**Parent Council**

**TUESDAY 12/09/2023**

**Forrester High School**

**Present**; Jackie Barn (Deputy Chair), Martin Ennis (DHT), Emma Spence (Treasurer), Sandra Donaldson (Secretary), Samm Hamilton, Letitia Wilson

**1.Welcome** Welcomed ME – standing in for Stephen Rafferty as he is absent from school at the moment. The school is looking to appoint an Acting HT in the interim period.

**2. Apologies/ action points**. Mark Peart, Susan Stevens, Kate MacPhie, Euan Hyslop

* JB confirmed the basketball strip photos were sent to Corstorphine Rotary Club & Corstorphine Trust to show them what their donations paid for
* No volunteers to take over Chair role – SD to get in touch with Connect to see where this leaves us.
* Unsure whether Chairpersons report from AGM has been received.

**3. Head Teacher Update**

Staffing has improved this year showing a fuller complement of staff across the school.

Business Education - Sarah Carnegie is now Curriculum Leader for both Business Education and Computing.

English is fully staffed - Jennifer McNeil joined the team at the start of this academic year. We have one current temporary teacher covering for maternity until January.

Social Subjects – we have 1 probationer teacher, Calum McKean.

CDT have now recruited an extra member of staff, Garry McCammon.

HE fully recruited from the start of this academic session. However, there's one staff member currently absent for the short term.

Maths has a new curriculum leader - Sarah Batten. We are currently trying to recruit for 1 further teacher of Maths. We also have 1 probation this year, Graeme Mackie.

Science has a full complement.

PE – we have 1 probationer teacher, Ailsa Gault.

Pupil Support Leaders – back to full complement of 3 full time teachers.

Support for Learning – we have an Acting Curriculum Leader until December, Nicky Murphy. We are currently short of 2 Pupil Supports Assistants however, we have an ongoing recruitment drive.

Enhanced Support Base and Well-being Hub are also short of Pupil Support Assistants and again a recruitment process is underway.

Attainment is improving with the widening of access to other qualifications in the senior phase.

The school is looking at the structure of the day and the curriculum model to further increase pathways for young people and to raise and celebrate achievement and attainment.

S6 senior team appointed following applications and interviews, and they are bringing back house identities. There are plans for S1 team building in December. There is a student council/student voice Programme being re-established to drive change.

For the curriculum, S3s have had a free choice of courses without restrictions this year. This will help with their selections for S4, and the attainment should improve as a result of these changes.

There will be a 32 period a week rather than 28 from next session. This will allow students to sit seven subjects rather than six, increasing personal choice, pathways and school attainment and achievement opportunities.

A range of our senior students are engaged in a mental health programme and all S5 are engaged in our Mentors in Violence Protection programme.

Our school show this year is ‘Greece’, scheduled for June 2024

The school will re-establish our values with S1 students.

123 iPads have been issued to S1 students.

Our attainment hub is now supporting students from S3 upwards.

**4. Supported self-evaluation**

We had around 10 visitors in school from CEC to complete a Self-Supported Evaluation of our school. We are due an HMIe inspection imminently.

Along with a range of classroom visits, there were discussions with focus groups across the school community. The outcome of the visit will be formalised in a report in the next few days.

Three members of the Parent Council attended one of the meetings during the visit, supporting the progress made on attendance and school personal attainment. We highlighted the impact of COVID and the slow recovery from this. Talked about some lived experiences. Most reports published don't talk about positive destinations and are not comparing like for like.

**The positives are:**

Improved learning and teaching approaches across the school

Ethos - routines consistencies well embedded

Structure and routine evident with *The Forrester Way* (Forrester in Action) taking shape in most lessons.

The mobile phone policy was noted as having a very positive impact on students’ ability to engage with learning.

Respect for learners

Being courteous

Wanting to learn

Staff enthusiasm

**Areas needed to improve:**

Further consistency of approaches to learning & teaching in all classrooms

Learning & teaching – we need to demand more of our learners (pace & challenge)

We need to review and limit the school improvement plan – be more specific about the targets we will set to achieve this academic year.

**6. Treasurers Report & Plans for PC Money**

At the end of last year, the cheques that were outstanding have now been cashed. The balance is £683.37. A new amount is due in September. There will be a new request for funding for the football teams, as there are two football teams – one in S4 and one S5/S6.

Unsure whether further referee fees will need paid again this year. The students and teachers are paying at the moment - liaise with John MacPhie. Query on how the selection of the football teams is being made as only 20 out of 29 kids were picked. There does not seem to be any opportunity for others to go training without being in the team. ME pointed out that support for the football is all voluntary and they rely on parents. Unfortunately, there is currently no volunteer for the S4 team. For club football they need parents who are trained in PVG etc. School football relies on teachers. They are only allowed to take 16 players to games.

JB to speak to John MacPhie about funding requests for extracurricular activities. For Edinburgh leisure it is Shona Clark, providing the extra curricular programmes through active schools. JB and ES to discuss what the PC money will be used for this school year & consider applying for funding from local organisations again.

**7. Any Other Business**

Looking for parent volunteers for the parent evening. JB to get the dates for the parent evenings, and we will try to get a rota from the parent council. Looking to provide tea, coffee & maybe soup for teachers and parents. Eilidh McLaren is hosting a parent coffee evening on Wednesday the 1st of November at 4:30 – any volunteers. It would be good if sufficient notice was given on all events to get volunteers, as work plans may need to be a rearranged etc.

We had previously discussed doing outreach to clubs outside school to get more parents involved in the parent council – do we still want to try this?

Parking - could there be signage put up. Again, who would be responsible/police this.

Local gardens - there have been instances when younger years have been walking to the chippy and throwing litter into gardens, drawing on windows etc. PC Miller has been involved and they have held an assembly on this.

Lisa Coffey will be putting something out to the S6s for a voluntary patrol. There is a lack of bins on route. This seems to be mostly S1s.

School menu - discussion around choice quality and queues. There does not seem to be the option to ask for a particular meal and they will only give out set meals. For example, if somebody wanted a burger and salad, they have to take a burger and fries. ME will look into this.

There will be a P7 information afternoon – 6th October.

**Action points**

* JB to get AGM chair report from Lorraine
* SD to get in touch with Connect regarding vacant chairperson role
* JB to email John MacPhie to find out dates for parents evenings.
* JB to email PC to ask for volunteers for each of the parents evenings & also for volunteers for coffee evening on 1st November
* JB to speak to John MacPhie about funding requests extracurricular activities
* JB and ES to discuss plans for PC money for this year & consider applying for funding for external local organisations.

**Dates of PC meetings:**

**12 September 2023**

**14 November 2023**

**16 January 2024**

**12 March 2024**

**23 April 2024**

**11 June 2024 (AGM)**