



**Parent Council Meeting of Cults Academy  
Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 7-8:30pm**

**Attendees:** David Barnett [DB] (Head), Nick Cowling (Deputy & Pupil Support), Alison Murray [AM] (Chair), Robert Brew [RB](Vice Chair), Daniel Verhamme (Treasurer), Ben Seldon (Secretary PC), Fransiska Louwagie [fransiskalouwagie@yahoo.fr](mailto:fransiskalouwagie@yahoo.fr), Vijay ([contactvijay@gmail.com](mailto:contactvijay@gmail.com)), Sonja Angus, Bruce Purdon [brucepurdon@gmail.com](mailto:brucepurdon@gmail.com), Joe Ochei ([joeochei@icloud.com](mailto:joeochei@icloud.com)) community council rep, Ena Oga, Alison Allstaff, Gillian Fox. Elizabeth Ritche Duncan Massie (Councillor).

**Student Captain:** Murray Bone [gw09bonemurray@ab-ed.org](mailto:gw09bonemurray@ab-ed.org)

**Apologies:** Kay Sutcliffe, Nancy Anderson, Duane Wood, Alison Thomson

Agenda items		Action
1	<p><b>Matters arising:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Appeals for SQA exams update: different impacts of pandemic. 165 submitted with consent. 35 successful / 21% success. Worthwhile process – no grades reduced. Those impacted informed w/new certification. Not yet clear if appeals will be accepted this year.</li> <li>➤ Indicative subject choice for logistics (Mr D Strang working outcome).</li> <li>➤ Arrangements for S2 and S3 Parents Evening under reviewed. Parents Evenings currently in March to be brought forward to be prior to students Subject choice.</li> <li>➤ School trip discussion: strong feeling on avoidance of missing out. 79% favoured pre-covid trip arrangements. School very sensitive for cost of living impact and will offer support.</li> <li>➤ Industrial action – EIS strike Thurs 24th November. To be risk assessed tomorrow to determine what can be kept open – likely school closed. Next Monday deadline for announcement.</li> </ul>	

2	<p><b>Head teacher update – Mr D Barnett</b></p> <p>Insight results update: Leavers data: S6 as a % of S4 pre-appeal data – not released till February 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ S6s leaving w/1 or more higher 93% vs 86% virtual comparator (vc)</li> <li>➤ 3+ Highers 86% of S4 vs 75% vc</li> <li>➤ 5+ Highers 74% vs 63% vc</li> <li>➤ Ave complementary tariff points (educational measure) stats L/M/H above vc</li> <li>➤ Literacy L4 98% vs 98%, L5 97% vs 92% Numeracy L4: 98% vs 97%, L5 93% vs 83%</li> <li>➤ Initial destinations not till Feb</li> <li>➤ League Table last yr Joint 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> this year. Results just as good as last year with concerns over grade inflation unfounded at first glance.</li> </ul> <p>S2 / S3 choices: no immediate feedback – less popular subjects have more uptake – better spread. Dry Run beneficial for parents to have important conversations. Confirmed will be 8 subjects delivered over 2 years.</p> <p>Q: Breadth is good but is timing sufficient to allow them to make the best choice? A: increasing choice to 8 is helping as being pushed into the narrower 6 is more restrictive. Any later in year and would not be possible to setup new timetable for the new school year.</p> <p>Q: New subjects – Accountancy? Engineering? Some descriptions circuitous. Is there a way for the students to have a better understanding of them? Will there also be equivalent support for S3's? A: Subject Choice Fair: Older pupils and teachers hold a course description also included external parties. – consider rerunning – ACTION DB</p> <p>Q: Is there an overview of trends from this exercise? Could we identify risk of loss of subject? A: Less likely than prior years – no one doing Nat5 music – now uptake will be greater. Growth in new areas.</p> <p>Q: Will running additional class require additional teaching resources? A: Will not affect teacher resource base – Logistics exercise being conducted by D Strang. The only way to increase this is an increase in student numbers.</p>	DB
3	<p><b>Pupil Support Team – Mr N Cowling</b></p> <p>3 yrs since inspection – pupil support was highlight. Some churn in staff w/leavers and promotions Lot of focus on attainment tracking Each PST is covering 215-220 pupils alongside teaching</p> <p>Wellbeing: great resilience in getting through lockdown. Focus on mental wellbeing – 6 staff participating in mental health first aid training.</p> <p>Compassionate and connected communities: impact from world events, external effects. Importance of balance and to be there for support if/when young people require it.</p> <p>Good feedback from Staff – working on disruptive behaviours. 6 staff going out for Anti Bullying training. Will then train up senior pupils – positive role models anti bullying/discrimination.</p> <p>6 people w/complex needs support – well blended w/regular activities and awareness and acceptance from other students.</p> <p>Anecdotal feedback on thanks for level of support for their child – PSTs are a 'lifeline'</p> <p>If students have problems PSTs are often the first contact point.</p> <p>Anti Bullying Policy: update post training Role for Parents and Online. Mr Hayes online expert to come into 3 schools Cults, Culter primary, Cults Academy.</p>	

