

1. Welcome/apologies:

Apologies; Cathy Tilbrook; Emma Martin

Attending Catriona Cunningham (Chair) CC; Ross McNaughton (Secretary) RM; Jo Tripp (Treasurer) JT; Emily James (EJ); Morven Harrower (MH); Andrew Donaldson (AD); Cristy Gilbert (CG); Jude Carter (JC)

John Donnelly Head Teacher (JD); Morag Fotheringham Acting Depute Head Teacher (MF)

2. Minutes from last meeting on 29.01.24

CC confirmed that these would be finalised, circulated amongst a core group and uploaded to the CHS website.

3. Creation of Funding sub-committee

(Action Point 6 from last meeting was for CC to seek volunteers for members of new fundraising subgroup)

Short chat regarding formation of this subgroup. To be discussed further.

Action 1 – [CC to seek volunteers for members of new fundraising subgroup]

4. Discussion of use of mobile phones at CHS

(Action Point 4 from last meeting was for CC to propose a date for meeting dedicated to discussing mobile phone use)

MF discussed introduction of demerits for mobile phone use. It varies how many they give out on a weekly basis, a couple of times more than 100. It is something that staff always have to deal with, but there are quite low numbers of those who have phone 'ban'. Also consideration needs to be given on how to deal with mobile use in break, lunch etc.

Usage is multi-faceted – i.e. the use of personal phone as IT device? P&K don't have one device one student policy. Compare this to Stirling –each student receives a Chromebook. CC points out that Edinburgh pupils don't know how to use laptops as they only use ipads

MF - how to engage with pupils? The school has lots more laptops than they used to have.

AD asked if there is timeline/plan for one device/one student. MF confirms not, but that they continue to press PKC although there doesn't appear to be funding. MF mentions Bertha Park and how she thought his might have led to more devices in PKC, but hasn't.

AD mentioned evidence of damage to young people – social media pressures etc. His view is that it is great that new starts may not have mobiles, but feels that older students have had disservice. AD would like to see strong decisions being made.

MF refers to the survey undertaken by the school. It was pretty much 50/50 for/against a ban. Some parents strongly felt it was a right to have a mobile.

AD feels it should be more evidence-based and wondered if there is a role for the Parent Council in presenting such evidence?
EJ agrees that wider parent body should have evidence/information presented to them and gives example of another school which saw a miraculous improvement in behaviour as a result of a ban.

CG is in favour of less mobile use in school. At lunchtimes etc., everyone is on their phone, everyone is plugged in and this is isolating for those who don't want to use phones.

(JD joins)

JC agrees with CG. MH says that there is only so much that school can do, as an awful lot goes on after school, so focus is on a learning point of view, and not necessarily socialising etc.

CC points out that views seem towards a stronger ban.

JD - there is a wide range of views for an outright ban (i.e. from some teachers, parents, pupils). But when implementing you need to consider other views, i.e. some parents want to be able to contact their kids, some teachers want to use them for IT purposes. JD says that in the UK that young people get their first mobile phone at age 7 on average. This shows that it is getting younger and it is now normal in p7.

EJ - emphasising that sharing the information would probably be of benefit in persuading parents of the benefits of not having mobile phone usage in school.

JD - it's all about context – it might work in some schools, but not in others.

RM – asked about s1 ban – JD confirms that it is just a kernel of a thought and would be reliant on funding for devices. CHS could then say that there is no need for young people to bring in their own device. RM mentioned that recent CPS residential trip included a mobile ban which seemed to be ok. JD points out that was probably for different reasons.

CC points out that there is only a small number in attendance tonight, so despite strong views exhibited this would need a wider input.

AD – again, discussions as to role of Parent Council and would be keen to see them provide a summary of evidence

CC asking what are next steps.

JD will be leading a consultation with broader school community.

MF – how to get views of all parents; general survey got views but in-depth consultations only receive small numbers. It is hard to engage & get all viewpoints.

CC asking if there any guidance from PKC?

JD highlights the differences at Government policy level between Scotland & England. Also there is no policy from PKC level. Union guidance to teachers might also be different i.e. that they should not remove phones from pupils as it is their property and this adds another level of complexity.

AD asking if parent council take a lead on this, for example a Mini-citizen's assembly? JD happy to host that at community campus.

Action 2 – [consider how to present evidence and take wider views of parents into account.]

5. Highlights from Headteacher's update

JD - interviews for head boy/girl coming up on Wednesday 12 June. PC usually has a representative so JD asking if PC can put forward someone to be present. CC will circulate around the group and ensure someone attends.

JD asking if PC can help to encourage completion of the Parent survey to be emailed out.

JD moves on to staffing updates. Mrs Douglas, head of house is moving to Linlithgow High School.

There are three retirements shortly being Mr Fonsmith (history) history, Mrs Forbes (English) and Mrs Yates (modern languages) (NOTE keep confidential for now as students have not been spoken with about this).

CC asks if the PC usually offer some congratulations in such an event.

JD says that they have 66 years' service between them and so would be appropriate for PC to acknowledge this.

CC has an email from a parent about the awards consultation that JD sent out. The parent was not too sure about things like values, etc. JD says that what is proposed is not a radical overhaul but asking if it came across as such but CC says she is not sure.

Action 3 – CC to circulate amongst PC group for a representative to attend head boy/head girl interview.

Action 4 – PC to encourage completion of the Parent survey.

Action 5 – PC to acknowledge service of retiring staff.

6. Head girl/head boy update

Not in attendance.

7. AOB

Only one response to form from PC. CC asking JD if the school can send it out again. JD confirming this is fine.

CC says she has parent communication about Tempest photography and the recent news story at Aboyne Primary. – JD says it is an isolated incident and not representative of CHS experience with Tempest photography.

Action 6 – CHS to circulate PC form again via email.

Funding:-

PC has £1564 in the bank. JT – discussing the price of ties for the 1st years and also the cost of a zoom licence. JT will look to cancel this as CC is happy to use her work Teams for meetings.

CC asking what does breakfast club cost? JT isn't sure

AD seems to think JD was asking PC to help raise funds for devices.

JT says that last year PC contributed towards 2 dances, contribution to Logos, to s6 prom, to awards ceremony. It seemed to be an especially generous year (says MH) and so PC may not have raise so much this year. Last year the headboy and headgirl were active in asking for money.

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AD's suggestion for fundraising – a really nice letter to all parents? Suggesting that they give a donation, no pressure, no obligation to do anything. MH says it is probably best to ask for something specific. AD suggests that we give list of all the things that PC does.

CC is happy to draft something - people don't read emails as they get swamped.

MH says it would be easy for school to send something out on our behalf and ask for payment view Parentpay.

CC says that raising money for devices might be something for the future.

Action 7 – CC to draft fundraising letter to go out to parents

8. DONM – TBC

CLOSE