



BISHOPBRIGGS ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE PARENT COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 15th FEBRUARY 2022

Present: Ashwathy Rajagopal (AR), Alison Lunan (AL) Cllr Alan Moir (AM), Provost Gary Pews (GP), Cllr Gordon Low (GL), Jonathan Campbell (JC), Kirstie Mendham (KM), Ian Donaghey (ID), Karen Thomas (KT), Natalie Storey (NS), Louise Oudega (LO), Sam McLean (SMcL), Jane McGrory (JM)

Apologies: Lynn Armour

1 WELCOME

Chair welcomed everyone to hopefully last virtual meeting.

2 MATTERS ARISING AND NEXT STEPS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Email update had been forwarded to all members advising ID actions from previous minutes.

COVID communication from Public Health is now detailed for each year group before circulation to parents.

S3 PE Department is trying to expand range of activities offered and each class assigned different areas for 6 week blocks of activities. i.e Games Hall/Football Field/Gym. Due to Games Hall being utilised for exams PE use was displaced. S3 has had opportunity for Acro gymnastics, hockey, trampolining, orienteering and other small gym activities. Pupils given element of choice among the many different activities on offer. Department are trying to expand the range of activities as traditional ones are no longer as suitable and are also now showing an overview of the programme. AR has noted an improvement.

3 HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

Parental Engagement

Busy period since Christmas with Parents' Evenings and increasing parental engagement, now coming towards the end of Option Choice process. No school is capable of getting 100% of pupil choice and ensuring some subject choices are split across the timetable is a time consuming process.

Parental Engagement for the S4 Parents' Evening, S4-S6 SQA Information and Option Choice processes and Primary Transition Parents' Evenings was good, all being well supported.

The second online Parents' Evening for S2 will take place on 1st March, school has kept both the report and the online Parents' Evening and it is hoped that the progress report will update parents on their child's progress, giving the opportunity for any questions during the evening. Parents are being made more aware of the comments box facility - in order to steer any query, on the information and questionnaire email being sent out this week. There are only five minutes per meeting which is tight, but this will be explained in the information. S2 evening different to S4 who study 7 subjects, S2 are being asked to prioritise 9 subjects. If a young person in S2 is clear they are not continuing with a subject this will free up meetings on the evening, so being selective and prioritising subjects for discussion would be beneficial.

Forthcoming online Parents' Evenings:

S2 - 1st March 2022

S1 - 14th March 2022

S3 - 25th April 2022

Forthcoming reports:

S4 - Interim tracking reports

S5/6 - Written report on 18th March detailing strengths and areas for development.

S2 - 28th February 2022

S5/6 - report in April

S3 – Progress report 6th May 2022

S1 - report 11th May 2022

ID advised that school was now looking for high levels of parental support with Satchel – want to keep pushing this. School utilises Satchel Insights which flags up parents not engaging with Satchel. Parents are being reminded of login details and given support. School will make contact with identified parents who are not engaging and offer support to help set them up. School wants parents to see what is happening/ access resources/ platforms. Seeking parental views via members on PC.

AR likes Satchel and is constantly checking it, queried parental ability for comment. ID advised that this is not possible with the software but direct contact with the school is always welcomed eg phone call.

LO commented on the grading issue that has been ongoing for 5/6 years. ID advised that this update has been constantly highlighted to Satchel and will be highlighted again as parents need the benchmark. ID advised members that there is an issue with Satchel whereby teaching staff are under the impression the ‘marks out of’ has been included as there is a drop down box upon the teachers completion of Satchel, however this does not display for parents’ view. Satchel have not taken this on board and it is not known why.

S3/4 Transition Exams

The new timetable starts on 16th May. Our current S3 will complete Transition Exams at the beginning of June following the SQA exams. S3 pupils will then be in S4 as the new timetable will have commenced. This means pupils will only complete assessments in the seven subjects they take forward into S4. Transition Exams will take place in the Games Hall and will give pupils experience of the exam environment. Assessment data will provide benchmark information and enable departments to intervene and provide support for pupils in the Senior Phase. Transition Exams have not taken place for the past two sessions. Prior to this, Live and Learn, an external provider, will assist with exam preparation for the year group.

Supported Study Programme S4 & S5/6

S4 and S5/S6 Supported Study programme starts week beginning 21st February for six weeks until Easter break. Pupils can access universal support through resources shared on Teams and attend targeted support sessions after school. Parents of targeted pupils will be informed of sessions. Anyone who misses targeted supported study will be given access to the Hub during the following lunchtime. Robust support is in place.

Easter Revision

Easter support programme will run full first week of holiday Monday – Friday 10am-12pm, afternoon session 1pm – 3pm. Scaffolding support with study school workshop. Second week gives opportunity for Easter break with family. A balance of structured support, personal study time and wellbeing will hopefully be the right blend. Pupils and parents will be notified of programme, hopeful there will be a positive response and will be beneficial.

