

## **CHS Parent Council – Chair’s report for AGM, Sept 2020**

I took over as Chair at AGM last Sept. and when I was discussing the role with previous chair Lindsay, we certainly didn’t anticipate the huge changes in the year ahead!!

However, the year began quite normally. We held meetings at the Campus in October and January. We did some more promotion about the Parent Council beforehand and attendance increased to around 20 people. We discussed changes to school catering; the standards & quality report; school sport; and helped input to the annual parent survey. We introduced a regular slot for head girl and boy (thanks to Jessica and Rian) and it was great to hear all the ideas they had for their Prefect team. With specialist input from parent Gill Rose, we helped the school to review options for the school website. School have already made some improvements to the website and you will find more information there than previously, but there is potential for further changes to improve functionality. This is still a work in progress and Gill and I recently had a useful meeting with school staff about the next steps, one of which is to ask for parent views in the near future

We had a further Parent Council meeting planned for late March but then lockdown happened. There was obviously a massive effort by school to get online learning up and running. In May we had our first virtual Parent Council meeting. This was initially trialled only with committee members and worked pretty well. Questions were collated in advance and Mr Donnelly responded to these, with discussion, at the meeting.

We followed this up with two open Zoom meetings in June before the summer holidays and then another in August. Attendance has been consistently good (over 20 people) and several attendees have commented that they prefer the virtual format as it saves on travel and fits with childcare, and can be less intimidating for some than a traditional meeting. The focus of discussions has been on the Covid situation and online learning, moving to the concerns around SQA exam results and then on back to school plans. At the August meeting we had very positive feedback from Mr Donnelly on the improved CHS SQA results this year compared to previous years (even before the SQA re-grading was carried out).

Future plans:

- Focus on improved communications and providing further support to school with website development.
- Keep an eye on the SQA exam position for 2021 and any need for a return to blended learning and support school as much as possible.
- Consider plans for future meetings – probably combination of Zoom meetings and occasional face to face discussions on particular topics.
- Try to engage more with Connect and PKC groups and share information – recent events useful.

The whole of the Parent Council would like to say a huge thanks to Mr Donnelly and all CHS staff for their hard work and dedication over a very difficult and uncertain period and for retaining really good communications with pupils and families (congratulations to Guidance teams in particular). We still want to formalise our thanks to staff – and are finalising plans for this.

Finally, my own thanks to the rest of the committee for their support and I look forward to working with them in the coming school year.

Cathy Tilbrook, Chair CHS Parent Council