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

**27th September 2021**

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| **Parents Present**  L Loran (Chair**)**  KShemilt  SYoung-Murray  Martin Dobie (Church Rep) | **St Margaret’s Staff**  Siobhan McGarty (HT)  Isla Wright (DHT)  Anne Crookston (DHT, Acting)  Heather Nisbet (PTC Social Subjects) | **Apologies**  Mrs Renfrew (DHT Acting) |

* Opening Prayer
* Welcome led by Mrs Loran who outlined the format for the evening.
* AGM

Mrs Loran explained the Constitution and Code of Conduct (documents available). She was seconded to remain as Chair for another year. The Vice Chair’s position has become vacant and a volunteer requested to replace Mrs Traynor. The group thanked Mrs Traynor for her contribution to the Council and the school.

**HT Report**

Mrs McGarty informed the meeting that pupils had made a very good start back and settled in well. New S1 pupils felt a little anxious in light of having a reduced opportunity to visit the school due to Covid restrictions. However, S6 buddies provided great support and ensured that pupils were helped to classes, felt supported and able to settle in quickly.

The school is delighted with the hard work and commitment of senior pupils supported by staff to achieve excellent exam results, even with the significant challenges that the young people face with the pandemic situation.

An update was provided on staffing: 7 probationer teachers started with the school in August, and a new development post for Business links will be interviewed this week.

The School Improvement Plan(SIP) is available on the school website along with the Standards and Quality report for session 19/20. A summary of the SIP was shared with Parent Council and feedback requested before it goes out to the full parent body. Mrs McGarty provided an overview of the plan which has a focus on engaging pupils in their learning including the use of digital technology. A new Coaching programme for S4/5 will be introduced in the first phase with further year groups being added. This will be supported by staff training in coaching techniques with a business partner (who is also one of our parents). Mrs McGarty thanked her for her support of the school with this exciting new venture.

**Rights Respecting School**

Miss Nisbet provided an update (powerpoint available)on the school’s progress with RRS. The school achieved the silver award in 2019 and will undertake a refresher on silver before moving forward with gold this session. This will be supported by a relaunch of Pupil Council and with input from the School Captains Team.

**Curriculum updates**

Mrs Wright provided an update on new courses that are being implemented this session including Horticulture, Beauty and Construction. Italian (N5) will also be introduced and Higher Media Studies. This is the second year of Classics which had an excellent start last year with a full pass rate. A new Sport and Fitness course has been introduced for S5/6 at N5 level. In the BGE, a new Digital Schools curriculum and award are being introduced for S1 and S2. Parents were very pleased to hear about the continuing range of opportunities being offered to young people across the school.

**Well-being plans**

Mrs Crookston discussed this session’s Well Being strategy which incorporates a mental health and well-being framework. The aims of the strategy were explained where there will be a universal approach to support all young people as well as a targeted strand to support individual students.

There is a clear focus on mental health with pupils in S1-4 undertaking MH awards. There is also work being progressed with partner agencies to support eg. self-esteem and team building.

Specialist support is also in place where the school is working with the Inclusion and Well Being Service of WLC. Staff are providing sessions such as Consequential Thinking, well-being and mindfulness.

The Nurture timetable is currently supporting 75 pupils and a new programme for Support for Learning has been implemented with specialist input from the English and Maths departments. The counselling team are supporting a number of pupils and we have increased input with covid recovery funding.

Parents shared that they are very pleased that the school is supporting mental health of students in a focused manner. A parent suggested a workshop for parents on supporting WB and Resilience. Mrs Crookston will progress this.

**Reporting**

Apologies from Mrs Renfrew who could not attend, and Mrs Wright provided an update about the reporting calendar for the year ahead. Information about the calendar will be issued this week to parents with the first ‘settling in’ reports being issued this week for S1-S3, followed by S4-S6 the next week. Over the course of the session, there will be two interim and a full report as well as a parents’ evening.

**AOB**

The group discussed encouraging membership of Parent Council in particular to represent year groups. Information will be sent to parents about the work of Parent Council with a request for membership.

Next meeting: 29.11.21