



CHARLESTON ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of Parent Council Meeting held on 17th May 2016

Present: Rona MacPherson, DHT, Kate Morris, chair, Urszula Kozak, C Wittke, Sue Fraser, Katrina Morrison, Ciara Flugel, Fiona Alexander, Andrea Paterson, Rona MacAskill, Fiona Malcolm, Julie Riddle

In Attendance: Chris O'Neill, Rector; Maureen Gallie, Clerk.

Apologies: Anne Ashton, David Gillies, Jill Kent, Gordon Stewart DHT, Annetta Crookes, Lyndie Cameron, Helen Hunter DHT.

1.	<p><u>WELCOME</u> Kate welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for coming out on such a wet evening.</p>
2.	<p><u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</u> Proposed: Urszula Kozak Seconded: Julie Riddle</p>
3.	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING</u> There were no matters arising.</p>
4.	<p><u>Rector's Report</u> Mr O'Neill said that a lot has been going on at Charleston, most of which is noted on the school website. The school has worked closely with the Inverness Science Festival and on Demo Day had a visit from a Mechanoid which was a great success and the school were given the opportunity to purchase one at a reduced price. The Mechanoid has arrived at Charleston and taken up residence in the Science department – the hugely successful Science Club will be introducing him to pupils, mostly S1, with a view to developing the schools ICTs skills. Also on ICT, Mr Dyker has been busy with the BBC microbits which were given to all S1 pupils recently. These should help develop the pupils basic programming skills. Highland Council have pledged to provide all pupils with Chromebooks over the coming year. Charleston have already purchased 100 i-pads which the pupils currently have access to – Support for Learning are introducing Google apps for Education and all pupils in S1 to 3 will receive letters this week to enrol for this. There will be more information on the website regarding this initiative shortly. The Easter assemblies were held with excellent contributions from the local Salvation Army chaplain. The Botswana trip fundraising has been gaining momentum with a Dress Down Day in school raising £1200 and a cycle challenge in Tesco raising a further £800. Although the pupils on the trip fund themselves, money is needed for the charity work carried out and also to part-fund the exchange students return visit to Charleston. Another huge success for the school was the Blythwood Enterprise Trust Challenge. This was run by Heather MacRae, who arranged for every class in S1 to receive an initial £20 with a view to increasing this for the charity through the pupil's enterprise. Overall more than £1200 was raised and a group of pupils were invited to attend the finals where they won Best Presentation. Charleston pupils again took part in the Badaguish Challenge and enjoyed themselves despite the challenging weather. 2 pupils have been selected for the Rotarty Club Leadership Course this year. The pupils are supported by staff who help them prepare for the interview. Last weekend Aileen Thompson, along with local gymnastic coaches took pupils to the annual Scottish Gymfest in Perth.</p>



CHARLESTON ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

	<p>Charleston have, once again, secured SFA funding for the School of Football and trials have taken place for the Primary 7's who will be joining us in August.</p> <p>Another initiative at the school is the Teens and Toddlers Programme – more information about this will be given at a later date.</p> <p>The seniors are currently on study leave and the exams have been going well. The school's chief invigilator, Jenny McNee, is again doing an excellent job and our pupils are very well supported through this stressful time.</p> <p>Next week is the school's sports week for S1, 2 and 3 and the PE department will be holding heats for all events during the week with the finals on Friday afternoon attended by the whole school. Thanks go to the janitorial staff for getting the grounds ready for this.</p> <p>The new timetable commences on Tuesday 7th June and Mr O'Neill handed out a draft version of the new school calendar for the next academic year.</p> <p>The main changes relate to the timing of the prelims next January. Pupils in S4, 5 and 6 will all be sitting their prelims at the same time. There will be two Parents Evenings for S4,5 and 6 and these will take place on Thursday 9th Feb and Wednesday 15th Feb. This will allow parents to see all their child's teachers. This also gives pupils all the information they need before the course choice deadline of 3rd March.</p> <p>The Christmas holidays next year are over 2 full weeks, which is much better for the school. Mr O'Neill would prefer the Easter holidays to be on the same dates each year at the start of April to allow consistency in teaching at an important time for senior pupils. This is something parents may wish to take up with the council. Other authorities already have this model. There was a discussion regarding bi-level classes over the next year and Mr O'Neill explained that the school would continue to offer pupils as many courses across the various levels as was possible. Charleston currently offers more choice than many bigger schools.</p> <p>Mr O'Neill is still awaiting formal details regarding staff who have requested Voluntary Redundancies but advised that he has appointed new staff in Geography, English and French.</p> <p>The Highland Council have advertised for a Head Teacher for the new 'virtual school' for the area. This may allow pupils to study on-line for some subjects not currently offered at Charleston. Although the school already has pupils studying subjects via Inverness College and with other local schools.</p>
5.	<p><u>Staff Appreciation Lunch</u></p> <p>Kate advised that Rona would again be catering this event and suggested that this year cards were placed on the tables from the Parent Council thanking the staff for their work over the year. Any parent who is able to help on the day should contact Kate asap.</p>
6.	<p><u>Finance</u></p> <p>The current balance of the account is £2624.59</p> <p>Kate advised that Urszula will be stepping down as Treasurer and thanked her for all her work. Ciara Flugel volunteered to take over the post.</p> <p>Urszula suggested that new signatures be added to the account and it was agreed that both Ciara and Fiona Alexander would be added.</p>



CHARLESTON ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

	<p>Kate suggested that the Parent Council hold a fundraising event annually and asked for any suggestions to be e-mailed to her.</p>
7.	<p><u>Any other business</u></p> <p>Kate asked whether the school was considering a change to the dress code following decisions by Fortrose and Inverness Royal Academy to phase out hoodies over the coming year. Mr O'Neill said that the school offered a wide range of items with the school logo and that the majority of pupils, particularly in winter, preferred the hoody. He has no plans to change this in the foreseeable future.</p>
8.	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u></p> <p>The date of the next meeting was agreed as Tuesday 30th August with the AGM scheduled for Tuesday 27th September.</p>