

MINUTES of Holy Rood RC High School Parent Council Meeting held on Monday 6 November 2017.

PRESENT: S Collins, K Quill, C Murie, D Foreman, K O'Loan, S Dodds, E Wilson, S Radford, Maureen Cockburn

APOLOGIES: Marina Cockburn, A McGreavy, D Connarty,

IN ATTENDANCE: L Legrix, J Falconer, K Edwards

## **2 Minutes of previous meeting**

Minutes of 11 September 2017 were adopted as a true record. K Quill proposed the Minutes and D Foreman seconded them.

## **3 Matters Arising**

- SQA - 2 out of 17 Post Results Service requests were successful.  
Cost: £456.25

## **4 Correspondence**

1. Simon had received an email regarding the named person about the need to adhere to and comply with data protection.
2. Notification informing us about 20mph speed limit outside the school
3. Survey regarding school term dates emailed to all members
4. Nomination for church rep now submitted: David Connarty
5. Scottish Cancer Foundation – a letter of thanks for cheque donated in memory of Anna Burnett RIP was received.

## **5 Maths & Numeracy: Insight into the Curriculum**

Lorraine introduced Keith Edwards, CL Mathematics & Numeracy. She explained that the annual programme of attainment meetings with CLs is about to start. These meetings involve deep analysis of attainment data. Tonight's presentation from Keith will provide an insight into how we analyse data and use it to inform improvement in one of our subject areas.

- Keith shared information on interventions and amendments to the curriculum which impact positively on attainment.
- Improving stats shared at last meeting – this provides further information
- Current indications suggest more improvement to be realized this year
- Very commendable given staffing shortages – staff pragmatic and professional and very flexible (e.g. class sizes increased to ensure no classes denied teaching)

- NB CL leading numeracy across the curriculum as well as within Maths faculty
- Very pleasing that CL is developing leadership within the faculty
- Maths teachers also contributing to whole school understanding of information e.g. Laura Kelly is supporting whole school analysis of data to support improvement across the school.
- Keith gave a detailed account of Holy Rood's approach to the Maths curriculum (broad-banding) and the rationale it is based on. He explained how differentiation ensures individual pupil needs are met and full potential realized. Significant improvements to attainment (SQA results) indicate that the amended approach to the curriculum is successful. Some examples of other achievements were discussed e.g. Maths Challenge (22 Bronze Awards and 5 Silver within the Junior Challenge) and Holy Rood has achieved awards in the Senior Category for the first time. There is a focus on enjoyment as well as rigour e.g. introduction of the Hall of Fame, Pi Day and visits from leading mathematicians (e.g. Professor McBride of Strathclyde University).
- Keith thanked his staff and also the HT for all their support and commitment over the past 2 years.

## **6 Scottish Attainment Challenge**

- The Family Engagement events are now running again with new S1 cohort added. The first block will run for the next 6 weeks
- The Head Teacher was invited to give a presentation at Edinburgh and Aberdeen Education Scotland Leadership events to showcase the Holy Rood experience.
- A SAC video made last session showing the Family Engagement sessions with interviews with both pupils and parents was shown. The Council was very impressed with the footage.
- The mid-term report has now been completed – there is continuing evidence that our interventions are having a positive impact.
- An example of how we evaluate our interventions was explained using the analysis of last year's Mentoring Programme. This evaluation indicated success and so the programme is being run again and extended for this year. So far approx. 24 teachers have volunteered to be mentors.
- We finished this item by visiting the new Family Engagement Room. There is a mural on the wall which has been named Forest of Thought. It was given this name by an S1 class who won a competition. Another mural is planned for later in the school year.

## **7 Locality Meetings: HWB**

CEC will include key aspects of National Improvement Framework on the agenda. The next meeting for North East is 20<sup>th</sup> Nov in Portobello High School. Head Teachers take a turn attending these meetings. Lorraine will represent the Locality at meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> February at Leith Academy.