4	<p><b>Support for school leavers – Mr N Cowling</b></p> <p>Starts at transition through the support journey – pathway planning for exit. Schools Development Scotland provide framework to register pupils preferences and record and resource careers advisers.</p> <p>UCAS university and college applications inform through PST If pupils not heading for positive outcome – no one left behind team reference. Pre pandemic 100% positive destinations. Pandemic – impact – a few had dropped and required direction via PST.</p> <p>Away days to Abz university have taken place.</p> <p><b>Murray:</b> plenty of year group opportunities in morning notices. Lectures, work Exp, Visits.</p> <p>Q: Miss Stewart used to cover university entrance expertise. Have we lost ground without her? A: Ms Tweedy has taken the lead – signed up to uni support group – RGU access. Better shared load between 6 house teachers plus subject experts.</p> <p>Q: Are parents responsible for organising Uni visits? A: Yes. Pupils should research. There is a pathway planning resource: link. S5/S6+</p> <p>Work experience offered on a bespoke basis. Career ready program for those benefitting from confidence boost – industry mentor.</p> <p>Developing Young Workforce – develop skills for workplace settings/employability</p>	
5	<p><b>National Discussion on Education – A Murray</b></p> <p>2 big consultations ongoing w/ Independent review of Quals Structure of education, SQA's, future of education – last done 20 yrs ago &gt; national debate &gt; Curriculum for Excellence. Now a conversation rather than debate. Wide ranging, high level questions.</p> <p>Very challenging to form a single view from the Parent Council – best for individual response and to make link visible in minutes and on weekly highlights/HT email in general.</p> <p><a href="https://consult.gov.scot/learning-directorate/other-ways-to-get-involved/">https://consult.gov.scot/learning-directorate/other-ways-to-get-involved/</a> Input by 5<sup>th</sup> Dec</p>	
6	<p><b>Independent review of qualifications (Hayward review) – A Murray</b></p> <p>More structured queries. Continual assessment vs final exams. Easier for PC to coordinate response – email Chair Alison if you would like participate make link visible in minutes and on weekly highlights/HT email in general.</p> <p><a href="https://consult.gov.scot/education-reform/professor-haywards-independent-review/">https://consult.gov.scot/education-reform/professor-haywards-independent-review/</a> Deadline 16<sup>th</sup> Dec. March 23<sup>rd</sup> results.</p>	ALL
7	<p><b>ACPF update: - A Murray</b></p> <p>Council update feeding into National Parent for Scotland. Extra 2000 pupils – additional school of pupils being added Rising number of representations for exams, adv highers have dropped, attendance 90% vs 89% national, exclusions 600&gt;200's. leavers 95% to positive destinations. Mental health collaborative across city to reduce number of Tier3 into support.</p> <p>School estates plan: Cults group monitor numbers at the academy – AM thinks Primary should be assessed. Out for comment for Primary parents. RB: council still using incorrect by 120!</p>	

	<p><b>Budget - D Verhamme</b>  Awaiting proposal for funding of in school activity – Dee Bleakley partial fund as per prior years?  ~£200 per yr reflecting budget reduction.  School and parents to consider options and feedback</p>	ALL / DB
8	<p><b>AOCB:</b>  School show – PTA support please  Xmas Raffle – look out for communications</p>	ALL
9	<p>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 <a href="mailto:PCCultsAcademy@aberdeen.npfs.org.uk">PCCultsAcademy@aberdeen.npfs.org.uk</a>  Dates of future meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 27th February 2023</li> <li>○ 24th April 2023</li> <li>○ 29th May 2023 (AGM)</li> </ul>	