

Kyle Academy Parent Council

Parent Council Meeting – Tuesday 29 March 2022

Sederant: M Byrne, M Ford, S Semple, S Cooper, S Robertson, R Rodger, K McHarg, M T-Cusick, A Wilson, A D’Amico, C, S, G Scurba, A Bryden, L Sutherland, L Morrison, S Alishahi

Apologies: C Marr

1. Minutes of last Parent Council meeting

Minutes were agreed proposed and seconded.

2. Head Teacher’s Report – M Byrne

MB provided a report on recent events. See attached.

3. School Captain’s Report

School Captains, AB and LS, gave an update on recent activities which included preparation for exams and plans for S6 last day on 21 April.

4. Mobile Phone and Social Media Policy – S Semple

At the last Parent Council meeting, plans for refreshing the school policy were discussed. It was suggested that pupils are involved in leading the changes so that they get a better understanding of the reasons for the policy. As a result, the Pupil Council has developed a presentation for S1 to S3 assemblies that took place this week. They looked at the benefits and drawbacks of mobile phones in the classroom and clearly linked these to the new rules. Several members of the Pupil Council volunteered to do without their phone for 24 hours and were interviewed for a video about their experiences. This was also shared at assemblies. GS, representing the Pupil Council, shared his experiences and showed the video. The policy will now come into operation from 19 April. A summarised version will be shared with all parents in the new term and May’s Theme of the Month will be Respect and Responsibility with a focus on responsible use of mobile phones and social media.

MC suggested discussions could begin about moving towards a mobile free school. LM agreed with the suggestion and noted the over reliance of pupils on messaging parents during the school day. MB shared that one of the tasks in DPS will be to complete a mobile phone habits survey that will provide information on the mobile phone use of pupils in S1 to S3 that will then be shared with pupils and could lead to ‘Mobile phone free’ days as suggested by MC.

5. S4 Parents’ Evening

This virtual Parents’ Evening took place on 1 March. Unfortunately, the Parents Booking platform crashed at the start of the event and the majority of appointments took place by phone. Anyone who missed their appointment was invited to email the school and teachers or guidance staff would contact them. It was noted that this had not happened in a number of cases. MB apologised and will follow up.

6. Changes to Covid Mitigations

- Intervals and lunch times will return to their normal times **from Monday 26 April** when the senior school begins study leave.

- The main entrance to the school will be the only entrance used to enter the building.
- The fire exits at the back of the school will no longer be used as entrances.
- The one-way system will remain in place with slight changes due to refurbishment work in the science corridor.
- Awaiting new guidance on face coverings.
- LFTs will no longer be a requirement but the school will still supply them as long as stocks last.

7. AOCB

Supported Study – the number of subjects running supported study on the same night was raised. MB explained that the number of subjects offering supported study make it difficult to avoid clashes. To help pupils to prioritise where they most need support, the supported study calendar indicates what the focus will be at each session.

Easter School – there will be no Easter school. The decision was taken to prioritise supported study which has been running since the end of February. This has increased attendance and encouraged pupils to continuously study and not leave it until Easter. A programme of private study and sessions supported by class teachers throughout exam leave has been shared with all pupils. MB will share with all parents after the holidays and put it on the website.

Satchel – a question was asked about consistency across the school in the use of the Satchel homework app. MB acknowledged that less staff were using it than when it launched. This is due to the fact that all staff use Microsoft Teams to post work and there are issues with how this synchs to Satchel. Mrs Williamson is currently working on a solution.

SQA Revision Materials – these were published at the beginning of March and how they were being used was raised. MB gave a brief outline of how depts have shared them with pupils and how they are using them to support targeted revision and exam practice. All staff have shared the materials on their class Microsoft Teams. The materials vary significantly in usefulness.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 26 April 2022