



Parent Council and PTA Minutes

Date of meeting 29th April 2021

Present: Cara McKee, John Doherty, Sharon Morrow, Andrew Milner, Donna McNeil, John Blair, Logan Rae.

1. Apologies: Sharri Plimbley, Lee McGinnis, Douglas Rae, Jayden Chand.
2. Minutes of previous meeting: 25th February 2021
 - a. 50/50 Club account was not closed as bank need both original signatories. Unanimously agreed again that this should be done. **Douglas Rae and Jane Wilkinson to take forward with Lee McGinnis.**
3. Head Teacher's update (J Doherty)
 - a. Timeline for term / key dates

SQA assessments will start on the 5th of May. There will also be SQA support days on the 4th and the 27th of May with an in-service day for pupils. There will also be holidays on the 3rd, 28th and 31st of May. The 4th of June will be the last day for all S6 pupils. There will be transition days for Primary 7 pupils on Tuesday the 8th and Wednesday 9th of June. The timetable change will take place on the 14th of June for all S1-S5 pupils. The SQA results will also be shared on this day with pupils, parents and careers. The last day of term will be on the 18th of June.
 - b. SQA Alternative Certification Model

Assessments will take place during existing class time and to achieve this can be chunked up over a few days. Evidence from throughout the year will be used to determine a pupil's final mark, with the SQA asking for a pupil's best evidence and not necessarily their latest evidence.

There will be study programmes on for subjects in person and over Teams on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. These study programs will take place at different times during the evening.

 - There was an issue raised that pupils were being tested the day they returned to school after the Easter Holidays but the pupils were informed that they would have a few days after the holiday to revise before these tests. As a result of this some of the pupils were unprepared for these tests.
 - There was also discussion over how the exams are being split up and whether or not it is fair on the pupils. John Doherty told the Parent Council that the only other option was to sit a full exam diet where the assessments are not split up.
 - c. Updates from the Wellness Model Meeting and Positive Destinations
Nothing new of relevance.
 - d. Pupils return to school



School attendance is up 3% from 2018/19. Behaviour, attendance, and general atmosphere around the school is good.

e. Option choices

Through virtual learning the school are now able to offer subjects that were previously unavailable, to be taught online by teachers from all over North Ayrshire. Pupils are now able to apply for these subjects.

- Cara McKee said some parents are worried young people will not achieve the results they had hoped for, and wondered how this might affect the subjects they could take the next year. John Doherty said subjects could be altered depending on a pupils result but would urge pupils and parents to take the subjects they want to do.

f. Work experience

John Docherty told the Parent Council that Work Experience is planned to be offered next year but with a few changes from previous years. Some of these changes could include work experience taking place though out the year and not just over a two-week period. Work experience could also take place during free periods.

g. Changing Rooms

Changing rooms can now be used again so the school will urge pupils to attend in uniform and use the changing rooms and other facilities to change into their PE kit.

4. Show My Homework

John Doherty told the Parent Council that the school's Show My Homework contract expires on the 14th of August 2021 and they are being offered a £8000 contract for the next two years. The school are happy to continue with SMHW but if the money could be used elsewhere in the school and Microsoft Teams can offer the same service and more for the school.

Cara McKee told the Parent Council that she will seek advice from the treasurers but the Parent Council is unlikely to support using SMHW for another two years, particularly considering the duplication of effort for the teachers, and SMHW's attempts to get parents to pay extra for an already expensive service.

5. Current bids - no current bids

6. Date of Next Meeting - Thursday 10th June 2021