



**Parent Council Meeting of Cults Academy
Monday 4th May 2020 7-9pm**

Attendees: David Barnett (DB) Head, Rick Sansom (Chair)(RS), Robert Brew (Secretary)(RB), Tony Brady, Vannin Bloch (VB), Oma Okolliogbe, Kay Sutcliffe, Sonya Angus, Charity Johnstone, Ros Harper, Kirsten Gove, Dr Shshah

Non-Members:

Apologies:

Agenda items	<u>Updates and discussions</u>	Action
1.	<p><u>Head Teacher Update</u></p> <p>The school has worked hard to keep parents up-to-date.</p> <p>There have been five weeks of delivering school online.</p> <p><u>Alternative Grading in Place of Exams</u></p> <p>Estimated grades – judgement and evidence will be used to arrive at an estimated grade along with inferred attainment (some pupils make significant progress between Prelims and the exam itself).</p> <p>By the 29th of May the school will submit grade bands and ranking within those grade bands. (May is the normal month for submitting predicted grades). Results will be issued on the 4th of August with appeals being free for the 2020 cohort.</p> <p>Grading is a collective effort by the school with faculty heads checking the data for their departments.</p> <p>Year-on-year grading may be different for a number of good reasons, for example a cohort for a specific subject with a greater number of pupils on a fast-track.</p> <p>Some evidence will not be counted in order to maintain consistency across pupils where maybe some pupils have not had the opportunity to complete the evidence (for example the results from visiting examiners for music).</p> <p>The predictions will be based on the school’s knowledge of the pupil as a whole.</p> <p><u>Online Teaching</u></p> <p>All Head Teachers meet regularly to share best practice.</p> <p>There have been a couple of weeks without the Senior Phase, and S1-S3 being taught online.</p> <p>The school carried out a survey of online teaching with pupils and parents. With respect to live teaching, this remains an option for staff but there are practical issues such as the availability of laptops and the quality of wi-fi that do not make this suitable for all pupils. If live teaching is to take place it will be scheduled. As a result pre-recording will be used for the majority of teaching.</p> <p>It should be noted that the school has been plunged into online teaching with no warning and therefore analogies with delivery of online courses at universities are not valid.</p> <p>If parents become aware that the workload is too much for their children they should get in touch with the school.</p>	DB

There are daily check-ins with pupils. If pupils do not respond the Pupil Support Teacher will follow-up.

The school is loaning Chromebooks where necessary.

Teachers are not allowed into the school building unless in a 15-minute booked slot.

There is variation in how teachers set work, with the choice being made faculty by faculty. Issues being dealt with include ensuring that work is not emailed out in the early hours of the morning and the use of the calendar function to manage deadlines. VB though the variation was a positive and raised whether interim deadlines would be useful, particularly for younger pupils.

There had been feedback requesting activities that do not involve a computer screen.

There was feedback that the maths departments use of video for examples and working was useful.

Attendance – the vast majority of pupils were engaging well.

A question was raised on how the distinct ramping up effort for pupils starting Nat 5 courses could be replicated in the current circumstances. It was noted that courses were starting four to five weeks earlier and the message would be got across that this study is very real i.e. there will be no time to revisit online taught elements of the course on a return to face-to-face learning. Additionally there were plans for an online assembly or video (after SQA grading had been dealt with) in order to maintain the sense of school community.

Longer-Term Planning

The Scottish Government has formed a COVID-19 Education Recovery Group. Mr Barnett sits on this group.

The plan for August is being formed with part days or part weeks for blended learning a possibility. It is hard to guarantee social distancing. How children get to school is a factor to be considered. A one-way system may be instituted. Blended learning requires that the same curriculum is taught twice or three times over.

The dates of the summer holiday may be moved.

Staffing is an issue especially if one considers that some staff are in high risk groups and need to be shielded or may have family members with symptoms.

Activities Week Refund

Currently subject to uncertainty. Insurance claims can only be submitted once lockdown is extended.

Transition

The Head was meeting with all Primary School heads. Mr Angus and the S1s were taking P7s through the process using Google Classroom. Mr Angus had previously had the opportunity to visit all the Primary schools.

Staff Update

Mr Angus will be retiring in October after 39 years of service! He had elected to stay on a little longer to assist the school with the COVID response.

There were many applicants for the position of Depute.

School Capacity

	<p>There was a process ongoing looking at the possibility of increasing the school capacity. To an untrained eye visiting the school it might appear that some classrooms are underutilised but the school had specialist classrooms such as those for practical subjects. Next year's S1 was expected to be 180 pupils strong.</p> <p><u>Planning for 2021</u></p> <p>It was asked if there was a fixed decision point for on SQA examinations in 2021. This was currently unknown.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Minutes</u> To be approved by exception</p>	RS
3.	<p><u>AOB</u></p>	
4.	<p><u>DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING AND AGM</u> <u>Next PC MEETINGS -</u></p> <p>Scheduled for 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; align-items: center;">  <p>fb.me/CultsAcademyPTA or https://www.facebook.com/CultsAcademyPTA</p> </div>	