



BOCLAIR ACADEMY
Parent Council Meeting

Monday 21.2.22 (6.30 pm by zoom)

Present : Chris Allen, Ruth Candy, Suzanne Chase, Jacqui Clark, Elaine Dallas, Kirsteen Graham, Susan Johnstone, Jenny Kerr, Fiona Lockhart, Joanne McArthur, Geoff Miles, Graham Murray, Susan Rae, Susan Sinclair, Chris Sheerin, Susan Sinclair, Claire Taylor and Flora Thomson.

Staff: Douglas Brown, Chris Brisbane, Fiona Curran, Clare Morgan, Glenn Thomson, Maxine Traynor, Nick Walsh

Chair Chris Allen
Vice-Chair Geoff Miles
Minutes Joanne McArthur
Treasurer Flora Thomson

1. Welcome & Apologies

Chris Allen opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their virtual attendance. Apologies were received from Kathleen Seath. Chris made particular mention of Cllr Andrew Polson who had joined our meeting, and thanked him for taking the time to join us.

2. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the 24.1.22 were approved by Geoff Miles and seconded by Ruth Candy.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from minutes.

4. Senior Pupil readiness for life after school

Geoff Miles highlighted that during conversation with other parents, their concern of the wider impact COVID has had on Senior Children. How streetwise (or not) are they due to the constrains they have been under over the last couple of years? What is post-school life going to be like for these pupils. Is there maybe even something that the school can offer to help these pupils. We highlighted things like – what would they do if they were out and lost their mobile phone?

DB spoke about the work that has been done with groups like MAV (Medics against violence). Things like if they go on a night out, no matter what happens, they should always stick together and come home together. The Interns & Medics group would ordinarily have covered these things pre-COVID times. Unfortunately, because of COVID none of these Partnership Groups have been able to visit the school.

It was agreed that we will keep the topic of Preparation of Life Beyond School on the Agenda on an on-going basis. It was also stated that information such as this can be added to the Parent Zone on the Website with links to resources etc. Fiona Curran agreed to have this kind of thing signposted on the Website so parents are empowered.

Suzanne Chase also make reference to the children learning basic life skills. Basic things like financial planning. For children who will be living away from home – how to budget their money, the Start Ivory foundation gives guidance on using finances. Mention was also made of children submitting their SAAS applications and the next steps.

5. **New school update – including community cafe**

Douglas Brown made mention that Chris Brisbane was his depute assigned to the New Build, and that he would hand over to Chis to talk about the new build. They reiterated it was a very exciting time for the young people going down to see the new school, and for all staff to see their new spaces & get an idea of what they need to pack/unpack for their new space. Chris B spoke about the toilets and informed the group that they consulted with the pupils about what they would like and they asked for 2 toilet blocks, 1 male and 1 female and many accessible toilets which can be for anyone.

When it comes times to decant, it is proposed that it will take 3 full days for this to be done, probably one day to pack and 2 days to unpack.

Regarding school visits – McLachlan Harvey are looking to carry out around 5 visits between 29th April and June 2022. They are asking for small groupings to go down for each visit. Dates will be informed.

In the Community Café pupils will be able learn and develop skills to be used further in the hospitality industry. Developing Young Workforce – part time jobs for pupils as this will be a real-life business within the school. They will receive a Health & Safety and Hygiene Certificate; they will receive Barista training which will take them into life beyond school. The Community Café will be situated at the front door of the school so the public can visit easily. Chris asked if the school were OK for the big-ticket items in the café, which Mr Brown agreed yes, they were, but Mr Brown suggested that the Parent Council might want to contribute say towards the coffee beans for the machine for say the first 6 months. We were quoted figures that they could easily have 120 staff and say 180 S6 pupils visit the cafe on any given day.

Flora Thomson confirmed that we had £1,700 in the bank and that could be used wisely for anything for the new school, perhaps even the coffee for the first 6 months.

We also spoke about perhaps putting together a sub-committee which could be responsible for getting sponsorship and advertising for the Café from local companies/parents.

6. **Head Teacher's Report**

Fire Alarm update

No working Fire alarm along the ground floor or in Maths, and no activation points working along the ground floor or in Maths. Alternative fire evacuation system in place planned by EDC H&S Team – this involves patrols, Klaxons and walkie talkies. 89 smoke detectors have also been fitted. These do not link to the school fire alarm

The plan is to fit a new ground floor and maths fire alarm within three weeks. This will be fitted by CHUBB not ADT which the other system currently is. The CHUBB alarm is unlikely to connect to the ADT alarm. FM will therefore still need to set of whichever alarm does not sound in case of a fire activation signal

Staffing update

New PE Teacher started – Mr Smylie

Impact of Covid on pupil and staff absences

The number of Covid related absences for young people and staff in Boclair Academy continues to be high. Details were provided to the Parent Council.

Covid update

- Removal of masks from 28th February in classrooms
- Return to year groups assemblies where risk assessed
- P7 induction days can return
- Other measures should continue - blocking should continue, split lunch times should continue, separate lunch areas for different year group bubbles should continue, one way systems should continue
- Pupils should all face the front as far as is practicable
- Pupil movement round the school should be reduced
- Hand sanitising stations in every room without a sink
- EDC policy of clean as you go for surfaces and computer key boards etc using the materials provided
- Adults still need to socially distance from young people

Lateral Flow

A central mitigation against the spread of Covid is the lateral flow testing required by all young people and staff. The new tests are now nasal only swabs which we hope will help with increasing uptake and recording of the tests. Nationally the numbers remain low. We continue to remind staff and pupils twice a week.

SQA Assessments and Prelims

- Our Senior Phase Prelims are complete. Plan for additional English prelim in March for S5 and Maths Prelim in March for S4. S6 will also have an opportunity
- This will fully replicate the SQA assessment being in a large hall with external invigilators
- Other subjects continue with in year assessments
- SQA have stated there is no requirement for prelims as part of their courses.

Update on the three Plans for SQA Exams:

- SQA move to scenario B – exams to run but with further supports e.g. Notes, study guides, indication of content
- Supports to be published on 7th March
- Senior Phase Reports are due out this week
- Attainment meetings taking place this week

Parents Information Evenings and Subject Choice process

We are ready to commence this year's Curriculum Choice process for pupils in S2, S3, S4 and S5. This will involve online information evenings and individual interviews with young people. Work is carried out in PSE in preparation for this process and information will be available to parents on the website. Course planning interviews taking place over the next three weeks. Parent Information evenings take place this week on Tuesday and Thursday

Tuesday	22 Feb	S2	5-5.30 pm - Online presentation to parents/carers
Tuesday	22 Feb	S3	6-6.30 pm – Online presentation to parents/carers
Thursday	24 Feb	S4	5-5.30 pm - Online presentation to parents/carers
Thursday	24 Feb	S5	6-6.30 pm – Online presentation to parents/carers

Easter Revision and Supported Study

Full programme for Supported study is now out. The first full week of Easter holiday offers Easter school and there will be a Study weekend prior to exams. Buses will be required and we would be grateful to the PC for their ongoing support of this.

New school

Plans are progressing for the development of our community café as a working DYW Hub within the new school

We have completed an initial consultation on the toilets in the new school and on the Values we should have in the new school.

7. AOCB

No items were added due to time constrains.

The next Parent Council Meeting will be Monday 28th March 2022 at 6.30 pm via Zoom.