

### **Preston Lodge Parent Council Meeting 3.3.22**

Present: Judith McNeill (Chair), Gavin Clark (HT), Jean Harper, Pamela Currie, Siobhan Graham, Neil Gilbert (Councillor) Claire Jamieson, Sasha Maguire, Ruth Patterson, Rachel Menzies, Russell Devine, & Jill Brown (Clerk).

**Apologies:** Fiona O'Donnell, Colin Yorkston, Malcom Graham, Lynn Russell, Pauline McGowan and Cate Duff

#### **Minutes from previous meeting and matters arising:**

These are agreed and no matters arising

#### **Ruth Patterson- Principal Teacher of Guidance**

There are 6 guidance teachers at the moment (pupil support teachers) with additional Support for Learning staff. They also teach Personal and Social Education. Key roles are attendance, tracking and target setting, individual support, communication between home, teachers and students, transition to and from PL, social education, liaison with external agencies, but it is really all about relationships. There is a high level of ASN (49%) at PL, which the team are responsible for along with Support for Learning. However, most of these students have relatively minor additional support needs. Personal and Social Education covers planning for choices and changes, physical health, substance misuse and relationships. Guidance support pupils from S1 to S6, teach PSE each week, and obtain support from other agencies when required. They are also involved in career planning and subject choices, help students to prepare for exams and also applying for jobs and further education. There are two new pupil support workers and there are also Mental Health Youth Workers to support students.

Members found the presentation extremely helpful and suggested that this be sent out to all the new S1 parents as part of transition. Gavin will look into this. Another parent thanked Ruth for all the help and support that she had given her and her child during their time at PL.

#### **Headteacher's Report**

Staffing – Laura Martin is the preferred candidate for Depute Headteacher Pupil Support position and will join us after the Easter break. There are also two new Pupil Support Workers who have been recruited to help with covid recovery until the summer break, as well as a new ASN Auxiliary. A tree planting ceremony was held for the Queen's Green Canopy jubilee project, and this was a great success. Live assemblies returned this week and they have been enjoyed by everyone. There will be uniform checks at assemblies next week because students are now expected to wear full uniform. Behaviour has been good this past week and a spike in fights (across all schools in East Lothian) seems to have gone. There will be a decision made soon about whether to continue with black shirts for S6.

### **Covid update**

The relaxation of the face coverings in classrooms has taken place, however around a third of students are still wearing these in class. The other changes are not very significant. There is still a lot of face mask fatigue amongst students, but compliance is excellent. Transition visits are now allowed and there will also be a parents' night for P7s, although this may still have to be online. The school are still awaiting guidance on school trips and all schools need to think about how they make trips cost effective for anyone. The priority, when trips return, will be a trip for first year. It may be that there will be an activity week this session, although that is not clear. The school hope to have a school dance for S6 before Easter and an S6 prom in June. There will be a leaver's event on 8 April for the S6.

### **SQA assessments**

The guide to study support should be here next week. It looks like exams will be going ahead, however there are now more covid cases nationally. The nature of the promised Study Support Guides will become clear next week. There will be Easter revision during the holidays. After the holidays it will be two days before the first exam happens. There will be a dedicated revision/study session for the S4 on 15 March. There has been a decision to not use a lot of the online resources, however, access to a new online resource will be offered to students soon. Parents asked if the tracking report can be emailed to parents rather than student post – Gavin will look into this and come back with this answer.

### **Course choices**

There have been various meetings and the website has worked well. However, the accessibility of the paper booklets do need to be improved. There will be a different course booklet for next year.

### **Area Partnership & Preston Lodge Learning Foundation**

There will be meetings next week for both of these so there will be an update at the next meeting.

### **AOB**

There was a discussion about how the Parent Council could reach the wider parent body to pass on information that is given at Parent Council and how we can pass on information to new parents. Gavin will investigate this at the next senior leadership team meeting and report back.

C02 monitors will be available for every classroom. If any turn red then ventilation should be increased. Further guidance will be issued in due course as to what will happen in the summer.

**Next meeting Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April**