

Dear Parent/Carer,

In response to the recent Parent Council survey of all parents/carers at NBHS we have put together the following Frequently Asked Questions to provide what we hope is a handy introduction to the Parent Council.

#### What is the North Berwick High School (NBHS) Parent Council?

The **Parent Council** at NBHS consists of a group of parents who represent the voice of the Parent Forum. The **Parent Forum** consists of the parents and carers of every pupil at NBHS. The Parent Forum elects the members of the Parent Council at the Annual General Meeting.

#### What does the Parent Council do?

The Parent Council offers a point of contact, providing a platform for the discussion of general issues raised by parents about NBHS and pupils' education.

The Parent Council works closely with the school's Senior Management Team to support the aims of the school. The Parent Council identifies issues where we might be able to add value and help out and we work together to take these forward.

We are fortunate that all our meetings are well attended by our Head Teacher, Michelle Moore, our Depute Head Teachers, various staff members and senior pupils, as well as our local councillors. At many of our meetings we invite a speaker, often a member of the school staff, to explain more about a particular initiative or subject area.

#### What sort of things are discussed at meetings of NBHS Parent Council?

In the last year the Parent Council has:

- Received updates re Learning & Teaching at NBHS including levels of attainment and the Scottish Qualifications Authority exams' plan;
- Learned about mental health support available to pupils at NBHS (including presentations from East Lothian Council's Mental Health Youth Worker Team Leader and Herbspace);
- Had a presentation on the NBHS Skills Framework (which links to skills for employment) from the Faculty Leader of Business & Computing;
- Considered the provision of curricular and extra-curricular sports through the planned establishment of a NBHS' Sports Council;
- Learned about the school canteen provision and - thanks to Chef Stoigi - sampled the food;
- Kept up to date with the building work;
- Input to the School's Improvement Plan, the School's Communication Policy and the School's Mobile Phone Use policy;
- Revised the Parent Council's constitution; and
- Surveyed all parents about what they would like the Parent Council to focus on next year.

Pre-pandemic the Parent Council has initiated Careers Fairs and a 'Life After School' evening. Both were well attended by pupils and supported greatly by the wider Parent Forum. It would be great to know if pupils and parents would like more of these kinds of events – let us know what you think at [parentcouncil@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk](mailto:parentcouncil@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk)

#### When does the Parent Council meet and how do we find out what has been discussed?

The Parent Council meets six times per academic year, with an AGM in September. At the AGM Parent Council members are elected by the Parent Forum. The dates of the meetings for the next academic year are:

8<sup>th</sup> Sep (AGM at school)

25<sup>th</sup> October (virtual meeting)

22<sup>nd</sup> Nov (at school)

10<sup>th</sup> Jan (virtual meeting)

21<sup>st</sup> Mar (at school)

27<sup>th</sup> April (virtual meeting)

13<sup>th</sup> June (at school)

The balance of virtual and in school meetings may be altered depending on items that need to be discussed and feedback after the first few meetings.

Minutes of meetings of the Parent Council are posted on the school website: just click on 'Parents' on the Home page and then 'Parent Council' to find all the information.

#### How can I become a member of Parent Council?

We'd be delighted to see new faces at the next meeting in September! If you would like to become a member of the Parent Council you can put your name forward to be elected at the AGM. The constitution provides that membership of the Parent Council is restricted to one parent/carer from any one family. The aim is to ensure that there is a parent representative from each of the six year classes. The constitution provides that the Parent Council will comprise a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 18 parent/carers.

We want the Parent Council to be a diverse group of people with varying skills and ideas which, hopefully, bring a benefit to NBHS. Maybe you would like to know more about the sports' facilities at NBHS; maybe you'd like to find out more about how the mobile phone use policy is being implemented; maybe you are curious about homework provision; maybe you are interested in equity for school trips – all views are welcome!

The chair and vice chair are both hoping to step down at the AGM in September. If you think you might be able to fulfil these important roles and would like more information from the current post holders Anna Beedel and Sharon Wellwood please email [parentcouncil@northbewickhigh.elcschool.org.uk](mailto:parentcouncil@northbewickhigh.elcschool.org.uk)

#### Can I attend Parent Council meetings even if I am not a member of the Parent Council?

**Yes. You do not have to be a member of the Parent Council to attend our meetings; we welcome all parents who wish to attend meetings. It may be that you only want to attend meetings about particular subjects or at particular times of year and you are welcome to do so.** Please note though that only members of the Parent Council can vote on matters discussed at the Parent Council.

#### How is the Parent Council acting on feedback from the recent Parent Council survey?

As a result of feedback Parent Council meetings will take place on either Tuesdays or Thursdays; meetings will be a mixture of in-person and on-line; we will be trying to get a Sports Council up and running; and we will be discussing exam results attainment, extra-curricular activities and school trips early in the academic year. Other matters raised in the survey will be discussed in the course of the next academic year including NBHS' behaviour policy, review of NBHS' mobile phone policy, NBHS' uniform policy, inclusion of children with additional support needs, NBHS' environmental policy and parental involvement in the school community.

If you would like to be involved in the Sports Council click on this link <https://sites.google.com/edubuzz.org/northberwickhighschoolpe/home> to the school PE website. At the top of the page, there is a button to click if you are interested in volunteering.

#### How do I contact the Parent Council?

If you would like to know more about the Parent Council, if you have any general issues or concerns that you wish to raise or if you would like to attend our next meeting on 8th September then please do contact us at [parentcouncil@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk](mailto:parentcouncil@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk).

Please note that if you have an issue specific to your child then you should contact [communications@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk](mailto:communications@northberwickhigh.elcschool.org.uk)

We look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

NBHS Parent Council