

## **Preston Lodge Parent Council Meeting 5.5.22**

**Present:** Judith McNeill (Chair), Gavin Clark (HT), Laura Martin, Rachel Menzies, Russell Devine, Claire Jamieson, Sasha Maguire, Cate Duff, Jean Harper, Jill Brown (Clerk).

**Apologies:** Gillian Neilson, Marie McMath, Siobhan Bruce, Malcolm Graham, Carrie Thomson, Colin Yorkston, Neil Gilbert, Fiona O'Donnell

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

None

### **Introduction from Laura Martin**

Laura has come from a DHT role in Fife and was previously in Edinburgh. She has an English teaching background and developed a passion for pastoral support. Her role at PL will be DHT with responsibility for Support for learning, Inclusion and Guidance. She has already noticed how friendly and open the students and staff have been. It is evident that the staff really know the pupils at school. The warmth of the school has been noted and she has had a really good first impression. Going forward she will be looking at nurture, diversity and a positive school experience for all pupils. There appears to be an aura of calm around the school and she feels it is a very respectful environment.

### **Covid update**

There have only been a very small number of student covid cases in the school. There were concerns over the exams in case students were to become ill and be unable to take part, but the amount of students asking for Exceptional Circumstances has been very minimal. There has been a large reduction in the number of students wearing face coverings in school, which is happening in all schools across the country. The school looks and feels more like it did pre-covid. There is very little evidence of poor air quality from CO2 monitors and asymptomatic testing has now stopped for both staff and students.

### **SQA Update**

The exams have started really well. The Assembly Hall has not been used for the exams and classrooms have been used instead. This option has been near universally welcomed by the students. Assessments have also gone well so far and the students seem to be coping and are not overly anxious. There was a fire alarm on the first day of exams but there was minimal disruption, and there have been no more false alarms since then. A parent fed back that it has been a positive experience for their child. The revision sessions over Easter went really well.

### **School Improvement Plan**

There will be a parental survey sent out to all parents shortly. At the next meeting Gavin would like to have an open discussion regarding some areas of the survey. One of the areas to be discussed will be how we can improve parental engagement. Students have already been asked for their views on the school. Gavin will send out an evaluated school improvement plan 21-22 to the members of the parent council to inform members thinking.

### **School Events**

School events have returned – the S1 Health Day will be on the 17<sup>th</sup> May, which will involve a 5k walk in the afternoon. Evening events may return in due course, such as Parents' Evenings. Prize giving will also return with a reduced capacity, perhaps only allowing one parent per student due to covid mitigations. There will be more non-academic awards than academic awards as previously should this event run.

### **Head Teacher Update**

Staffing: Hannah Craigie will return to her PT role after the summer, but she will retain some SLT responsibility for attainment data. Andrew Christianson will start as a Guidance Teacher on 30 May and Ruth Patterson will return to school after the summer. This will put guidance back to fully staffed.

A number of chrome books that were handed out during covid have never been used. Students will not be asked to hand them back but this will be looked into. The Chromebooks need to be updated regularly. One parent commented that students don't use them in class and Gavin confirmed chrome books are still used in class but those belonging to students are not used consistently. Students were asked to bring them in on return to school after home learning, but the uptake of this was poor. Gavin will find out what is happening with the Scottish Government pledge for every child to have access to a device.

Tracking for S1,2 and 3 will be out soon but the S3 tracking report will be data only, due to the full report that was distributed at the start of the year. Laura Martin is working on transition for P7's and there will be an Outdoor Challenge Day for them next week. This will be mainly be a fun day to start the transition process and S1 classes will be during the 3 day visit in June.

### **Charitable Trust**

There was no specific update and the next meeting will be in June. Friends of PL will be getting promoted.

### **Area Partnership**

There was no update on this, the next meeting for this will be next week.

**AOB**

None

**Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at Preston Lodge High School