



## **ROSS HIGH PARENT COUNCIL**

### **ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018**

Dear Parent/Carer (Parents Forum Member)

The year began with the 'Year of Character' and the school working hard towards Level 2 Rights Respecting School which was achieved in November 2017. Ross High School is the first school in East Lothian to be awarded Level 2.

Celebrations of Success and a Graduation Ceremony for 6<sup>th</sup> Year pupils were well received by parents, pupils and staff. The ethos of the school is positive and continuously improving with a key focus this year being the introduction of an Expected Standards document for pupils and staff.

The Parent Council have been very involved in the Parental Engagement Strategy formation. The strategy for 2017 is to make parent involvement in the schools a priority at a level that is right for each parent. A survey was sent out to all parents and the results collated. We aim to build on this each year. A Parental Engagement Conference was planned as a result and well attended with workshops available to help parents and children in a variety of ways from wellbeing to study techniques.

The Parent Council were also involved in the response to the Educations Bill – Empowering Schools Consultation. They represented Ross High at East Lothian level and had a large involvement in formulating the response to the Bill. Special thanks to Nicky Neighbour for disseminating the information to the Parent Council and co-ordinating our response to the Bill.

The Christmas Fayre was successfully run by the Enterprise group. A fabulous Burns Supper was held in January 2018 with local speakers, teachers and children taking part. This event will be repeated in 2019. In April we welcomed the band Soulacoaster, supported by two further bands as a fundraiser and it was well attended by parents and the wider community.

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.

YPI – The Youth Philanthropy Initiative finals were hotly contested and the feedback from the judging panel was that the participants showed a high level of confidence and knowledge making it difficult to choose a winner.

2019 will see work begin on the High School extension and refurbishment. Consultation has taken place throughout 2017-2018.

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 in a period of ongoing curricular change 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 Julie Robertson for her commitment to the Parent Council, having “retired” at the end of June 2018.

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

- Staffing – Recruiting and maintaining the best staff possible within 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 attainment. This year’s Higher and Advanced Higher results are very positive.
- 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.
- School Improvement Plan and Standards and Quality Report – The Parent Council engage with the Head Teacher at an early stage to engage with this process as much as possible.
- Fundraising – The Burns Supper and Soulacoaster evenings were a great success. We 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/blogs/rosshighparentcouncil>

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

Gail Walshe (Chair)

Ross High Parent Council