

Douglas Academy Parent Council Session 2017/2018

Minute of Meeting 05th December 2017

Attendance

Neil Miller (Chair), Lisa Cameron, Cllr.Goodall, Barry Smedley (Head Teacher), Lisa Armstrong, Tracy Christie, Lisa Cameron, Jill Campbell, Cathy Macallum, Caryn McDade, Cllr.Gibbons.

Apologies: Scott Taylor, Mascha Rietdijk, Susan Ballantyne, Cllr McGinnigle

Minutes of Previous Meeting

These were agreed to be correct.

Matters Arising

NM : Provided short update on school website update , this was confirmed by BS who added a comprehensive update was due to be implemented soon on whole website to provide a much clearer and better school web experience. School app now designed and finished and would be rolled out to all parents and pupils alike enabling quick updates and info on school activities and news to be read.

NM : Asked query re school heating as parent had complained from child that school too cold. BS stated no issue here and school was regulated and checked by Janitorial staff on regular occasions.

NM: Provided update on issue of getting good news stories within local papers. NM had contacted editor of local press who stated that all stories submitted would be considered and encouraged staff and school to be proactive in submitting.

NM: Issue raised at previous meeting about lateness of school buses affecting attendance at school, NM had taken to raise matter with J MacDonald head of education. NM had raised matter as promises and reply received and read out. Contractor has promised to alter schedule and ensure buses arrive on time and build in some resilience for roadworks etc. Survey over a month by pupil confirmed improvement had taken place however would be monitored to ensure no slippage.

Scottish National Standardised Assessment

BS provided update on assessment procedure and protocol to begin possibly February 2018. A comprehensive discussion took place re these tests, how they would be done, their

adaptive nature and what the results would be used for. A guide for parents has been completed and was circulated for comment.

Head Teachers Report

As Follows:

Head Teacher's Report- Parent Council Meeting 5th December 2017

Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the last Parent Council meeting of 2017. As ever, the school has been very busy since we last met. There are changes to and updates regarding staffing, school improvement priorities are moving forward, numerous extra-curricular and wider achievement events have taken place and our pupils continue to work incredibly hard and display their outstanding talents in a wide range of areas.

However, this has also been a very sad term for everyone at Douglas Academy with the death of Josh McLaren in a tragic accident. Josh was a quiet, unassuming young man, popular amongst his friends and loved by them for his great sense of humour. His parents had just received a glowing report from his teachers and they were very proud of the fact that he was working hard and keen to do well. It was clear from the lovely tributes to him at his funeral service that he was held in high regard. As we continue to work through this term and indeed through future years, Josh and his mum and dad will remain very much in our thoughts.

Staffing

- Mrs Jane Creevy was appointed to Teacher of Mathematics and took up post in October.
- Miss Kate McPherson in Physics is due to begin maternity leave in December. Miss Lynn Russell will cover her timetable until Miss McPherson returns to work.

Attainment

I mentioned at the previous Parent Council Meeting that Insight was updated on 15th September and we were in the process of analysing the data. That process has now been completed and I will share with you our conclusions and what our next steps are regarding our areas for development. This was presented to EDC at our annual attainment meeting and feedback from the authority was very positive.

Please refer to the attached PowerPoint. A summary of our next steps regarding attainment are outlined below:

Headline Figures

- Course Choice
 - Review of option choices in BGE and Senior Phase
 - Staff involved in options process making effective use of SQA progression data, prior attainment and pupil profiling when discussing option choices

- 66% of pupils in new S5 are currently doing 5 Highers
- 50% of pupils sitting 5 Highers either have straight As at N5 or a combination of As and Bs in their chosen subjects
- L&T/DYW Working groups
 - Focus on Skills development across the curriculum
 - Use of Lesson Study and Learning Rounds to ensure greater consistency and a more coordinated approach towards improvements in L&T across the school
- Review of S6 subject choices- 4 subjects and Advanced Highers (tracking cumulative data by SIMD)
- Close Monitoring & Tracking of all Senior Phase pupils- SIMD, LAAC, ASN (attainment, attendance, participation)
- Departmental attainment meetings- focus on Insight/CfE Machine and involves all staff

Literacy & Numeracy

- SIMD information available for all year groups and distributed to staff- raise awareness pupil profiles for learner conversations and M&T
- M&T clearly highlights pupils SIMD in both BGE and SP
- Guidance staff identifying current S5 & S6 pupils who do not have L4 or L5 Literacy & Numeracy
- PT SfL identifying ASN pupils as above
- Numeracy focus in SIP
 - PT Numeracy
 - Targeted S1 Group using primary data/teacher judgement
 - Cluster working

