



CHARLESTON ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

Minute of Parent Council Meeting held at 7pm on Tuesday 25th August 2015 at Charleston Academy.

Present: Fiona Alexander, Marie Bisset, Sue Fraser, David Gillies, Urszula Kozak, Rona MacAskill, Fiona Malcolm, Linda McLean, Kate Morris (Chair), Andrea Paterson, Julie Riddle, Lindsey Stout.

In attendance: Helen Hunter, Rona Macpherson, Chris O'Neill (Rector), Gordon Stewart.

Apologies: Anne Ashton, Ciara Flügel, Kate McEwen, Katrina Morrison, Christian Wittke.

1.	<p><u>WELCOME</u></p> <p>Kate Morris welcomed everyone to the meeting. Kate Morris thanked Lindsey Stout for volunteering to take the minutes of the meeting.</p>
2.	<p><u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</u></p> <p>The minute of the meeting held on Tuesday 19th May 2015 was approved. Proposed: Fiona Malcolm Seconded: Urszula Kozak</p>
3.	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>Kate Morris reiterated that the Rotary Charity Shop has now closed down, so it will therefore not be possible to repeat the fundraiser of last September.</p>
4.	<p><u>RECTOR'S REPORT</u></p> <p>The Quality Improvement visit in June was very successful. It is regarded as one of the best school reports since this format of QIO visit was introduced two years ago.</p> <p>Chris O'Neill thanked those parents present at the meeting who were able to meet with Quality Improvement Team in school. The report has not yet been released to staff but once it has been, the main points will be published on the website for parents. The key points are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A clear vision and direction for the school from the Rector and the Senior Management Team.• A good quality learning experience for pupils, which in some cases is very good.• A high attaining school with extensive wider curricular opportunities.• A broad and balanced curriculum.• A committed staff.• Pupils and parents are supportive of the school.• There are strong links with partner agencies such as Police Scotland and



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the range of activities is second to none.

- Charleston is delivering the Curriculum for Excellence well.

The school anticipates an Education Scotland inspection at some point in the next two years.

Areas to be developed:

- Build a strong collegiate capacity to manage change and review consultation arrangements.
- More effective differentiation in S1-S3 and in some cases beyond.
- Continue to develop monitoring and tracking.

Staffing:

- There were no staff retirements.
- Emma Harris left for a post at Forres Academy.
- Dave Kemp is teaching French on supply.
- Absences in Art and Maths are being filled by supply teachers at present.

Exam results:

There was a good set of exam results. The results have overall improved slightly this year on last year's results, following big leaps in attainment in the last two years. This shows that increases in attainment are hopefully sustainable.

Higher Results:

- Four pupils achieved 5 As (in Highers).
- 14.8% of pupils achieved five Highers, grades A to C.
- 33.3% achieved four or more Highers, grades A to C. This is the second highest in Highland.
- Altogether, 43.9% of pupils achieved three Highers, grades A to C. This is a slight improvement on 42% last year.

S4:

- 46.9% gained five National 5s, grades A to C (an increase from 44% in 2014).

This is a significant improvement. These pupils have the potential to do well in Highers.

School calendar:

- The school calendar has been published and is now on the school website. This makes it easier to publicise parents' meetings and other events. The calendar is published on the website but is always subject to change.



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- The first S1 Parents' Evening has been brought forward. This is because the staff feel that it is advantageous to the First Years for their teachers to meet with their families earlier in the year. There is an opportunity to advertise the Parent Council and the S1 Art Exhibition on the 10th November at the S1 Parents' Evening on Wednesday 28th October.

School trips:

There should perhaps be more of a balance on which year group is targeted, so that the trips are spread across a child's academic career and across the calendar year. It is hoped that parents can be consulted within school, informally, on how much notice is required, what's affordable to families, etc.

Charities as Partners:

The annual fundraiser, the Sponsored Walk (on Wednesday 23rd September this year) raises approximately £10,000 for Charleston Academy. Support is requested from the Parent Council to agree which charities Charleston Academy can and should formally support, bearing in mind that supporting too many charitable activities could deplete the resources available to the Parent Council or affect the continuing support of parents and pupils (financial pressure).

At present Charleston Academy support several large fundraisers per annum for national charities such as Comic Relief and Macmillan Cancer Relief or educational charities.

A group of parents from the Parent Council will meet with staff and pupils to discuss which charities should be supported by fundraising activities in school, to be arranged by Kate Morris.

5. FINANCE REPORT

Presented by the Treasurer, Urszula Kozak, whose colleague examined the books. The balance currently stands at £2,827.16.

Chris O'Neill reported that the live link through the website to Easy Fundraising's running total has stopped working and this means that Easy Fundraising is less visible and accessible to families.

Funding request from the Climbing Club: the request for £200 for the purchase of tablets to record and improve on climbing techniques was discussed and approved at the meeting. All present were in favour.

6. S1 ART EXHIBITION

The date is Tuesday 10th November. Mr Derek Sim, acting PT, is the contact for the S1 Art Exhibition in school.

Kate Morris asked for parents who would be willing to help organise and run the



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S1 Art Exhibition to email or 'phone her directly for details or to speak to her after the meeting.

There will be an opportunity at the S1 Parents' Evening on Wednesday 28th October to flag up the S1 Art Exhibition on Tuesday 10th November.

7. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The next meeting is the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 30th September 2015 at 7pm in the Staff Room at Charleston Academy.

8. CORRESPONDENCE/ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no correspondence nor any other business.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

As above.