



CHARLESTON ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of Parent Council Meeting held on Tuesday 3rd November 2015

Present: Kate Morris, Chair; Sue Fraser, Julie Riddle, David Gillies, Jill Kent, Urszula Kozak, Andrea Paterson, Fiona Alexander, Rona Macaskill, Ciara Flugel, Anne Ashton, Cathy Fraser.

In Attendance: Gordon Stewart, Rona MacPherson

Apologies: Fiona Malcolm, Katrina Morrison, Lindsey Stout, Kate McEwan.

1.	<p><u>WELCOME</u> Kate welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>
2.	<p><u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</u> of meeting held 25th August 2015</p> <p>Proposed: Julie Riddle Seconded: Fiona Alexander</p>
3.	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING</u> There were no matters arising.</p>
4.	<p><u>RECTOR'S REPORT</u></p> <p>This was delivered by Gordon Stewart and Rona MacPherson.</p> <p>Staffing – Rona Glynn left the history department last Friday and her replacement, Robert MacLean, had already been appointed and started in Charleston on Monday.</p> <p>Belgium Trip – once again this was a resounding success and ties in with the Remembrance Assemblies. The assemblies will be attended by soldiers from Fort George and local councillors.</p> <p>Sponsored Walk – final figure raised is not yet know but once again the walk was a success.</p> <p>Science Club – the Club of the Year award for the Science Club was awarded last week and thanks go to Pam Hamilton, Science Technician, for running this tremendously successful lunchtime club.</p> <p>Listen Well – senior pupils have been trained in this initiative and it is ready to launch next week.</p> <p>Careers Event – Bridge to Employment have been in to see pupils in 4th and 5th year and they have been invited to attend weekend training. In two weeks time 3rd years will have a skills event.</p> <p>16+ partnership – Inverness College is currently running SVQ level 1 and 2 classes in the Albert Roux kitchen for pupils. As the course includes the pupils serving the dishes prepared there will be some events later in the course, possibly on Friday's after school.</p> <p>Young Philanthropists – 3rd years are representing chosen charities and prize money will be given to the winning team for their charity.</p> <p>Lead Prefects – had a weekend away in Kingussie with a focus on leadership. This was a challenging but rewarding trip.</p> <p>Departmental trips – Tech department visited construction sites with a view to exploring the various apprenticeships available in the sector. This should help broaden the choices of pupils.</p> <p>Geography department had a trip to Skye where the midges were, once again, out in force.</p>



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	<p>Tech department also had a trip to Ikea and the Art Dept visited the Glasgow School of Art.</p> <p>Live and Learn gave a presentation to the S3 and S4 before the October holidays looking at growth/fixed mindset. 'I can't do it...yet' is used to encourage pupils to move on from problems.</p> <p>Mention was made of Arianna Ross, who gained the highest mark in Scotland for Higher Geography last year as she received her award last week. Mr Stewart thanked Mrs Cameron and the Geography department for the work they did in helping Arianna achieve this.</p>
5.	<p><u>Finance report</u></p> <p>Balance at present is £3179.59</p> <p><u>Funding request</u> – A request was received from Helen Sutherland for £250 for the Higher Photography project. This was granted unanimously with praise being given for the high standard of work produced by the art department.</p> <p>Funds raised by the S1 art exhibition will also be given to this project.</p>
6.	<p><u>Art Exhibition</u></p> <p>The S1 Art Exhibition takes place on Tuesday 10th November from 6.30pm – 8.00pm. There are a small number of stalls still available – contact Kate Morris if interested. There will be no charge this year but a raffle will be held to raise funds and teas and coffees will be available on the night. Parents with children in S1 are to be encouraged to attend as the standard of art is extremely high.</p>
7.	<p><u>Correspondence-</u> Highland Council policy of reduction to 6 National 5's response to Inverness Royal Academy Parent Council.</p> <p>The Academy has won the right to keep the level of National 5's offered to pupils in S4 at 7 for a further year following a campaign.</p> <p>Highland Council policy is that all schools will reduce the number offered to 6.</p> <p>A discussion followed regarding the pros and cons of this policy. It was put forward that many pupils struggled with the ongoing internal assessment work if they were studying for 8 subjects. Some parents felt that limiting pupils to six in S4 was too narrow. Others felt that many pupils would struggle with the ongoing internal assessment work if they were studying for 8 subjects and as only 30% of pupils go on to university education it is important not to focus solely on those pupils – the system should be able to cater to all pupils of all abilities.</p> <p>Management said that in very exceptional cases the 'hardline' of 6 subjects could be revised – either up or down depending on circumstances.</p> <p>National 5's are considered to be more demanding than the previous Standard Grades.</p> <p>It was felt that parent's should be made more aware of this policy and the reasons behind it.</p>
9.	<p><u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p> <p>The question of how children are arranged in sets for English and Maths in S1 was brought up. Mr Stewart explained that many factors were taken in to account including the report from the Primary School and INCAS results. Assessment in school was on-going throughout the year and pupils can be moved up or down accordingly. All sets cover all areas of the curriculum.</p>



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10.	<u>DATES OF NEXT MEETING</u> – 7pm on Wednesday 3rd December.
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