

DUMFRIES ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

DATE **04 NOVEMBER 2020**

PRESENT Mrs K Hulme, Parent (Chair)
K Paterson, Parent (Treasurer)
Mrs J Dillon, Rector
Mrs A McFadyen, Depute Rector
Mrs A Henderson, Clerical Assistant/Clerk

APOLOGIES Mr M Shah (Parent)

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minute of Meeting held on 04 March 2020
4. Matters Arising
5. Treasurer's Report
 - Fundraising
 - Parent Council Lottery
6. Correspondence
7. Rector's Report
 - Parent's meetings/reporting cycle (JD)
 - Awards Ceremonies (JD)
8. Wish List
9. Date of Next Meeting of the Parent Council
10. Any Other Competent Business

Agenda Item	DISCUSSION	DECISION	ACTION
1	<u>Welcome</u> K Hulme welcomed everyone to the meeting.		
2	<u>Apologies</u> Apologies came via email to the school office from Mr M Shah.		
3	<u>Minute of Meeting of 03 March 2020</u>	Approved	
4	<u>Matters Arising</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Donation for PE for Netball, nothing sent from Miss Haile regarding this – KP to check emails for anything sent over lockdown period. ➤ The compasses for Duke of Edinburgh still need to be paid. KP had been waiting for a new chequebook; cheques now written and sent to KH for signing then back to KP for distribution. ➤ Parent Council Allowance return submitted on time, however, no allowance received for this financial year. JD to contact Vanessa Morris for update. ➤ All school trip dates have now been revised; parents and pupils advise accordingly. 		KP JD

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5	<p><u>Treasurer's Report.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Balance as at today is £2255.01. £68 in for Parent Council Lottery but £60 out in winnings. ➤ Up to date with payments/winnings to end of August including the Duke of Edinburgh, compass payment. ➤ Need to promote the lottery, AM suggested making the sign-up form digital within Microsoft Forms to modernise the approach. KP to look at this. 		KP
6	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>There was no further correspondence.</p>		
7	<p><u>Rector's Report</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A full report was issued to the Parent Forum at the AGM on 23 September. A copy of the Head Teacher's Update was issued via SMS and on the School App for Parents on 9 October. These documents cover school news for the last academic session and up to the end of Term 1. ➤ Since returning to school in October, we have been busy. Last week, we were able to finally issue our Certificates to our Senior Award Winners. We were delighted to be able to share the successes and achievements of our winners, who performed exceptionally well given the disruptions to last session. Our virtual ceremony was shared on our communication platforms and was well received. ➤ We were also able to hold Parents Meetings with Tutors for our S4-6 cohort. We hope these were of benefit to parents and pupils at this early stage in the year. We will share the results of parental surveys with the parent forum once all feedback has been received. ➤ On Monday 2 November, we shared a video which provided information for senior phase pupils to help support them with their learning and study. The second part of the video will be shared next week and this will focus on careers and Further/Higher Education. ➤ We revised our criteria for our Junior Awards Ceremonies last session but were unable to carry out the ceremony in June (due to Covid-19). Postponing it has allowed us to refine our criteria to ensure that there are opportunities to recognise achievements in school and contributions to the wider life of the school. We hope to be able to share the virtual ceremony with you next week and to present Certificates to Junior Award Winners shortly afterwards. ➤ Finally, we have been fortunate to be able to make school as "normal" as possible during the first term back and are continuing to do so. We have had to adapt our ways of working to make sure that pupils and staff can learn productively in a safe environment. We would ask for your continued cooperation in ensuring that we follow NHS and Local Authority Guidance to make sure our school continues to be safe. Whilst we are able to provide masks for pupils, we are unable to keep up with the demand and this puts staff and pupils at risk. I would ask that all parents/carers reinforce the need for all pupils to bring their own mask/face covering to school on a daily basis and to wear it in social areas, when moving around school and in toilets. In the community, pupils must wear masks in shops and on all forms of shared public transport. 		

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10	<p><u>Wish List</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ JD asked if it would be possible for the Parent Council to support the school in relation to face coverings. A large number of pupils are coming to the School Office daily for a face covering. Proposed that school snoods be purchased with the possibility of the Parent Council subsidising cost to pupils. Parent Council happy to subsidise, with the possibility of fully funding some for pupils who may struggle to purchase. JD to circulate survey to pupils to see what the up take would be on wearing snoods. ➤ It was also noted that the School Enterprise Group is considering face coverings as one of their products. ➤ JD to forward KH email from Sheri Murray for Wish List for Arts and Creativity. <p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u> The next meeting of Dumfries Academy Parent Council scheduled for Thursday 28 January 2021.</p> <p><u>Any other Competent Business</u></p> <p><u>PE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ KH advised that some P7 parents are currently discussing PE facilities/activities available at Dumfries Academy, which could be affecting choice of secondary school. ➤ Due to current circumstances, JD advised indoor PE could not take place at the beginning although had been included in the original risk assessment. ➤ Outdoor areas are now being used including King George V. ➤ Authority is currently looking at Loreburn Hall as a possible PE facility for Dumfries Academy. However, this has now been taken off the table. ➤ Indoor PE can now take place however facilities at Dumfries Academy are poor; the old gym isn't suitable for lessons and the games hall flooring is in need of repair. ➤ JD is meeting with L Foss and colleagues on Monday 9.11.20 at 2pm to consider other options for Dumfries Academy. KH intimated she would like to attend meeting if available. <p><u>General</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bids for DLT Phase 2 have gone been submitted to Scottish Government. ➤ Christmas Fayre – Parent Council happy to support if it goes ahead. Various options including virtually, or outdoor market type considered. Probably not going to be viable; replace it with a Christmas themed event. Instagram page has been set up for pupil ideas. ➤ JD advised parents' meetings to continue as per the schedule with evaluation forms issued to parents for feedback. ➤ Parent Council member advised that there was an error in the certificate received by her child. This had already been noted in school; certificate will be re-issued in due course. 		<p>JD</p> <p>JD</p>

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	<p><u>Any other Competent Business (cont)</u></p> <p><u>Junior Awards Ceremony</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ BGE awards ceremony should have been held in June however postponed due to Covid. ➤ Virtual ceremony and presentation of certificates will hopefully take place within the next two weeks. ➤ The awards criteria has also changed, currently working on an interim model and will have to rethink for next session. ➤ Criteria for School and House awards need to be reconsidered this includes Wider Achievement. ➤ Academic awards for excellence and diligence will also be included on the certificate. Possibility of badges being presented with some of the certificates for academic awards. JD suggested Parent Council could give financial support for badges for future ceremonies. ➤ KP commented on senior awards presentation on Sway. She suggested that pupils' photographs and a voiceover rather than Principal Teachers Pupil Support reading out names might be easier for parents to follow. KP also suggested using Loom. ➤ Dumfries Academy has been selected to participate in the Respect Me anti-bullying programme. Surveys will be issued in due course; these will require a good level of parental engagement. 		