**St Margaret’s Academy Parent Council Meeting**

**29th November 2021**

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| **Parents Present**  L Loran (Chair**)**  C Wilson  C Cooper  E Obi-Baron  S Young Murray  C Moran  J Morrison  Martin Dobie (Church Rep) | **St Margaret’s Staff**  Siobhan McGarty (HT)  Mrs Brennan PTC PS  Mr Shafat PTC PS  Mrs Casey PT RE  Mrs Barr PT Digital | **Apologies**  Isla Wright (DHT)  Anne Crookston (DHT, Acting)  E Traynor |

* Opening Prayer
* Welcome led by Mrs Loran who outlined the format for the evening.
* Matters arising – Any previous queries addressed

**HT Report**

Mrs McGarty provided an update on staffing: Mrs Love moved on this week to a Modern Studies post. PC Greenhill has joined us as our Campus police officer.

It has been a busy couple of months with activities back up and running where possible.

S1 took part in retreats with Net Ministry and thoroughly enjoyed their experience. Mrs Casey organised this event and may add a little more about it tonight.

S1-3 engaged in pupil focus groups about their learning particularly in Expressive arts areas of the curriculum and their feedback will be very useful to help enhance their experience and review how these subjects can work together when building the curriculum.

S4-6 have been busy progressing with their studies and preparing for assessments which will support evidence and provide quality feedback for improvement. It’s very important this year that they have the opportunity to experience an exam style situation in preparation for the final exams. Supported study is underway and this will also be stepped up after Christmas with opportunities for everyone to attend.

Many of our after school clubs and RE club have restarted which is brilliant news with our youngsters thoroughly enjoying these activities. A number of new ideas are taking shape with the possibility of running these in the next few weeks.

Our Parents evenings are well under way with our 3rd one taking place this week for S3. We are online and they seem to be going smoothly with positive feedback. We will undertake an evaluation with parents (Mrs Wright) and value any feedback that you may have.

There will be a range of events being organised for Advent including services for each class group, S6 Panto evening, Enterprise group making festive gifts to sell, presents for our Nurture group, small party events in class, festive decoration of rooms, choir singing at hospital and care home.

**DHT PS post**- recruitment process:

The Longleet interviews are this Wednesday with 4 stages- written task, professional interview panel (Mrs McGarty, EO and HT St Kentigern’s), pupil group and partners group. After this, Mrs McGarty will feed back to Parent Council and hold a meeting on Thursday 4pm to do this.

The shortleet is next Thursday 9th December and will involve councillor, Church rep, education officer, Mrs McGarty and Parent Council rep. on the interview panel.

**Participatory budget**

Mrs McGarty explained that the Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) has allocated within it 3% which our parents may agree to how it is used. The amount of £3466 equates to 3% and it was agreed with the membership that this could pay for Reading Wise £2700; Digital Maths £600; and contribute towards the Library refresh.

**Family Learning**

Mrs Brennan presented an overview of our Family Learning programme and explained how each area will be supported. Each department has been asked to provide information to support access to study guides, course work and links for their subjects at each level of study. The core themes of HWB, Numeracy and Literacy are being developed to provide digital learning activities to support families in engaging their children with homework and home study. A Christmas themed family activity programme is being created with contributions from all departments and should provide a range of exciting and fun family activities for over the festive period.

**Laudato Si**

Mrs Casey explained the aims of Laudato Si where as a school community we have committed to care for creation. She outlined how our pupils are learning more about this through RE and wider across the school. Our Eco group has taken part in a project to work on pollution solutions which they shared with the whole school.

**Developing the Young Workforce**

Mr Shafat discussed the plans to support online work experience opportunities and shared developments in our Skills Centre where we have introduced new courses- Horticulture, Construction, Beauty and developing Barista training with the introduction of a school café. The DYW team have made links with a number of businesses who will support the development and design of the curriculum as well as offer work placements. Mr Shafat also asked if parents have business links and would like to work with us, to please contact him to discuss.

**Digital strategy**

Mrs Barr presented the school’s digital strategy. This new plan progresses on from the school receiving the national Digital Award in June, and identifies the next steps. The focus will be on upskilling students, staff and parents in the use of digital technology. New course are being implemented and more are being developed to be introduced in Session 2022-23. The plan will be shared on the school’s website with further updates through the school newsletter.

**\* AOB**

Parents asked for the parent evening dates to be reissued as a reminder.

Next meeting: 24th January 2022