

LHS Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday 23 April 2024

Present: Shona Fleming (Chair), Ali Berardelli (Vice Chair), Jane Halewood (JH), Lisa Wharton (Secretary), Nicola Mair (NM), KS, Becky McCook (BMc), Laura Kingswood Smith (LKS), Rachel Tonks, Dee Collins (DC), LP, Alison Stephen (AS)

Apologies: Lorraine Servant, Nicola Mair

Welcome: The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Previous Minutes: Proposed – SF Seconded – AB

Treasurers Report:

Current balance: £1905.08

HC council payment of £672.02 (for 23/24)

HC funding process has now changed, Shona Fleming has applied for it and been approved.

Head Teacher's Report

Staffing –

We have recruited:

- a Teacher of PE
- a Teacher of English
- a Teacher of Chemistry (fixed term)
- a Teacher of Drama (fixed term)

There will be an interview for PT Glencoe House and Teacher of Gaelic pending.

Easter School – Easter School was a success with approximately 200 young people attending. Two classes were cancelled however apart from such cancellations the programme was a success.

HMIE Inspection of learning and Teaching in Maths –

•The school's self-evaluation is in line with HMIE's observations and findings. The range of evidence and quality of evidence were sound. The evidence triangulated well with pupil focus group findings and observations.

- Pupil engagement is strong.
- There are good relationships between staff and pupils.
- The inspectors liked the range of materials and the mix of strategies used within classes.
- There was appreciation of the Maths' digital planner being shared with pupils. Within it there is a clear framework for learning as well as adjustments made for individual teachers/classes.
- Structure of lessons was a positive.

S3 Exams – The exams started on Monday 15 April and finished on Thursday 18 April. This will be reported later in May through the S3 Full Report.

SQA Exams – SQA exams started Monday 22 April and continue to 29 May.

Study Leave – This starts Monday 22 April.

Skills for Work Programme – For S4 pupils intending to return to LHS, and who are sitting a minimum of two National 5s, they will be offered a skills for work programme during four weeks of study leave. There was a planning meeting with pupils today and the programme starts next week.

S2 Parents' Evening – The virtual evening will take place between 5-7pm on Tuesday 30 April, and the face-to-face Parents' Evening will take place on Tuesday 7 May.

Attendance at parents evenings is around 50-60%. There was discussion around how to increase engagement with parents.

Options Processes

The options processes are complete, and we are now down to managing individual cases of subject choice.

Questions following on from Headteacher's Report

Question: Will pupils be allowed to wear smart shorts as part of school uniform in hot weather?

SS: This will be part of a future whole school consultation.

Question: Will there be another school tour for parents (and parents of incoming S1s)?

SS: Senior Leadership team will discuss.

Fundraising

- DC is organizing a beetle drive. Date TBC. Fundraising letters with QR code will be sent to businesses. Potentially first term of 24/25?
- SF will discuss with JH whether to set up new Easy fundraising online search extension and account for Lochaber High School.
- Morrisons Bag pack – there are dates available. People have less loose change to donate now. Should we consider a SumUp machine?
- Clothes recycling point could raise money by having a drop-off at school car park to capitalize on parents dropping off at school, music school and pump track.
- Local Art Auction was suggested – local artists donate works, fun auction, something a bit different
- Business sponsorship – letter to go out in first term, with QR code for easy donating (contact Stephen Stewart about this aspect)

Foundation Scotland – there is money available from Corroul Estate through Foundation Scotland. Clarification needed on what is still required for sensory garden. If there is extra money available, could revisit getting polytunnel set up again.

Duke of Edinburgh Awards

There was discussion around the expeditions for the Gold awards – destinations and timing. If in Easter/ or Feb could clash with S6 trip to London. Clarification needed on what plan is.

SS will follow up.

AOB

Teacher representative

Teacher Rep for parent council. SS will discuss with existing teacher rep if she is still able to attend meetings or whether new teacher would consider taking over.

Date of next meeting: Tues 28 May 2024, 7pm, LHS Library