



**Parent Council Meeting of Cults Academy
Monday 11th September 2023 7-8:30pm**

Attendees: Ross Alan [RA] (Head), Alison Murray [AM] (Chair),

Mark Raistrick
Daniel Verhamme
Ben Seldon
Nancy Anderson
Emma Gillibrand
Alison Thomson
Samah Azaldeen
Reem Hasson
Lee Ross
Tanya Heath
Jolene Eggleton
Vimal Subramanian
Joanna Esper
Jen Harper
Kay Sutcliffe
Paul Hallett
Sarah Cridland
Dana Smith
Fransiska Louwagie
Amit Gharde
Shivali Gharde
Sonya Angus
Alison Allstaff
Azeezat Abdulrasheed
Shona Close

Student Captains: None

Apologies: Marie Boulton & councillors, Vijay

Agenda items		Action
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and apologies • Introduction to Parent Council • Minutes of meeting 29th May 2023 and matters arising • Head Teacher update including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduction ○ Staffing changes and new starts (pupils) settling in ○ Activities week ○ Preliminary exam results/attainment data ○ School Improvement Plan • Mobile phone use policy • School capacity / Pupil Teacher ratio • Pop-up banner purchase • Election of new members and office bearers and ex-officio members • AOCB <p><u>Dates of next meeting:</u></p> <p><u>13th November 2023, 22nd January 2024, 4th March 2024, 29th April 2024, 27th May/10th June 2024</u></p> <p>Introduction to Parent Council & summary of deliverables from 21-23:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Return from covid ○ subject choice expansion ○ Residential trip return ○ Pupil teacher ratio/school roll, ○ SIP and many more. • Minutes of meeting 29th May 2023 and matters arising • AOCB 	
2	<p>Head teacher update – Mr R Alan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head Teacher update including: <p>Introduction</p>	

Staffing changes and new starts (pupils) settling in.

- 11 new staff, 3 probationer teachers, 2 fixed term, 6 permanent
- Running vacancy for PE – October target.
- Modern Languages & Design-Tech vacancy
- Science understaffing but as per allocation
- Recruiting for acting DH: in support of move to 8 Nat5's over 2 years
- New Pupils: 240 S1s settling in well from all staff.
- Clair Stanton DH oversaw transitions from Primary. 36 new pupils to S2/S3 – 2 new classes tackling 'in-zone waiting list'
- 1275 total roll.

Activities week

- Planning underway – format similar to last session.
- S1 local, S2 residential UK, S3 wider option home/abroad.
- Extra curricular program launching: sports captains advertising in assembly, new clubs.

Preliminary exam results/attainment data

- Raw data from SQA. Nat5 4th year 90% passing. Highers results also strong – get #'s. 6 year high.
- National performance managed reduction to baseline so positive results for Cults not seeing as much negative adjustment.
- Updates when full dataset shared and reviewed w/Faculty heads

School Improvement Plan

- 1) Learning & teaching & Differentiation
- 2) continual improvement (new DH responsible), learning from S3s on new curriculum and impact on change for S5/6 at other end.
- 3) Wellbeing and Inclusion. Connected/compassionate communities experience & lessons learned.

	<p>4) New city wide anti bullying strategy from the City (Mr Cowling DH).</p> <p>5) MVP Mentors and Violence Prevention program – reduce gender based violence. Train senior pupils as mentors and transfer through PSE slots.</p> <p>Q: will there be parental involvement in these schemes? A: yes will be engagement and potentially feed into a sub group engagement</p> <p>6) Reporting tracking/monitoring. Structure favoured – improved use of data making it more accessible for support.</p> <p>Q: Is there an opportunity for careers engagement improvement? A: SIP content, bring in professionals to learn about careers from practitioners – several at a time. Lets use parents/PC and broader - Action to consider how to tap parents as a resource?</p> <p>Q: Is there a similar opportunity for improvement in engagement w/Uni (Aberdeen uni parent). A : CA has an RGU staff member – in school rep that organises events. There is a school coordinator.</p> <p>Q: Do students have to sign up to get engaged? A: Events are advertised through assemblies/bulletins and is present at a location in the school on given days</p> <p>Q: Has the breadth of subject choices expanded? A: Yes the options have expanded – increase to 8 over 2yrs. Also new courses on science, photography. Increased uptake on Music & arts</p> <p>Q: Is there an alternative to school jumper? Hoodie option? Pupil engagement for future? A: Not immediately as guidance just presented. Will be considered. National guidance also to be issued shortly. Consideration of climate vs clothing requirements (summer heat – collar/tie/blazer requirement)</p> <p>Q: S1s to be given chromebooks? A: Devices are not available uniformly. Faculty heads responsible for distribution of allotted machines based on learning</p>	<p>Action: RA</p> <p>Action RA</p>
3	<p>Mobile phone use policy Policy: young people are allowed to bring them into school. Not to be insight in lessons unless directed by teacher. No phones around key areas, changing rooms, exams, no images/photos w/out consent. Policy to be reviewed/updated in the future.</p> <p>School is not reliant on pupil mobile phones for comms and pupils will not be excluded.</p>	

4	<p>School capacity / Pupil Teacher ratio</p> <p>Few years ago an 18% capacity increase was introduced. Roll forecast wrong – ‘hit capacity in 5 yrs time’ facilitates in appropriate planning assuming greater capacity than reality.</p> <p>Fed into Aberdeen City Parent Council forum. Capacity 1350 – so roughly 50 off.</p> <p>Pupil/Teacher ratio query. Aberdeen vs National Action – pass on dataset from Robert Brew.</p>	Action BS
5	<p>Pop-up banner purchase / Accounts to fund</p> <p>Proposal of Pop-up banner presented and Supported</p> <p>balance ~£467. £200 from council £150 for sports day.</p> <p>Current: £420.</p> <p>Graphic Design get student design input? > Action Ross Alan</p>	Action RA
6	<p>Election of new members and office bearers and ex-officio members</p> <p><u>Coop: Community Council member, Primary parent council – bit optimistic.</u></p> <p><u>Office bearers:</u> Alison Murray [Chair], Mark Raistrick [Vice Chair], Daniel Verhamme [Treasurer], Ben Seldon [Secretary] Nancy Anderson [Vice Secretary].</p>	
7	<p>AOB:</p> <p>Q: Swimming: dropped last term and this term.</p> <p>A: no life guard provision for schools from council. Central team is engaging w/Sport Aberdeen.</p>	
8	<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> <p>Dates of future meeting</p> <p><u>Dates of next meeting:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>13th November 2023, 22nd January 2024, 4th March 2024, 29th April 2024, 27th May/10th June 2024</u> 	