

# Crieff High School Parent Council

**Draft minutes of meeting held on 28 January 2021**

**Virtual meeting via Zoom 6.30pm**

Present: John Donnelly (JD) - Headteacher/Campus Leader, Lily Cannon (LC) - Head Girl, Rooney Kilgannon (RK) - Head Boy  
Cathy Tilbrook (CT) - Chair, Morven Harrower (MH) – Vice Chair, Betsy Vielhaber (BV) - Secretary, Billy Russell (BR) – Treasurer, Aileen Turkington, Nina Stenhouse, Alison Ritchie, Fiona Perry, Ruth Robertson, Linda Sterry, Katherine Lakeman, Isla Robb, Murdo Campbell, Ailsa Mooney, Anne Lemon, Matt Kendall, Rebecca Mackie, Julia

Apologies: Clara Walker, Emily James, Gillian Rose, Catriona Cunningham, Helen McCrorie

## **1. Welcome and apologies**

CT opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Noted that planned agenda is amended due to lockdown and move to virtual learning, to provide opportunity for general discussion.

## **2. Update and discussion on home / virtual learning**

JD provided an update on progress (see attached HT report for more details). Based on feedback from last home learning, school has introduced various changes:

- structured school day, following normal timetable
- simplified use of online platforms (MSTeams)
- more provision of live learning

Figures for pupil engagement in learning are much higher than last lockdown (over 94% participation). Guidance staff are checking in with pupils regularly and where there are problems with engagement or connectivity, more pupils are being asked to attend school (alongside provision for key workers etc). CHS arrangements have been shared with HMI inspectors and were very positively received.

Feedback from parents was very positive – the more structured approach is very welcome. RK noted that it is very useful to have a live drop-in session with teacher at start of lessons.

Issues raised:

- Worry that pupils are now on screens too much of day.

JD noted that more opportunities would be provided during subjects like PE and PSE to do other activities away from screens.

- Concern that audio files embedded in powerpoints do not work on Macs.
- Concern that parents no longer have such clear access to check the work set for their children as previously with Satchel 1. Question whether parental access is possible to MS Teams.

JD confirmed that there is no parental access to MS Teams but will suggest to teachers that Learning Grids could be amended to be clearer about deadlines for work.

- Parents asked if there could be more feedback to pupils from teachers on work submitted and any improvement needed.

JD said this is an area they know they need to improve feedback to pupils, although it is very challenging.

- Parents queried the arrangements for recognising effort and engagement.

JD confirmed that weekly merits are being emailed to S1-3 pupils to reward good engagement and work. Guidance staff are regularly phoning all households. Where there is any concern about pupil engagement this will be made clear in the phone call to parents and pupils.

**Action 1 – JD to follow up on points regarding audio files, clearer info to parents on deadlines for work set, and greater feedback to pupils on online work submitted.**

Local Authority meeting to discuss Crieff High School staffing requirements for session 2021/22 has been scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

### **Study support**

JD noted that school provided over 600 hours of additional learning support during the weeks of after school study support. Parents noted that this was hugely appreciated and was really helpful. JD to pass this message back to teaching staff.

### **Reports and Parent Evenings**

Details of revised dates are provided in HT report. Virtual parent evenings to be held, following best practice from other schools. Guidance has been provided to teachers to make reports as useful as possible to parents and pupils.

For those year groups undertaking course / subject choices, virtual meetings will be held for parents / pupils to explain the process and allow Q and A.

### **3. SQA plans for alternative pupil assessment.**

SQA have continued to release subject-level information to support teacher assessment. They have advised that there should be no formal assessment and evidence gathering during remote learning, but the deadlines for collecting evidence have been extended to 18 June.

Work completed at home may be submitted as evidence but there will be no formal tests undertaken. Parents raised concerns that if children are less engaged whilst out of school then they may not produce much useful work for evidence. JD provided reassurance that if this was the case then evidence will just be sought after the return to school.

Formal prelim type exams may be held in May / June, but this will depend on ability to meet Covid rules, so no decisions taken yet. JD highlighted that teachers feel there has been little Covid disruption in CHS compared to other schools, so pupils are in a good position in terms of teaching covered, especially for Higher / Advanced Higher.

#### **4. Head Boy/Head Girl update**

RK provided an upbeat report, despite all the Covid constraints. He noted great support provided to pupils by the school, including help with home connectivity problems and excellent cover by the guidance teams.

#### **5. AOCB**

CT noted that some Primary 7 parents have asked about how transition process to high school will be handled this year.

JD noted that Morag Fotheringham is meeting Primary headteachers next week. They still hope that in-school days will be possible between Easter and Summer holidays, but if not then it will be done virtually. There will be more communication on this soon. He highlighted that some individual live tours are starting to happen after hours for young people with additional needs.

**Action 2 – JD to provide update on P7 transition arrangements.**

#### **6. Minutes/action items from (14/12/20)**

*Action 1 – Subgroup to be convened to develop proposed actions and input to the new CHS mobile device policy (volunteers - Alison, Nina, Catriona, Sam, Emily, Fiona)*

JD said we should target August 2021 (for revision of mobile phone policy).

**Action 3 - CT will circulate email addresses to this group and clarify request to work with JD and team.**

*Action 2 – JD to circulate information on process and schedule for senior pupil assessment and SQA evidence gathering. Discharged in HT report.*

*Action 3 - MF to bring a further update to Parent Council meeting when data (from mental health & wellbeing survey) has been analysed. Carried forward to future meeting.*

*Action 4 – Proposed CHS masks - BV to share samples with school and senior Prefect team to get pupil feedback on potential designs and Action 5 - Discuss proposals further at next meeting. Deferred to next meeting.*

#### **7. Date for the next meeting**

Thursday, 11 March 6:30

Agenda for next meeting to include: Feedback from engagement survey; Health & wellbeing survey update; S1/2 curriculum choice issues; CHS masks.

The meeting closed at 8pm.