

**Parent Council Meeting of Cults Academy
Monday 30th August 2021 7-8:30pm**

Attendees: David Barnett (DB) Head, Rick Sansom (Chair)(RS), Daniel Verhamme (Treasurer), Robert Brew (temporary Secretary)(RB), Sonya Angus, Dr L MacDonald, Alison Murray, Caroline Nixon,, Emma Street, Ewan Maclean, Kirsten Nicoll, Kirsten Gove, Lee Ross, Max Paterson, Michelle Martin, E MacDonald, Muhammed Kashif, Nayrim Buchan, Rozana Scott, Liz Horgan, Sophia Deans, fusq, tangostots , VJ, Antonia Andison

Non-Members: Marie Boulton (ACC Councillor), Sophia Deans (school captain), Max Paterson (school captain)

Apologies:

Agenda items	<u>Updates and discussions</u>	Action
1.	<p><u>Head Teacher Update:</u> Introduction of New School Captains Sophia Deans and Max Paterson</p> <p><u>SQA</u> 2021 was a challenging year but pupils and staff coped well with the challenges. Qualifications data shows that pupils have performed well, although it is hard to compare between years. 82% gained three or more Highers in S5. The school is currently in the target setting period with target grades being negotiated between pupils and teachers. For 2022 there will be some adjustments to courses, for example no assignments will be set. The focus will be on Learning and Teaching given pandemic uncertainty. The plan is to have an exam diet. Any significant disruption to teaching may lead to allowing pupils knowledge of the exam topics. If exams are cancelled then grades would be awarded on teacher professional judgement, but not based on the replacement exams or assessments that were seen in 2021. Guidance from the SQA is due. The overall aim is to prevent the perception of overassessment.</p> <p><u>Reform</u> The SQA and Education Scotland will be reformed with the inspection remit being separated</p> <p><u>COVID Mitigations</u> New guidance was issued towards the end of the holidays which removed the requirement for bubbles and required that they be removed as soon as possible. Consequently, year groups do not need to be kept separate, and therefore there are no separate breaks, entrances or lunch areas. However, if not eating a hot meal, pupils are still encouraged to go outside. PE changing rooms can be used again which means full uniform can return which is good for the school ethos. With the closure of John Lewis, shortages of school uniform had been reported. CO2 readings had shown that the ventilation system was working well. Tutor time was to be restored and clubs were beginning to restart their activity. Face coverings were still required and pupil compliance has been very good. Good hand hygiene, the one-way system, additional cleaning and lateral flow testing were all to stay in place until further notice. A large number of 16 and 17 year-olds were taking up the vaccine. Test and Protect were changing the definition of close contact with prolonged contact now required to count as a close contact. If deemed to be a close contact of an infected person self-isolation is still required until a negative PCR test result is known. If a pupil tests positive the school sends a warn and inform letter. The warn and inform letter goes to the year group only rather than the whole school as was the case previously.</p> <p>Question – VJ asked what percentage of pupils were using the lateral flow tests. DB - the school does not have that information. In the latest batch of tests issued 75% had taken test kits, but how many were used is not known by the school as only the NHS has this information.</p> <p><u>Staff</u></p>	RS

	<p>The full list of new staff was provided in the update. Recruitment was strong. There were currently 1150 pupils at the school and the second year was full.</p> <p>A post for a maths teacher was being readvertised. An English maternity vacancy had arisen. Miss Stewart had resigned from her role as Pupil Support. Two additional staff were being recruited for enhanced provision (ASN)</p> <p>Question – what is the new pupil-teacher ratio DB – would revert with that information but the school had approximately 80 Full Time Equivalent Teachers.</p> <p>The new school roll of 1150 represents a significant increase over the previous cap. In terms of individual year groups: S1 – at 220 pupils was full and a waiting list was in operation S2 – at 180 pupils was full and a waiting list was in operation S3 – was not full S4 – was full as English and Maths classes were full</p> <p>Prospectively P7 had a dip in pupil numbers but P6 was up again.</p> <p>RB noted that the PC planned to write to the Council as the study used to expand the school roll appeared to have some serious limitations.</p> <p><u>First Parents Evening:</u> DB indicated that it is not confirmed to be Face to Face. The alternative will be virtual appointments of five minutes duration with the meeting being automatically shut to prevent overruns. The first is to be October 5th for parents of those taking Nationals. Alison Murray shared her own experience of virtual parents’ evenings and said they worked well.</p> <p><u>Waste Plastic Mitigation</u> DB – recycling bins continue to be available in the school</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibly need to relaunch the waste and recycling initiative in the school • It’s possible that the Eco Group will recommence although it required mentoring by other staff members as those involved previously don’t wish to be involved just now. <p>VJ asked what mitigations are in place for use of the water fountains in the school DB – hand sanitiser is available at all water fountain stations and pupils asked to use this prior to using the fountain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face coverings are required as fountains are located indoors • Directive given not to drink directly from fountains • Alternative to using the water fountains is to bring one’s own or purchase within the school 	
2.	<p><u>Suggestions for November Meeting Agenda</u> Mrs E Donald questioned the number of subjects to be available at National level DB indicated this subject is up for discussion in the School Improvement Plan. Possibility the pros and Cons will presented at the November meeting</p> <p><u>AGM</u> Daniel Verhamme presented the Finances Year May 2020 to April 2021 No expenditure May 2020 balance £366.96 Income £438.13 (from Aberdeen City Council) Expenditure £0</p> <p>DV suggests discussion of items for expenditure in November.</p> <p><u>Elections</u> Require the following positions to be filled: Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary</p>	

	<p>No volunteers came forward. RS asked for those interested to email him. Both the current Chair and Secretary positions have limited pupil time remaining in the school and it would be more suitable for those with students lower down the school to take up those positions. Post meeting note we have a potential new secretary</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p><u>AOB</u> Kirstin Gove enquired if football is restarting Mrs E McDonald asked same re Netball.</p> <p>DB indicated football had started, he would enquire regarding Netball.</p> <p>RS asked re Duke of Edinburgh. DB indicated this was planned.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING</u> <u>Next PC MEETINGS -</u></p> <p>Next meeting - 15th November 2021 Provisional dates for rest of year are 28 February, 25 April and 30 May with the potential for additional meetings if there is a major change in circumstances.</p> <p>Outline agenda to be agreed in advance and circulated</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 PC_CultsAcademy@aberdeen.npfs.org.uk</p> <div data-bbox="256 1037 445 1128">  </div> <p>fb.me/CultsAcademyPTA or https://www.facebook.com/CultsAcademyPTA</p>	