



Hermitage Academy Parent Council
Monday, 02 November 2020
Zoom 7pm-8pm

Attending

| HAPC: | | Year Rep | |
|------------------------------|----|----------|---|
| Lisa Johnstone Chair | LJ | S5 | X |
| Thomas Dennett Vice Chair | TD | S2 | X |
| Elizabeth Lambert, Secretary | EL | S4 | X |
| Philip Hartley, Treasurer | PH | S2 | X |
| Jo Gaughan | JH | S3 | X |
| Nanette Clark | NC | S4 | X |
| Claire Walker | CW | S6 | X |
| Lois Smith | LS | S2 | X |
| Tracey Niblock | TN | S3 | X |
| Kathleen Daly | KD | S4 | A |
| Carla Dobbin | CD | S3 | A |
| Angela Bakker | AB | S1 | X |
| Ruth Munro | RM | S1 | X |
| Robert Williamson, HT | RW | | X |

| Agenda Item | Actions/Notes |
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| 1. Welcome | |
| Lisa Johnstone Welcomed everyone to the meeting. | |
| 2. Head Teacher Report | |
| The recruitment for a new Head Teacher is ongoing awaiting a date being set by the council for interviews. | |
| 3. Covid and New School Year Update | |
| <p>RW With 3 positive cases in school it has been a busy day phoning all the contacts especially as one involved the Kilcreggan bus. The contacts need to self isolate for two weeks but their families do not need to self isolate unless the pupil develops symptoms.</p> <p>Work will be set on Google Classrooms for those self isolating.</p> <p>In school masks must be worn whenever people are within two metres of each other. Visitors to the school must wear masks if dropping things off or speaking to staff.</p> <p>Pupils are to be encouraged to wear masks wherever possible. They are protecting others not just themselves and we will try and get more messages out to encourage mask wearing above the minimum requirement.</p> <p>There are 3 areas made available for wet weather lunches. The benches are now in and fixed. Looking to fund covers with PTA.</p> <p>Games Hall, Main Hall, Upper Assembly Hall. In extreme weather they will have theory lessons instead of outside PE. They are looking at whether any other activities can be done inside.</p> | |
| 4. Parental Communication | |
| <p>RW The school is in the process of activating Google Guardian and the regular reports to be issued to parents showing whether homework has been submitted and some feedback from teachers should start to go out in the next few weeks now we have most of the permissions signed. This will enable parents to be informed on their child's schoolwork.</p> <p>There will be an extra tracking report for S1-S3 and an extra written report for S4-6 instead of the parents' evenings. It is not possible at this time to offer online parents evenings.</p> | |

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| <p>Some parents are concerned that they haven't received information on Xpressions and there is no information on the school website. RW it will be easy enough to upload copies onto the webpage of key documents as they go out.</p> | |
| <p>5. Google Classroom</p> | |
| <p>Lessons for those self isolating</p> <p>Consistency across departments</p> <p>Can online lessons be made more interesting through the use of face to face, video or talking to PowerPoint?</p> | <p>RW They are aiming to have lessons uploaded so children who are off are able to catch up. The Heads of Department have an overview of what is being set across the subjects. It really needs parents to say where work is missing. This might be highlighted with Google guardian providing reports.</p> <p>Teachers are still learning to use Google Classroom and are sharing best practice. We hope to develop a bank of material that can be used across a department. Maths is already leading the way on this.</p> |
| <p>6. SQA exams 2021/Support for students/IT</p> | |
| <p>RW. The SQA have not yet published the plans for the exams. The school are working on collecting evidence.</p> <p>Nat 5's will aim to collect the bulk of their evidence in Dec and Feb in lieu of prelims.</p> <p>Highers and Advanced Highers The school will need to devise and set their own prelim papers they will be taking prelims in class in January 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. There will be no external invigilators but the school has a tried and tested system.</p> <p>They will aim to cover different aspects in a timed assessment. There will be a follow up prelim later in the year to ensure all the coursework has evidence if required.</p> <p>If Pupils miss assessments because they are self isolating they will be able to do them on return to school. No pupil should be disadvantaged because they are self isolating.</p> <p>It might be that the final exams are at a later date over a shorter period. At this stage it is really too early to say what will happen. I am concerned that the changing situation, loss of taking time and uncertainty is putting an undue amount of pressure on these pupils.</p> | |
| <p>7. Double Periods</p> | |
| <p>Students taking practical subjects sometimes end up with a double period across lunchtime which is not ideal.</p> | <p>RW timetabling is not always possible to accommodate everything and this may become more of an issue with the increase in practical subjects due to apprenticeships. In the case of lessons across lunch if need there is the flexibility to have lunch later.</p> |
| <p>8. Pupil Support</p> | |
| <p>Pupils and staff are missing the time to be able to ask questions or catch up on areas they have missed. Previously pupils would have been able to find teachers at lunchtimes. Whether there is opportunity to have online study support for exam years.</p> | <p>RW I am talking to teachers to see what can be offered. This will go out as a single communication so parents know what is on offer. I am keen that parents are not pushing study and increasing stress on pupils. Instead pupils need to set their own learning objectives.</p> |
| <p>9. Two Year Higher</p> | |
| <p>Parent asked if taking a two year Higher was possible</p> | <p>RW Two year Highers are possible and might work for some pupils and subjects. What had failed in the past was making everyone take the two year Higher. There is always scope for looking at two year Highers where appropriate.</p> |
| <p>10. Future Key Dates in School</p> | |
| <p>Is it possible for the school to issue keys dates for this session</p> | <p>RW I'm afraid that in this fast moving situation it will just create more confusion to issue dates and</p> |

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| <p>S3 Options process</p> <p>Careers Night</p> | <p>then be constantly changing them. Teachers will make pupils aware of tests, deadlines and next steps as we progress through the term.</p> <p>RW The process will run as normally as is possible</p> <p>RW SDS are now based in the school so children have better access to the careers advice.</p> <p>We will share as much information as possible via our social media platforms as we can for parents.</p> |
| <p>11. Parking Issues</p> | |
| <p>Due to the closure of the Waitrose car park the pick up time has created queues and near misses outside school</p> | <p>RW As we only have a few weeks to wait until Morrisons opens that should resolve issues. In the meantime the current system works well if people use it properly. Do not pull into the disabled bays if you don't need them, don't u-turn, use both drop off bays to increase capacity.</p> |
| <p>12. Mental health</p> | |
| | <p>RW Councillors have been appointed they are waiting to see what that will mean for the school in terms of input.</p> <p>Guidance teachers are of course doing all they can to keep a lookout for warning signs and implement early intervention strategies to support Pupils.</p> |

Next Meeting 1st 7pm February 2021 Zoom