

includes the toilets too (these came up as an area of concern during discussion at the event). Discussion followed about appropriate provision to meet all needs. PR said that it was likely there would be a mix of toilets to accommodate everyone; boys, girls, gender neutral, disabled, open plan and separate cubicles.

PR is delighted with the outcome of the planning day and thanks to everyone who came along, much appreciated. NN said thanks for inviting the parents to take part in the SIP.

4. Head Teacher's update

Staffing

There is a number of positions at the school advertised at the moment, for example a Teacher in Chemistry. It will also be announced soon who the NQT will be for 2019/20.

Events

The S6 end of term went really well with the pupils being very much involved in the celebrations. They played lacer tags, was given their hoodies and had their pictures taken. The Graduation evening went really well and GW mentioned that every pupil of the 90 that graduated was mentioned so lots of work had gone into it.

The exams for the seniors are in full swing and although difficult to know before the results are in, seem to have gone smoothly.

S2 Enterprise pupils went to the Skyscanner office in Edinburgh who had organised a creative thinking workshop together with Edinburgh College. They had a great time.

S3 Graphic Communication pupils went on a trip to the East Fortune Museum of flight.

Pinsent Masons Law firm in Edinburgh offered two pupils an experience of the world of law and the feedback was that it was absolutely amazing as this is just what they want to do. The school has close connections with many companies who also offer experiences into their work. More info in the daily information page on the website or speaking to the Teachers. Skills Development Scotland (SDS) is also great for finding pupil placements. PR will just double-check so all info is available for everyone.

Sports

There have been lots of successes in sport with Hockey and Rugby achievements. Golf won the East Lothian golf event as well as the team event. Several pupils had fantastic achievements in swimming. Also in football winning 9-8 on penalties. Well done.

The school has won an award from Edinburgh campus for the best school for linking with college. Well deserved.

5. The Parental Engagement Strategy 2019

GF is collecting the data from the responses from the Parental Engagement evaluation survey for pupils, staff and parents. ELC had a Parental Engagement survey circulated just before the school survey went out and some parents got confused and thought it was the same one they already completed. Because of this, the school survey had a low participation. About 75% who completed it were positive and added nice comments, for example of parent's night and engagement from school. The responses will be available for the next PC meeting and PR suggested going through it together to have the input of the PC members on how to use the data and what can be published, as this needs to be anonymous.

PR said that the responses from both surveys would be looked at to see if there is a pattern for what can be done better and what is done well already. NN said that if parents can see changes and that things that they raised are taken on board, they might be more inclined to follow up and be more involved in school.

NN attended the book launch with Dr Janet Goodall who is an inspirational speaker. She had emphasized that the parent engagement is with the child and not about how engaged parents are in school. Family learning is the key and for parents to engage themselves by raising awareness and know-how. PR said that the school is helping to raise awareness of parental engagement and involvement through twitter and links on the

PR

website. RA said that it is great to have the daily information sheet with info which also benefit new families coming from the catchments, because they get an understanding of some of the things that are going on so it is not a shock when they are starting.

6. Finance Update

Balance of bank account at 30th April 2019 is £790.18.

7. Fundraising

The fundraising for next session 2019/20 was discussed. The members are keen to have a Bingo night or a Quiz night in September and GF will try to find a date that suits.

The popular Burns night in January will also be held and will be discussed nearer the time.

8. Area Partnership

The next Area Partnership (AP) meeting is being held on the 4th June and DM reminded everyone to get their bids in quickly to not miss out on funding opportunities.

GW and NN asked the PC members to have a think about taking over the role as being AP representative for Ross High School Parent Council. The AP decides where the monies from the ELC are being spent on in the community and there is one seat allocated to us on the committee, which means having voting rights on projects that are important to the area. They meet four times a year currently in Tranent Town House, always at 7pm. A member and a substitute member are needed.

9. Parents' Queries

A question about why the trip to Blackpool wasn't open to second years for activities week? PR said that this is disappointing however we are trying to fix the problem with attendance so it was decided that the senior pupils were going on trips with seniors only this year, to try and increase participation. It might also be possible to look into bringing the activities week forward to try to improve the attendance that way.

Another question was asked about the school not being able to offer Advanced Higher in Spanish, which is a concern since many pupils have this as their second language. PR said that it comes down to number of pupils, teacher availability and a tight budget. There are subjects that are at risk however the final decision isn't made until June-time. There are solutions where the High schools are working together and also with Edinburgh College. This means that pupils might need to travel to take their course of choice unless the school can pull pupils from other schools and make up a class that way. Some pupils might miss out on other classes if they are travelling however the travel costs are met if the pupils are willing to do it.

10. AOCB

It was suggested that the PC members have a think about taking over as Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer so this can be discussed at the meeting on the 28th May. The positions will also be advertised through social media, cluster schools, the Area Partnership and the East Lothian Association of Parent Council Members (ELAPCM). There will be a transition evening on 13th June where the PC will be represented to promote the PC to P7 parents to get as many as possible to come along to the AGM on 24th September 2019.

It was also suggested to look into the possibility to amend the constitution to add more PC representatives with the increasing school roll for the future.

Date of Next Meetings:

Next Parent Council meeting will be held on 28th May 2019.

GF