

NORTH BERWICK HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING of 24 NOVEMBER 2021 via TELECONFERENCE

Parent Members: G Milne (Chair)
A Beedel (Vice Chair)
H Way
J Leslie
A Clark
S Wellwood
C Jones
L Forrest
T O'Connor
D Edmondson

Staff Members: M Moore, Head Teacher
F McCallum

Other Parents: W Ford, F Lumsden, H Bradley, J Massie, F Fleming, D Lothian.

Attending: A Cosgrove, Clerk

Welcome:

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

1. Communications Policy:

Ms Moore referred to the Communications Policy and asked for some parents to assist with this. D Edmondson, J Leslie and C Jones offered to help.

A question was asked on the Estates Development sub-group, previously organised by Mr Jones, and Ms Moore would find out the current position. She noted the ongoing Education Estates Review consultation and encouraged all to take part. Noted the lack of a Sports Hall in the new building due to the assumption that the School had first call on the Sports Centre – previously noted by Mr McDonald.

2. Attainment Presentation:

Ms Moore explained that East Lothian Council had asked all schools to reflect pre-pandemic data and the current position. NBHS has continued to make gains on pre-pandemic levels and we can be very proud of this. She gave information on the positive destinations for pupils – Higher Education, Further Education and Employment. A very small minority of pupils went on to work on personal development or volunteering.

Parents asked what happened to the data and Ms Moore advised that it was used to consider how best to provide pathways to positive and sustained destinations as flexibly and creatively as possible; seeking ways to maximise accreditation where possible.

She noted that in BGE, the focus was on S1 and S2 this year: the curriculum would be looked at closely, with a wider range of needs in S1 than in previous cohorts. In S3, there was careful use of tracking data.

Parents asked about Level D results being used as requirements for a Foundation Apprenticeship: and noting that volunteering could be seen as a positive destination. The position of pupils taking gap years was included as Employment if they worked during this time.

Ms Moore referred to the Stobart report on reforming Scottish Education, and would provide a link to this interesting work. ([Upper-secondary education student assessment in Scotland : A comparative perspective | OECD Education Working Papers | OECD iLibrary \(oecd-ilibrary.org\)](#))

She advised that Skills Development Scotland were responsible for measuring destinations for three years after pupils leave school.

3. Head Teacher Update:

Ms Moore reported on:

Update to Covid guidance – Assemblies and gatherings were still not permitted, although mandatory trips and visits for qualifications were now allowed. It was proposed to substitute the Christmas Dance with a Spring Fling in the first week of April. It was requested that this information be put in the weekly update so parents know what was happening.

Choirs/Concerts – where groups were more than 50 pupils, these were not happening. However, parents noted that some sports and music groups had resumed.

Virtual Xmas Concert – performances for this would be recorded.

D of E group – Staff were thanked for encouraging this activity. However, one parent described the present position as “the fun has been sucked out of School by Covid”. Ms Moore agreed, saying things did feel quite joyless at the moment and staff were exhausted. However she was optimistic about the future and hoped that a normal Activities Week would happen next year. She agreed that some fun was needed when it was possible.

4. Pupil Behaviour Update:

Ms Moore introduced this topic by saying that there were shared expectations from parents and staff, saying that the pupils’ readiness to learn was not always what it should be. The behaviour policy had been updated and an additional Duty Head system had been introduced with more checks around the school during the day. There was increased intervention at the moment and it was important to ensure that there was a consistent response from key adults across all classes.

She described the number of steps outlined in national and local Included, Engaged and Involved policy before a young person could be excluded which is very much considered a last resort. Mrs Moore commented that young people were pushing the boundaries but staff and parents were working together on this.

Mr McCallum added that in S1 and S2 there had been huge disruption in pupils’ social and emotional development, and work was being put in to try and get routines organised. The Youth Project was offering additional valuable services.

Parents asked for reassurance for younger pupils and Ms Moore replied that for certain incidents, there were clear steps that must be undertaken to deal with these. The School would intervene where necessary and this could include sanctions. NBHS takes great care to follow procedure and consult with senior education staff such as the Head of Education regarding any serious sanctions, as appropriate.

Noted that the last version of the Behaviour Policy was on the school website and Ms Moore would consult about sharing current policies at this stage. On a question of a pupil code of conduct, Mr McCallum advised that there was a code, and this could include mobile phone use.

It was agreed to revisit Mobile Phone Use at the next meeting.

Dates of Future Meetings : January 26 2022, March 7, April 28 and June 14.