



ROSS HIGH PARENT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

Dear Parent/Carer (Parents Forum Member)

The year began with the new theme of “Year of Career”. Launched at the in-service day at the start of term, this involved making skills development explicit in classrooms. This initiative was well received and successful. Senior School course choices have been expanded to include courses at Queen Margaret University and Edinburgh College. The school now has a strong partnership with Charles River Laboratories, one of the top three employers in East Lothian, for work experience placements and links with the Science Faculty.

Exam results were positive, with a record breaking year for Advanced Higher results. Literacy and Numeracy levels have increased in the school for three years consecutively.

Celebrations of Success and a Graduation Ceremony for 6th Year pupils were well received by parents, pupils and staff. The ethos of the school, is positive and continuously improving with a focus on Growth Mindset.

There is an active Health and Wellbeing Group in the school, involving staff, pupils and partners in the local community. The group learned about mindfulness, cognitive behavioural therapy and nutrition. Fizz Free February was launched as a result.

Our second Burns Supper was held in January with the excellent catering being provided in-house. It was a great community event with local speakers, teachers and pupils taking part. This event will be repeated in 2018.

There have been many sporting successes throughout the year both during school and extra curricular, culminating with another excellent Sports Personality of the Year awards.

The Parent Council would like to record its thanks to Head Teacher Paul Reynolds and his Senior Management Team as they continue to lead improvement, as well as our local councillors who have continued strong support of the school and representative attendance at our meetings during the year.

The Parent Council would also like to record its thanks to Nicky Nicholls our clerk who stepped down during this year. We extend a warm welcome to Veronica Brown as our new clerk.

Our regular Parent Council meetings have had wide and varied discussions over the year including:

- Staffing – there has been an increased flow of staff movement this year of which parent council representatives have been involved in senior recruitment. Recruiting and

maintaining the best staff possible within the current budgets continues to be critical to the experience and outcomes for Ross High pupils.

- Attainment – The Parent Council continues to support the core aim of raising of attainment. This year’s Higher and Advanced Higher results are very positive and the Parent Council have assisted with ongoing feedback and development of Tracking Reports.
- Positive Destinations/Preparing pupils – Management continue to explore further change and improvement to the destinations of all pupils into the world of work and study. This year’s “Year of Career” has kept this in focus.
- School Improvement Plan and Standards & Quality Report – The Parent Council engage with the Head Teacher at an early stage to provide a sounding board for plans and reports.
- Parental Questionnaires – The Parent Council reviewed the feedback from the annual questionnaire and planned how to get an increased response rate next year.
- Parental Involvement Strategy – The Parent Council have been actively involved with this strategy and in an East Lothian sub group to produce a condensed, parent-friendly version of the strategy. This strategy is informed by other Scottish Government policy initiatives: Getting it Right for Every Child; and How Good is Your School.
- Governance Review – The Parent Council actively responded as a group to the Scottish Government Questionnaire about the funding and management of schools.
- Fundraising – the Quiz night is growing and the Burns Night was a great success. The Parent Council also provided help with raffles at the school show and concerts. They have been investigating a school lottery programme and are also members of Easy Fundraising. They are continually looking for new ways to fundraise, including applying for funds from central resources.

Parent Council meetings take place on the last Tuesday of the month at 7pm in the School Meeting Room.

All parents/carers are welcome to attend meetings or ask any Parent Council member to raise issues that affect the wider school. Details of members, agendas and minutes can be found at:

<http://edubuzz.org/rosshighparentcouncil/>

<http://www.facebook.com/RossHighSchoolParentCouncil>

Gail Walshe (Chair)

Ross High Parent Council