

Douglas Academy Parent Council Session 2018/2019

Minute of Meeting 10th December 2018

Attendance

N Miller (Chair), B Smedley (Head Teacher), S Sinclair, L Armstrong, L Cameron, C Macallum, R Lowther, Cllr J Gibbons, J Campbell, M Stewart, M Rietdijk, S Taylor

Apologies: C McDade ,T Christie

Minutes of Previous Meeting

These were agreed to be correct.

Matters Arising

a) App update and school website

BS: Update provided on increasing use of app by parents and general discussion took place on the usefulness of the app for parents. Conceded still some to go to get full buy in but BS and school committed to its ever increasing use for a quick easy method to engage with parents.

RL asked BS in relation to poor information on new website and lack of current up to date detail. BS discussed new website protocols and conceded that delay in information being put on website due to new EDC in house procedures being introduced. General consensus that these are **not** working and an increasing autonomy for the school to control its own web pages and be trusted to do so should be communicated to EDC.

Parent Council Forum.

NM : Provided short update on his attendance at Parent Council Forum meeting. Primary points of note were update on Parental Engagement strategy across EDC. Of note also PF wishing representative from EDC estates to attend to discuss capital spending across the council area both in school buildings and elsewhere to ensure school estates are not by passed.

Parental Engagement Presentation

Comprehensive presentation on Douglas Academy considerations and forward planning in respect of increased Parental Engagement in line with EDC and Scottish Government guidelines from S Sinclair . This presentation in full will be available on the school website for

all parents to consider. Going forward the PC will work closely with the school to devise limited key strands that can be more successfully and fully implemented best suited to our school. Further information will be provided as and when these strands are bottomed out.

Insight Presentation

BS delivered detailed presentation on statistical analysis system used by school in relation to pupil, departmental and whole school performance. Real insight given into the bespoke system the school uses to look at each pupil's performance and each department's overall performance benchmarking against national predicted standards to see how Douglas Academy pupils and departments perform. Parent Council members were impressed by the level of detail and internal scrutiny that is annually undertaken.

Head Teachers Report

Delivered by BS

Head Teacher's Report- Parent Council Meeting 10th December 2018

Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the last Parent Council meeting of 2018. 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.

Staffing

- Acting Principal Teacher of Guidance post will be interviewed on Monday, 17th December. 6 internal candidates have expressed an interest in the post.
- Ongoing discussions with EDC regarding promoted post restructuring in relation to Procedure Manual 2/06 'Structure of Promoted Posts in Secondary Schools'. Douglas Academy is required to save 30 promoted post points so some restructuring will be required. However, the calculation for savings is inaccurate as the school roll is incorrect. Savings must be made within the next 3 years.

Attainment

I mentioned at the previous Parent Council Meeting that Insight was updated in 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 on 29th November and feedback from the authority was very positive with major noticeable improvements in all key areas.

A summary of our next steps regarding attainment are outlined below:

Headline Figures

- Course Choice
 - Ongoing 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
 - 71% of pupils in new S5 are currently doing 5 Highers
 - 50% of pupils sitting 5 Highers either have straight As at National 5 (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 Learning & Teaching across the school
- Review of S6 subject choices- 4 subjects and Advanced Highers (tracking cumulative data by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD))
- Close Monitoring & Tracking of all Senior Phase pupils- SIMD, LAAC (Care Experienced), Additional Support Needs (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 Monitoring & Tracking (M&T)
- M&T clearly highlights pupils SIMD in both Broad General Education (BGE) and Senior Phase (SP)
- Guidance staff identifying current S5 & S6 pupils who do not have L4 or L5 Literacy & Numeracy. Focus on L6 for Most Deprived 30% (MD 30%)
- PT SfL identifying ASN pupils as above
- Numeracy focus in School Improvement Plan (SIP)
 - PT Numeracy
 - Targeted S1 & S2 Group using primary data/teacher judgement etc.
 - Cluster working

Positive Destinations

- Guidance teachers having key adult conversations earlier with S5 pupils to identify those who are considering leaving school
- Guidance teachers/PT Developing Young Workforce (PT DYW) liaising more closely with SDS and outside agencies to identify potential work placements/opportunities for S5 pupils. PT DYW tracks through WE database
- PT SfL/PT Guidance to monitor pupils with ASN and work closely with SDS to identify potential positive destinations

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/S6 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 and S6 pupils are sitting the maximum number of N5/H qualifications they are capable of
- Planned curriculum review in session 2019-20 focusing on learner pathways, particular for those pupils who are not likely to go to Further Education (FE) or Higher Education (HE)
- Guidance staff identifying current S5 & S6 pupils who do not have Level 4 or Level 5 Literacy & Numeracy. Also focussing on Level 6 for MD 30%.

School Business

1. We have had a number of very successful Family Learning Events over the last few months. These are detailed below:
 - 4th September UCAS Information Evening
 - 6th September Family Learning Senior Phase Parents' Evening
 - 11th September S1 Supporting Learners' Evening
 - 10th October S4 Senior Phase Study Skills and SQA Information
 - 29th October S5/6 Study Skills and SQA Information Evening
 - 7th November Music School Open Evening
 - 26th November S1 Literacy & Numeracy Evenings

The purpose of these evenings is to provide parents with updated information but also to help support parents so they are better equipped and more comfortable helping their child at home.

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 introduced our new online parent booking system this session and feedback from parents has been very positive.

2. We have now identified a number of pupils in S1 who require additional support with Literacy and Numeracy. A range of information has been used to identify the pupils who will benefit from this targeted support. The programme in place has now been shared with parents at the information evenings that were held on 26th November. These evenings provided 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. We now have groups in both S1 and S2 and this will be phased into S3 next session
3. We have appointed our School Captains Team for 2018/2019 and these energetic young people are already working very hard for our school community. Our Captains Team are Katie Hamilton (Head Girl); Colin Hood (Head Boy); Giorgia Capaldi (Vice Captain); Stuart Chalmers (Vice Captain); Leticia Nedd (Vice Captain); and Archie Spence (Vice Captain). We wish them every success this year!

Achievements and Additional Opportunities

- **Music School-** Our Music School Variety Concert took place on 14th November and, as always, was very well attended. The concert was dedicated to Mr Black and all money raised will go to a charity that was close to his heart.
- **WoSPEG-** Congratulations to Meera Kaiser, Orla Vennard and Benjamin Rutledge for representing Douglas Academy in the final of this year's WoSPEG final.
- **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 one minute silence was signalled by the 'Last Post'. School Captains, Colin Hood and Katie Hamilton gave short readings and local piper, Donald Mackenzie from Mackenzie Bagpiping.com concluded the ceremony with the lament 'Flowers of the Forest'. With almost a thousand young people, teaching and non-teaching staff present, this was a very poignant moment in Douglas Academy's school community. Our Captains Team also represented Douglas Academy and laid a wreath at the Remembrance event in Milngavie on Sunday, 11th November.
- **Edinburgh University Junior Debating Championships-** congratulations to Eoghan Connolly and Tom Milling who won this on Saturday, 24th November.
- **Enterprising Maths Final-** Vlad Stratulat, Raj Bhaumak, Eoghan Connolly and Emily MacLellan represented Douglas Academy at the Enterprising Maths in Scotland Final in Tuesday, 6th November. Pupils had to compete in a number of rounds which tested their mathematical knowledge, practical skills and problem solving abilities. Approximately 70 schools from all over Scotland participated in the finals and the Douglas Academy team achieved a place in the top 10.

- **French Exchange-** The week before the October holidays 22 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. 7 pupils also had the opportunity to participate in Work Experience.
- **S3 Health Day-** On Friday 16th 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.
- **Lunchbox drop-** S4 students in the Health & Food Technology department made up lunch boxes to hand out to some of our local residents over the course of a week in November. The lunch boxes consisted of: sandwiches, multi-vitamin drink, vegetable soup, fresh fruit salad, yoghurt and a scone. Having been given names of places to visit through Carers' Link and Oakburn they delivered them to the elderly residents of Milngavie.
- **Fashion Show-** We had our first ever Douglas Academy Fashion Show on 1st November. There were over 250 people in attendance and over £3000 was raised on the evening.
- **Vintage Afternoon Tea-** Our Skills for Learning, Life and Work Group organised our annual Vintage Tea on the afternoon of 29th November 2018. This is another community event for the elderly residents of Milngavie. Pupils work closely together to provide food, baking, poem recitals and music.
- **Wear it Blue Day-** On Friday the 23rd the wear blue day for Robbie Readie. Robbie is one of our S2 pupils who was recently diagnosed with cancer and is currently undergoing treatment. Events included 50/50; name the teddy; raffles; coffee morning and staff v pupils football and netball games. All pupils wore blue and donated £1 and there was lots of support and various contributions from Rangers Football Club including guest appearances from Derek Johnstone and Broxy Bear. Over £2000 was raised and this money will be used to help with alterations being made to the family home that are required to support Robbie.
- **Porto Football Trip-** At the end of October Mr Luisi, Mr Gray and Mr Stepney took 25 pupils to Porto in Portugal for a football trip. Activities included participating in coaching sessions delivered by Porto's coaching staff, playing in competitive games against Portuguese opposition and a visit to FC Porto's stadium, the Estadio do Dragao.

AOCB:

NM on behalf of PC and all parents thanked the staff, both teaching and administrative, for all their efforts and hard work in 2018 much of it unseen in teaching our young people on a daily basis.

Date of Next Meeting:

TBC March 2019