

Kyle Academy Parent Council

Parent Council Meeting – Tuesday 23 February 2021

Sederant: S Semple, A D’Amico, K McHarg, L Harper, S Robertson, R Rodgers, M ford, C Heslop, C Marr, K Capstick, C Ritchie, S Steinlet, M Dorward, M Byrne, S Cheng, A Wilson.

Apologies: E Montgomery

1. Minutes of last Parent Council meeting

Minutes approved. Proposed by A D’Amico and seconded by K McHarg.

2. Head Teacher’s Report – M Byrne

MB provided a report on recent events in the school community. See attached.

3. School Captain’s Report – K Capstick and C Ritchie

KC and CR gave a pupil perspective on recent events.

4. Report from Parent Council Conveners Meeting

MF shared key messages from the PC Conveners meeting with DH last month. DH shared feedback from the survey of parents on remote learning. This was done early in the term and more feedback would be helpful going forward.

5. Update on Senior Phase return to school for essential practical work

MB outlined the process that the school went through to identify courses where there was an essential requirement to attend school in-person.

Where learning can continue remotely, it will with only targeted pupils attending for support (ML, Computing, Cyber, Art). Where in-school attendance is required, learning spaces and pupil numbers have been carefully planned to allow two metre distancing. For example, new Perspex dividers built in the workshops, room layouts changed to allow 10 to work in computer lab so that class can attend in 2 rather than 3 groups. MB reported that attendance has been excellent so far.

Individual meetings with PTs took place in February to scenario plan for SQA assessment evidence including practical tasks. These included discussion about what evidence they already have for SQA, its predictive value (eg breadth of course coverage, level of challenge, assessment conditions) and what other assessment evidence is required. This has enabled planning for a flexible assessment diet spaced out appropriately and with time for pupils to consolidate learning and staff to quality assure assessment judgements

6. Remote learning

Engagement continues to be very good overall.

- S1/2 over 80% are engaging well.

- S3 - 69%
- S4 - 75%
- S5 – 85%
- S6 over 90% engaging well

Engagement is monitored weekly with all staff noting non-engagement or concerns on a central spreadsheet. This has allowed year heads, principal teachers and guidance teachers to call home to offer support and encouragement.

A number of interventions have been running to support learners finding remote learning challenging. Groups of children at all stages have been invited in for support sessions.

Feedback from parent and pupil surveys asked for a more consistent approach to Microsoft Teams. As a result, the school has developed guidance on how all Teams should be set up and how assignments should be posted. A Live Learning policy to safeguard pupils and staff has also been developed. These will be shared on the website.

Another staff development afternoon took place on 5 February to share good practice and tips for increasing engagement. Good practice has been recognised nationally. Kyle is featured in the first report Education Scotland published on remote learning and has contacted the school again for their next report which is on assessing and providing feedback to learners remotely. Mr Wallace, the school's digital champion, has also produced a number of YouTube videos for Education Scotland about Microsoft Teams.

7. AOCB

School holidays – proposals for holidays 2022/23 were shared. The school office will email the proposals to the Parent Council and MD will collate responses and make a return.