

AGM of Parent Council

25 September 2023

Annual Report

This Annual Report covers the period from the last AGM of The Parent Council which was held on 10 October 2022 and details activity of The Parent Council during that time.

Since then we have held 4 meetings – ie one each term – on 14 Nov, 30 Jan, 13 March and 15 May.

Attendance at meetings has been steady. There are usually around 7 parents. Each meeting is also attended by Joan Daly Head Teacher, Mr James Campbell, the school's Senior Development Officer, Sharon McMeeking of the school's RE faculty (Church representative) and June Falconer, clerk.

Although relatively small in number, the Parent Council has tried to support the school and pupils in a number of ways this year, as follows:

- We participated in a Scottish Government Survey on the Future of Education. Some of the Parent Council formed a sub-group to discuss the far reaching survey and provided a 'parental response' which the school was able to submit along with its own response.
- We liaised with the school in relation to the rolling out of recycling bins in and around the school.

-Co-ordinated by Sharon McMeeking, The Parent Council has assisted in the community by having pupils involved in litter picking.

-We have made written representations to the relevant MSP and to Lothian Buses in connection with the inadequacy of the bus service for pupils from Leith. This is an ongoing problem.

-We reviewed and considered the school's proposed policy in relation to the prevention of and response to bullying.

-We funded prizes of book tokens for the school prize givings.

-We set up an introduction for the school to the organiser of The 'Unions into Schools Project' which is a Government initiative designed to educate pupils on the role of trade unions and how membership of a union may be of benefit in life beyond school.

-We have assisted in relation to safety – namely the ongoing issue of parents dropping off pupils in the car park and creating a danger. Last year a video was created featuring some of the S6 pupils – the idea being that the pupils themselves highlighting the danger would be most effective. This is going to be repeated with current pupils and will be emailed to all parents and carers.

-We have just prepared a new information leaflet about the Parent Council and that will be distributed at parents' evenings and the like. There will be a presence from the Parent Council at as many parents evenings as possible.

Over the course of the year's meetings, we have gained fantastic insight into aspects of school life through a number of presentations at Council Meetings:

-In November the newly appointed S6 school captains described their roles and responsibilities and told us about the ways in which they had already been helping. They were inspirational.

-Joan Daly provided at that time an overview of the school's SQA exam results for 2022, and in March, Fiona Forbes Deputy Head came along and provided a very detailed analysis of these.

-At our January meeting we received a presentation on the 'Equity Interventions' within the school. This covered initiatives such as the mentoring scheme for senior pupils, the study club and the breakfast club.

-In May we received a talk from Justine McIntosh – support for learning teacher - on what is done within the school to prepare pupils for the world of work.

-At every meeting the head teacher has presented on important changes such as staffing and anything of note occurring in school.

Whilst there is already very good communication from the school-week in week out -to the whole parent/carer body, being part of The Parent Council provides deeper knowledge of what is happening in school.

There is excellent collaboration and working relationship between the Parent Council and the Senior Management Team of the school, which hopefully allows issues to be discussed in a constructive way, all to enhance our young people's education and school experience.

Finally – some thank-yous - Thank you to Jillian Edwards, our treasurer, to Aileen Fraser and Jillian for working with me on The Scottish Govt Survey response. Thanks of course to Joan Daly, James Campbell, Sharon McMeekin and all the parents who have attended

this year's meetings and contributed very constructively to discussion. Finally thanks to June Falconer for ensuring that the administration in relation to the Parent Council all runs very smoothly.