



Biggar High School Parent Council- March 16th 2021

Present: Robert Stewart (Head Teacher), Flora Neville (Chair) Kirsty Campbell (Vice-Chair), Julie Forrest (Secretary) , Wendy Johnstone, Rosslyn Thomson, Kate Allister, Sue Hope, Chrissy Wild.

Apologies: Clare Waters, Kirsty Lawrie, Cllr I McAllan

ITEM	DETAIL	ACTION
1) Minutes of previous meeting	Minutes agreed	
2) Head Teachers Update	<p>RS noted there have been three successful weeks with the Seniors in the practical subjects where significant progress has been made in coursework. All sessions very well attended and pupils fully engaged.</p> <p>Monday saw the start of blended learning. SLT spent significant period of time working on the best possible continuity for Seniors and Juniors. Seniors only on Fridays for teachers to have some focused time to prep for following week's online and in-school learning. Juniors have four days of school following normal timetable to give continuity of learning and allow teachers to do some catch up and plan for home learning when pupils are not in school. Many subjects running live lessons for pupils 'at home', especially for seniors.</p>	

	<p>Transport was the primary headache due to space, seating etc, and this kept changing. With much planning and parental co-operation all pupils can be transported to school safely under 1m distancing guidelines.</p> <p>The normal in school mitigations are in place re. masks/ sanitising/ staggered times etc as well as 2m distancing in all classes..</p> <p>Lateral Flow Test programme is voluntary but has all gone well so far. There has been 1 case of a staff member on a Sunday night, so this was a good result in stopping the potential spread in school later in the week.</p> <p>Options are going onwards, S2/3 finished S4/5/6 is ongoing. SLT will now look at viability of options choices in relation to classes for next session.</p> <p>Planning for senior pupils' assessments are ongoing- consolidation at the moment, and this will be complemented with an updated assessment programme in April and additional formal assessments mid-May to early-June.</p>	
<p>3) Discussion</p>	<p>Travel: staggered transport? With everyone back after Easter. Will it be the same as before last lockdown? RS noted that school will most probably be back to full time face to face teaching if the 'r' number stays low with no major outbreaks.</p> <p>If there is a case within the school can that information be shared more widely? Under present circumstances Track and Trace planning in school will not be as intense as there is a 2m distance in place for all staff and pupils in classes. RS noted that if a pupil/ member of staff tests positive for COVID then only those in close association will be contacted and asked to self-isolate. As before a standard letter/ communication will be issued to all pupils/ parents noting that a case has been identified.</p>	

	<p>With regards Sunday and Wednesday testing, KC suggested putting a notification on the school app and KC will post on the Facebook page to help remind everyone to take the test. RS will also put out a reminder e-mail to parents this week.</p> <p>The leaflet that came out with the test kits- some were unsure believing that it was only if the result was positive that they had to report the result (it is supposed to be all test results). Robert will put information on the Newsletter this Friday to clear up any confusion that all results are expected to be uploaded.</p> <p>Wendy hopes that all the good work re: work and homework etc online will continue. RS noted that a reminder will be passed to all staff to ensure this good practice continues.</p> <p>Re. new timetables when will this start? RS noted that new timetables will start approx. the 14th of June, due to the Seniors finishing their work up to the end of May and the assessment diet and school quality assurance being completed by this time.</p> <p>Teachers of S1-S3- are they concerned with what Levels pupils are working to? RS noted that for the majority of pupils there is not a concern as they will have engaged, however, there is an issue for the children who have not engaged at all and there will need to be catch-up plans in place with these children. Some assessment may need to be done to check progress but RS noted that it was his opinion that this should wait until interventions have been put in place and had the chance to have a positive impact- probably around September/ October 2021</p> <p>KC asked re the Google Form regarding a questionnaire on the recent pupil reports. This led to discussion with some parents saying that they missed this form. Robert is going to check senior parent form was issued.</p>	
--	---	--

Is there anything that we could be doing to support the High School team to make P7 transitions easier? RS noted that this is really dependent on what happens during the next couple of weeks/ months due to restrictions. Hopefully, there may be an opportunity for some interaction remotely for parents. Robert is open to any suggestions. There will be some enhanced transitions as always for new P7 pupils with additional support needs/ social and emotional support needs, and Robert is hopeful for the possibility for maybe some full transition visits in June. Put on agenda for next month to discuss.

Positive comments regarding the wording of “drop-in sessions”. However, it was commented regarding the wording that some teachers were more positive than others. RS noted that after the last PC meeting he had asked staff to be more persuasive in inviting pupils to attend live sessions. PC noted that the way in which messages were delivered worked for some and not for others. A tone of ‘compulsion’ led some to engage more but put others off. RS reiterated that the blend of approaches taken was the most effective way of engaging the majority and that live lessons may be better attended if running now that we are in a blended learning situation where all staff are in school and delivering live lessons from classrooms.

The easter holidays- will teachers get their full holiday that they can look after their mental health and not have to deal work related stress? Robert shared that teachers are often their own worst enemy! There will be no compulsion to run any form of classes during the spring break and the decisions of Scot Gov will determine whether further planning is required before pupils return on the 19th. RS wanted to compliment staff for their commitment over recent weeks, especially his SLT colleagues in supporting the recent phased returns.

Is there any way that we can support senior pupils to get ready upcoming assessments, possibly offer some guidance? There will be some support in PSE with general advice. RS noted that at this stage the school’s view was that ‘Study Leave’ will be in school and support will be given at that time. RS noted

	<p>that doing study session workshops etc. may work for some and not others and finding the time to do this when subject teachers simply wanted to ensure course completion and consolidation may be problematic. Pupil Support will identify any pupils requiring individual support.</p> <p>FN has been in contact with the RBS and is in the process of sorting the details the current balance is £2377.05, and FN has two cheques for the school.</p> <p>The Wi-fi survey to improve this has come back with a figure approx. £7500. SH asked to view the results as there are many different funds that can be accessed to help Covid recovery. Robert will send.</p>	
<p>4) Discussion from Members</p>	<p>The ASN meetings are going pretty well with different people coming along. Alex McLeod (Inclusion Officer) has noticed this group/meeting and has expressed a wish to come along. FN and Robert believe that this is a good opportunity for all to explore and explain the concerns and issues that occur for parents and children with additional support needs.</p> <p>Transitions: perhaps run one ASN meeting for a 'drop-in' session for Primary Schools/ BHS to circulate to P7 parents so that they have the opportunity to share views/ supports/ advice etc. with parents already at the High School.</p> <p>FN brought up the idea of a Lottery. SH suggested that we do not do anything at the moment but have it ready to go for the beginning of the next school year. There could be a possible one-off donation source of money using 'Just Giving' or something similar. It was agreed that we need to be careful on how this was "pitched" and take a different approach as how we now encourage donations in these 'challenging times'.</p> <p>Just Giving: CW had completed a lot of the background text, but this will need to be changed/updated. CW and FN to meet and make changes.</p>	

	<p>Newsletter: Need to come up with a plan what to put into the weekly school newsletter. What could we add? SH suggested perhaps a brief paragraph from parents describing their job, perhaps with email to let children know what jobs are available and how to get involved. Possibly parents who are successful and have perhaps a difficulty (dyslexia etc).</p> <p>Robert suggested that in turn, perhaps each Parent Council member could start this process to help spotlight on the Parent Council! Possibly have strapline with brief comments to follow. FN first up and will create a template to be followed . .</p>	
5) AOCB	None	

- **Next PC Meeting is Tuesday 27th April 2021 Zoom Meeting at 7pm**