

Parent Council

TUESDAY 12/03/2024

Forrester High School

Present; Jackie Barn (Deputy Chair), John Johnstone (Acting Head Teacher), Emma Spence (Treasurer), Sandra Donaldson (Secretary), Sann Hamilton, April Forsyth, James Hardacre, Kate Givan, Cllr Euan Hyslop, Julie Scott

1. Welcome Welcomed new parent.

2. Apologies/ action points. Euan Hyslop

- JJ confirmed that any language can now be taken without the condition that French is also taken
- ES confirmed £200 funding given for YPI and cheque has been cashed
- JB sent emails to Corstorphine Trust and Rotary Club about funding for Activities Week and they have agreed – still to discuss how much
- JB sent Chair role summary – to be included in the minutes for this meeting
- ES has now cashed the £150 cheque from the last meeting (from Laetitia)

3. Head Teacher Update

There were 2 vacancies in the office. Recruitment will take place in the coming weeks. For the Enhanced Support Base (ESB), there are 2 PSA vacancies and there have been 20 applicants. There is a new Maths teacher, due to start after Easter. The department is now fully staffed.

For CDT, one of the teachers is taking a career break and there is a shortage in this subject. There were 5 CDT interviews on Thursday. For HE there is recruitment going on tomorrow. The school staffing allocation is 63.2 and there are currently 63 staff. There is high staff morale.

There is a memorial Service for Andrew this Thursday, where a new bench will be revealed. The school has arranged for 2 counsellors to be on site, and there will be drop-in sessions available. The Priest who held the memorial last year will also be on site. This will be a dress-down day. The school held a bake sale and offered drinks from the new barista machine and raised £200.

There will be supported study on 22 March for anyone who is off-track to pass their exams. There will also be supported study during the Easter holidays. There will be a schedule issued and anyone can sign up. A reminder has gone out to parents.

There will be a breakfast for the S6's on the last official day of school before exam leave starts.

JJ will be sending out a reminder about school uniforms/lateness etc as these have slipped a bit. A newsletter will be issued after the Easter break.

There will be a session in school in May about the school inspection. The next inspection will be due in March 2025. This is so JJ can explain the plan for next steps and how we are going to improve the school. Some of the data have changed in the most recent Insight update. There was a report published on 19th March and the staff were briefed on 18th. Communication about the report was issued via letter and a link to the full report on 19th.

A residential opportunity for seniors is being looked into by Andrew Bradshaw, who is the Outdoor Lead. The school is pursuing "The Forrester Way" to promote identity, skills and opportunities.

4. Treasurers update

The current balance on the account is £893.37 after the YPI payment of £200. There will be money due to come off for the Easter study snacks.

Request to buy a new soup urn £60 – no objections

5. Parent evenings – S1 13/3 and S2 18/4

Discussed how to make it easier for parents to engage with PC. PC will be serving tea/coffee and mingling with parents. It was suggested that a map would be helpful – used to have these a couple of years ago.

6. Easter Study Support

SD will pick up snacks for Easter Study Support much along the same lines as last time, such as cereal bars, water, juice, milk, crisps, brownies etc.

7. YPI parent rep

JB was to send out request for volunteer for the final on 28 May, however JH volunteered. Those who have volunteered in the past say it's amazing to hear about the work the young people have been doing.

8. Ideas to encourage more people involved in PC?

A suggestion was made to get flyers printed to show what the parent council is for, and giving examples of things funding has been used for, to hand out at parent evenings. It will be a bit tight for the one tomorrow but JB will see what she can do.

9. Family learning ideas

PCLs are phoning parents to offer support and give advice. Looking to set up fun study sessions including parents. There is a parent information evening for P7s in June. Other suggestions were coaching, Pilates, yoga and first aid. The building teens with confidence courses are ongoing on Fridays at the moment. JJ confirmed he has asked each faculty/department to get on board – for example 4x1 hour sessions.

The school improvement plan is starting in May and the school is trying to drive up the numbers attending parents evening.

10. AOB.

Agreed £400 to go towards Activities week.

Suggested putting teacher recognition back on the agenda. It would also be good to hear about successes such as the recent basketball trip success.

The new timetable is starting in June. There will be no DMT and students will go straight to their first class. There will be meetings around progressing in lessons and the reasons for staying on in senior phase.

Timings of parents evenings discussed specifically to support course choice. This has been recognised by the school.

Comments made around the attendance system as several texts can be sent saying their child is not in class/school making parents worry, when it may be that the child has been taken out of class for some reason (e.g. music) or is a little late. The school is looking into what improvements can be made but better liaison between teachers/departments may help.

Meeting ended 8.45

Action points

- SD to attend the last 2 connect events and feed back
- EH to feedback on funding meetings
- JJ to feed back on school successes like the basketball trip
- JB to produce a PC flyer for parents night on 13th March.

Dates of PC meetings:

12 September 2023

14 November 2023

16 January 2024

12 March 2024

23 April 2024

11 June 2024 (AGM)

Role of Chair

- Meet with HT to review draft minutes & agree agenda for next meeting
- Chair the PC meeting;
 - make sure meeting runs smoothly & efficiently
 - run in an inclusive & friendly way
 - effective decisions are made
- Monitor PC mailbox
- Liaise with school & treasurer over funding plans for PC money
- Point of contact for the school to raise/discuss any issues or proposed changes
- Assist with interviews/recruitment when necessary (generally management level)
- Give an annual report at the AGM