



HOLY ROOD RC HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

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Head Teacher: **Lorraine F Legrix**

Chair: **Simon Collins**

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

Session 2018-2019 was a busy year for the School, and for the Parent Council, although, due to a number of issues, we only met for full Parent Council meetings on three occasions, in October, December and March. We had, of course, met for our AGM in September to start the school year. The meeting for May was eventually postponed due to illness reducing our numbers, and we agreed to postpone the June AGM into the new School year. It is hoped that, as we experienced last year, the scheduling of the AGM for the new year will make it easier for our new parents of S1 pupils to contribute and bring their unique brand of “post primary school” enthusiasm!

At our October meeting the Head Teacher gave us a run-down of the attainment levels at the last round of exams, showing a continuation of the excellent performances noted in previous years. We were advised of changes in the iPad policy for the school, and of the reasons behind the change to iPad being treated as class sets, rather than for individual pupils. The Parent Council agreed that this was a more efficient and beneficial use of the resource. We were informed about changes to the National Qualifications, with the removal of mandatory Unit Assessments from N5s and Highers, and alterations to the exam system. November marked the centenary of the Education Act 1918 which brought Catholic Schools into the State System, and established the basis for the Catholic Education our children enjoy today. We were told of plans to mark this anniversary including Holy Rood pupils attending to play music at the Scottish Parliament, representing the School at an event with the Deputy First Minister at Edinburgh Castle, and our Head Teacher representing Catholic Secondary Head Teachers at an event in Westminster.

In December Mrs Legrix reported back on the tributes paid at Westminster to the Catholic Schools in Scotland, and it was good to hear a recognition of the positive role played by our

faith schools in Scotland's society. We were introduced to, and heard from the latest addition to the School's Health and Well Being team, who explained her role in providing individual personal support wider universal support for the School pupils. The School has been proactive in recognising and reacting to the needs of pupils with mental health issues. The School captains attended the meeting and spoke to the Council about their plans for the year. The Head Teacher provided us with a report into "School Life" outlining events such as "My World of Work Ambassador Events", pupils securing a place at Leith School of Art's outreach project, attendance at the Loch Eil Centre for outward bounds courses and the annual S1 "Speedy STEM" event encouraging pupils to explore careers in Sciences (with activities ranging from building and racing cars to building spaghetti towers). The School continues to provide a wide and rich range of opportunities for the Pupils.

In March we had a presentation on the Poverty Related Attainment Gap. The School has continued to be involved in efforts to improve attainment for all and has again secured a Pupil Equity Fund payment. We were given a tour of the facilities and resources to which the Fund has contributed, including Literacy and Numeracy Hubs and the Family Engagement Room and Nurture room. We heard about the School's work in connection with developing the young workforce, with a drive towards apprenticeships, increased links to growth employment sectors, and the School's Careers Fair.

On a personal note, after 15 years of having children attending at Holy Rood, and serving on the School Board, and more recently Parent Council, I will now be stepping down as the Chair. I thoroughly recommend any parents present who are not already involved in the Parent Council to give it consideration. It is rewarding to see how well run the School is, how committed our staff and pupils are, and to know that our children are in safe hands. The School is tremendously well run. Each year the City of Edinburgh Council has enforced stringent cuts on this and every school. I am sure you wouldn't be aware of that as our senior leadership team comes up with ways not only to maintain the level of support and education, but to continually seek to improve. That is a tribute to all our staff, but in particular to our Senior Leadership Team, and of course Mrs Legrix. Sadly, for the School Mrs Legrix retires in October, but she leaves in place a structure that should see the transition to a new Head Teacher pass smoothly. The real challenge for this school is to try to find a way to replace the irreplaceable as we wish Mrs Legrix a well-earned, long, happy and stress-free retirement!

Simon Collins
Chair of the Parent Council