

## **Minutes from PC meeting held on 8 September 2020 (online via Microsoft Teams)**

**Attendance:** Gordan Mouldsdale, Jonathan Campbell, Louise Oudega, Allison Lunan, Fiona Saunders, Alison Keith, Cllr Moir, Cllr Pews, Cllr Low, Ian Donaghey, Karen Thomas

**Apologies:** Sheena Murray, Carol Robertson, Natalie Storey, Jane McGrory, Marion McAllister

JC opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the meeting.

### **1. Return to school**

GM: Now been 4 weeks since school term returned and good to be back. New S1 settled in very well despite having limited visits, finding their way around the school; all went well considering the current logistical challenges and having two school lunches. All running smoothly but is time consuming for staff supervising the two sessions. 'GM raised a concern about members of the public not wearing masks at the local shops. Our pupils, who are wearing masks have expressed frustration that they are being held to a different standard to others. GM has raised this with the shopkeepers. GM noticed around 15-20 general public entering local shops and only 25% of them wearing masks and only sometimes depending on whether shop staff were monitoring them. GM asked GL on his thoughts if anything more could be done to encourage local business to adopt the government guidelines around mask wearing when entering their premises. GL would speak with fellow councillors and council officers as this had already been discussed by Council Chief execs around restrictions not being followed. GL also highlighted the increase in cases in East Dunbartonshire and he is conscious of the hospitality guidelines and that perhaps shops should also be as vigilant too. GL will feedback the concerns to council officer – Yvonne Bowers.

Timetable changes reflected in current day to day of school including no registration and two lunchtime sessions. 15 new staff have been employed.

### **2. Prefects and Captains/Vice-captains**

GM: Current duties of prefects are limited to due to restrictions e.g. not able to help out at parent events. 40 short application videos were submitted for the roles of captains which will be narrowed down to 16/17 followed by interviews next week. This cohort is a very strong group with terrific video submissions.

### **3 Off the Bishy Beatson Track**

GM: This event has taken place for the last 3/4 years where the 10k event would start at the Transport Museum. Great fun day out where 120 staff and students took part; the support is in memory of a former pupil, Francesca Mancini. This year's Beatson event took part in August which was missed due to current restrictions, however PE Department have planned to run a virtual event from Friday to Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> September where as many pupils, parents and staff in Bishopbriggs will wear yellow in support of the charity. Francesca's parents will also be getting involved.

### **4. Examination Results**

GM: Very pleased with the results. The first set of results decided by the SQA algorithm were very good but the results further improved when the SQA revised results to accept teachers' estimates. Bishopbriggs Academy has a very rigorous system to produce accurate grade predictions. GM is confident that the vast majority of pupils received the grades they would have attained.

S6 Results – 46% of S6 pupils achieved 1 or more Advanced Higher pass. This was equivalent to best previous result in 2018. 12 pupils achieved 3 or more Advanced Highers. Several pupils achieved all A passes. One pupil, Lily Inigo achieved 4 A AH passes – a fantastic achievement.

43% of S6 attained 3 or more Level 6 passes (this includes Highers and Advanced Highers). This result is favourable with most years. 20% achieved 4+ Highers – this percentage was top in EDC.

S5 Results were excellent. The percentage achieving

	1+	3+	5+ Highers
2019	80	62	42
2020	90	79	58

The previous best had been 52% in 2017. 58% is best in EDC. This is an incredibly strong cohort with 29 pupils achieving 5 or more A Higher passes. Marco D'Alessio achieved 7 A Higher passes including Higher Human Biology which he undertook as self-study, albeit with some assistance from the Biology dept.

S4 results were also our best results.

5+ @ Level	3	4	5
2019	94	92	76
2020	94	92	85

Again, 85% was our best result. This may also be the top figure in EDC but confirmation has still to be received.

144 pupils (67%) achieved National 5 passes, grades A – C in every subject. 61 pupils (28%) achieved straight A passes. Adam Bhutta achieved straight A passes in all subjects but also achieved an A pass in Advanced Higher Maths despite being in S4, an incredible achievement.