Confirmation from SQA that Scenario 2 is in place. There will be exams and SQA will provide detail of what will be required mid March time. Easter Revision will be geared towards this.

School Improvement Planning

Improvement planning for session 2022/23 is underway.

Targets for next session – Parent Council requested to focus on making Bishopbriggs Academy even better. Think about how school can evaluate, feedback, take considered decision making and how we as a Council can work effectively. ID keen for members to discuss this at forthcoming meetings and to take on board views of all parents.

4 PC DIRECT E-MAIL ACCOUNT

JC updated that previous PC discussion had taken place regarding concerns that parents might be unwilling to go directly through school in order to contact PC. LO has duly initiated a PC direct email account which is as yet to be launched. SMcL is willing to monitor and manage this email address on behalf of PC with no intervention required by any school staff. **SMcL to liaise with LO for account detail and circulation to school website and parents.**

5 SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT HEALTH AND WELLBEING QUESTIONNAIRE

JC notified members in respect of the aforementioned questionnaire which had been bought to his attention by a parent of a senior phase pupil who is concerned by some very personal questions contained within. Discussion took place among members regarding the questionnaire, contents and its purpose. GP advised members that EDC are not planning to use the survey, some other councils are. GL notified members that the logic behind the survey was in order for councils to gather pertinent information to target certain services going forwards. LO expressed gathering information, perhaps directly through RMPS may have been a better way to go about this. The principal of gathering and having the information if EDC have no intention of using it was also a concern.

6 ADDITIONAL EXERCISE BOOKS, RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUBJECTS WITHOUT A BOOKLET. ESP ENGLISH AND MATHS

AR queried what can be done to enable parents to support their child with Maths teaching with a view to needing a notebook and an identified reference book at the start of the year, asking whether the school had any preference for additional resources. ID advised that there is considerable additional support available via Teams, plenty of support provided with a break down of the Maths curriculum topic by topic and example questions within the text book and within Teams. ID advised that with sciences, they are broken down into three units but Maths and English are not, owing to the array of

topics. Personal Learning Plans are in place and note taking is scaffolded for them. These are worked through and scores have to be recorded.

Other subjects have a unit by unit approach due to broad depth of subject. **ID will speak with English & Maths Dept to clarify how they are scaffolding & additional resources but believes everything is via Teams.** AR expressed that this would be useful.

7 COMPUTING AND PROGRAMMING HACKATHONS

AR identified that there is a shortage of programmers in Scotland and believes it may be beneficial to encourage more programming by having a day highlighting this issue within the school. More encouragement in this area would be beneficial for all pupils. ID advised that the school is already supporting and targeting this area with Cyber First earlier in February and also recently getting through to the final of Hackathon. This was supported and led by Bishopbriggs Academy as there is currently nothing from EDC due to COVID. AR queried whether parent programmers could help the school in any way. **ID will ask Dept as parental support is always encouraged.** A database had been created by PT Developing the Young Workforce prior to COVID with relevant partners, of which JP Morgan was one, who were willing to provide support. This is now being readdressed to encourage engagement of all departments with identified partner agencies. LO advised that pupil had been advised they just need to 'know it' when coming to Higher programming which contains a myriad of areas in a particular language - however it needs to be understood. Any support provision would be appreciated as lots of pupils apparently in similar position. **ID expressed that there are always elements of courses that are more challenging than others. He will see if provision can be enhanced as BBC Bite Size is not enough. Two partnerships, West Partnership and Think Four, have created video clips very specific tutorial about a range of topics. Will also ask external partners for additional support.**

8 COUNSELLOR AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO GET SUPPORT

AR highlighted issues raised in the Health and Wellbeing questionnaire and Social Media Safety Awareness Day, expressing concern about personal information being provided on social media chats, basic cyber safety and the need for counselling provision via the school. ID notified that this is already incorporated into computer awareness and PSE courses. There is robust wellbeing support and a counselling service within the school. Prior to Christmas there had been two counselling services, SPARK and LIFELINK in EDC. LIFELINK is EDC's selected partner and is currently offering a counselling service. The school has made referrals and parental referral is available too. There are Wellbeing teachers and nurture groups are in place and one to one sessions are also provided therefore additional support is already being offered and the school is better equipped than ever to assist. AR queried whether there was any group specific for pressure of study without being individual. ID advised that PSE covers this and weekly assemblies cover stress, practical solutions and time management and planning. There are twelve mental health ambassadors who provide advice on exam stress and the PSE programme also covers looking after mental health. This is one of school's main targets. Every young person is getting some advice and help but also more targeted support with guidance teachers and wellbeing is available. Sometimes there are different layers of approach but signposted. ID also emphasised that a parental cooperative approach is needed too with parents monitoring social media.

9 AOCB

JC advised the meeting that EDC have now confirmed meetings are able to be held within the school again, majority of members were in agreement that the next meeting will be held at Bishopbriggs Academy.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 26th April 2022
AT 7.00PM**