

Parent Council Meeting

Location: Earlston High School

Date: 29th August 2018

Meeting Commenced: 6:05pm

Time Adjourned: 7:49pm

Attendees	Apologies
Gordon Craig	Allan Dawson
Jacqui Miller	Callum Weston- Head Team
Robert Miller	Ninian Grant- Head Team
Siobhan Dawson	Anne Duguid
Annabel Howell	Laura Anderson
Heather Thores	Dean Sewell
Ruth Magowan	Damian Hayes
Karen Wexelstein	Fiona Johnson
Shaad Mehdi	Anne Jones
Kath Lothian	Kate Farnsworth
Justin Sinclair	Fay Lockie
	Kate Dunmore
	Pooee Pitman
	Alice Mcbrayne
	Christie Rout

Ideas- thoughts -main points

- Students in senior phase need to complete their set homework.
- We need a more consistent approach.
- There needs to be regular set for senior classes.
- It has been proven that students are 2/3 more likely to succeed when they complete their homework, which is why we are focusing on this issue
- For us to succeed in getting students to complete homework there needs to be a policy outlining what happens when work is not completed.
- Currently there is a trial period for a homework policy which has been created
 - This uses a supportive interval to help the student.
- The policy is full proof due to the communication that is laid out and guidance will help communicate if the issue of uncompleted homework should be chased, and will be chased if there is not a complex issue at home.
- The policy aims to do homework as a beneficial habit for all students
- This policy is currently focussing (small scale trial) on small groups of senior students to help them achieve their Highers.

Action(s) to be taken

- To amend homework policy if it is not successful after approximately 1 term
- Copy of homework policy with full acronyms to be sent out to parents (parent friendly)
- Use positive language to help and encourage the students

Ideas- thoughts -main points

- Mr Sinclair gave a presentation of the exceptional favourable examination results.
- The school website is being used less with parents/carers favouring group call.
- A Group call was discussed last meeting to be the most successful means of communication
- Ideally we would have more space in the school refectory
- Learning together program- to encourage family learning and parental engagement
- Priorities
 - We have managed to recruit new staff - this is great since there are really challenges recruiting nationally.
 - Good quality staff are needed hence the reason for 'best school' publicity to attract staff.
 - There is great transport for teachers and students such as car shares are organised from central belt.
 - There is currently only one vacancy – 1 FTE Maths
- The high-level results do not consider individual success – we must celebrate these!
- S4 attainment: 2015-2018 there is a 14% jump of S4s getting 5 National 5s, this is “excellent”
 - This is because of our dedicated staff, pupils and the support they receive from home.
- 2015-2018 up 5% of S5s getting 5 Highers
 - However, there is 3% less pupils managing to get 3 Highers – we must keep on this and make it a priority area.
- More people are leaving at the end of S5 due to other great opportunities. This is great for the school if it is the right path for the student
- We would like 50% of S6s to get 5 Highers.
- There are no concerns about the statistics concerning the Advanced Highers – very positive and stable.
- The biggest focus for this year is on the disengaged pupils who are least likely to attain.
- We are increasing the curriculum by introducing new courses to open more opportunities for students
- Research suggests- limit on social media to 1-2 hours a day, 1 hour is preferred – we will work with the PC on this.
- Organise evenings to allow parents to learn and talk about mental health and/or children to do the same with each other
 - The HWB (Health and Wellbeing) programme promotes this
- Phones for 'research' system to manage phones.
- At interval and lunchtime we have no plans to restrict usage.

Action(s) to be taken

- Maths vacancy advertised as of today
- Advertise the open day on Saturday 1st September
- More attainment data to be collected and prepared for next meeting
- Contact the police and NHS to support us in organising an event to highlight “managing” social media and add to next meeting’s agenda- contact PC Ballantyne about this

Ideas- thoughts -main points

- Funds are still the same
- It is believed there is £7,000 in the account
- Ricky asked the parent council for £500 for a smartboard
- Mr Sinclair thinks that Ricky purchased the instruments
- Junk Kuture – supported in 2017/18 – this year we would ask that fundraising starts now if they are entering a team.
- Swap/sell badged uniforms and sportswear

Action(s) to be taken

- Swap shop
- Sell/swap lost property on Saturday
- Request from PC to please donate small instruments for Ricky
- Junk Kuture to start fundraising for travel etc.
- Annabel and helper to run PC swap shop on Saturday
- £500 for Ricky's smartboard approved

Ideas- thoughts -main points

- No pupils to model
- Raffle and refreshments to be set up
- Need to sell 100 tickets or show will be pulled

Action(s) to be taken

- Display posters handed out at the meeting
- Organise Catwalk and provide seating as well as pull out benches
- Justin to check with Jeff about stage blocks
- Head team to do publicity push for fashion show
- PC to ask charities committee for help with the fashion show
- Raffle prizes to be handed in
- Kath to prepare blurb about parent council

Ideas- thoughts -main points

- Scottish Borders Council will not allow employees to drive the mini bus
 - External people looking for an insurance to solve this issue
- Joined the community transport association to maximise benefit for community and school
- Mr Sinclair might just have to buy a new mini bus
- Can the PC employ a driver?
- Focus is engaging with the community
- Full time hire of a cook's mini bus may be a good option
- The school can get their logo on a cook's mini bus

Action(s) to be taken

- Speak with Cook's and SBC to see if this will solve the issue

Ideas- thoughts -main points

- Collectively decide about the PC display board in the school
- Advanced Higher PE for the future?
- The swap shop can be done throughout the year at various events

Action(s) to be taken

- Mr Sinclair will group call re the open day