## 6. Reporting to parents

ID: Current restrictions and lockdown meant missing out on key reports, parent evenings and S3-4 transition exams. In light of no parent evening likely to happen, ID has been looking at alternative ways of communicating pupil progress. Last year Monitoring and Tracking gave an opportunity for parents to see where their children were currently and what they were aiming for. Working grade shows what a child is likely to achieve if they continue to work at current level. A target grade shows the grade a child could achieve if all barriers to learning are removed and they reach their potential. Ideal would be to have the two grades on the same par. These targets will be graded using 1-4, 1 being the best and 4 the worst. These

grades will be used against effort, homework and behaviour; this identifies where discrepancies appear and opens up conversations between year heads, guidance and pupils. ID said under the current situation and in place of usual communications to parents they would be looking at providing bimonthly reports to parents informing them of working and target grades.

Currently Show My Homework is used for informing parents/pupils of assessment dates and submissions status and ID is hoping to use SMHW more often to share grades and comments on significant assessments.

The previous Monitoring and Tracking model for the BGE was rigid and inflexible. The new model allows a more fluid approach to suit the courses pupils undertake in the BGE. ID highlighted the importance of ensuring information gets back to parents, early intervention in the forms of letters to parents and flagging areas where room for improvement is needed. ID is confident that providing parents with more frequent updates compensates for the lack of parents evening. LO asked if the additional reports would bear any additional weight on teachers' current workload? ID confirmed that the teachers were already producing this data. The only difference would be on sharing with parents more and any additional workload would likely fall on administrative staff.

#### 7. **Remote Learning**

ID: Lot of changes have been carried out over the summer in creating a blended learning approach. All staff have been working on upskilling to ensure they are in a strong position to cater for remote working should it be required. Feedback from parents around previous term remote working was positive. Staff have since received training on interactive resources e.g. MS Teams, visualisers and creating tutorial videos on You Tube. Previous parent Information evening were well attended but using online resources may be a better means of capturing key points. Creating video tutorials to cover key areas will help to reinforce learning. These tutorial videos will also be available via Show My Homework. These key tools have in the past all been desirable but have now become essential. Staff are attending twilight sessions using MS Teams with approx. 45 members per session to develop skills.

#### 8. **Office Bearers**

JC: Office bearers nominations were carried forward from the last meeting but in light of the current situation GM felt an interim Chair would be useful. JC agreed to be interim Chair with AL being interim Vice Chair. JC is happy to continue in role of Chair, AK seconded the motion and AL also happy to continue on as Vice Chair, FS seconded the motion. LO will continue on as clerk.

#### 9. **AOCB**

JC: A short life workshop taking place run by EDC consisting of Senior Leaders from Primary and Secondary schools and representation from the Professional Associations will meet on

Tuesday 15th September from 9.30am to 11.30am. JC asked if LO would circulate to the wider PC body. FS expressed an interest in attending.

- JC: JC informed PC members of a local authority steering group of virtual Q & A with Jacqui MacDonald on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October. If any parents had any questions prior to the event they would like asked please email JC.
- FS: Lack of seating facilities during lunchtime in particular in games hall? GM confirmed there were benches around the gym hall but was difficult to provide a solution under current restrictions. ID added the issue is around protection of the gym floor, normally during exam time a carpet would be placed to protect the floor but due to health and safety cleaning the carpet would not be an option. Some pupils choose to sit on the floor. Situation changes frequently limiting what they can do under the circumstances.
- AL: If the pupils would be allowed to use lockers? GM confirmed that under national government guidelines they are still not allowed to use lockers.
- AK: If the SQA had formulated about a plan for next year's diet? Is it still a work in progress? GM a lot depends on the situation, coursework may have to be reduced, main focus is trying to keep schools open and no announcements have been made. This is likely to be ongoing.
- FS: About next meeting, KT confirmed next meeting would be on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, this coincides with AGM. LO will send out the dates for all scheduled PC meetings. FS - would it be worth including PTA in next meeting? GM confirmed no PTA meetings were scheduled but may be a good opportunity to highlight to S1 parents who may want to get involved in Parent Council or PTA.
- JC: Thanked everyone for their attendance and time this evening.