



CHARLESTON ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of Parent Council Meeting held on Tuesday 19th May 2015 at Charleston Academy

Present: Fiona Alexander, Laura Beaton, Lyndie Cameron, Ciara Flügel, David Gillies, Sue Fraser, Helen Hunter, Urszula Kozak, Rona MacAskill, Rona Macpherson, Kate McEwen, Kate Morris (Chair), Katrina Morrison, Andrea Paterson, Julie Riddle, Gordon Stewart, Christian Wittke

In Attendance: Chris O'Neill (Rector), Margret MacRae (Clerk)

Apologies: Anne Ashton, Fiona Malcolm, Linda McLean, Neil Stotfield, Lindsey Stout

1.	<u>WELCOME</u> Kate Morris welcomed everyone to the meeting, and in particular Maureen Wilson and Jean Goddard from the Listen Well Project
2.	<u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</u> The minute of the meeting held on 17 th March was approved. Proposed: Fiona Alexander Seconded: Urszula Kozak
3.	<u>MATTERS ARISING</u> Kate Morris reported that the Rotary Charity Shop has now closed down. It will therefore not be possible to repeat the fundraiser undertaken last September.
4.	<u>RECTOR'S REPORT</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Staffing. Ailsa Whitelaw has been recruited to join the Physics Department. Mr Stewart will shortly be taking paternity leave. Lyndie Cameron has been appointed as Acting Depute whilst Mr Stewart is absent, and she will oversee the transition arrangements.○ The boxing club continues to be very successful. It had been thought that funding had been secured now been secured for the next few years – however, this is not now the case and funding is currently being sought for next session.○ The students taking part in the Procurator Fiscal's Speaking Competition are now through to the North Eastern final which will be held in Aberdeen.○ Zig-zags to prevent parking have now been painted at Charleston View in order to try and prevent any accidents occurring. The school is currently waiting for the signs which state that this is a drop-off / collection point for parents. Mr O'Neill thanked the Parent Council for their support.○ Mr O'Neill reported that the sixteen pupils and staff from Lotsane Secondary School in Palapye, Botswana enjoyed their 2-week visit to Inverness. During their stay they attended the Civic Reception at the Town House, the school fashion show and visited a number of tourist attractions. The visit is part of the Botswana International Connecting Classrooms Exchange. It is anticipated that 30 pupils from Charleston Academy will be going to Botswana next year.○ The Albert Roux Kitchen hosted the 'Cook of the Year' competition. Competitors, who were all canteen cooks, produced meals of outstanding quality that can be replicated when serving 300 – 400 meals.○ It was reported that Ronan Melens won The Rotary Masterchef Competition 2015. The event was streamed live from the Albert Roux Kitchen and broadcast to the audience in the school hall.○ Police Scotland is currently piloting a youth initiative across four local authorities. Charleston Academy is the only school in Scotland to be involved, and is delighted that 25 youth volunteers are now working with the police in a cadet style scheme. All the young people had to apply and take part in an interview for their position. The initiative is hosted by and takes place at Charleston Academy and Police Scotland is not looking to recruit beyond Charleston Academy at this stage. The caveat being that Charleston Academy provides sufficient staff volunteers to be able to support the initiative – the school currently has 7 staff volunteers involved in the project.○ Mr O'Neill explained that the current study leave arrangements allow the school to provide wider curriculum opportunities for pupils. These include the S1 – S3 activity days and this year trips planned include a visit to Alton Towers, a theatre trip to Aberdeen and canoeing the Great Glen.○ The timetable change takes place at the beginning of June. This will be followed by Award and Graduation Ceremonies for pupils throughout the school.○ School trips taking place shortly include the trip to USA and a trip to the Bay of Naples and Rome



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	<p>is planned for 2016 . Mr O'Neill thanked staff for giving up their own time to organise and facilitate these trips. Without the goodwill of staff it would not be possible to offer pupils the wide variety of opportunities currently on offer.</p>
5.	<p><u>QUALITY IMPROVEMENT VISIT</u> A Quality Improvement Visit has been arranged for 17th and 18th June. Two or three Quality Improvement Officers and two Head Teachers will visit the school. They will work with the Senior Management Team, visit classes and speak to both pupils and parents. Mr O'Neill explained that the visitors would like to speak to approximately 20 parents from across the school. Any parent who wishes to get involved, and is available during the school day on the 17th or 18th June, should contact Kate Morris.</p>
6.	<p><u>LISTEN WELL PROJECT</u> Maureen Wilson, National Co-ordinator and Jean Goddard, local volunteer from the charity Listen Well informed the Parent Council about the new partnership project being undertaken with Charleston Academy. This initiative will see 24 S6 students trained in active listening. The senior students applied for this opportunity and took part in a selection interview. They will now receive 2 days of training and will then be working with S2 pupils, providing them with someone to talk to if they don't want to talk to parents or staff. It was stressed that the S6 pupils that will be undertaking this role will be heavily supervised and will have clear parameters so that they know when it will be necessary for them to report information on to an adult. It was highlighted that the role is not to give advice, but to empower the young people explore for themselves what is going on, and to help them find their own solutions /decisions. The S6 pupils taking part will learn why listening is important, will choose the title of their role, write up their results and demonstrate their outcomes. It was felt that this would help young people by providing them with life skills and also be of benefit for their personal statements or job applications.</p>
7.	<p><u>FINANCE</u> ○ FINANCE REPORT. It was reported that the current bank balance is £3451.43.</p>
8.	<p><u>STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCH</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was previously agreed to provide a staff lunch for all teaching and support staff at the inset day in June. This is to thank staff for all the work they undertake which is over and above their remit and includes provision of extra-curricular activities, revision classes, additional cleaning for Parents Evenings / events and all the other things that go on behind the scenes which are so often not acknowledged. • A number of partner organisations will also be at Charleston Academy on the inset day. The Parent Council agreed the guests from the partner organisations would also be welcome at the lunch, and the budget for the lunch can be increased accordingly. • Anyone who would be able to help out on the day should contact Rona or Kate.
8.	<p><u>CORRESPONDENCE</u> No correspondence has been received.</p>
9.	<p><u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An update of the Facilities Management Review was circulated. Mr O'Neill explained that this model of providing janitorial cover had only applied to primary schools up until now. It was noted that the Highland Council is now giving consideration to the inclusion of secondary schools. One member of the Parent Council will contact the Highland Council to seek clarification on the position and, if appropriate, find out what this would mean for Charleston Academy. ○ Yvette Hogan, Vice Chair and Margret MacRae, Clerk will both be stepping down. Anyone interested in taking on the role of Vice Chair or Clerk should contact Kate Morris. The clerk's post is a paid position and the clerk receives payment of £50 per meeting. It is not necessary to have children attending the school to be able to apply for the post of clerk.
10.	<p><u>DATES OF NEXT MEETING – 7pm on:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tuesday 25th August 2015