

Parent Council Meeting of Cults Academy
Monday 15th November 2021 7-8:30pm

Attendees: David Barnett (DB) Head, Rick Sansom (Chair)(RS), Daniel Verhamme (Treasurer), Ben Seldon (Secretary)(BS), Robert Brew (RB), Juliet Folarin Leuw (JFL), Kay Drummond, Sonya Angus, Alison Murray (AM), Kirsten Nicoll (KN), Kirsten Gove (KG), ?dhsshshsh fusq?, PM, VJ.

Apologies: Marie Boulton (ACC Councillor), Liz Horgan

Agenda items	<u>Updates and discussions</u>	Action
1.	<p>FEATURE: Head Teacher preliminary report out on Insight results: Insight results presented. National comparator dataset with results based on alternative certification model from last year giving indications of attainment level across the year groups. Final report is due in February w/leavers data. Results presentation could not be shared over GoogleMeet. Future consideration: to share key figures in minutes and to share presentation with Chair/Secretary in future to overcome IT issues.</p> <p>Key Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improving Attainment for All measure This splits the whole cohort into the highest performing 20%, the middle performing 60%, and the lowest performing 20% Cults Academy results are in all cases above the virtual comparator, and often significantly so. Of particular note is the performance of the lowest 20%, achieving significantly above the virtual comparator in S4 and S5. This demonstrates that pupils of all abilities do well at Cults Academy. ● Literacy and Numeracy measure In all but one measure, the percentage of pupils gaining literacy and numeracy qualifications equals or outperforms the virtual comparator, sometimes significantly so (for example, the percentage achieving level 5 literacy and numeracy by the end of S5 is 92%, compared to 83% for the comparator. One small area of concern is Numeracy at level 4 in S4, where results have dipped slightly below the virtual comparator. The cause of this has been identified as a number of pupils who sat N5 Applications of Maths, and didn't pass, with no N4 as a fallback. This is being rectified for these pupils this year. ● Attainment v Deprivation measure Data in this measure shows a strong performance across the board. ● Percentage of school leavers in a positive destination measure This data will not be available until the February update. <p>Note annual comparisons between 2019,2020 and 2021 are recognised as challenging given the difference in circumstances and alternative certification.</p> <p>Q JFL: What collective insights does the school take from this data? DB: Very good story of pupils attaining above the virtual comparator almost entirely across the board. Cases where there are concerns (level 4 numeracy in S4, as outlined above) and these have been understood indicate the value of the exercise.</p> <p>Q JFL: Anecdotal info that in other schools S3s are being given mock tests to prepare for S4/5+ DB: This will not be the case at Cults Academy – see later section on Exam preparation.</p> <p>Q PM: Are there any subjects of concern or patterns to be understood? DB: There is a wealth of subject-level data, which is reviewed by SLT and Faculty heads determining cause for concern/action, or identifying good practice and success stories. These are already being addressed as you have heard and are often confirmation of previously understood issues understood at the exit of the exams process.</p>	BS

	<p>Q AM: Is there are relationship between S6 attainment and pupil choice (leavers changing dataset)? DB: There is a very high rate of continuation from S5 to S6 so unlikely to have significant impact.</p> <p>PM/KN: Congratulations to all staff and pupils – our thanks!</p>	
2.	<p><u>Covid19 Update - DB</u> The school is becoming more normal. There are very low numbers of staff and pupil Covid cases. Prior to the October break there were 0, in the return from the break there were ~10 positive pupils isolating. There are current 2 pupils and 0 staff who have tested positive for Covid. There are some school struggling with staff availability so the controls are important and appear to be working.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with face coverings amongst staff and pupils is still very good with a few, understandable, reminders. • Since the summer dedicated entrances, year group bubbles, PE kit to school and segregated lunchtimes have been lifted • Guidance regarding further lifting of restrictions is due but has been delayed. • Space within the school is being used to provide mitigation during poor weather days when outside play is not possible. • CO2 monitors in changing rooms confirm adequate circulation of air to allow use. • One-way system removed improving pupil flow between classes <p>Q PM: any breakdown on covid statistics / years of concern. DB: no these have been isolated cases.</p> <p>Q RS: Parents evening remote connection issues in 1st events appeared to be overcome in 2nd run? DB: Yes despite trial runs there were connection issues (firewall for first 45 mins). Some staff managed with phone calls. It was not possible to re-plan the session. Apologies for the disruption - In general the learning updates should be sufficient and for those with specific concerns separate sessions will/have been booked. Day#2 for the Highers/Adv Highers was successful – some parents expressing preference over face-to-face events due to convenience. This will be reviewed over the next few repeat events.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Return to Exams - DB</u> SQA plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLAN A (minimal disruption): exams to revert to pre-pandemic structure with course adaptation (increased teaching time, removal of internal assessment components) • PLAN B (some disruption): manage exams with potential for advance notice of topics and other easing measured. • PLAN C (significant disruption): exams do not take place revert to teachers’ professional judgement • No dates available for planning as yet <p>PLAN A is favoured and assuming a return to exams is any obvious area for concern for those S5 and S6 pupils that have not experienced an exam in real life but did get some experience of revision in ACM.</p> <p>Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motivational speaker Dee Bleakly (proved successful in prior years) working with S4s extended to S5 and S6s. • ‘Prelims’ assessment week at the beginning of February (differentiator vs other schools) • Exam Room Experience being planned • Online E-Sgoil and Scholar Providing online sources for additional revision • SLT/Faculty heads have reviewed re-introducing after school revision sessions now but this has been decided as premature and runs the risk of providing artificial confidence. Will happen in some subjects at this stage where appropriate. To be revisited later in the school year (likely Feb/March). <p>Q KG: Are you aware of the risk of industrial action threatened by SQA staff? DB: Aware of headlines – unclear on likelihood. SQA will change organisation after completing this year but degree of reform is not clear. School efforts of recruitment for exam invigilation have been successful.</p> <p>Q RB: how will practical experience of exams be passed on?</p>	

