


**Parent Council Meeting of Cults Academy
Tuesday 10th December 2019 7-9pm**

Attendees: David Barnett (DB) Head, Rick Sansom (Chair)(RS), Robert Brew (Secretary)(RB), Daniel Verhamme (Treasurer) (DV), Vannin Bloch (VB), Tony Brady, Oma Okoliegbe, Kay Sutcliffe, Daniel Morrice, Adam Forbes, Marie Boulton

Apologies:

| Agenda items | <u>Updates and discussions</u> | Action |
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| 1. | It was agreed that September minutes would be deemed approved if no objections were raised within seven days. | RS |
| 2. | <p><u>Head Teacher Update</u></p> <p><u>Staffing</u> Home Economics - Lyn Robinson appointed Home Economics – new permanent vacancy – advertised Modern Studies – Lesley Elphinstone appointed Design and Technology – Mrs Leonard begins in January. Physics – James Jordan appointed replacing Ms McVicar Support for Learning – interview prior to end of term Health – Lindsay T – will be picking up role of Duke of Edinburgh coordinator. Long-term temporary youth worker (new post)</p> <p><u>Modern Studies staffing</u></p> <p>Loss of Modern Studies teacher for the Higher class is being covered by Mrs Bayliss, a specialist Modern Studies teacher for two periods a week and Mr Bain for the remaining periods where pupils are working independently on set work. It was felt best not to reassign the Modern Studies teacher covering two S3 classes. The replacement teacher will arrive in January and will conduct an assessment to understand if there are particular areas of study that require additional focus.</p> <p><u>School Improvement Plan</u> <u>Parent Questionnaire</u> A set of 30 questions will be distributed to parents. This process will be repeated annually to allow tracking.</p> <p><u>Learning and Teaching</u> Mrs Bennett will attend the January Parent Council to provide an update.</p> <p><u>P&J Article</u> To provide some context, it should be noted that while issues with drugs are not unheard of, the Cults ASG has the lowest incidence of any ASG in Aberdeen.</p> <p>The allegations in the article in the P&J were presented to the school in an email to the Head that was copied to the P&J. This deprived the school of the opportunity to address some of the inaccuracies in the story which were in turn subject to some degree of journalistic license. The Head met with the parent concerned and was able to correct some of the inaccurate information and gain a better understanding of the incident described in the article.</p> <p>The drug use quoted in the article took place outside the parent’s house and was not reported to the police at the time.</p> <p>It is not true that the school tolerates drug use. If staff are aware of any incidents, they are always followed-up, with appropriate action taken, including reporting to the police if appropriate. Parents and pupils are encouraged to pass on information. Senior staff are proactive in supervising the school, including regular checks on toilets.</p> | DB |

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| | <p>There was then a discussion regarding the information event held at Hillview Community Church. Many parents when faced with a drug related issue can be unaware of the support available and can be fearful of seeking help. The event provided information on available support and is likely to be re-run in spring.</p> <p><u>School Improvement Plan</u> Pupils have been involved in developing the school's new "Vision and Values". Ten pupils per house plus two house captains were involved in brainstorming ideas, which will be presented to the Senate (consisting of the House Captains and representatives from each year group).</p> <p><u>Mindset Funding</u> The PC voted £550 support for the Mindset program delivered to S4 pupils.</p> <p>There followed a discussion on how more practical support for study skills was delivered, eg. The importance of using past papers as the most effective form of revision. It was noted that subject leaders and school captains did provide some support in this area.</p> | |
| 3. | <p><u>Aberdeen-wide Parent Council</u></p> <p>Meet 6 times per year the week before the education committee meets, there are two parent reps on the education committee.</p> <p>At the last mtg advised would be 2-3 short focused visits to all schools by the OI team Improvement in teacher vacancies now down to ca 50. No response yet to PC's queries re details of formula for staff numbers, further review planned for this school year.</p> | RS |
| | <p><u>Duke of Edinburgh</u> The PC asked the Head to pass on his thanks to Miss Bowie for all her work for many years on organising the Duke of Edinburgh scheme within the school, recognising that the school is fortunate to have teachers willing or offer their own time to support this activity.</p> | |
| | <p><u>AOB</u> <u>LinkedIn</u> No update</p> <p><u>Teacher availability at parents' evening</u> High level of parent engagement meant that it was difficult to accommodate all requests.</p> | |
| 6. | <p><u>DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING AND AGM</u> <u>Next PC MEETINGS -</u> Wednesday January 22nd - 7 pm - Cults Academy Room 1 Thursday March 5th - 7 pm Monday April 27th - 7 pm Wednesday June 3rd AGM and Joint Meeting with PTA - 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> <p> Find us on: facebook. fb.me/CultsAcademyPTA or https://www.facebook.com/CultsAcademyPTA</p> | |