

**Parent Council Meeting of Cults Academy  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019 7-9pm**

**Attendees:** David Barnett (DB) Head, Rick Sansom (Chair)(RS), Robert Brew (Secretary)(RB), Tony Brady (TB), Ros Harper, Daniel Verhamme (Treasurer) (DV), Vannin Bloch (VB), Liz Horgan, Marie Boulton, Adam Forbes (pupil rep), Daniel Morrice (pupil rep) 4 others

**Apologies:**

Agenda items	<u>Updates and discussions</u>	Action
1.	<p><u>Skills Development Scotland</u></p> <p>Sean McCarroll of Skills Development Scotland gave a presentation</p> <p>Sean is in the school two days a week and his colleague Mrs K. Macdonald one day a week. Following a broad overview of the wider work of SDS, Sean went on to explain the work of the organisation in the school in some detail.</p> <p>The aim is to equip pupils with skills for use throughout life, particularly as the world of work experiences rapid change. Pupils are encouraged to think about their strengths, weaknesses and style of learning. Future jobs may not currently exist.</p> <p>An SDS representative will attend S3 and Senior parents' evenings. Drop-in appointments are available within the school. Online resources exist at <a href="https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/">https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/</a> and the Aberdeen office at 381 Union Street is able to offer appointments during school holidays. Parents can attend these appointments.</p> <p>SDS also advertise career related events on their social media platforms.</p> <p>While the focus of the team's work is S3-S6, the drop-in sessions are available to all. Utilisation of the drop-in sessions peak in January at subject choice times. Pupils are tracked for a year after leaving with the aim of measuring success in placing pupils in positive and sustained destinations, be that apprenticeship, university, work or college. Last year Cults Academy saw 100% of pupils go on to a positive destination.</p> <p><a href="https://cults-academy.aberdeen.sch.uk/careers/">https://cults-academy.aberdeen.sch.uk/careers/</a></p>	
2.	<p><u>Supporting Children through Challenging Times</u></p> <p>Councilor Marie Boulton highlighted an event scheduled for the 17<sup>th</sup> of September at Hillview Church aimed at providing information and education on drugs and alcohol in particular. Lower Deeside is not exempt from drug and alcohol problems, and the event was aimed at broadening community awareness of the support available, hopefully dispelling fears of criminalization or stigma. The event was aimed at all parents rather than those facing immediate issues, the idea being that wider knowledge would allow the community to support each other.</p> <p>Presenters at the event would include the Police (with examples of drugs to aid identification), the NHS, the Aberdeen Counselling and Information Service (ACIS), Cybersafe Scotland, Crew 2000, Aberdeen City Drugs and Alcohol Partnership, Aberdeen City Council and local churches.</p> <p><a href="https://aberdeencityadp.org.uk/">https://aberdeencityadp.org.uk/</a>  <a href="https://www.crew.scot/">https://www.crew.scot/</a>  <a href="http://www.mha.uk.net/services/acis/index.php">http://www.mha.uk.net/services/acis/index.php</a>  <a href="https://www.cybersafescotland.org/">https://www.cybersafescotland.org/</a></p>	

2.

## Head Teacher Update

DB

### Examination Results

DB opened with an update on examination results which were in line with the success of recent years. DB explained the dilemma of how to celebrate the success of those getting 5 A's at Higher as success comes in many forms with some pupils achieving their own, individual personal bests. On balance DB decided to write to all pupils achieving "all-A's" as this represented the pinnacle of academic achievement, but that this in no way detracted from other individual successes.

### Staffing

New staff are settling in well and enjoying being at a school with hardworking pupils.

Modern Studies – a vacancy has arisen as Rhona Hartley is moving to a pupil support role in Banchory

Chemistry - a maternity cover role is being re-advertised. The vacancy is currently covered internally by a science teacher and Mr Strang

Design and Technology – the vacancy has not been filled and is currently being covered by a non-specialist

**Action: DB to explore potential for using partnership with Camphill for assistance with interim support for D&T vacancy**

### Staff Allocation

74.09 Full Time Equivalent have been allocated to Cults Academy by the Council based on a roll of 1048 pupils. Current staffing stands at 73.5.

RB commented that this equates to a pupil-teacher ratio of 14.25, a slight impairment of the current poor ratio relative to other schools of similar size in Scotland

In response to a follow up question, DB stated that there were no spaces in Higher English and that this could be a limiting factor for admitting pupils mid-year. Illness cover was another area where the staff constraint could impact.

