

**DUNBAR GRAMMAR SCHOOL COUNCIL
NOTE OF MEETING OF
WEDNESDAY 17th JUNE 2020**

Present:

Joanne Bloomfield (Chair)	Donna Tsang (Parent Member)
Naomi Barnes (Parent Member)	Audrey Cameron (Parent)
Nigel Bird (Parent Member)	Kirsteen Wilson (Parent)
Donald Davidson (Parent Member)	David Summersgill (Parent)
Dee Davison (Parent Member)	Claire Slowther (Headteacher)
Jackie Irvine (Parent Member)	Duncan McBride (Depute Headteacher)
Michelle Mallen (DGSA)	Richard Maxton (Depute Headteacher)
John Patterson (Parent Member)	Judy Miller (Clerk)
Verity Sinclair (Parent Member)	Norman Hampshire (ELC Councillor)

Joanne and Claire welcomed everyone to the second DGSC meeting to be held online. Claire Slowther gave an update which can be found in Appendix 1 of these notes. The meeting then followed the format of a question and answer session addressing the main concerns of students, parents, and carers. A summary of this can be found below.

Return to School in August

Information about the return to school will be sent out to parents and carers by East Lothian Council on Monday 22nd June. Schools have plans in place for 2m, 1m and no social distancing, and are awaiting guidance. Fortunately, DGS is a large school with extensive grounds which helps considerably with this planning.

Arrangements for the School Day

Details of the arrangements for the school day can be found in the briefing note. It is anticipated that lessons will be longer with the school day following the pattern of 2 hour lesson, break, 2 hour lesson, lunch, 2 hour lesson. This will minimise movements and maximise face to face teaching. Staff will use Friday afternoons for curriculum planning to ensure a good learning experience.

Unfortunately, arrangements cannot be made for siblings to attend on the same days, due to the number of subjects taught at the School. The DGS system will be based around year groups.

Arrangements for Students who are Shielding

The Pupil Support Team is finalising arrangements for students who are shielding and for those with additional support needs including medical requirements. Protocols have need developed and expanded to cover this.

Breaks and Lunchtimes

There will be a minimal grab and go service at the Bistro, but packed lunches will be encouraged. Students will not be allowed to leave the school during breaks and lunch; the use of outdoor spaces will be encouraged. Breaks and lunchtimes will be staggered, there may be designated spaces for each year group, dependent on Government guidelines.

Health and Safety

Students will be required to wash their hands on entry and before and after breaks and lunchtimes. Students will also be required to wipe down desks and computers after each lesson. The School has a large supply of wipes and sanitiser, Claire Slowther will check whether all products are anti-viral as well as anti-bacterial and that they are safe for use in science classes.

Blended Learning

Parents and carers reported that students were beginning to lose enthusiasm with distance learning. It was hoped that the face to face element of blended learning would help them to keep on track.

The School's blended learning team, led by Duncan McBride, will be using Higher Education research into which parts of teaching have the most impact when provided face to face. It was suggested that this was a good opportunity for a national collaboration between schools and universities which could result in a huge resource of common presentations.

Although there may be limited opportunities for online support for home learning, the Support for Learning Team has put together a virtual classroom with an online classroom assistant available to help students who are struggling.

Practical Subjects

PE – The School is awaiting guidance, but staff are looking at non-contact opportunities and sports not requiring gym kit.

Home Economics – Practical lessons will continue, but in smaller classes.

Science and Art – The curriculum will be altered to enable the practical elements to be covered later in the year.

Courses Outwith DGS – Colleges are currently looking at how to deliver courses, further information is awaited.

School Uniform

School uniform will still be required but rules will be overseen with a light touch as it is recognised that there are problems with buying uniforms and financial pressures. All uniform will be required to be washed regularly for hygiene purposes.

Donations of outgrown uniform are welcomed at the Bleachingfield Centre, this will be laundered and made available to all very soon. Clothing grants for uniform are also available, details from the School Office.

The Positive Relations Group

The Positive Relations Group, led by Ed Offer, will cover the social aspects of returning to school. It is anticipated that there will be an increase in anxiety, child protection issues and the effects of bereavement and family financial problems. The Group will guide staff and students in reconnecting and rebuilding relationships with a clear set of expectations.

