

Parent council meeting 07/03/22

Present : Clare Jones, Layla Gurney, Wendy Ford, Sasha Spring, Lara Neri, Laura Forrest, Anna Beedel, Gillian Milne, Kathy Duncan, Jacq Cottrell, Hilary Way, Jude Leslie, Jacqueline Massie, Duncan Edmondson, Sharon Wellwood, Alison Clark, Daniel Lumsden. **Speakers** Michelle Moore, Stephen Frew, Martin Lahiffe.

Apology from Lorraine

- 1) Martin Lahiffe gave overview of **mental health supports** available to young people in North Berwick. Martin has been working in NB area for 6 years. Plan for more detailed presentation for parents on 5th April. Service is relatively new – provides tier 2 support. Universal level is tier 1 – universal support, early intervention. Tier 3 is CAMHS. Service is made up of 6 youth workers and 2 occupational therapists. Offers mainly 1:1 support. LIAM is structured programme - practical tools to manage anxiety, CBT based. Also can do more flexible sessions around a specific topic. School counselling service is separate and run by MYPAS – cover East and Mid Lothian. Can also refer to other services eg bereavement services. Referral through request for assistance. Currently 68 pupils receiving support. Young people and parents rated service very highly. LIAM is 9 sessions but can have longer. Wellbeing very varied number of sessions. Discussion re Sue Spence who was previously employed by the school as a part time counsellor. ELC have now contracted MYPAS to provide counselling service – Laura provides this service for NBHS, online at present. There is a waiting list for counselling. Lara Neri explained that NB also have access to the community youth workers who can also provide support. Martin previously ran Cool, Calm and Connected sessions in class, youth workers are currently delivering this. Acknowledged in ideal world more staff would be available, but young people are getting the support they need, though there may be a wait for this. Importance of signposting what is available to parents/carers and young people noted. Web site has been developed with lots of useful info <https://sites.google.com/edubuzz.org/mhwb-information-point/home>
- 2) Kathy Duncan discussed **HerbSpace** - takes referrals from guidance teachers and learning support staff. They have space in the grounds of Abbey Residential home. Young people go there for an hour once a week, chat and have tea or get involved with gardening. Support from HerbSpace staff and also peer support available to those who attend.
- 3) **Minutes of last meeting** –Action from last meeting re parents evening appts. Michelle has been at presentation by ELC Information Manager Rob Lewis re Parent Portal. ELC are purchasing this. Uses My Account sign in. Will also be used for consent forms etc. Parent's evening booking system will be rolled out for primary schools first. Other local authorities reported increased parental engagement and decreased admin workload. Haddington cluster will go first at end of March.
- 4) Update from Michelle.

Covid update Face coverings no longer required in classrooms. Still needed in communal areas, including canteen when not eating/drinking. Meetings in school that are deemed to

be of benefit to young people are possible again. Incrementally returning to face to face assemblies and P7 transition can go ahead. Still careful balance of risk and reward. Request for PC understanding and support that risk assessments and adaptation of events still needed. Activities week planned for S1-S3. Duke of Edinburgh – far more demand than capacity. Parents could help with D of E. One way system discussed – no plans for this to be removed at this time. Query re S6 teachers being removed from class to take younger classes. Michelle reported again close to 20% staff absence and therefore possibility of needing to send entire year group home which she hopes to avoid.

SQA update has moved to scenario 2 - exams going ahead with additional supports. Subject specific study guides should be made available this week. Grade boundaries will be reviewed. Young people will have right to appeal. Exceptional circumstances consideration –if young person unable to attend an exam - further information awaited. Ken Muir looking at future of SQA, findings will be published 10th March.

School Improvements – success with literacy and numeracy interventions. Closing the gap agenda. Aimee Ferrier (appointed permanently to cluster attainment teacher role) has been working with 39 S1s on writing skills, has also been working with the primary schools. Small group interventions in numeracy for S3s. Extra hours for Emma Hume to run these. Work with University of Stirling interviewing staff and pupils about curriculum, especially senior phase. Education Scotland case study for professional learning for teachers. Communications policy draft is now on the web site, feedback welcome. Michelle has started talking to pupils about mobile phones. Approach to managing behaviour being constantly revised. Very significant achievements despite current challenges.

- 5) Presentation by Stephen Frew **NBHS Skills framework** Aims to help pupils understand what skills they are developing within lessons and create a skills profile they can reference. 6 sections literacy, numeracy, thinking, health and wellbeing, NB skills. S1 pupils identified 10 key skills to focus on. Further information is available on school website - learning at NBHS - skills framework.
- 6) **Constitution** has now been revised and needs to be adopted at an EGM. This will be put onto the parent council section of the school website prior to the next meeting. Gillian will be stepping down as chair at the next meeting.
- 7) Query re progression of **sports council proposition** from the last meeting – Action – Michelle will ask Alan to get something in writing.
- 8) Next meeting EGM 28th April