Positive Destinations

- Guidance teachers having key adult conversations earlier with S5 pupils to identify those in the lowest 30% who are considering leaving school
- Guidance teachers/PT DYW liaising more closely with SDS and outside agencies to identify potential work placements/opportunities for S5 pupils (focus on lowest 30%). PT DYW tracks through WE database
- Guidance teachers and DHTs visiting schools that are offering alternative learner pathways for Senior Phase pupils to identify good practice
- Planned curriculum review in session 2018-19 focusing on learner pathways, particular for those pupils who are not likely to go to FE or HE

Improving attainment for all

- All S6 doing 4 subjects with the exception of pupils doing 3 Advanced Highers
- M&T of cumulative data in S6 to ensure all pupils have the best opportunity to achieve the maximum number of N5/H/AH qualifications they are capable of
- Improved coursing to ensure all S5 pupils are sitting the maximum number of N5/H qualifications they are capable of
- Exploring wider achievement programmes in the Senior Phase to offer more choice and accreditation
- A culture of high expectations that focuses on hard work and maximising your potential!!

Attainment versus Deprivation

- Improved coursing to ensure all S5 pupils are sitting the maximum number of N5/H qualifications they are capable of
- Planned curriculum review in session 2018-19 focusing on learner pathways, particular for those pupils who are not likely to go to FE or HE
- Guidance staff identifying current S5 & S6 pupils who do not have L4 or L5 Literacy & Numeracy

School Business

1. We had our very successful Family Learning Evening on Tuesday, 10th October 2017. The aim of the evening was for parents to develop a greater understanding of the main ways that they could support their child through their National Qualification examinations at National 5 and Higher Level in each subject. Teaching staff worked very hard to develop a series of short 20-minute workshops which provided parents with key subject milestones throughout the 2017-2018 session, details on course assessment arrangements and identified essential subject specific knowledge and skills that will allow parents to provide greater support to their child throughout this academic year. Feedback from parents has been extremely positive with more evenings being requested.
2. We have identified a number of pupils in S1 who require additional support with Literacy and Numeracy. A range of information has been used to identify pupils who will benefit from this targeted support. The Numeracy Parents' Information Evening will take place on 11th December with the Literacy Parents' Information Evening taking place in late January 2018. Parents who are involved in the Numeracy Evening have been contacted with Literacy information being sent out in early January. The evenings will provide information on our support programme and also how parents can confidently help their child at home to develop their Literacy and Numeracy skills. These groups were a focus on our School Improvement Plan and are being financed through our Pupil Equity Fund.
3. S1, S3, S4 and S5/6 Parents' Evenings have all taken place. All were very well attended with over 90% of parents attending each of the evenings. We are piloting an online booking system for our S2 Parents' Evening in February with a view to this being used with all year groups next session.
4. Our school show Wizard of Oz ran over 3 evenings in October (Wednesday 25th, Thursday 26th and Friday 27th). Staff, pupils, parents and various other school partners contributed to

making the show a huge success. Special thanks to Miss Fyfe (Music) and Mrs Aldous (English) for leading and managing the production but also to everyone who willingly gave up their time over several months to make the performances so memorable.

5. We have appointed our School Captaincy Team for 2017/2018 and these energetic young people are already working very hard for our school community. Our Captaincy Team are Hannah Duthie (Head Girl); Arun Smith (Head Boy); Iona Paterson (Vice Captain); Jack Fulton (Vice Captain); Calum Silcock (Vice Captain); and Emma Sutcliffe (Vice Captain). We wish them every success this year!
6. We have a new format in place for our Year Group Councils. This was developed by our pupils to ensure they have an important voice in school life.

UNCRC Article 12 (Respect for the views of the child): When adults are making decisions that affect children, children have the right to say what they think should happen and have their opinions taken into account.

Year Group Councils

Function:

- To discuss topics/issues which are relevant to specific year groups.
- 2 members per registration class = 12 members per council
- One permanent member per class – this person volunteers for the role; if more than one candidate, class election in registration. Re-elect each year – must be different people following year.
- One rotating member – new person for each meeting. Registration teachers to work through class list; every pupil given the opportunity to attend a meeting. (NB It would take more than one year to get through everyone.) Pupils should be encouraged to view this as a “civic duty” which they are expected to carry out. However, if anyone really isn’t keen they shouldn’t be forced to do it.
- Meetings – once per month; all YGCs meeting on same day
- Leadership – to be chaired by captaincy team + prefects; two captains/prefects allocated to each year. YGC invited to attend but in a listening rather than a leading role.
- Agenda – this would include:
 - Items brought to the table by the class reps after consultation with their class in PSE or registration.
 - Items suggested by YGH or HT.
 - Items linked to priorities of different staff working groups. Mrs Hoyle and prefects to liaise with relevant staff to ask if there is anything they’d like to consult pupils on.

Student Parliament

Function:

- To discuss topics/issues which affect the whole school.
- To form a ready-made body of students available for consultation on any topic.

