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Lourdes Secondary Parent Council Meeting

Thursday 27 August 2020

Present:

Mandie Running	Chair	Mr G McGuigan	Head Teacher
Chris Campbell	V Chair	Mr P Monaghan	DHT
Jacqui Miller	Treasurer		

Other members of the Parent Council were in attendance.

MR welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new session. Outlined the proposal for the way parent council meetings will be held for the foreseeable future ie for representatives of the parent council to attend a small, socially distanced meeting with the SMT and then hold a full Zoom meeting later that evening. In addition, there may be a wider Zoom information session, at a later stage, for the parent forum if there was demand.

There was no set agenda for this meeting but several points had been forwarded to Mr McGuigan in advance. It is noted that these were in no way complaints or concerns but areas where reassurance maybe required.

Q1: S2 pupils

As the current S2 were unable to have their Parents' Evening in S1, is any consideration being given to update parents sooner rather would normally be the case?

Response:

PM – acknowledged that the current S2 have had no formal opportunity to attend a Parents' Evening or had an update other than the tracking report that was issued in January 2020. PM advised that they were trying to do something, but also that this would be a whole school approach. As face to face meetings are not an option and no school has been in this position before, various options will need to be looked at. However, it could be a combination of various models. This would need to suit both staff and parents. Further work is currently being undertaken on this.

PM also advised that the staff are keen to identify workable solutions.

Tracking reports will be issued for all year groups by October.

Q2: S4 pupils

Parents are looking for information and reassurance of how the current S4 pupils will be able to catch up and be in a position to sit the NAT5 exams next year (if there are any)

Response:

GM advised that Nat 5 is a one year course.

For both NAT 5 and Highers, SMT and PTs are confident that although pupils missed the early work in June, they will catch up. However, due to the current COVID situation, there will be no supported study or after school activities as per government guidance. This may have an impact on those who may struggle, but in terms of teaching they will cover the courses.

PTs are already thinking of ways to support pupils eg possibly via Teams when they all get their iPads.

At the moment, there is no indication on how next year's exams may look.

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Q3: One way system

There was concern mooted about bottlenecks in some areas and concern for S1s getting caught up. This is more about reassurance that there is adequate supervision.

Response:

GM advised that there were teething issues but the one way system is working well and improving everyday.

There are six SMT present in corridors as well as Pastoral Care staff but they can't be everywhere. Gm acknowledged that there are bottlenecks but staff are doing all they can.

Pupils are getting used to and getting better at following the one way system and everyone knows where the tricky areas are and are beginning to avoid them.

Q4: PE

There is concern that on particularly wet days, pupils could be sitting in wet clothes all day.

Response:

GM advised that like all schools, they were following the government guidelines on PE which currently states only outdoor activities are permitted.

However, it has now been agreed with the PE department, that if the weather is bad, they will not be outside. However, they will not be doing any lessons whilst indoors.

GM advised that he was hoping to have further information on indoor activities in the near future.

However, for accredited NAT5/Higher PE – classes are concentrating on the written part of the course just now. The physical part will be done in time.

Q5: Lunchtimes

Clarification is sought on the current payment system and like PE what will happen on days where the weather is bad.

Response:

GM/MR explained BACS payments system and advised that the Scottish Government's guidance was that there was to be no cash handling for meals. The current payment method is interim measure and a bespoke online payment system for all school related items will be implemented this session.

If the weather is poor, there is space available indoors for all pupils.

School have purchased a gazebo and if it is successful, more will be purchased and will be located in the quadrangle.

Q6: Masks/Social Distancing

Do you anticipate any issues with the introduction of face coverings?

Response:

GM advised that staff will do all they can to encourage pupils to wear their masks in the designated areas. However, it is not mandatory. Most of the pupils asked don't really want to wear one but understand that they need to and will.

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Head Teacher's Update

GM advised that local residents/MP/MSP and councillors were complaining that pupils aren't socially distancing or wearing masks outside of school but reminded them that whilst pupils are outwith the school grounds the school are not responsible for them.

However, pupils are being reminded to adhere to all relevant guidance.

Results:

GM gave a very brief outline:

1st set of results were fair –

S4 were on par with previous years
S5 were down
S6 were up

2nd set – updated results –

S4 up significantly
S5 up significantly
S6 up 1%

Trip Deposits

Deposits for all trips that were cancelled have now been returned and arrangements are being made to repay these to parents.

AOB

Uniforms - funds

JM advised that the Parent Council are aware that uniforms are being provided for pupils from the school fund and have offered a small contribution towards the cost of this exercise. All agreed.

Staff Welfare

AMT asked how the staff were settling and were there any anxieties.

GM advised that all were doing well and appropriate support and advice was given where required.

Minibus

GM advised the school has a new bus but will keep the old one too.

Date of next meeting - tbc

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