The NIF priorities are:

- Improving attainment/achievement for all, particularly in literacy and numeracy
- Closing the attainment gap between the most and the least disadvantaged
- Improving the HWB of our young people
- Improving positive and sustained destinations by ensuring pupils develop relevant employability skills

The next meeting will focus on HWB. Holy Rood's HWB SIG takes this improvement forward with an admirable strategic approach. There are a number of HWB Indicators – we work on two each year. This year's indicators are achieving and nurturing.

Outline of our next steps:

We are following guidance from Education Scotland making progress each year with the HWB indicators, focussing on two each year to make it workable and achievable. We are four years into the process so all teachers are familiar with it. The pupil voice is always taken into account. As a faith school we find some indicators easier to achieve such as included and nurtured (this is part of our Mission Statement upon which our ethos is based), some faculties have HWB focussed areas to their teaching etc. Our top priority is CLPL so all teachers fully understand how to apply HWB in a consistent way.

## **8 Head Teacher's Report**

- Staffing:

We currently have vacancies in Maths, Computing and History – filling these vacancies is proving very, very difficult at the moment.

The new Clerical Assistant to help with SAC has been appointed.

- Outward Bound – The Head Teacher had attended an education forum at Buckingham Palace which was by invitation from the Duke of York.
- 57 pupils have signed up for Caritas. 13 are Advanced Higher Mathematics students, and as a group will devote their community service to the Mathematics Department. Each pupil has offered 2 sessions per week, every week from 4/9 through to the end

of March next year. They will be working with our S1/2 classes as role models to provide that essential link between the Senior and Junior phases of CfE.

- S5/6 pupils from Expressive Arts and Modern Languages attended La Boheme. A few of our pupils were invited by Edinburgh International Festival to write a review for The Herald. One pupil's (Eleanor Campanile) review of La Boheme was picked to be published in print. It and two others are also available online.
- Arun Ghandi, the grandson of Mahatma Ghandi visited the school last week and presented to our S6. This was very well received by all with an excellent response by pupils.
- Neve Kellacher is the winner of this year's BNF Drummond Education Award for National 5 Health and Food Technology for the SQA group. There is also an award for Neve's teacher, Mrs Greatorex.

The award consists of a certificate presented by a Guest of Honour, a £50 prize for the student and a £100 prize for the school. Each year the Foundation holds an Annual Day, which will this year take place in Central London on 14<sup>th</sup> November. Neve will be accompanied by Mrs Greatorex, and they will both receive their awards then.

- Greeting from HT of Lombeta, *"Hello Lorraine, hope you are doing fine there with day to day activities. I am writing this email to express my greeting to all member of Holy Rood RC High School"*.
- HMIE will visit Holy Rood as part of Careers Information and Guidance Inspection. Holy Rood was put forward by SDS as 'we have a good story to tell'. For example, first school to take on My World of Work Ambassadors – and we hosted training for other Edinburgh Schools – this has appeared on SDS' corporate website with some good quotes from Fiona Forbes and our pupils. It also received coverage in Education Scotland's DYW and CfE newsletters.
- PEF: our first ever S1 – S3 Study Club is up and running in the library from 3.30 – 4.30 on a Tuesday afternoon. Pupils seem to be enjoying having the opportunity to complete homework tasks and use the computers to assist their learning. They get a snack provided as it takes place at the end of the school day.
- Sign Up September – this was an initiative to publicise our after school activities and encourage pupils to sign up. Great support from senior pupils and new Active Schools Coordinator, Lauren Millar.
- Six of our S5 pupils attended the launch event of the "Career Ready" Programme and met their mentors in school. This fantastic opportunity not only identifies a business mentor for these pupils, but also allows them to participate in a 4 week paid internship in the mentor's organisation over the summer holidays.
- 72 pupils have signed up for the Micro-Tyco Challenge launched this week. This nationwide challenge asks pupils to grow £1 into the largest profit possible within one month. This amount will then be re-invested to help entrepreneurs in developing countries.

**9 AOCB**

- YPI Final will take place on 11/12/17 between 6.00pm and 7.30pm

**10 Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 15 January 2018 at 6.30pm.

Signed as a true record: