

Douglas Academy Parent Council Session 2018/2019

Minute of Meeting 19th March 2019

Attendance

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

Apologies: Cllr J Gibbons ,T Christie

Minutes of Previous Meeting

These were agreed to be correct.

Parent Council Forum Update

No PCF meeting has taken place since last Parent Council, next meeting scheduled for 25/03/2019.

Matters Arising

- a) A discussion took place in relation to Music Higher being offered in 4th year and the consequences for future study choices for young people in 5th year and onwards. BS confirmed this early higher will only be offered to those pupils felt capable enough and historically the success rate is extremely high. Many young people went on to gain 6 highers by year end in 5th year an advantage in relation to Higher Education choices and selection. NM confirmed it was always a choice to take this additional early higher or not and it could be refused.
- b) RL has kindly agreed to represent Douglas Academy on the EDC wide short life working group looking at school lunches and the whole dining experience. Again a comprehensive discussion took place on the Douglas Academy dining experience which was generally perceived to be very positive. It is accepted that menus will change as health data on certain products becomes more readily available and RL can feed back to the school and the group the findings and direction of the working group.
- c) BS update all briefly on the new school website and all agreed it was a vast improvement on the old one both in style and content. BS stated content was now much easier to get uploaded and he hoped going forward to continue to improve the school website to show off continuing school achievement and news.

- d) NM discussed new EDC changes to Public Entertainments Licenses and what does and does not require a license and the costs associated. NM stated he would be happy to advise the school going forward in order to keep events on the right side of the new conditions.

- e) Discussion took place on the school roll and the future requirements for places and the capacity of the school to cope with this, for example, an increase in local housing provision leading to an increase in the school roll. BS will report back on exactly what the capacity figure for the school is and what it is based on.

ASN Provision at Douglas Academy

BS provided a document in relation to an EDC wide consultation about ASN provision in Secondary Schools. This paper will be made available on the school website for the information of all parents.

A very detailed discussion took place covering all aspects of the pros and cons of providing all levels of ASN needs and support both for the young person, their families and the teaching staff involved. Cllr Goodall provided an excellent and informative insight into the proposals for the new combined development that EDC is proposing albeit much of the exact detail is confidential and in its infancy.

In short it was agreed that all members of the Parent Council would respond individually to BS with their own concerns and viewpoint on the consultation to ensure a fair representation of the parent body could be heard.

Head Teachers Report *Head Teacher's Report- Parent Council Meeting 19th March 2018*

Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the first Parent Council meeting of 2019. There are a number highlights I will share with you this evening including changes to staffing, Senior Phase pupils progress towards their SQA examinations and, as ever, a wide range of outstanding pupil achievements.

Staffing

- Mr Kevin Stepney was recently appointed to the post of Principal Teacher of Raising Attainment & Achievement in the Broad General Education. Mr Stepney will officially take up post on April 15th 2019 and this was created using Pupil Equity Funding
- We currently have four full-time permanent positions for next session. We will be appointing in Maths, Chemistry, French and History/Modern Studies. There were 20 applicants for Maths, 20 applicants for Chemistry, 13 applicants for French/Spanish and 55 applicants for History/Modern Studies.
- We also have vacancies for the following promoted post: PT Business, PT Computing, PT Maths and PT Biology. These posts are currently with EDC job evaluation team and will be advertised in April after we return from the Easter break.

Attainment

- Insight was updated on 28th February. Percentage of School Leavers in a Positive Destination was the highest ever at Douglas Academy. 98.2% of leavers went to a Positive Destination this session with the highest figure previously being 97.21% in 2016/17. This equates to 3 pupils not in a Positive Destination. Since this update we have identified that 2 pupils are unable to engage with Skills Development Scotland due to ill health and the one remaining pupil now has a place at college.
- S4-S6 prelim results were collated in January and targeted interventions put in place to support pupils who required it the most. We had our most extensive supported study programme ever with pupils carefully targeted and directed to specific subjects. DHTs worked tirelessly to speak with all pupils and their parents who were underperforming and we launched our first 'Study Café'. This involves pupils attending supervised study in the library directly after school. Staff from various subjects 'drop in' to provide support and there are also general tutorials provided on important study techniques. Refreshments are provided to ensure the young people have a relaxing and supportive environment to study. Pupils who would benefit most from this were identified after detailed analysis of prelim results. We also launched our S5/6 Masterclasses twice per week to provide pupils with additional time and exam support within the school day. Masterclasses are running in Maths, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Modern Studies, History, Business and Geography. Targeted pupils are extracted from core subjects in the Senior Phase for 6 weeks to work in small tutorial groups with a member of staff who is timetabled to support them.
- All S3 pupils completed their SNSA throughout February and March. They completed two online assessments in Literacy (Reading & Writing) and one in Numeracy. Diagnostic Reports were produced for individual pupils highlighting areas of strength and next steps. This information will be used internally as part of our overall assessment data to identify pupils who require additional support. Initial results are currently being analysed by Mr Stepney, PT Raising Attainment & Achievement in the Broad General Education.

School Business

1. We have continued to have a number of Family Learning evenings throughout January and February. Our Curriculum Evenings for S2 and S4/5 were very well attended. Over 800 option choices are now almost complete with S2 into S3 due to be finalised at the end of this week. We are currently looking at Senior Phase options and prelim results to identify pupils who have not selected their best subjects and we will discuss this with pupils when they return in June. Further discussion will take place in August when SQA results are released.
2. Our annual Burns Supper celebration was held on the evening of the 24th in the school. Guests from Contact the Elderly, Carers' Link, Oakburn Daycare Centre and Abbotsford House enjoyed a traditional Burns' Supper in our Assembly Hall. The meal was cooked on the premises by our S4 Hospitality Group and our S5/6 Skills for Learning, Life and work Group. There were speeches, musical interludes, recitations from Burns' work.
3. Our Music School Annual Recital on Friday 1st March was a huge success. We were joined by John Swinney- Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education, Gerry Corness- Chief Executive of East Dunbartonshire Council, Leader of the Council- Councillor Andrew Poulson,

Greg Bremner- Acting Chief Education Officer and several other dignitaries from Local and National Government.

4. We are currently conducting an extensive Cluster Vision, Values and Aims consultation. Almost all pupils at Douglas Academy have been involved in this process with the remaining 2 year groups providing responses after Easter. All teaching and non-teaching staff have been consulted and the questionnaire for parents is due to close at 8pm on Thursday, 21st March. As of this evening, 123 responses had been received from parents. Partners will be consulted and our Cluster Primary Schools will begin their consultation after Easter.
5. We will receive £30,000 for our Pupil Equity Funding next session. Consultation with the Parent Council and wider Parent Forum in relation to spending this money will take place in April/May 2019.

Achievements and Additional Opportunities

- On Monday 21st January 2019 seven S1 pupils visited Abbotsford care home to recite Burns poetry. Miss Di Mambro prepared the pupils with recital rehearsals and Mrs Clark accompanied them. We visited three lounges and brought a touch of Burns to the residents: The following poems were recited:
‘John Anderson, My Jo’- Jamie Vernet
‘Up in the morning early’- Grace Anderson
‘Ae fond kiss’- Poppy Thurston
‘Red Rose’- Eilidh McGuinness & Kailean Hart
‘To a Mouse’- Naula Kerr & Holly MacLean
- Congratulation to Marnie Sayer in S2 who won the Science: Fiction: Make: Believe Essay Competition. Marnie will have her entry published in the Royal Society of Edinburgh Summer Magazine. Marnie received her award at St Andrew’s University Annual Discovery Day on 9th March.
- On December 17th 2018 the Rights Respecting School’s Committee organised an event to raise money for our sponsored mother Clarisse and her baby Noelle. The pupils were sponsored to carry 2kg of rice with them all day to symbolise the difficulties that some young mothers in developing countries have when they don’t have access to child care. We raised £700 in sponsorship.
- A group of S2 girls from our Computing Club have been taking part in a Cyber Treasure Hunt that started in November. The Cyber Treasure Hunt is part of the Women in Data Science Global Conference. The group were successful in completing all the challenges and got through to the final of the Treasure Hunt in the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh on March 11th 2019. This is the first time this event has ran and there were over 140 participants from 13 schools taking part.
- On Friday 15 March the school held its first Money Matters event for all S3 pupils. The event was split in to two parts and over the course of the day pupils developed their understanding of how to use and manage money. Pupils’ contribution on day will enable them to gain hours towards a Dynamic Youth Award. The first part of the event pupils took part in the Stock Market Challenge competition and were given the opportunity to work as stock brokers and experience the excitement of buying and selling shares and dollars on a real trading floor!

Pupils worked in teams and were given an initial £15,000 starting capital which they had to invest and reinvest during the four days. The four virtual days of trading were condensed into a dynamic, exciting and highly competitive 4 hours. Throughout the competition, pupils displayed excellent team work, communication and strategic decision-making skills as they had to deal with many twists and turns as the prices of shares plummeted and soared depending on the news stories for each day. The winning team (Frances Bremner, Harvey Cattell, Olivia Douglas, Ewan McAndrew and Anna Forsyth) won with an impressive £295,000! In the afternoon pupils took part in Charity Finance Workshops with two of our established partners Comfort International and Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity. Both charities gave an overview of the work of the charity and then there was a question/answer session where pupils posed financial questions eg. 'how does your charity generate income? what percentage of the income you generate goes to the causes advertised? how do you balance necessary expenses incurred in running an organisation with maximising money going to your cause? and who are you accountable to for how you spend donated money?'. Pupils then took part in a workshop task - Planning an Appeal where they worked in teams to create a storyboard with their ideas. Pupils had to make decisions including how much of the budget they should spend, which appeal will be more effective in generating income and give an overview of how they plan to generate income. When finished, each group pitched their ideas and reasons for choices made.

- This year's Young Enterprise Company, Stars Align, attended the Young Enterprise Dunbartonshire Final on Wednesday 13 March at Strathclyde University to compete with many other successful Young Enterprise Companies across Dunbartonshire. On the night, companies had to present to a large audience of 80 people about their experience with Young Enterprise, including achievements and challenges that the company faced. Company members also participated in an interview whereby members of the Young Enterprise Dunbartonshire Board asked company members questions to find out more in-depth information about the company including financial management, structure and marketing strategies. The company was represented on the night by the management board members including Becky Mills – Managing Director, Becky Miller – Social Media Director, Laura Murray – Finance Director, Kerr Reddie and Kiera Gallagher - Production Managers. Company scores were based on the following: digital presence using social media; company business report; company performance during the interview; and finally the presentation. Despite not winning any of the main prizes Stars Align have been able to develop key transferable skills that will be hugely beneficial for them when they leave Douglas Academy.
- Congratulations to Andrew Wilson in S3 who won senior singles and doubles championships at Nuffield Milngavie. Andrew is the youngest player to have achieved this.
- As part of the First Minister's Reading Challenge we have recruited 16 pupils from S1 – 5 as Reading Ambassadors to promote a reading culture across the school. As well as helping in the Library, pupils have created 'Book World', a fairy-tale fantasy land which features favourite fictional characters, book tweets and book recommendations. Pupils also held a bake sale supporting our sponsored teacher in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Other notable dates are below:

12 January - Ski Trip

25 January - Holocaust Memorial Day – S1 Event

31 January - S3 Eco Classroom Event

1 February - Maths Trigonometry Workshop

2-3 February - Manchester City V Arsenal Football Trip

15 February- S2 Football Team play in the last 16 of the Scottish Cup

5 February - S3 Dementia Friend Training

8 February - Chinese New Year Celebrations

19 February - S1 Literacy Trip to Mugdock

21 & 22 February - The Glass Menagerie School Play

1 March - Music School Annual Recital

15 March- Comic Relief 2019 – Non-uniform and other charitable events

20 March - Douglas Academy Spring Concert

21 March- Lots of Socks/Down’s Syndrome Awareness Day

26-31 March – Paris Trip

A.O.C.B.

Nothing of note

Date of next meeting

TBC June 2019