



#### **4. Head Teacher's Update**

New members of staff had been appointed in Expressive Arts, English, Maths, Modern Studies and HE and probationary teachers had been retained in Art and Chemistry. There were two new probationary teachers this year in Physics and PE. The school would be advertising teaching posts in Drama, Music and PE and would be recruiting Pupil Support staff.

On the in-service day at the beginning of term, the year of the career had been launched (last year had been the year of learning from mistakes) which involved making skills development explicit in classrooms. Linda Kirkwood, Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) consultant, and Annette Bruton, Principal Edinburgh College had given talks to pupils on this. The school was working with Skills Development Scotland and primary schools on a 5 year plan to track skills development and now had a link with the college. There was a link on the school website to the Skills Development website, My World of Work.

5<sup>th</sup> years were taking part in a YPI competition to research and make presentations on local charities and the winning group would receive £3000 from the Wood Group to give to their charity. Tuesday afternoons would be used for pupils to go out of school to volunteer in the local community.

**PR** said that 1<sup>st</sup> year pupils were settling in well and he had seen some 1<sup>st</sup> years perform an interesting play on road safety. Angela Leitch, Chief Executive ELC, had visited the ASN Department.

A number of pupils had achieved sporting successes. Joanne Free from last year's S6 had captained the Scotland team at the European Girls golf championship in Norway. Dylan Bleakey had been chosen for the Scottish Disability Junior Swimming squad. Alex Cook had achieved Grade 5 distinction in her ISTD ballet exams. Megan Kivlin, won the U25 Scottish Bowls tournament – the youngest ever to win this category. Catherine Brownlee won gold at a schools judo competition.

#### **5. Finance Update**

There was £461.85 in the Parent Council bank account at 1 August 2016. The Parent Council's share of takings from the raffle at the summer show (£120 minus expenses) was £90.

#### **6. Parents' Queries**

End of year trips would be launched at the same time. Mereweather school from Australia would be visiting Tranent this year on their rugby and hockey tour.

In response to a parent query, **PR** said that the school welcomed the use of mobile phones and smart technology by pupils in the school.

#### **7. School Improvement Plan and Standards and Quality Report**

These documents were circulated and discussed at the meeting. The Improvement Plan outlined ways to seek the opinions of pupils and parents. A new Principal Teacher would be appointed to focus on learning and teaching and classroom practice. Parental input into Google Classroom was being piloted in one maths class. Support structures for pupils within the school would

continue to be adapted and improved. Ross High was involved in pilot work on developing work experience in the senior phase of the school.

The Standards and Quality Report helped the school to recognise its strengths and what it was not doing well. In response to a question about what the school was aiming to improve, **PR** said that: skills development was not explicit enough; some curriculum areas needed to continue to improve; every pupil should leave school with at least 5 qualifications; more work was needed to help pupils with poor attendance; and the aim was for attainment to continue to improve. **PR** would produce a summary of the report to post on the school website.

**PR**

#### **8. AGM**

The Parents' Forum AGM would be held at the beginning of the next Parent Council meeting in September.

#### **9. Named Person**

**PR** said that this had been put on hold by the Supreme Court. However, ELC had been implementing the new legislation correctly.

#### **10. Fundraising**

The Burns' Night would be held again on a different date to that of the Tranent Burns' Club. **DG** said that he would check this. The Parent Council would also hold a quiz night.

**DG**

**PR** mentioned [yourschoollottery.co.uk](http://yourschoollottery.co.uk) as a fundraising option.

An item would be added to the next Agenda on how to engage/inform the Parents' Forum.

**NNicholls**

#### **11. AOCB**

**GW** and **NNeighbour** would attend the next Fa'side Area Partnership meeting on 25 October 2016. There were also meetings of East Lothian Association of Parent Council Members (ELAPCM) which Ross High Parent Council representatives were invited to attend.

**Date of Parents' Forum AGM and Parent Council Meeting: Tuesday 27 September 2016**