



Hermitage Academy Parent Council
Monday, 14th December 2020
Zoom 7pm-8pm

Attending

HAPC:		Year Rep	
Lisa Johnstone Chair	LJ	S5	X
Thomas Dennett Vice Chair	TD	S2	A
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	A
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
1. Welcome	
Lisa Johnstone Welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2. Head Teacher Report	
The appointment for a new Head Teacher was announced Douglas Morgan will start on the 7 th Jan 2021	Temp appointment for 23 months
3. Covid and School Year Update	
<p>RW With 2 new positive cases in school it is to be noted that no cases have been as a result of transmission in school.</p> <p>They have been able from the children and from video footage on the bus to identify close contacts. On the previous occasion with the Kilcreggan bus this was not possible. Please note the buses use a fresh air system not re-circulated air</p> <p>Work will be set on Google Classrooms for those self isolating, if your child does not have work then contact the guidance teacher. Pupils should be able to access the same material as the rest of the class but they won't get any teaching to guide them through the material. If they are unsure of the task they can message the teacher via Google Classroom.</p> <p>The benches are now in and fixed. The covers were deemed too expensive by the PTA. They tried to source funding but £100,000 was too much. Cheaper options of tarpaulin covers did not meet the safety regulations for high winds. Plus there were other barriers in terms of where covered area could be sited which make it difficult to move forward with the project.</p>	
4. Parental Communication	
<p>The school is has activated Google Guardian and the regular reports are being issued to parents showing whether homework has been submitted. If you have signed up but are not receiving reports please contact the office.</p> <p>Google Guardian is limited in what it shows parents so it is a good idea to sit with your child and let them show you what they are currently working on.</p> <p>There will be an extra written report for S4-6 instead of the parents' evenings going out soon. It is not possible at</p>	

<p>this time to offer online parents evenings. The next working time agreement will be with the new head in Jan and may cover parents evenings if the situation allows. If you are not happy with what is written on the report then please submit the return slip and we can discuss it.</p>	
<p>5. Google Classroom</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>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 uploading powerpoints with a voice over..</p>
<p>6. SQA exams 2021/Support for students/IT</p>	
<p>The school are working on collecting evidence. Nat 5's will aim to collect the bulk of their evidence in Dec and Feb in lieu of prelims. Highers and Advanced Highers will take place over 3 week period to avoid large gatherings. Will be doing two subjects a week. The school will need to devise and set their own assessment papers they will be taken 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. They will aim to cover different aspects in a timed assessment. There will be a follow up assessment later in the year. 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. They will not be getting study leave as they will improve results from getting extra teaching rather than time off. At the moment they haven't finished the course. The assessment is to allow teachers to capture evidence as well as providing diagnostic information on what is missing. This is only assessing part of the course the mark therefore can't be taken as a prediction of the final mark. Over the year the teacher will take as evidence the highest mark attained whether that is in a test or classwork.</p>	
<p>7. Lunchtimes</p>	
<p>Morrison's the relationship is going well, chicken and a box is particularly popular, The school canteen is run by a private company in the school, therefore they are not obliged to provide cutlery to those who buy their food elsewhere or bring it from home. They're also not paid to clear up after other people, other than those that buy their food at the cafeteria.</p>	<p>RW is monitoring safety for crossing the road.</p> <p>One teacher has been tasked with being the school rep for the store. A reminder to bring your own cutlery (if not buying from the cafeteria) and clear up any mess has gone out via the pupil bulletin. Please remind your own child.</p>
<p>8. S2/3 Options process</p>	
<p>9. Careers</p>	
<p>Skills Development Scotland have an office in the building and guidance teachers will refer anyone looking for alternative courses or work placements. Mrs MacKay is arranging a careers fair for next term.</p>	
<p>10. Celebrating Achievement</p>	
<p>S6 are organising a prom and achievement ceremony. Looking at a marquee. Claire Kennedy is leading.</p>	