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Lourdes Secondary Parent Council Meeting

Thursday 3 December 2020

Present:

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

Other members of the Parent Council were in attendance.

MR welcomed everyone to the meeting of the new session. Outlined the proposal for the way parent council meetings will be held for the foreseeable future i.e. 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.

Head Teacher's Update

S1 and S2 Parents' Evenings – worked well. They were held between 3.30pm – 5.30pm. Parents made appointments in the usual format and staff telephoned parents. Time was given after 5.30pm where parents had more questions than the allocated time allowed.

Q – How many pupils have had positive Covid results and how many have had to self-isolated?

GM - 11 positive Covid cases of which 4 tested positive but weren't actually at school.

Lourdes is comparatively low compared to other schools in the city.

A total 122 pupils were required to self-isolate since October break – prior to that there were no cases. However, some of these were 'double hits' where the same children needed to self-isolated more than once – same group.

Attendance is good as the above doesn't count as an absence. Attendance is around 90% and is normally around 94% but quite happy.

Q – What is being offered to pupils who are self-isolating?

Work should be able to access on TEAMS. Teachers are working fulltime and with everything else going on both personally and professionally, it is difficult. Most teachers are doing well but it is difficult – some pupils are emailing teachers at all times of day.

Pupils and staff are using OneNote quite often. iPads are also helping but are in the early stages. Need to ringfence time for staff to be upskilled with training on IT.

Assessment/Prelims/Stress for upper school

SMT and PTs met last week re NAT 5 and are meeting again tomorrow for to discuss Highers and Advanced Highers. Once this has taken place parents will be advised.

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Probably no NAT 5 prelims before February/March. Looking to gathering more evidence but will give them a shot at a formal exam although this will be difficult. Staff seem to want to give a prelim exam but there is a huge need for as much evidence as possible. There is a need to think about something more substantial but will agree with PTs tomorrow. There are regular tests as this is evidence.

Where results of assessments are not satisfactory, pupils will be given another opportunity to get something better on another topic. Only positives will be used and submitted. Unfortunately, the stress of tests, assessments etc will not go away.

Highers and above teachers want prelims but not all at the same time. They may be staggered. Still to be clarified.

No idea what the appeal process is yet.

NB – it has since been confirmed by the Scottish Government that there will no be formal exams for Highers and Advanced Highers in 2021.

Q – if there is to be a formal prelim, can the children be told asap?

A – Yes. They will be told before Christmas.

There is still no clarity from SQA. No dates for evidence submissions as yet.

GM – An announcement was issued on the school app re additional FSM payments.

Advent – the school is collecting food for local foodbanks. This was tweeted but not on school app. Arrangements will be made to have it issued on the app too.

GM - There is still no extracurricular activities, no Christmas festivities etc and the school is not quite the same but, hopefully this will return in time.

Q - Will there be supported study?

A- This is being offered by some staff. Various departments are doing so. However, this is not mandatory and the nature of supported study increases the risk of contact as most are offered in a 1:1/ 1:2 situation. Once we are in a better position to know what is happening re exams, this may be reviewed.

Practical subjects (PE and Music) NAT 5 PE. Still unsure on what will happen with the practical side at the moment as indoors sports are prohibited. The same applies to wind, brass and singing in Music.

There is a gazebo in quadrangle and voice pupils are now outdoors.

Numbers for Options

S5 have picked their options but they will not be held to this. This is only for a number exercise to look at timetables. This will be refined.

S2 will be asked before Christmas and again further into the year. French and Social Subjects have been removed as compulsory. Only Maths and English are now compulsory. Again, at this stage, this is only to gauge numbers in order to begin to prepare a timetable.

After Christmas, the same exercise will be done with S3 and S4.

Trips etc.

There are no plans for any trips or activities at the moment – simply cannot make any plans.

Next meeting: Thursday 4 February 2021

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