly Hall. In extreme weather they will have theory lessons instead of outside PE.</p>	<p>RW will post the risk assessments and cleaning regime on the school website.</p>

<p>4. Parental Communication</p> <p>As SMHW was expensive and duplicated effort when a lot of the work is uploaded to Google Classrooms it has been decided to cease using SMHW. The school is in the process of activating Google Guardian which will enable regular reports to be issued to parents showing whether homework has been submitted and some feedback from teachers. This will enable parents to be informed on their child's schoolwork.</p> <p>The teachers are being up skilled in their use of Google classroom with mentors in each department to share skills. They aim to set consistency in task setting and also to upload lessons soon after they have been delivered.</p> <p>S1 will have the use of Google Classrooms built into their coursework.</p> <p>RW also intends there to be more use of IT in lessons in class across the curriculum as it is a basic skill they need to have.</p> <p>He confirmed that all teachers are enabled to change and set passwords.</p> <p>In the office Rachel is running the Facebook Account and Subject Principle teacher s are running the various Twitter accounts.</p> <p>The website is managed by the Council</p>	<p>Louise Baird/ Collette Elliot are leading a group in developing Google Sites.</p> <p>Some short term goals are: To improve communication for new parents on practical matters by inserting a FAQ on the website.</p>
<p>5. SQA exams 2021/Support for students/IT</p> <p>The SQA have not yet published the plans for the exams. The school are working on collecting evidence. Settling targets and monitoring progress.</p> <p>The school will need to devise and set their own prelim papers they will be taking prelims in class which will require different papers as they will not all sit the exam at the same time. The school are experienced in setting these types of questions.</p> <p>They will aim to cover different aspects in a timed assessment.</p> <p>There will be a follow up prelim later in the year to ensure all the coursework has evidence if required.</p>	<p>This will be followed up in the November meeting to ensure we are on track.</p>
<p>Feedback on 2020 exam results</p> <p>RW talked through slides showing the results in comparison to the previous year. The results indicate that taking 7 subjects had not harmed the grades and gave them more options to choose from. The improved results had demonstrated the effectiveness of encouraging pupils to pick their best 5 subjects, of targeted interventions during the year to keep them on track. Also of the benefit of improved tracking making it clear of the difference between working grade and tracking grade. (where they are v what they are predicted to get)</p>	
<p>6. AOB</p> <p>Fighting outside school – The school will take immediate action on anything occurring within the school grounds. It is vital that anyone who witnesses anything illegal reports it to the relevant authorities.</p> <p>Cardross Train Cancelation – The established procedure is that if the train is cancelled a bus will be sent for the children at Cardross. In this instance the S1 year group were probably unaware of this and when the bus arrived they had gone presumably to make their own travel arrangements.</p>	

Next Meeting 2nd 7pm November 2020 Zoom

Hermitage Academy

Parent Council Meeting



Head Teacher's Report

7th September, 2020

Return to School

Phased return successful, allowed attention to specific individuals and early adjustments to Risk Assessment.

Feedback from Faculty Wellbeing, Equality and Inclusion:

S1 have settled really well, other than one or two individuals in each house, the rest have got off to a really positive start. Individual S1 Guidance interviews are happening at the moment so we will have a better idea of them on an individual basis after that. The pupils who required an enhanced transition, who were extremely anxious etc. in June are, on the whole, managing really well - within a day or two they settled and appear to be enjoying the experience of secondary school. We have thus far, had very few incidences whereby they have had to attend pupil support etc. - they are already becoming very independent.

This is a similar picture over all year groups - Young people have been very resilient and continue to be - this has been the message via HWB. The majority of the anxiety the team are dealing with is that of the parents. Any young person identified as experiencing anxiety/stress is supported by their House Team, Faculty Head & PT Pupil Support, and if necessary are being referred to the School Health Team. Two counsellors are currently being recruited.

All things considered, it has been a relatively smooth start (other than the first couple of days last week) - even better than was anticipated. The young people have been a credit to their families and their school.

Covid Cases

2 positive tests arose over the weekend relating to pupils who attended school on Thursday and Friday. Health Protection Team were contacted immediately and a subsequent meeting took place to discuss the situation and decide on necessary strategies. Pupils' contacts within and outwith the school were identified and contacted by the NHS Contact Tracing Team and given guidance. There are no further cases related to Hermitage Academy as things stand.

Cleaning regime took place after school on Thursday and Friday and over the weekend as normal, including cleaning of all surfaces and touch points. This is supplemented by day-cleaners routinely cleaning touch points during the day.

The Risk Assessment has now been reviewed and issued to all staff and will be uploaded to the website.

Homework

We are putting together a homework policy for S1 that should be firmly in place for next week. There are some delays, due to the processing of paperwork (Authority permissions, Glow permissions etc) which are usually completed in June. We also have to assess how pupils can access work at home equitably to ensure everyone has an equal opportunity to access and complete homework. 90 chromebooks and 20 portable internet hubs have been procured to support this. This is only the initial investment and further acquisitions will be made.

The rest of the year groups should be accessing Google classroom currently and again this should increase over the next week or two. We are working to ensure any pupils who are struggling with this and a team are also carrying out staff training as we move from SMHW to Google so not all classes are up and running yet but we are working very quickly to iron out any problems.

Achievement

We are really disappointed that we will not be able to host a Senior School Awards Evening to celebrate the fantastic successes of last year. However, we are working to come up with a creative alternative - Something similar to the leavers video. We will have input from our Cramb Medallists and the Music Dept and aim to include all our winners but it will be in the form of a video.

The Junior School Awards evening will be postponed until the summer term at the earliest and sadly the Fun Run and Buddy Ball cannot go ahead. We will do what we can to provide opportunities to celebrate success as and when restrictions lift.

In the meantime we are setting up a virtual Praise postcard system. This isn't up and running yet but info will be going out to staff over the next fortnight and it should be in place ASAP. Pupils will be acknowledged for their hard work and achievements throughout the school year in a digital format. We are also working to create a system where parents and pupils can let us know of any extracurricular achievements because we'd really love to hear about all the amazing things our pupils are doing out of school as well as within our four walls.

Staffing

Isabel Cullen retired with our best wishes over summer

Richard Millar has moved on to his new post as DHT in Lochhend in Glasgow.

DHTs- 2 Current Acting DHTs and backfill Faculty Head/Principal Teacher posts will be stood down and temporary arrangements will be in place until a new Head Teacher can be appointed to take this on.

New starts- Gillian Marshall Technical, Kirsty Matthews Home Ec. (both permanent) Probationer Rachel Scott in Music.

Probationers retained (excess) - Science and English, Kirstin Andrews & Kaitlyn Gray

Prelims

Initial discussions with Principal Teachers have taken place. All present agreed with the importance of gathering timed, marked assessment on a regular basis until these take place. Due to Covid19 restrictions, prelims will most likely take place in a classroom setting as and when subjects feel appropriate, with a deadline of January for all departments. Further in-class prelims will also be produced to cover later areas of the course not in initial prelim.

Parents' Nights

Written feedback to parents is planned to be supplemented with an additional full report replacing one of the tracking reports. However, we are now in communication with Netmedia, who operate our successful Parents' Booking Service on providing an online one-to-one Parents' Night, which would obviously be preferable and give more up to date information. We will issue information on this as soon as possible.

Outdoor facilities

40 picnic benches have arrived for use in the main courtyard. We are awaiting a date for the contractor to anchor these.

Almost all results improved but assessment difficult. Insight may help adjust.