

Crieff High School Parent Council

Minute of the meeting, 21 September 2023

1. Welcome and apologies:

Apologies: Helen McCrorie, Morven Harrower, Nina Stenhouse

Attending: Cathy Tilbrook (Chair) CT; Catriona Cunningham (Vice chair) CC; Clara Walker (Secretary) CW; Jo Tripp (Treasurer) JT; Emily James, EJ; Fiona Perry, FP; Louise Reposo; Louise McLaren; Jenny Moffat JM; Andrew/ Malize Donaldson, Cristy Gilbert, Gill Dowse
John Donnelly JD (Head Teacher); Jenny Copland (Head Girl)

2. Actions from last meeting:

AP3: School to circulate overview grid results and trends from recent survey (Parent / Pupil / Teachers) - Carried forward

AP4: School to investigate better options to enable parents to track homework

CT noted that parents have again raised this as a priority. Satchel One / Show my Homework was very popular with parents but is now considered too expensive to maintain.

JD proposed that each teaching department will provide parents with an overview of what homework will be expected each term. He suggested this would be low cost and not a specific platform but enough to help parents understand what will be provided. CT felt this would not be sufficient to let parents know exactly what their child should be working on and when. CT asked whether a paper homework diary might be a more helpful alternative.

Action 1: JD would cost paper diaries and look at this compared to IT solution.

CC asked if Glow log-ins can be provided to parents so that homework can be checked on Teams. JD indicated that this was not possible due to GDPR issues. CT suggested that GDPR issues may not apply in the same way to under 16s.

Action 2: JD /CT to contact P&KC education services to look at finding a solution.

FP suggested we gather together the voice of Perthshire to put pressure on P&KC on this topic.

CC agreed that the inconsistency in application of homework guidance was apparent. JD suggested this might be linked to age and stage of pupils and that some staff were better versed in study skills than others.

JM did a quick check on Glow Scotland site and noted an option for "Guardian email summary" JD said he would look into this.

Action 3: CT to include parental homework access on next meeting agenda

3. Head Teacher Update

See attached document (including SQA attainment analysis for 2022-23 and School Improvement Plan for 2023-24)

JD provided an overview of SQA attainment report.

CC noted that attainment levels appear low when seen in a Scottish context – especially at S4/S5 level. JD highlighted that those pupils who take exams are performing very well but when pupils drop out of an SQA course then this contributes to lower attainment figures for the school. This can happen:

1. if a pupil gives up a subject because they no longer need that qualification for their future;
2. if parents/carers want to lower stresses for a pupil and award subjects are reduced;
3. if a teacher feels a pupil won't achieve a pass at a certain level and they are removed from the award programme

Note on 3: JD is keen that the schools sticks with pupils who are struggling for a longer period of time before removing them from an award programme.

Parental communications survey

JD noted that Laura Fraser is conducting a survey into systems used such as ParentPay for payments, ParentsPortal to communicate timetables and reports, Vericool as our Canteen Application and Groupcall to send email and letters, along with our website and Social Media streams.

Parents are asked to complete the survey here: <https://forms.office.com/e/770f7Qaa8u>

4. Wellbeing and anti-bullying regular update – PKC review report

See HT Report for more information. 10 allegations of bullying (S1/S2 years groups) in first review period. The PKC progress report on recommendations from the 2022 review into allegations of bullying was circulated just before the summer and indicates that good progress has been made against the recommendations, with next steps set out which are to be incorporated into the quality improvement plan and subject to continued reporting.

CT noted a current consultation on Relationship, Sexual Health and Parenthood (RSHP) education (see link below*) and indicated that individuals can respond to this, or a Parent Council focus group could be arranged to discuss the consultation if there is interest.

** The Scottish Government has launched a consultation on the revisions they are proposing to the Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood resource. They seek views on draft statutory guidance on the delivery of relationships, sexual health and parenthood education in Scottish schools.*

The consultation will run until 23 November 2023, and can be accessed here

<https://consult.gov.scot/learning-directorate/teaching-guidance-for-relationships-sexual-health/>

5. Head girl / boy update

Jenny introduced herself as new head girl and gave apologies from head boy.

6. Budget and fundraising update

£382 raised providing refreshments at the school show – CT noted thanks to all who helped out. CT noted that there would be a need for some more fundraising and any suggestions would be welcome. JT provided suggestions of fundraising ideas: Talent show (with the performing arts department), Christmas Fayre (could pupils make Christmas cards in the art department), coffee and tea sale (home economics? Life skills? Intensive Support Provision), Garden sale? Could any classes or Parents collect e.g. acorns and nurture these and sell the young plants later this term? Fun runs (Collaborate with the Crieff Harriers? PE department)

CC noted that Comrie Primary parents raised additional money for P7 leavers last year and have donated that to CHS – CT noted thanks for this kind donation.

Action 4: Jo/Cathy to get treasurer paperwork finalised.

7. AOB – CT noted that a parent had raised mobile phone policy, highlighting increasing evidence that mobile phones at school at any point in the day are damaging to children's education and mental health, [Unesco's call to ban mobile phones in schools \(BBC article here\)](#) and the increasing number of countries taking this step. Consider whether CHS should take a leading and progressive step to ban phones from the beginning until the end of the school day. JD suggested it would be difficult for school to remove phones completely and feels the current policy is working well. It will be reviewed annually. – number of comments on building the evidence base for reviewing the policy with a view to further restrictions on mobile use in school. A parent mentioned an example of phone time being used in class as a 'reward' for finishing work. JD agreed this was inappropriate and inconsistent and would be followed up.

Action 5: JD to consider how to gather quantitative data or structured feedback from teachers on impact of mobile phone policy, e.g. for pupil engagement.

CC asked if school had been given any guidance on AI and use of chatGPT etc. JD confirmed that they have not yet had anything on this.

8. DONM - AGM 2nd November in person at Crieff High School.