

PARENT COUNCIL

PRESENT: Niamh Gibson (Clerk) Irene Birtwhistle, Carol Walker, Lee Menzies, Fleur Barron, Kirsteen MacGillivray, Shakira Alecio, Kate Clarke, Councillor Ian Taylor, Councillor Anne Stirling, Audrey Michie, Sandra McWilliam

DATE OF MEETING: 8th February 2021

	NOTES	ACTION
1	Welcome Carol Walker welcomed all to the first Parent Council meeting of 2021, and informed members she has got a meeting with the	

	<p>Director of Education and other Parent Council Chairs on the afternoon of Tuesday 9th. She will also be attending 2 Connect sessions this month.</p>	
2	<p>Apologies Shirley Anderson, Ashley Strachan, Jane Bisset, Carol Allan, Allan Chalmers</p>	
3	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting Proposed: Fleur Barron</p>	

	<p>Seconded: Kirsteen MacGillivray</p>	
4	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>No update about comfort cupboard as there are only a small number of pupils in just now, but this will be revised once more pupils are able to come back to school.</p> <p>The defibrillator is now installed</p>	

and registered with ambulance services. A plaque is to be put up as agreement with Aberdeen Council, to announce that the Parent Council installed it, in memory of Valerie Mitchell. Stuart Gordon, will provide training to staff and pupils online. Money raised from a memory walk funded the purchase. A shortfall in funding was generously made up by last year's Final Fling committee. Ongoing expenses will be funded through the

ragbag collections.

Free school meals update:
money is going straight in bank
accounts at present and the
policy will be implemented once
the kids are coming back to
school. School meals will be
provided for pupils unable to
leave home for health reasons.

5

Headteacher's Report

Staffing: Gemma Henderson is the new Principal Teacher in Support for Learning, helping with transition meetings for Primary 7s.

Leslie Chapman helping Pupil Support, due to Claire Riddoch of Pupil Support Workers taking a one-day university course.

Lorraine Dobson is a new pupil counsellor and is taking up training before taking up her post.

Phased Return

Some Senior pupils may return on 22nd February. Government statement on 10th Feb will determine which groups of Senior pupils will be allowed back in.

Rearranging timetables are underway, transport companies have been consulted about school buses, and a max 8% Senior Pupils in for practical subjects only, with lunches being available in school.

In service Mon-Tues, (15th-16th February).

Tracking and Monitoring is underway - engagement and feedback positive so far. Emails have been sent out to senior pupils who were engaging in all their subjects to say well done; and parents were emailed re overdue work.

Some pupils still struggling with work, due to health, bereavement or lack of motivation, so

encouragement and support is being provided.

Younger pupils are struggling with subjects so are being encouraged to do their best.

S3s being given one on one interviews with teachers about subject choices for Senior Phase.

Year 2 of the Three Year Improvement Program is underway and reviews of last year are being made to improve on, with emphasis

on digital solutions, both for the present and the future.

Literacy and Numeracy recovery-
Caron Sievewright looking to
Literacy recovery programs, such as Accelerated Reader, to aid pupils in catching up with literacy, with similar programs in place for numeracy.

Mental health programs are being examined to help pupils' mental health during these difficult times.

6	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>Parent Council: £1877.39</p> <p>Friends of Turriff Academy: £1925.58</p>	
7	<p>Digital Update</p> <p>Devices - Funding from government to provide Chromebooks; between October and December, 165 Chromebooks were provided to pupils. In January 44 more were issued and 10</p>	

laptops for Higher Admin pupils and 5 MacBooks for Higher Music Tech pupils and 25 wifi dongles with unlimited data were also provided as necessary. All staff have also been issued with a laptop to assist them in leading online learning.

Pupils can keep issued devices from Primary school to secondary school or transferring Aberdeenshire schools, but will hand them back to the school upon leaving.

Recovery and Equity - Shakira has been helping with staff training to use TEAMs, Glow and other programs to help pupils online learning.

The digital leaders issued a Questionnaire on how pupils were finding online learning was issued on Friday. By Monday, 288 responses have been provided, and will be used as feedback for a staff meeting on Thursday to improve virtual learning.

Parents wanted to learn how to use these software programs, so parental training will be provided on Tuesday 16th via TEAMS to support parents support home learning. School is on track to get a Digital Schools Award.

Internet Safety Day being held week beginning 8th February, by PSE staff.

Teams and Glow - parents could see what was due, but the council is turning off this facility, due to

	<p>Data Protection Act. School advocating to keep this on.</p> <p>However, live lessons are now on for pupils and parents.</p> <p>PSA and ASL assigned to every class where students can provide feedback for work differentiation</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>AOB</p> <p>A question was raised about there being little labelling on menus, especially for vegetarian, vegan and gluten-intolerant pupils. Lee</p>	

	will feedback this to catering team.	
9.	<p>Next meeting</p> <p>The next Parent Council meeting will be on 8th March 2021, at 7PM on Teams.</p>	