

Minutes from PC meeting held on 15 February 2021 (online via Microsoft Teams)

Attendance: Gordan Mouldsdales, Jonathan Campbell, , Allison Lunan, Cllr Low, Cllr Pews
Karen Thomas, Sheena Murray, Jane McGrory, Natalie Storey

Apologies: Louise Oudega Alison Keith, Carol Robertson, Cllr Moir

JC opened the meeting by welcoming everyone for their attendance to the meeting and approved previous minutes.

1. Online Learning Programme Review

A presentation giving detailed results from the Online Learning Programme Review undertaken in February 2021 is attached to these minutes.

GM provided clarification and further detail on the results of the review. Questionnaires were sent to staff, pupils and their parents/carers. 90 staff responded, along with 439 pupils and 537 parents. S5 pupils were the largest group to respond and it was felt that 537 parental responses was very good, considering there are approximately 800 families in the school.

Responses to the questionnaires were generally very positive. Almost all staff (99%) find it easy to communicate with pupils and parents and most pupils (96%) find it easy to find information and access tasks. Staff find live Teams meetings, Show My Homework (SMHW) and Teams posts the most effective ways of providing instructions and the majority of pupils agreed.

100% of staff feel the quantity of work issued is about the right amount, 59% of pupils agreed as did 76% of parents. The majority of staff (76%) felt most pupils in S1 – S3 completed all or most of their work and almost all (92%) of S4 – S6 did the same. Just over half of staff (54%) felt that pupils were submitting work to the best of their ability, the rest acknowledged that pupils are trying but are capable of producing better work.

Most parents (89%) felt their child has adopted a structured approach to online learning and pupils and their parents felt following the school timetable was the best way of managing pupils' workload. Almost half of staff (48%) felt they had made great progress with online learning and are very confident in online learning. Almost all other staff felt they have made good progress and are starting to feel more confident. All staff described their experience of online learning as positive or OK and almost all parents (96%) and pupils (94%) felt the same.

Following the review, a few small adjustments will be made. In many cases, staff have adapted their work as time passed and their confidence increased.

2. Head Teacher's Report

GM is awaiting tomorrow's (16th February) Scottish Government statement on the return to school of some senior phase pupils. GM is unsure of what might be said. Case numbers are decreasing but perhaps not quite as quickly as hoped. Until there is definite news we will keep trying to provide our young people with a positive online experience.

Until the February weekend, approximately 32 – 35 young people who were considered vulnerable or were the children of key workers were in school. This is increasing to around 40 – 45 young people, some are young people who are already in school but who will now attend more days of the week, whilst others have been identified by Guidance staff as not coping with online learning at home and who may cope better by being in school. This means an additional classroom is required which has an impact on the number of staff required to cover these classes. There is currently a limit of 10 pupils in each classroom. An increase in the number of staff required can result in conflict and

scheduling issues as teachers also need to be able to work with their own classes as well as supervise those in the classroom.

Lateral flow COVID test kits are now in school. These will be provided to staff and senior pupils who will be coming into school. This is a complex logistical task and there is a lot of associated paperwork to be completed. Further information will be issued to staff and parents this week.

SMT has spoken to Principal Teachers of SQA subjects which have a practical assessment to determine their needs and the best way to undertake this, SMT are now collating this information to develop a programme which best suits the needs of staff and pupils. This is very complex as there is a limit of 5 – 8% of pupils allowed in the building at one time and different subjects have different preferences, for example some subjects would prefer a whole day, whilst others would prefer periods spread throughout the week. This has to be balanced against the disruption to pupils' other subjects. GM will be in touch with parents and pupils once this has been finalised.

At the start of online learning a spreadsheet was created to enable staff to flag up concerns about young people who may not be engaging with online learning as would be expected. Guidance staff have then been contacting these young people and their parents. In most instances, this has had the desired effect. Where there has been little or no improvement, Year Heads have then been contacting parents.

Discussion is currently taking place on the best way to continue monitoring and tracking the progress of young people, particularly of those in the senior phase. Existing data suggests most young people are on track at the present time.

GM thanked PC members and asked if there were any questions. SM had been asked by a parent to raise the question of January reports which were not issued. GM confirmed these had been put on hold due to the current situation. East Dunbartonshire Council has stated that reporting should be put on hold to allow for concentration in learning and teaching online. It is hoped that some form of interim Monitoring and Tracking reporting will be issued to parents in the near future. Information regarding progress is shared regularly with pupils via SMHW. GM does understand that parents are anxious, particularly as term progresses and he hopes to have further information later in the term. Parents can contact Guidance staff, Year Heads or GM at any time, should they have concerns about their child.

3. AOCB

AL asked what should be done if a young person has subject clashes in their option choices, for example two or more subjects may be in the same column. GM asked any parent whose child is struggling to contact himself, Mr Ross or Mr Donaghey to discuss this as they have an overview of the column structure for subject choices and the reasons as to why a subject may be in a particular column. The school does their best to accommodate as many combinations of subjects as possible but this is not always possible due to staff constraints and pupil numbers. JM commented that her child had a similar issue and had spoken to Guidance staff. GM agreed to look into the issues to see how these issues can be resolved.

JC closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance and time this evening.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 20th April 2021 at 7.00pm