

Parent Council Meeting of Cults Academy
Monday 25th April 2021 7-8:30pm

Attendees: Marie Boulton (ACC Councillor), David Barnett (DB) Head, Rick Sansom (Chair)(RS), Daniel Verhamme (Treasurer)(DV), Ben Seldon (Secretary)(BS), Robert Brew (RB), Ewen McClean, Alison Murray (AM). Kirsteen Gove, Kay Sutcliffe – feeder schools rep. Kevin Deans (Sophias Dad) Sophia Deans (student). Tanya Heath, Alison Allstaff, Ijeoma Okoliegbe, Sonya Angus,

Apologies:

Agenda items	<u>Heads Update</u> <u>Parents requests/queries</u> <u>AOB</u>	Action
1	<p>DB Heads update: Staff announcements. New DHT Claire Stanton appointed post from Monday 9th news to be shared w/Parents Gordon Zimmerman moved to Alford Academy. Ann Walker to replace from Glasgow Billie Mckinley to leave with replacement to come in from August. Clare Cunningham not returning to work from maternity leave. Jenna Rob incoming w/background in Business studies from Aberdeen Grammar. Maths appointees challenging to fill all year – and still vacant. Covered by temporary. Biology 16 applicants of high quality. Maths 2 by comparison – quality not there.</p> <p>Self evaluation over next few weeks consult w/parents on SIP changes, # of subjects in S4, finish review from last service day. Decision to be made by end of term to plan out over summer – poll students to see what they would choose. Choices in S2 from 6>8 Nat5s but retaining 5 higher. Timetabling in Oct. Consult w/Staff 121 for improvements/hopes and aspirations.</p> <p>Parents evenings to be in person. Google form link in last newsletter to poll parents 58% F2F 37% online 4% no pref. Staff: 50% F2F, 31% online, 19% no pref. PC: retain online booking – definite benefit in getting the time w/teachers. Some prefer online for discipline, confidentiality, lower emissions.</p> <p>Blairs house re-establishment. 6 houses S1-S6 throughout years. From Monday 23rd May S1-S3>S2-S4. Mr Barker will support the house. Mrs Kidd move to Murtle full time.</p> <p>Residential trip upcoming – 1st time in 3 yrs. S3 important as last chance – Manchester – 4 coach loads, 16 staff. S1-S2 follow normal timetable. From 9th May.</p> <p>Covid guidance – almost all restrictions lifted. 50% retained masks in class. Now down to very low numbers but supported if desired. Hand Hygiene continues to be encouraged. PCR tests not available for booking from next week. Stay at home w/symptoms. Mild symptoms can continue to attend school (running nose, mild-non continuous cough, normal temp). Unwell and high temperature – stay at home 3 days and reassess.</p> <p>SQA: learners absent due to covid or covid symptoms can apply for exceptional circumstances process</p> <p>Last day of S6 – positive AM: breakfast, awards, yr books, musical performance. Things deteriorated on leaving school (eggs and liquids) cars, property, staff. Banners w/ unacceptable language. Had spoken to local shops about not selling eggs but too many shops. Leavers ball June 2nd to be considered. Ask for parents/kids to own up and act responsibly. Formal complaint. Mother & baby + dog. Person on way to doctors appointment.</p>	

	<p>Suggestions: Robert Gordons take them offsite or give them an event to focus on. Hard stand. Feedback consequences and have a warning email. Personalise feedback. Invite parents to leavers ceremony.</p>	
2	<p>Parents interest:</p> <p>Onboarding of P7s concern of large numbers from primary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2 day visit will take place for 1st time in 3 yrs. Evening for parents ➤ Airyhall pupils moved into Cults catchment ➤ Transition website and online activities ➤ Onsite activities <p>Now school is open – how can parents re-engage, clubs, shows, sportsdays etc</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sport events are up and running ➤ School show/concert being considered ➤ Summer sports day being planned – PTA to get involved – looking for sponsors <p>School library running book club and looking at events.</p> <p>Follow up w/CEO on outstanding questions. Pupil Role still delayed – CB to remind education committee and follow-up. Always 2 weeks away. Draft of letter to go out. DB: expecting 1208 in August. 210 new S1, 220 S2, 210 S3&S4, S5 199, S6 159. = 1208 150 on recent total. Year groups capped. S1 is capped at 210 for example. In past have held back #s for new arrivals. S1-S3 have a level of protection.</p> <p>Cost pressure take more from private to public. Knowing that pupil role is increasing what is strategy to grow? RB: mathematics teachers vacancies – how to manage. Relocation allowance to attach to role. 1 extra FTE learning support teacher w/Covid. Teacher contact time reduced 22hrs/week to 21.</p> <p>Concerns on restriction of subjects available to S3/S4. Column choices setup to get widest choice but in some instances appear limited more in one column than others. Term of language switching – lack of continuity. Govt initiative of 1+2 foreign needs to be met – 2 periods French 1 of Spanish for example. In move to new rota better engagement from pupils, clearer preferences and positive impact on S3s. Science 1 subject per term – long explanation blocks of 6 weeks bio, chem, phys specialists. Used to run 1 period of each per week – lower contact and pickup. System will be revised in upcoming adjustments.</p>	
3	<p>AOB:</p> <p>SQA (national) timetable vs childs/schools timetable 845 vs 9. Stick w/school timetable – this was feedback in assemblies.</p> <p>Call for new chair. Alison vice chair Note in newsletter.</p> <p>Thanks and best wishes to Sophia Deans team captains.</p> <p>30th May Next meeting.</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 PCCultsAcademy@aberdeen.npfs.org.uk</p>	