

Falkirk High School Parent Council Minutes
Monday 21 September 2020
Virtual Zoom Meeting held at 1900 hrs.

Agenda item	Detail	Action
Welcome and Attendees	Karen Hunter (200 Club), Stuart Kelly (Headteacher), Laura Marshall, Nicola McEwen (Chair), Lyn Bennet (Secretary), Bryan Watt (Treasurer) Emily Struthers, Pamela Sinclair, Fiona Shearer	
(1) Apologies	Pam Taylor	
(2) Head Teacher's Report	SK provided an update from the last meeting in June. The challenging and changing nature of information in relation to COVID-19 has been difficult for the school to respond to. A number of different scenarios were explored and developed in May and June with the school running on 33% and 50% capacity. This all changed following the announcement in July for a fully return to school. Regardless of all the changes and the reduced time the school has made a good start to the session. Staffing was discussed in relation to the impact of staff members previously shielding. This initially had an impact but through OH and HR support all staff have now returned. Katie McAllister – HOH for MacKay will be off for an extended period of time as she receives treatment for her illness. Alan Waddell from English is acting up as Head of House for MacKay. As a result of Alan's appointment – Leona Hepburn from HE will take on the role of Acting PT Positive Destinations formerly held by Alan. Howard Marshall Faculty Head of Technologies will be retiring at the October break after 28 years' service to FHS. The backfill for Howard will be Garry Robertson who will take on the role as Acting Faculty Head until June 2021. All 6 probationer teachers started and are doing well. SK reminded the meeting that the principles set out on reopening the school continue to be: • Health and Safety of pupils and staff • Health and Wellbeing of pupils and staff • Learning and Teaching Operating procedures were explained in line with the opening principles and Risk Assessment. Basic principles being BGE and SP are separate. Lunch and interval arrangements are separate. BGE go first with a 5 minute change over where we have cleaners who wipe all desks and seats down before the seniors come into the dining hall. We are aware of the longer afternoons for the BGE pupils on a Tuesday and Thursday and will be proposing a solution. However, there are a number of constraints that have prevented us from doing this sooner.	

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	With respect to cleaning - we have an additional 3 day time cleaners in the school who have the responsibility to constantly circulate around the school and clean all touch points – bannisters, push pads, door handles. They also have the responsibility to clean rooms when we have had a young person displaying COVID-19 symptoms. The room is taken out of commission until it receives what is defined as a Level 3 clean. <u>Moving Forward</u> The school has developed a Recovery Plan in conjunction with Falkirk Council which is based around 3 key areas: • Health and Wellbeing • Moving Learning Forward • Transitions – P7 and after school This replaces the School Improvement Plan for the time being. Health/Wellbeing - In response to this a PT Wellbeing post has been advertised to provide support for pupils and staff to develop and support their health and wellbeing. The restrictions have had a significant impact on a school community and it is felt important that the school offers the best possible support both universal and targeted interventions. Re - establishment of pupil voice through our JSMT and PSMT Teams. Moving Learning Forward – Supported Study virtually over October holidays and weekends, diagnostic assessment tools via CEM, restart of in school supported study and family learning opportunities. Obviously parent progress evenings cannot continue in their current forms. To that end school have brought forward an interim/settling report for S1-S3 pupils before the October Holiday and the Senior Tracking will also be brought forward to before the October holiday. There are ongoing discussions about the information in the tracking reports and currently under review – working grade introduced. Ultimately, we are aiming for a face to face virtual parents meeting and were involved in a pilot of a system with other schools that seemed to go well. We have also convened a Parental Engagement Group to help us explore new ways of communicating virtually and would welcome 2 parents to feed into the group. The Connected Falkirk initiative is moving forward apace – SK updated on this initiative as a project that will transform learning and teaching using digital technology as a tool. All pupils from P6-S6 will be provided with a device – before December. As part of the RA – Protocols are in place for pupil and staff who are displaying symptoms of COVID. Difficult to discern the difference between a cold and COVID but advice to parents has been provided. Due to the requirements of the Health Protection Track and Trace procedures	

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	we have class seating lists of all pupils that we can access 24hrs a day if we receive communication from them following a positive test result. Health Protection then are heavily involved and manage the response. They contact parents with the decisions regarding self-isolation etc. The school has had no positive cases but there have been some linked with Falkirk Schools – where this is the case the protocol has been effectively tested. SQA SK spoke to the SQA results – outlining the process that took place this year with respect to awards. The school has performed in line with our expectations and the tracking data we had generated. SK reminded parents that the results in August are only for SQA courses – schools across Scotland offer many more courses for young people of which the results are not reflected publicly until the Insight Senior Benchmarking tool is released in October. However, the results are very positive and we have a strong concordance with our estimates and the initial results awarded in August. The revised estimates are also in line with the improving attainment trend for the school and are not significantly over inflated as has been the case in some areas. So as a school we were not hugely disadvantaged by the algorithm that was used by SQA. There were definitely anomalies with regards the level of passes and boundaries for some pupils but overall this was roughly in line with our predictions. All the Breadth and Depth measures, the benchmark data for each year group S4, S5 and S6, have improved. This is across the board proving we are getting it right for all our learners and very pleasingly were ranked second in the authority with the number of pupils in S6 achieving 1+ Level 7 Advanced Higher at 22%. We had a significant focus on the middle 60% of learners last session and this has also pulled through to improvement in S4 and S5 with our 5+@Level 4 and 1+,3+@ Level 6 showing improvement. Moving forward with SQA the landscape is ever changing indeed. No updates from SQA and had expected a clear position statement from them by the end of August - this has now been held off until October. Significant teaching time already lost and need a position statement asap. SK reiterated that he will continue to update parents as quickly as he can as we access the information that comes at both a local and national level.	
(3)Maters Raised	LM asked if it was possible that pupils could wear casual clothes on PE days. SK stated that this week they had been piloting the use of some of the senior pupils utilising changing rooms and that they were awaiting guidance from	

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	SG. In the interim each facility was encouraged to consider outdoor learning. It is anticipated that each facility will be able to have a gazebo. LB asked if the council had made plans to secure other premises in the area if we move to some form of blended learning as other areas i.e. Dundee were publicising they aim to make use of church halls etc. SK is not aware if FDC are looking into this but there is a HT meeting soon and he will report back. ES asked if pupils & parents could be shown how to use Teams more effectively. SK that pupils have time in PEP for this and both Robert in ITC and H of House are there to help. Teachers will have sufficient training with the new I Pads to assist pupils. PS asked if schools in the area could share more resources/guidance/best practises. FS asked if teachers could ensure full details of homework were on both Satchel 1 & Teams LM requested if there is a return to home schooling that the teachers review the style of teams as some of the work was uploaded and could have been explained better. Also that S1 were missing out not just on the normal transition experience but also now on the practical subjects since moving to FH. RM advised that they will be doing videos for P7s moving up. There will also be a digital information evening & a tour to meet staff. It will include science experiments and it will be titled transition in a box. Having P7s up into school will depend on a risk assessment.	
(4) Treasurer's Report	The balance on the main school account is £967.60. £20 licence fee has still to be paid £300 has to be paid out in prizes for The 200 Club It was agreed that £1500 should be given to the school for the payment of SMH app N McE stated that moving forward we required to consider more fund raising ideas	
(5) 200 Club Update/Draw	KH confirmed there are 78 Members in The 200 Club No draws have taken place over the summer period It was suggested that we make the process more digital – LM will share Comely Park process for similar club with KH School to send out a Group Call to promote The 200 club especially with S1 parents	
(7) Dates of Next Meeting	Next meeting will be on 24 November and the AGM meeting will be incorporated	