

1. Welcome/apologies:

Apologies; Helen McCrorie

Attending Catriona Cunningham (Chair) CC; Emma Martin (Vice-chair) EM; Ross McNaughton (Secretary) RM; Jo Tripp (Treasurer) JT; Emily James; Morven Harrower; Isla Robb; Cathy Tilbrook (CT); Monica Thomson; Andrew/Malize Donaldson; Fiona Perry, Louise Reposo LP; Clara Walker; Iona M; Cristy Gilbert

John Donnelly Head Teacher (JD)

2. Actions from last meeting

AP1: CT to seek volunteers for remaining core positions (secretary and vice-chair)

EM and RM welcomed as new vice-chair and secretary respectively.

AP2: Laura Fraser to look again at subject headers for emails and include info on ParentsPortal in transition day parent meeting.

JD noted that this is a technical/systems issue as the subject headers are put in but they don't appear.

AP 3: JD to raise parental access to homework info with the Microsoft team when they are on site and offer input from a Parent Council representative.

The Microsoft team met with a Mark Wright and Lana Prince. They are looking to develop digital skills across pedagogy.

AP 4: CC to consider scheduling a further agenda item on dealing with disruptive behaviour in class.

JD confirmed he would be discussing this in the context of the PISA 2022 findings about the disciplinary climate in lessons. CC pointed out concerns about the impact of mobiles in the classroom.

AP 5: CT to circulate request for basketball club volunteer as a separate call to parents.

To be followed up with Nick Keiller Active Sports coordinator.

Action 1: [?] to contact Nick Keiller

AP 6: Laura Fraser said she would look into the St Fillans bus breakdown issues with the transport provider.

JD confirmed he had followed this up with the provider. There had been three breakdowns in a two-week spell. The provider gave a different reason for each breakdown but acknowledged that this was not the level of service that should be provided. JD will pass on to [Diane?] to progress/monitor.

Action 2: JD to update as to progress

3. Head Teacher Update

JD provided a staffing update.

He has a meeting with Perth & Kinross Council on 1st March about staffing requirements, taking into account things such as retirement, redeployment etc. The school roll in 2018 was 585 and is projected to be 648 in 2024 (although, in reality, JD expects it to be slightly lower). The full capacity of the school is somewhere between 900-1000. JD anticipates the staffing allocation for next year to be comparable to the current school year.

Action 3: JD to confirm staffing levels in next academic year

JD confirmed that a new Teacher of Intensive Support Provision (ISP) (Coleen Thornton, formerly of Portobello High School) has started today.

JD went on to discuss academic support now required at exam time. He pointed out that exams now look very different to how they traditionally have been. 35% of students at Nat 5 level required Additional Academic Assistance (AAA) (such as time accommodation) and 17% require ICT (such as devices) at exams. At Higher level, 50% of students require AAA and 25% require ICT.

CC queried whether such AAA and ICT is now almost a choice and it is not necessarily that all students have extra requirements. JD's view is that ICT in exams should mirror day-to-day use but that ICT 'by choice' might be more helpful for the young person.

JD went on to discuss pupil absence. There are issues around this when compared with pre-covid times. Attendance pre-covid was in the region of 90-95%, but in the last term 2 attendance was not usually above 90%. It is an ongoing challenge and is not just school refusers, it is lots of young people. Attendance records are taken twice per day and JD's view is that the digital version of measuring attendance is robust. Questions around how to capture in attendance records the free periods and generally more freedom afforded to those in S5 & S6.

JD spoke about the wellbeing day which he felt was generally positive.

JD spoke about allegations of bullying. There were 43 reported incidents of bullying across the last two terms, 24 in term 1 (2 of which were unfounded) and 19 in term 2 (3 of which were unfounded). There were 42 discriminatory language demerits (demerits for this being a new thing).

JD spoke about "Five at form". He meets with 5 young people at form class to discuss their experiences. They can answer questions using a QR code. The numbers are positive when it comes to the young peoples' enjoyment, feelings of safety, sense of belonging and other young people being respectful.

JD discussed disruptive behaviour. In 2018 there were maybe 6-12 young people about whom the school had concerns, now it is maybe 15-20, although he noted that the school roll has increased and so, contextually, there are 610 young people about whom there are no such concerns. JD talked about learner focus visits from Senior Management. These visits have established that 32% of class teachers are very good, 51% are good and 17% are satisfactory. JD and team will continue to do learner focus visits based on a schedule to ensure whole-school and whole-year coverage. Following the visit, there are discussions with the class teacher as JD recognises that their presence can have an effect on behaviour. JD recognises that some departments and/or teachers require more help than others and there is not consistency across the school.

JD discussed parents evening. He confirmed that the school is seeing a greater uptake with the hybrid set-up. He will continue to review as to whether they will keep the hybrid set-up or going back to in-person only. Feedback is generally in favour of hybrid.

4. PISA Report & mobile phone use

CT wondered if the young people should be asked if they would support a mobile phone ban or otherwise.

LP says that her S1 daughter's mobile phone use has increased and she does feel that this has distracted/impeded her.

JD says that mobile phone use is just a feature of school. He says that the demerits system has led to improvements.

CC suggest that a meeting solely devoted to mobile phone use should take place.

Action 4: CC to propose a date for meeting dedicated to discussing mobile phone use

5. Head girl/boy update

They should be invited to the next meeting to give their update.

Action 5: Head girl/boy to be invited to next meeting.

6. Budget and fundraising update

CC confirmed that she was looking to set up a subgroup for this purpose and was looking for volunteers.

Action 6: CC to seek volunteers for members of new fundraising subgroup

JT confirmed that there is presently £1,164.09 in the CHSPC bank account. CT pointed out that the CHSPC usually gives money for school ties and queried if funds would allow for this.

7. AOB – none

8. DONM – before the Easter break, likely in March.