

## **Preston Lodge Parent Council Meeting 6.4.22**

**Present:** Judith McNeill (Chair), Gavin Clark (HT), Siobhan Graham, Claire Jamieson, Jean Harper, Cate Duff, Laura Illingworth, Marie McMath, Jill Brown (Clerk).

**Apologies:** Rachel Menzies, Colin Yorkston, Carrie Jamieson, Fiona O'Donnell, Russell Devine, Pamela Currie, Sarah Lusk

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

Pamela Currie has retired from the Parent Council and Judith would like to thank her for all her work.

Tracking reports are unable to be emailed out to parents.

Gavin will speak to SLT on how to reach the wider parent body.

### **Laura Illingworth PT Humanities**

Laura introduced herself and gave us some information on her background. She leads the Humanities team and has enjoyed working at PL since arriving. She leads the Student Council, which is being worked on. She also works on attainment as a whole-school remit, and a working group has been set up for this. There have been study skills sessions introduced for S4 and S5. The school are looking to get more parents and carers into school and they are setting up a "How to Pass" evening. They are applying for funding for water, tissues and calculators to have a stall for students going into the exams. Laura also talked about her role as a subject PT, detailing the work that goes on behind the scenes in supporting a busy department.

### **Head teachers report**

There has been clear guidance issued on trips and these will be starting up again. Next term there will be more information issued to parents. Course choices are completed and there has been a big increase in the number of students applying for Foundation Apprenticeships. Students will hear the outcome of their choices in May. The new timetable will start on the 6<sup>th</sup> June. There has been a photographer in school to take student photos, and he fed back how engaged the students were in the process. There are some students leaving this week. There is still no update on whether there will be a prize-giving this year. There has been a spate of fire alarms going off in the last couple of weeks, which is something, unfortunately, that affects all schools from time to time. The school are working hard to resolve this issue.

### **Staffing update**

Yvonne Binks leaves on Friday and will be a big loss to the school. Laura Martin will start after Easter. Guidance staffing will be increased with another member of staff recruited, which is a big step in the right direction to making guidance teacher caseloads more stable. General staffing is in a good place.

### **Covid Staffing**

This has been a battle however the school have managed to keep home learning to a minimum. The number of students with covid is now decreasing. Staffing absence has also decreased.

### **Covid**

There is no further update but it is expected that things will return close to normal working after the Easter break. Warn and inform letters will continue until 29<sup>th</sup> April, but procedures for face coverings is currently still unknown. The CO2 monitors are all in place and there have been very few examples of them not being green. There is still a small supply of covid tests at the office for collection.

### **SQA Update**

There is an update to be issued tomorrow which will detail procedures for exams. There will also be a link to the booklet issued by the SQA on exams and what to expect. Assessment arrangements has been complicated due to students changing levels, but these will be finalised this week. Exams now look certain to go ahead, therefore grade estimates are not as significant as previously. Invigilators are all in place for the exams to start.

### **Online Parents Meetings**

There will be a survey sent out next term to get parents views on whether to hold parents' evenings online or face to face. There was a discussion around the pros and cons of online versus face to face Parent's Evenings.

### **Parent Council Funding**

There is £265 for the next financial year.

### **Area Partnership**

There are various courses being run through the Area Partnership, and this information was sent out via email. There has been a cookbook produced that focuses on non-cooked food. Can this be used in school? The AGM for the Area Partnership is in May and will be held face-to-face. Funding requests have to be lodged soon.

### **Preston Lodge Learning Foundation**

There was a meeting recently, and Rachel joined this as Parent Council rep. Cate will join in June. Some funding proposals were discussed, and cameras were agreed to be purchased for the Art department. Peter Ford has stepped down as chair and Colin Yorkston will take on this role.

### **AOB**

A parent mentioned how nice it was to see the obituary for David Allan, the previous head teacher who sadly passed away.

**Date of next meeting Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022**