



**Parent Council Meeting of Cults Academy
Monday 13th November 2023 7-8:30pm**

Attendees: Ross Alan [RA] (Head), Alison Murray [AM] (Chair), Mark Raistrick (Vice Chair), Ben Seldon (Sec), Nancy Anderson (Vice Sec)

Emma Gillibrand
Alison Thomson
Vijay Kumar
Kay Sutcliffe
Paul Hallett
Dana Smith
Sonya Angus
Alison Allstaff
Anna Curson
Marie Boulton (C)

Student Captains: None

Apologies: Daniel Verhamme (Treasurer)

Agenda items		Action
1	<p>Introduction to Parent Council & summary of deliverables from 21-23:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of meeting 29th May 2023 and matters arising • AOCB • Actions – review of Phone policy as described in prior PC and minuted – to be reviewed in next semester • PC Banner to be progressed to next meeting – school design template 	

- Welcome and apologies
- Introduction to Parent Council
- Minutes of meeting 11th September 2023 and matters arising
- Head Teacher update including:
 - Staffing Update
 - School Improvement Plan
 - Exam performance, insight data, appeals
 - Activities week and Financial support
 - Developing young workforce
 - Antibullying policy
- School Show
- Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme
- Swimming classes
- Use of Astro pitches
- Young Carers
- Last day of term confirmation
- PC distribution lists and Whatsapp groups
- AOCB

Dates of next meeting:

, 22nd January 2024, 4th March 2024, 29th April 2024, 27th May/10th June 2024

Head teacher update – Mr R Alan

School Improvement Plan SIP priorities – 4 main areas

- Redevelop antibullying policy – Draft in place – looking for 3-4 volunteers to for review body – meet w/Mr Cowling review and provide feedback
- Learning/teaching assessment: pupils appropriately challenged – review of research lead approaches w/faculty breakouts
- Senior leaders conducting 74 learning visits in school. S3 focus due to circic change
- Share of best practice on best observations.
- Circle framework introduction – toolkit for staff to review how well they meet the needs of their pupils – how to reflect and engage
- Curriculum – staff review group 15 members of staff involved in reviewing change and update. Logistics review for next year.
- Tracking and monitoring – better support teachers to digest data. Use of PowerBi. Aberdeen City data team to scope out exercise and work w/school to learn and roll out.

Exam performance / Insight data / Appeals

- Insight analysis released. Comparison against comparator. Ahead on all bar a few.
- Which behind? Literacy focus area – STEM focus in Cults steering away from Literacy > Parliamentary motion to capture excellent results and positive outcomes from students across the range
- SQA appeals – priority dependent on Uni appeals 1008 successful. 150 non priority 21 successful 14%. None marked down.

Activities week & Financial support

- Activities week: significant progress. S2 residential w/in UK. S3 UK and abroad. S1/2/3 day trips as alternatives. S2 – 3 residential sites, 20 not signed up.
- S3 5 residential trips well sorted on priority basis.
- Parent Pay appears to have worked. Financial support communications are being used – pupil equity fund being ring fenced.

	<p>Developing the Young Workforce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Popular committee in school. Kippie Lodge and RGU partners. RGU in school • DYW and other org partners • Activities: Career Ready – 6 people signed up in S5, 18 in total – workshops being attended, paid internship, various masterclasses. Bring KPMG in – investigating various school leaver options. • Trained S3 pupils in leadership roles – ‘my world of work’ ambassadors – will be in parents evenings to engage parents <p>Staffing Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs Bayliss head of faculty- retired. Mrs Mann standin. Hannah Smith incoming from St Machar. • 3 leaving to promoted position into Shire schools • Incoming Ryan Goldy PE, Mark Lynch Biology, and Hannah Smith • Acting Deputy head to support SIP Fiona Dugan. Mr Mordente Acting Faculty head. • Interviewing for Maths, French Spanish, Home Economics <p>Longer term vacancies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maths have gaps covered by Supply • Alan Tullock on DT helping out • French and Spanish supply cover for a few weeks 	
3	<p>School Show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Formal congratulations and thanks to Staff. Really positive event that lifted the mood and showed great response from the students! ➤ PTA doing great work £560 from school show – great effort! ➤ £350 raised by S6 icecreams – congratulations & great demonstration of business skills! ➤ Explore recording for potential funds of future events 	

4	<p>Duke of Edinburgh Awards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lisa Tinto left – 3 staff stepped in. Scoping meeting – comms to be out shortly. <p>Cowis Bowie providing guidance from prior experience.</p> <p>Year groups Bronze S3+, Silver S4+, S5/6 Gold</p>	
5	<p>Swimming Lessons (update)</p> <p>Swimming Lessons have returned with high uptake.</p> <p>Life guard support from Sport Aberdeen – request not met in full.</p> <p>Regrettably 2 of the core classes lessons will not be able to be met but this is a step in the right direction from no classes!</p>	
6	<p>Astro pitch access</p> <p>Is there inconsistency of access in break time. What is the model? – RA to investigate</p>	RA
	<p>Young Carers</p> <p>Under 18's caring for parent or sibling – domestic, physical, emotional tasks.</p> <p>Support: widening access schemes for uni, Barnados. How does school ID and support?</p> <p>PSE time raises awareness and provides awareness of support available through self identification. Young Carer statement – formalize role and support plan. Within school Nick Cowling covers Young Carer review – consider how to strengthen awareness, young carer champion, drop in session etc. Funding pathways advocate. Very small # identified (<10) – likely a far larger number.</p> <p>Marie Boulton – feedback from Young Carers to Councilors – stigma associated w/self-identification – betrayal of those they are caring for and not wanting to stand out in peer group.</p>	
	<p>Last day of term:</p> <p>Friday 22nd proposed as last day of school to cover for Good Friday being missed.</p>	
7	<p>AOB:</p>	

	<p>Q: Pupils are having to make the choice between meal or social time at lunch with being at the back of the queue occupying the whole of lunch hour. Grab and go options – can we bring it back w/ increased roll to allow pupils to be able to eat a meal and have social time.</p> <p>A: Limit is number of tills which creates the bottle neck. RA to observe the queue length and investigate the return of Grab and Go as this is a recognized prior solution</p> <p>Locker applications are ongoing so should be results shortly. Hooks are available in tutor rooms as a temporary option – speak to tutor.</p> <p>Q – Does the School have a policy on AI?</p> <p>A – Recognised need. Being reviewed centrally. Very few incidences of it being used in coursework.</p> <p>Compiled data on Pupil:Teacher ratios (Robert Brew) to be reviewed by RA/BS on 20/11/23</p>	RA
8	<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 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> 	