

**Earlston High School Parent Council meeting (via Zoom)
Wednesday 30 November 2022**

Mel Brooks
Jess McBeath
Laura Collins
Catherine Cameron
Lesley Jupp
Lauren Lees
Gordon Craig
Jill McDonald
Judith Weston
Andrew Foggin
Ewan Christie (S6 Head Team)

MB welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from [names TBA]

Head Team update

The Head Team provided an update on recent activity including:

- Careers night
- Dux ceremony
- Remembrance assembly
- Sporting events and successes
- Humanitopia day for teachers
- Partnership working with the Royal High School and Grove Academy
- Children in Need fundraising
- Book week
- Parents' evenings

The upcoming Christmas dances and concert and the start of prelims in January were also noted.

It was noted that, although pupils were encouraged to wear smart clothes to the Christmas dances, there was no formal dress code.

Prelims

It was noted that the prelim timetable had been published. Assemblies were planned for S4 to S6 pupils to go through the timetable and study leave process. Final tracking reports would be available following the prelims.

It was also reported that 30% of exam appeals for EHS pupils had been successful. This was high compared to other comparator schools.

The Path to Earlston's Excellence

Behaviour

As part of its improvement priorities, the School was engaging with pupils to refresh and improve its approach to tackling challenging behaviour. This included working with the Pupil Parliament as well as with pupils who have recently been displaying challenging behaviour, to encourage policy ownership and understand how disruptive challenging behaviour can be.

It was noted that behaviour was, in general, good, but the lack of classroom routine and social interaction in the Covid lock down had impacted on levels of challenging behaviour for a small number of students.

National Discussion on Education

The National Discussion on Education is a Government initiative to involve society in shaping the future of the education system. The Pupil Parliament was actively involved in this discussion including looking at ways that technology can improve and enhance the education experience.

Strike Action

The upcoming strike action and school closure on Thursday 8 December was noted. Many teachers were not in the union taking part and would be able to prove Teams support.

Chair's update

The Chair noted that, following co-ordinated work with other Parent Council chairs in the Borders, it was anticipated that SBC would support two mental health practitioners across the region.

Regular meetings were held between PC chairs to share common issues. Recently mobile phone policies were raised it was noted that one school had implemented a policy of phones being turned off and kept in bags when in the school building.

EHS was reviewing its mobile phone policy (currently - phones to be off and in bags in the classroom) and would take the policy above, along with the impact on behaviour, into account when doing so. It was suggested that any policy must consider pupils who may need additional access to technology due to their specific circumstance. Members noted that the plan would be to develop a policy that is right for EHS.

Treasurer update

It was noted that the current balance stood at £5,255.87. Recent transactions included a payment in from SBC and payment out for Advent Calendars for school staff.

Catering

JM reported that an area had been identified for an additional catering facility. The resourcing of this was currently being considered.

Fundraising

A group call would go out looking for a fundraising champion to bring fundraising activities back to pre-covid and look for additional opportunities.

AoCB

It was agreed that PC meetings should stay at one per term with additional meetings called as required.

It was noted that the S5/6 Parents' evening was taking place on 8 December, which coincided with strike action. The School would confirm its approach to the Parents' evening as soon as possible.

Date of next meeting

12 January 2023, 7pm.