

# ARRAN HIGH SCHOOL

## PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, 18 May 2022

**Present:** Helen Beckett, Michelle Bunting, Alison Currie, Susan Foster, Clair Reeves, Ann Reid, Sarah Southwick, Katie Webster,

**Apologies:** Ailsa Currie, Lizzie McCarthy, Alison Henderson, Faith McKelvie, Clare Gilmore

**Minutes:** Helen Beckett

CR chaired the meeting (LMcC absent due to illness) and led introductions at the first Parent Council meeting to take place in school after a 2-year break because of Covid.

### **Minutes of Previous Meeting/Matters Arising**

The minutes of the AGM held in January were proposed by KW and seconded by SS. It was agreed that minutes should be written up, distributed to the PC and headteacher and ratified by two PC representatives - and published on the school website within a week. This keeps feedback fresh and promotes parent engagement.

### **Treasurer's Report**

#### Balances

Parent Council Admin a/c: £1668.54

PC Fundraising a/c: £1595.64

Funds are generated solely at present through the 50/50 Club, which is managed online.

AC is in the process of changing signatories on the bank account to new chair and secretary, LMcC & HB

### **Head Teacher's Report**

Numerous activities have happened/are scheduled for this term.

- The YPI finals were held in school, and the external judge was blown away by Arran High's finalists' presentations, which included mountain bike stunts on stage, and a fashion show catwalk. The winners will be invited to present to the judges in Perth in June.
- A range of Health & Wellbeing activities will be on offer to the students in the week commencing May 23. Options include a motivational talk by a professional footballer, a walk up Goatfell, graffiti art and many other options designed to support our young people's health and wellbeing.
- Music School is going away to do a competition on the mainland, and Mr Dickie is putting on an end of year show on June 22. This is a welcome return as singing was prohibited during the pandemic.
- P7 Transition: There will be an open night and a 3-day transition for P7 pupils.
- A Walk, Bike, Run fundraiser to be sponsored by Arran businesses is being organised by Rebecca Early for all AH students to participate in.
- A cohort of Icelandic teachers will visit AH as part of their training

### **SQA Update (MB)**

The first set of exams since Covid have gone smoothly and the students have been a credit to themselves and the school. The school needs more invigilators and will be recruiting in September for the next session: applications can't be considered from anyone who has a child in school. The timetable changes on May 30 when students go into their new year group.

### **College and vocational (SF)**

As an island school, Arran High doesn't have the capacity to teach a broad curriculum and is always looking for ways to extend it, especially its vocational offer. The college campus at school is to offer new National Progression Awards (NPAs) in cyber security, and customer services.

### **Communications (SF)**

The leadership team has benefited from 30-minutes virtual "nuts and bolts" sessions on a variety of topics, such as financial regulation and handling difficult situations. SF is willing to offer similar shots of information to parents on topics they're interested in, such as 'how a decision, say options column, was arrived at'.

### **Uniform**

**(SF)**

Because of the PE situation during Covid, uniform code was understandably relaxed. SF is keen to tighten up on uniforms, especially keeping to solid black leggings or jeans for the girls.

### **Study time (SF)**

The school will consider creating space and time in the school day for S5 students to study by themselves, in response to parents and students' wishes.

### **Staffing (SF)**

The ongoing housing crisis on Arran is hampering recruitment for the next academic year and puts island education in a vulnerable position. As well as deterring candidates, it makes timetabling difficult and impacts

the curriculum that can be offered. A discussion considered ways that the PC could help by lobbying MSPs, meeting with Arran planning and housing officials, teaming up with the health sector to find housing solutions for key workers, for example. CR proposed that finding housing solutions become a focus for the PC in the short term.

### **School trips**

Parents and students were understandably disappointed that the ski trip planned for 2023 was cancelled. At present NAC urges schools to be cautious about international travel because of the difficulty of bringing home students who fall ill with Covid. Off-island trips are happening, such as YPI winners and the mountain bike club. The school will organise trips within the UK and abroad at the speed that NAC allows/advises.

### **School Food**

A tasting day was held recently at Lamlash primary school and may be an option at the high school: students have voiced concern about pre-ordered meals and the numbers of plastic bottles served up in those deals.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

Tbc

*[Minutes proposed CV, seconded AC]*