



ROSS HIGH PARENT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

Dear Parent/Carer (Parents Forum Member)

The year began with the 'Year of High Standards' and the school looking towards the school expansion, with the first viewing of the planned school building extension.

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.

The Parent Council have been actively involved in the Parental Engagement Strategy development. The strategy for 2018/19 was to make parent involvement in the schools a priority at a level that is right for each parent. We aim to build on this each year. The second Parental Engagement Conference, 'Understanding Our School', was well attended with workshops available to help parents and children in a variety of ways from wellbeing to study techniques. This year we also included parents of P6 and P7 in the cluster to help engage them at an early stage. We hoped to also build on the Parental Engagement evaluation survey, however East Lothian Council also issued a Parental Engagement Survey at the same time so this caused a reduced response in comparison with last year. The results of both surveys have been analysed and any improvement points will be progressed.

East Lothian Council issued a consultation regarding the Common School Day. The Parent Council were presented with Ross High School's plans for these changes, including curriculum structure, and feedback was given. The school is liaising with East Lothian Council and the Parent Council as to the ongoing process with the changes being implemented in 2020.

The Christmas Fayre was successfully run by the Enterprise group. A fabulous Burns Supper was held in January 2019 with local speakers, teachers and children taking part. This event will be repeated in 2020. We are keen to get parents to use Easy Fundraising when ordering online as this is a great way to raise funds for the school.

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.

The Parent Council would like to record its thanks to Head Teacher Paul Reynolds and his Senior Leadership 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 is grateful to the Fa'side Area Partnership for its support over the year too.

The Parent Council would also like to record its thanks to Beverley Esamal, Nicky Neighbour, Aileen Muir and Gail Walshe for their commitment to the Parent Council, having "retired" at the end of June 2019.

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 of attainment.
- Positive Destinations/Preparing pupils – the school, supported by the Parent Council 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 engaged with the Head Teacher at an early stage to provide a sounding board for plans and reports and members took part in the school's improvement planning day.
- Fundraising – The Burns Supper was a great success. We are continually looking for new ways to fundraise, including applying for funds from central resources.
- East Lothian and Scotland wide responses to Government consultations, surveys and action plans.

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>

Lynn Donohoe (Chair)

Ross High Parent Council