


Parent Council Meeting of Cults Academy Wednesday 22nd January 2020 7-9pm

Attendees: David Barnett (DB) Head, Rick Sansom (Chair)(RS), Robert Brew (Secretary)(RB), Ros Harper, Kirsten Gove, Liz Horgan, Daniel Verhamme (Treasurer) (DV), Vannin Bloch (VB), Sonya Angus (SA)

Non-Members: Pauline Westwood, Marie Boulton (MB), Adam Forbes, Milly Stilwell, Jonathan Louus

Apologies:

Agenda items	<u>Updates and discussions</u>	Action
1.	<p><u>Learning and Teaching Update – Presentation from Roseanne Bennett</u></p> <p>Roseanne Bennett who devotes one day a week to the Learning and Teaching initiative gave a presentation. (see attachment)</p> <p>Through development of a Learning and Teaching Strategy the school has scope to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop questioning strategies • increased challenge • offer plenary sessions and learning conversations for teachers <p>The entire staff have worked on the strategy.</p> <p>Separately the Student Council will develop a student version of the Learning and Teaching culture. An assembly was held, working with pupils to encourage thinking about questions as a means to learning.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Head Teacher Update</u></p> <p><u>School Improvement Plan</u> An update was issued to parents at the end of November 2019.</p> <p>A parent questionnaire was issued on the 6th of January. The questionnaire response rate was 16%.</p> <p>A similar pupil questionnaire was planned and a staff questionnaire was completed before Christmas.</p> <p><u>S4-S5-S6 Subject Choice Process</u> Parents attended the course choice presentation evening, with a high turnout despite the challenging weather.</p> <p>Student SQA Ambassadors gave presentations which were all very well received.</p> <p>Senior Pupils organised an options fair for Nat5, Higher and Advanced Higher, which generated huge interest with many S3s attending.</p> <p>The S3-S4 options evening is to be held on the 23rd. The online options form opens on Monday the 3rd with a deadline for completion on the 10th of February.</p> <p>A question was raised on the minimum numbers for a subject choice to run, particularly in relation to new subjects. In response it was noted that the school had widened choice with the introduction of a number of new subjects such as philosophy. Some schools set a hard and fast rule on the minimum number of pupils required for a course to run. However, such a minimum could not be applied to a newly</p>	DB

	<p>introduced subject where it may take some time for the new subject to develop a reputation and to “bed in”. Therefore, there was no hard and fast rule, although clearly a cohort of 3-5 pupils was not sufficient to be efficient. It was also noted that there was no disadvantage to choosing a subject that ultimately did not run, as allocations of subject choice were not on a “first-come-first-served” basis.</p> <p><u>Vision and Values</u> The Senate met on Monday the 20th with Mr Barnett presenting a summarized view of the School Council’s feedback on the Vision and Values. (note the Council is approximately 40 strong comprising the School Captains with one representative per class; the Senate is approximately 15 strong with the School Captains and one representative per House) They settled on three core values with a further two to be voted on from pride, fairness, kindness and equality/equity.</p> <p><u>Staffing</u> Geography – a maternity cover vacancy has arisen Design and Technology – there is a vacancy Physics – a further teacher has been recruited joining in April Modern Languages – current probationers ?????????????? Business – current probationers ??????????????</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>Action: DB to explore potential for using partnership with Camphill for assistance with interim support for D&T vacancy</p> </div> <p><u>Big Parents’ Evening</u> There is a long waiting list for the Big Parents’ Evening.</p> <p><u>S6 Winter Ball</u> A very successful evening. The ball was a student led effort and cost only £5 per student.</p>	
3.	<p><u>AOB</u> <u>Conduct Outside School</u> SA provided some anecdotal feedback from the community regarding behavior at lunchtimes, namely littering and some elderly residents feeling intimidated by large groups.</p> <p>MB stated that there were some issues in getting the bins emptied on a more regular basis. ?????</p> <p>DB said that there were 1050 pupils in the school and the majority were well behaved. Guidance on appropriate behavior was given, but that there was no easy way to deal with those who were less receptive to the message. There had also been favorable reports of behavior (e.g. from Sainsbury’s).</p>	
4.	<p><u>DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING AND AGM</u> <u>Next PC MEETINGS -</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday March 5th - 7 pm Monday April 27th - 7 pm Wednesday June 3rd AGM - 7 pm</p> <p>Outline agenda to be agreed in advance and circulated Local Councillors and student representatives will be routinely invited to all future meetings</p> <p>Any parent or guardian of a pupil at Cults Academy is welcome to attend any Parent Council meeting.</p> <p>The Parent Council can be emailed at PCCultsAcademy@aberdeen.npfs.org.uk</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div data-bbox="256 1912 445 2002">  <p>Find us on: facebook.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="539 1928 1082 1989"> <p>fb.me/CultsAcademyPTA or https://www.facebook.com/CultsAcademyPTA</p> </div> </div>	