- 1 permanent member per registration class (same person who is class rep for YGC) (36 pupils)
- + 1 rotating member per year group – randomly selected by Mrs Hoyle (someone who hasn't had a chance to go to a YGC meeting yet). (6 pupils)
- = 42 pupils
- Plus all prefects involved in chairing YGCs.
- Meeting – once per term.
- Leadership – to be chaired by Head Girl and Head Boy
- Agenda – this would include:
 - Items brought to the table by the class reps following discussions at the YGCs.
 - Items suggested by SLT – e.g. any current initiative/topic on which they would like to consult pupils. E.g. HT could ask the group to review SIP.
 - Items suggested by RRSA or other pupil working groups on which they would like to consult pupils. E.g. the group could be asked to comment on a draft of the anti-bullying policy.

Format for all meetings:

- Pupils given opportunities to discuss items in small groups and then feedback to whole group. Responses collated by person chairing. Encourages every voice to be heard.

Achievements and Additional Opportunities

- **Music School-** Our Music School Variety Concert took place 15th November and, as always, was very well attended.
- **Diana Award-** On 29th November, a group of 6 students, Miss Thomson, Mr Dunsmuir and Mr Smedley attended the INSPIRE Scotland Event that was held in the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh. Three S6 pupils were nominated for the very prestigious Diana Award; Jonathan Douglas, Amy Bryan and Rebecca Grehan. All three nominations were successful with the recipients being recognised for their volunteering efforts which amounted to over 1000 hours between them. After inspiring dancers and singers, and an inspirational talk from author Ian Rankin, the pupils then participated in two workshops dedicated to improving their abilities in campaigning and making their voices heard.
- **WoSPEG-** Congratulations to Nicholas Cameron, Sandy Godber and Douglas Scott who won the WoSPEG (West of Scotland Physics Education Group) Competition Final. The boys were superb throughout all of the very demanding rounds. They defeated teams from Bishopbriggs Academy, Larbert High School and Dunblane High School.
- **Remembrance Day-** Pupils at Douglas Academy paid their respects to those who died in times of conflict at a special ceremony of remembrance held in the school on Armistice Day. The two minute silence was signalled by the 'Last Post' performed by fourth year pupil, Angus Friel. School Captains, Arun Smith and Hannah Duthie gave short readings and local piper, Donald Mackenzie from Mackenzie Bagpiping.com concluded the ceremony with the lament 'Flowers of the Forest'. Poppy banners designed by senior art pupils were on display in the social space accompanied by poppies made by the Eco Schools Committee created

from recycled plastic bottles. With almost a thousand young people, teaching and non-teaching staff present, this was a very poignant moment in Douglas Academy's school community. This very moving and dignified ceremony followed special assemblies led by fifth and sixth year pupils:

Luc Fitzpatrick, Leah Hatton, Colin Hood, Chloe McGhee, Caitlin Minnis, Adam Middleton, Iona Paterson, Harry Reid and Arun Smith. These pupils recently performed in a drama 'Writing Home', part of East Dunbartonshire's War project. Pupils read letters from the First World War from soldiers: John, James and Craig Boyd, three brothers from Milngavie and also from local nurses, Catherine Jeffrey and Elspeth Graham.

- **French Exchange-** The week before the October holidays 16 Douglas Academy pupils took part in the French Exchange programme with our French partner school Lycée Jean Guéhenno, situated in Fougères in Brittany. The pupils had a full immersion into French culture, with each of them staying with a French family, visiting their French partner's school and getting out and about around Brittany.
- **'People like Me' STEM Careers Event (Working in Partnership with BAM Ritchies)-** On Tuesday 7 November, S3 girls had the opportunity to participate in a careers event encouraging them to consider careers in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). The event was organised in partnership with BAMRitchie giving the girls involved the opportunity to hear directly from women from industry about their job. Over the course of the afternoon pupils participated in various personality 'self-identity' activities, allowing them to map themselves onto STEM careers where people like them are happy and successful. During the event pupils were given the opportunity to demonstrate their Skills for Learning, Life and Work through their participation of co-operative learning activities where they presented their ideas in front of their peers.
- **S3 Health Day-** On Friday 17th November all S3 pupils participated in the annual Health Day to promote physical, social, mental and emotional wellbeing. The day was opened with an introduction highlighting the importance of wellbeing and practical examples of how to ensure good health and wellbeing. Pupils participated in a variety of activities delivered by members of staff, senior pupils and a range of outside agencies. Our very own Senior and Junior Sports Council led Paralympics and Team Building. There was Circus skills led by the Tartan Juggler, Yoga led by a volunteer from the charity Yogability, Aerobics, Fitness, First Aid, Aikido and Mental Health workshops. Pupils also had the opportunity to participate in Stress Management and Mindfulness sessions and various healthy cooking workshops where they produced smoothies and other healthy food.

AOCB:

Chair thanked Head Teacher and staff of school for hard work and commitment during the year and asked this be passed on. Chair also thanked local Councillors for their continued support and also all members of PC.

Date of Next Meeting :

TBC March 2018