

MINUTES of Holy Rood RC High School Parent Council Meeting held on Monday 2 December 2019.

PRESENT: S McIntosh, M Cockburn, A M O'Neill, G Gordon, C Davie, S Dodds, J Campbell, M Scott, L Murray,

APOLOGIES: S Collins, A McGreevy, N Masih, J Sutherland, S Sutherland  
IN ATTENDANCE: J Daly, J Falconer,

Suzanne informed the members that Elaine Wilson had hand resigned for the Council.

**2 Minutes of previous meeting**

Minutes of 28 October 2019 were adopted as a true record.

Marina Cockburn proposed the Minutes and Ann Marie O'Neill seconded them.

**3 Matters Arising**

No matters that was not being covered in Agenda items or the Head Teacher's report.

**4 Treasurer's Report**

The Parent Council receives a grant every year from City of Edinburgh Council. This is held in a separate bank account for the school. It should be managed by members of the Parent Council. After a short discussion it was agreed that Suzanne McIntosh and Marina Cockburn would become the 2 signatories with Marina taking on the role of Treasurer. The clerk to get the appropriate forms from the bank to make the changes.

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**5 A New Chapter: Communication with the Parent Forum**

Suzanne informed the members about her recent attendance at Connect. One of the topics discussed was communication with parents. Suzanne asked members to go away and think about this and bring any thoughts or ideas to the next meeting.

- It was agreed that the members would have a presence at future Parents' meetings.
- Suzanne has set up an email address for the Parent Council which parents can use when communicating with the council. Email: Holyroodrcpc@gmail.com
- The Parent Council should have a stall at school events such as Careers Fair and the Primary 7 Parents' evening.
- Ann Marie O'Neill suggested organising a quiz to be included in school newsletters which might encourage parents to read it.

## 6 **Insight – J Daly**

Joan informed parents what insight is and how it is used in the school. For example she spoke about pupil postcodes, the virtual comparator schools etc. She then gave a brief presentation on our exam results for this year.

## 7 **Head Teacher's Report**

### **STAFFING**

Acting Depute Head Teacher – Fiona Forbes started 18/11/19

Acting Pupil Support Leader (S5/6) Monique McIntosh started 25/11/19

CL Expressive Arts – no appointment made at this stage – will be re-advertised (S Howgego currently Acting CL)

PE teacher – no appointment made at this stage – will be re-advertised in due course (Supply PE teacher covering meantime)

Robert Taylor has been appointed on a fixed term contract covering for K Harrison.

New DET teacher (K Gold) will start once PVG process complete.

### **EVENTS IN SCHOOL**

- P6/7 Parents' Open Evening on Wed 30 October showed an outstanding turnout of approx. 300
- S3 Parents' Evening 12 Nov – 77% attendance
- S5/6 Parents' Eve 18 Nov – 52% attendance

#### **Catholic Education Week**

- Pupils focus on our School Mission Statement in RE, identifying the Gospel Values and giving examples of how we act these out in school. A group of pupils met and discussed with staff what makes Holy Rood such an inclusive school community, being part of a faith-based school

### **LEARNING & TEACHING**

- **SAC Update**
- Our S1 – 3 pupils have been engaging in **Profiling**, focusing on learning conversations regarding the development of their skills across the curriculum.
- S1-3 Focus Groups
- All pupils have been reviewing their recent reports, engaging in conversations with their class teachers and tutors about **next steps in learning**.
- S4 pupils who have just completed their **S4 Prelim Exams**.

### **TRIPS**

- 8 residential trips this year (S1 pupils to Loch Eil, S2 pupils Outward Bound, Some Higher French pupils in S5/6 went to Paris in November – huge success incorporating a day trip to Paris  
40 S2/3 going to New York in May, S2 going to Geneva in June, S6 pupils went to Auschwitz in September, The S4-6 Maths Study Camp has been organised again in March. A group of S5 pupils going to Cologne in December

- A group of S1 girls were invited to the Scottish Parliament as part of a select group to participate in a “Hackathon” to coincide with launch of STEM report. They toured the parliament, debating chamber and worked in groups with a mentor using coding programs to create a promotional leaflet.
- Invited to the Scottish Parliament to listen to a cross party debate on Catholic Education. Our S6 Caritas pupils and Mrs McMeeking heard the unequivocal endorsement of the government to Catholic schools and their contribution to Scottish Education from the Depute First Minister and the other MSPs who were represented in the chamber. We are very proud of our school and urge you to share this message about our high attainment and values drive, inclusive ethos.
- 32 pupils and 4 staff slept out in the centre of Edinburgh overnight. They raised a staggering £1650 for the host charity, **The Rock Trust**, who focus their efforts on preventing **Youth Homelessness** amongst young people between the ages of 16 and 25.
- Over 50 Physics pupils from S4 and S6 visited the **Glasgow Science Centre**.
- Advanced Higher English pupils attended a **Creative Writing Workshop** at Craigmillar Library run by Laura Lam, a Lecturer from Napier.
- A group of S5 pupils got underway on the **Career Ready Programme** when they met with their Business Mentors at our in-school launch which was ably presented by Liam, Kyle and Adaobi, S6 pupils who are in Year 2 of the Career Ready Programme. S5 Pupils are looking forward to their first industry visit to Blackrock International.
- 15 S2 girls attended the **Institute of Physics Event** and worked with peers from other schools to learn more about Physics, STEM careers (and how they could address the gender imbalance ).
- A group of S2 pupils participated admirably in the **Construction Challenge** at Heriot Watt University.
- S5/6 pupils visited the iconic **Balmoral Hotel** with FTT staff to learn more about the career opportunities in Hospitality.

## SPORT

- In Sport **Holy Rood High School’s Quidditch Team** were put through their paces on a cold Hallow’s Eve. We remain the only High School in the Central Belt with a Quidditch team.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Advent Fundraising is underway for SAMH (Scottish Association for Mental Health)
- Christmas Concert, followed by a performance of “The Grinch” – 6pm, 3<sup>rd</sup> December, £2 (children free). All welcome
- S5/6 Prelims after Christmas starting 14-20 January

## 8 Correspondence

Suzanne circulated a thank you card that had been received from Lorraine Legrix.

**9 AOCB**

Careers Fair is on 5 February. Anyone who is available to come along would be most welcome.

**10 Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 2 March 2020

Signed as a true record.