Marie Boulton stated that the staffing formula was being looked at again and that responsibility for staff allocation had recently changed at the Council. RS hoped that this time the logic of the allocation could be shared and up for discussion as despite several promises no detail of the allocation for 2019/20 was provided.

### Rights Respecting

The school attained gold level. Many pupils were involved and the group worked very hard to achieve this level. Work continues as reassessment is every two years. The team are seeking additional younger members.

The school is working with the Aberdeen City Council media team to generate some positive press coverage. The school's Rights Respecting group has also been invited to the ACC Young Peoples' Awards, having been nominated for an award.

### Google Reference School

Cults Academy has been made a Google Reference School, one benefit of which is that new products are offered to the school first.

### Camphill Partnership

A new collaborative partnership has been initiated with Camphill School.

### Summer Sports Event


The event was successfully rescheduled over two days due to adverse weather. Thanks go to the PTA for organizing strawberries and cream.

### Education Scotland Visit

Education Scotland have visited Mrs Duggan and the Maths Department to learn about maths and numeracy best practice.

### MBC Scottish Night

Pupils from the school were to perform at the MBC Scottish evening.

3.	<p><u>Progress on Green Flag status</u></p> <p>Mrs. Hope in the science department is leading this effort. 35-40 pupils are involved each week. The group is working on an environmental review. The EcoGroup is seeking to work with the Council on additional bins in the community, particularly recycling bins.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><b>Action: Liz Horgan to meet Mrs Hope to discuss fund raising or charity opportunities as collection point. DB to forward email to Mrs Hope.</b></p> </div>	
	<p><u>Status of School Improvement Plan</u></p> <p>DB noted that the inspection result was good, with the challenge to develop thinking skills and provide challenge for a wide range of abilities.</p> <p>A Learning and Teaching Policy has been is being developed. Staff, parents and pupils will be involved, with parent input sought where appropriate.</p> <p>In response to the agenda item on how the school improvement plan will impact the quality of classroom teaching, DB stated that teachers as professionals would have different styles of teaching and that, despite a minimum expectation, there would never be uniformity between classes.</p> <p>RB responded that the query was not aimed at differences in style, but rather those very small number of situations where key elements of the subject are not being covered in one class but are being covered in another. Parents and pupils were aware of differences between some classes that could not be put down to style, but awareness of specific problem often came too late for parents to be able address the problem. Some specific examples were given by RB and TB, which were historical rather than current, and some suggestions on how this could be monitored.</p> <p>DB stated that teaching was subject to regular peer observation, although creating the time is a challenge. The Senior Leadership Team also carry out learning visits. There is also a professional review process which takes place annually. Serious concerns about a teacher's performance would lead to potential competence procedures. Mrs Bennett is taking a role one day a week to lead the whole school priority in the SIP on learning and teaching.</p>	
4.	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p><u>LinkedIn, Parent Directory</u></p> <p>No further work had been done on the LinkedIn page</p>	
5.	<p><u>DATE &amp; TIME OF NEXT MEETING AND AGM</u></p> <p><u>Next PC MEETINGS -</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tuesday November 26<sup>th</sup> - 7 pm - Cults Academy Room 1</b></p> <p>Wednesday January 22<sup>nd</sup> - 7 pm  Thursday March 5<sup>th</sup> - 7 pm  Monday April 27<sup>th</sup> - 7 pm  Wednesday June 3<sup>rd</sup> AGM - 7 pm</p> <p><b>Outline agenda to be agreed in advance and circulated</b></p> <p>Local Councillors and student representatives will be routinely invited to all future meetings</p> <p><b>Any parent or guardian of a pupil at Cults Academy is welcome to attend any Parent Council meeting.</b></p> <p>The Parent Council can be emailed at <a href="mailto:PCCultsAcademy@aberdeen.npfs.org.uk">PCCultsAcademy@aberdeen.npfs.org.uk</a></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <div data-bbox="256 2011 445 2098">  </div> <div data-bbox="539 2022 1082 2085"> <p>fb.me/CultsAcademyPTA  or <a href="https://www.facebook.com/CultsAcademyPTA">https://www.facebook.com/CultsAcademyPTA</a></p> </div> </div>	