SQA

The SQA have not issued any updates yet. Staff have prepared courses for exams happening at the usual time, although it is understood that there may be a delay in the start date.

School Buses

The School's curriculum plans, which have been submitted to ELC, include the requirements for school transport. Norman Hampshire reported that ELC had maintained payments to bus companies throughout school closure to help them to stay in business. However, with many bus companies experiencing financial problems due to the reduction in passengers, there may be some issues with school transport.

ELC Education Department Survey

The survey had received 8200 responses. The headline findings will be published soon and responses relating to DGS will be used to help with planning.

School Budget and Staffing

The School's budget remains balanced. There have been very few staff changes; there will be a new member of staff in the Music Department as a result of the increased demand for Music Technology. Angela Hepburn (Modern Studies) is retiring, interviews will take place next week for her replacement. The school will welcome 12 NQTs next term.

Dunbar Harbour Project

Dunbar Harbour Trust has been awarded funding for a project on plankton and plastics and would welcome the School's involvement.

Black Lives Matter

It was confirmed that the 'Respect Me' agenda covers racism, the School will always challenge racism issues and concerns.

The Parent Council thanked all school staff for their work in these challenging times.



DUNBAR GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Dunbar Grammar is a caring community where you can RISE to be your best
INCLUSION SUPPORT EFFORT



Dunbar Grammar DGSC Briefing Wednesday 17th June

1) Update on Hub

The hub is running well and currently has 9 students attending on a daily basis. Many thanks to the staff volunteers. The Hub will run in DGS until Friday 26th June. It will transition back to DPS for the summer. We are awaiting further guidance on what the Emergency Childcare provision will look like in August.

2) Plans for August

Creating phasing plans has taken considerable time and has involved working with colleagues across ELC. It has involved consideration of health and safety, buildings, transportation, approaches to blended learning, coordination of schools.

Lesley Brown has sent a letter to all parents today and final school plans will be sent to parents and carers in a co-ordinated manner across ELC on Monday 22nd June.

In-Service

- We have in-service on Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th June. This will focus on health and safety, nurture training and curriculum forward planning.

Health and safety

- Risk assessments will be carried out for all areas of the building.
- A one way system will be introduced in certain areas of the building
- Increased hand washing protocols will be introduced and hand sanitiser will be available throughout the building
- The sharing of resources such as pens/pencils/rulers/calculators will be discouraged and students should bring their own 'kit' to school.
- Students will still wear uniform but our approach will be relaxed and understanding to the challenges families are facing.
- Wipes will be issued to students for them to clean computer keyboards after use.
- Students will also wipe down desks before leaving rooms
- Movement throughout the school will be limited for students in S1 and S2 and teachers will generally go to their classroom to teach them.
- Students in S3-S6 are following subject choices there will be more movement around the school for these year groups.
- Classes will be between 10 and 15 students depending on social distancing guidance.

DRAFT

- There is no requirement for staff or students to wear facemasks, but they are able to do so if they wish
- We have a positive relationship group which is led by Ed Offer and has been meeting over the past few weeks to look at staff training and how we make all expectations clear and consistent to students.

Breaks and lunchtimes

- Students will be strongly encouraged to bring a packed lunch
- There will be a limited service at the Bistro and Hub
- It is likely that break and lunch times will be slightly staggered to ensure students do not congregate together in areas around the school.
- Designated areas where specific year groups can have breaks and lunches may be set up
- If the weather is good, students will be encouraged to eat their break and lunch outside, whilst maintaining social distancing
- Students will not be allowed to leave the school premises during the school day unless they are in S6 and completed their learning for the day.

Curriculum Plans

- Nurture approaches will be important across ELC – re-opening and re-connecting
- We have been considering different approaches and curriculum models.
- We have planned for 2m and 1m distancing
- Plans have been submitted to East Lothian Council and Transportation who are collating them for all schools.
- SQA have not declared a position on 2021 certification and this will be important in our planning.

Blended Learning Model

- A blended model of in-school and in-home learning is reliant on consistent, easy to use in-home learning materials which are intended to support and complement, but not replicate, in-school learning.