	<p>DB: Teachers will communicate this in the support sessions listed above and in the additional teaching time available within class time. The best means of revision and preparation will be communicated by the subject teachers. If assemblies do not return with the lifting of restrictions other means will be sought to deliver consistent information across the year groups.</p>	
<p>4.</p> <p>5.</p>	<p>Curriculum and School Improvement Plan (SIP) This year's SIP carries a commitment to review the School Curriculum. Parents will have the opportunity to contribute. This will include looking at the number of S4 subject suffered (some schools offer 7 or 8 vs Cults Academy's 6). A decision on this will be taken over this next session for 2023/24</p> <p>ACTION: DB to advise on timeline and means for parent engagement as per SIP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Learning and Teaching area of the SIP is being actioned on Friday's in service day. • A mid term report on progress with the SIP will be published in the New Year. • Quality Improvement Policy: Parents to be engaged Jan-Mar 22 during self-evaluation activities • PC to be sounding board but engagement is through surveys, focus groups and pupil input • S4 pupil council already expressed a desire to stay at 6 subjects rather than increase <p>Q AM: May number of Nat5s become irrelevant in reform? DB: intent is to tie this with OECD review of Curriculum for Excellence – hard to imagine a wholesale change in numbers of qualifications, but we will have to be very aware of emerging policy</p> <p>Q RB: Have you consulted S5/S6 on impact of limitation of 6 Nat 5's? In RB's experience this has limited summer course attendance and university choices for one pupil he knows of.</p> <p>As outlined, there are still a couple of Pupil Council meetings to be held on this topic.</p> <p>ACTION: RB to share this experience w/DB</p> <p>AOB</p> <p>Council recalculation of school capacity to be reviewed in meeting with ACC councillor Boulton, Chief Education Officer, Head, Chair & Secretary (&past) on November 24th.</p> <p>At September meeting DV presented PC accounts (balance £805) and made a call for options to contribute to in '21/22 via our small budget (through funding from ACC).</p> <p>DB notifies that school is planning mindset/motivational workshops for all senior phase pupils, run by Dee Bleakley. Previously, i.e. last time in 2019, this was offered to s4 and both the PC and the PTA contributed to the costs. Meeting seems OK (no discussion time) with allocating PC funds to the coming-up s4, s5 & s6 sessions.</p> <p>ACTION: DB and DV will exchange about costs and sum contributed by PC.</p> <p>PM: repeat request (from August meeting) for Info on who is leading DoE. DB confirms it is being run and to provide info on staff responsible</p> <p>ACTION: DB to provide DoE information</p> <p>RB: Community Councils now include young Councillors – one school attendee noted – this would be good experience for Cults Academy pupils</p> <p>ACTION: RB / DB to share information and disseminate</p> <p>ACTION: DB/RS to ensure school captains invited to next PC meeting</p> <p>DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING AND AGM Next PC MEETINGS -</p>	<p>DB</p> <p>RB</p> <p>DV</p> <p>DB</p> <p>RB/DB</p> <p>DB/RS</p>

Next meeting - 28th February 2022

Further regular meetings will be set with the potential for additional meetings if there is a major change in circumstances.

Outline agenda to be agreed in advance and circulated

Any parent or guardian of a pupil at Cults Academy is welcome to attend any Parent Council meeting.

The Parent Council can be emailed at PCCultsAcademy@aberdeen.npfs.org.uk



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