



Minutes of Marr College Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 3rd November 2021 (in person & via Zoom)

Present: Marie Ann Jackson - Chair, George Docherty – Head Teacher, Jackie Lennox – Treasurer, Lindsay Campbell – Secretary, Kirsty Broadfoot – Minute Secretary, Gillian McCallum, Kenny Bell, Laura Cleland, Robert McLaughlin & Dr Gillian Sargent – PT Maths

Council Members: Emma Inglis, Katie Atkinson, Susan Forsyth, Kate Dunn, Katherine Woodhouse & Lindsey Connell

Forum Members: Carolyn Adams, Alison Braddock, Morgan Stone, Kirsty Lee, Patricia Rowley, Caryn Mair

Apologies: Hilary Ramage, Cllr Craig Mackay & Cllr Bob Pollock

	Action
<p>1. <u>Welcome and Apologies</u> a) Marie Ann welcomed those in attendance and apologies were noted.</p>	
<p>2. <u>Captains Report</u> Jake Murray and Sophie Lennox provided an update on the Captains' activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £200 has been raised for South Ayrshire Foodbank and £200 for the RNLI following the S1 and S6 murder mystery afternoon. Well done to all involved. • The points system has been relaunched with a range of activities. • House captains have set up a focus group to look at a new anti-bullying policy. • School captains will be attending a remembrance service with Mr Docherty. • New study area for senior students has been set up next to the library. 	
<p>3. <u>Approval of Minutes</u> The minutes of the parent council meeting held on 6 October 2021 were approved by Kate Dunn and seconded by Jackie Lennox. The minutes of the parent council AGM were approved by Lindsay Campbell and seconded by Kate Dunn.</p> <p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Wyllie is working with some S2 parents to look at the efficacy of homework. • Athletics tops are being organised by Mr Bryden. • George Docherty is liaising with Frances Carson from MTRA regarding foodbank vouchers. • Cycle to School scheme – PC Harrower usually organises this, but he is involved with COP 26. • Lets have been organised for the parent council meetings. 	
<p>4. <u>Learner Journeys</u> Various teachers gave a presentation on career pathways.</p> <p><u>Gillian McCallum</u> began by giving an overview of learner journeys and digital literacy. She summarised the subjects that S1, 2 and 3 typically have. S1 pupils are given access to the full BGE curriculum. In S2, H.E. is not offered due to the lack of teachers in this subject. This is to ensure that more senior pupils can take part. In S3 two skills electives are offered allowing for more options and free choice. The</p>	

<p>website is being updated to reflect the S2 electives and S3 options and there are also links to all subjects on the website. S5 and 6 have an entirely free choice to allow them to concentrate on their chosen further study/career. In S6 there is the opportunity for wider achievement through areas such as YASS and peer support etc. Again, information on these is available on the website.</p> <p><u>Kenny Bell</u> gave a presentation on options. He spoke about My World of Work and explained that all pupils are registered on the site from S1. He also discussed positive destinations for senior pupils and how the school helps with this. Gemma Fraser, the school's career adviser is available to speak with pupils to support them with career and further education choices. MS forms is used for pupils to select their options and this has been successful. Kenny then introduced a video from some pupils outlining their experiences of picking options and wider achievement/career choice support.</p> <p><u>Laura Cleland</u> then spoke about pupil pathways. She gave examples of pathways in various areas, for example, hospitality, primary teaching and joinery. She discussed skills academy and vocational bursts. These are opportunities for S2 and 3 pupils to take part in six-week placements in a variety of areas: nail bar, cycle maintenance, rural skills and barista. These take place either in Marr or Ayrshire College. Laura then discussed Future Fit scheme which S2 pupils are encouraged to apply for. There are opportunities to get involved in care, hair and beauty, trade, automotive and early years and these are held in conjunction with Ayrshire College or Queen Margaret Academy. Links to these are on pupils' Teams pages or they can speak with their guidance teacher.</p> <p><u>Robert McLaughlin</u> spoke about Workout – a targeted programme aimed at a small group of S4/5 pupils who are at risk of low attainment. This offers an SQA qualification and pupils can take part in things like team building, beach cleans, dog grooming as well as opportunities with partners like Troon golf club, Troon swimming pool and the Citadel. Robert went on to speak about work placements, highlighting that there are few opportunities for pupils at the moment since the embargo was lifted in September. The focus moving forward will be on looking at work placements for S6 pupils whilst S4 and 5s would focus on studying rather than placements. Most placements are being found through Workit or self-found. Robert asked for parents to forward details of any local businesses who can assist with placements. A survey will come out to parents on this subject.</p>	
<p>5. <u>Careers evening</u> George discussed the proposed careers evening which is scheduled for February 2022. A discussion took place around this and it was decided that it would be best not to hold the event in school given the continuing uncertainty surrounding covid-19. Look at two separate online events for S1/2 and upper school, this was the same as last year and there was a good uptake.</p>	
<p>6. <u>School Show support plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • George will send out a group call to ask for volunteers for a subcommittee. * • Need volunteers for front of house, tuck shop etc. Last year's show raised substantial funds for the parent council. Home baking may not be possible due to covid but can purchase pre-wrapped biscuits etc. • Look at local businesses to sponsor characters in the show. • Liam to provide a list of tasks which can be discussed by a subcommittee. 	<p>GD *</p>
<p>7. <u>Next Month's Agenda Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was decided to focus on the school improvement plan at the next meeting. George would like to see parental involvement groups being resumed to discuss key topics. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication – to discuss streamlining ways in which the school and parent council communicate with parents and pupils. George advised that the main platform for all up to date information is the website and all social media posts should come from the information on the website. 	
<p>8. AOCB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jackie noticed that the supported study timetable differs on the mobile version of the website compared with the main version. ** • Alison gave an update on the blazer buy/sell and updated that a push was needed to get more blazers in as there has been demand, particularly from senior pupils. There are a few in lost property, George will send messages to last year's S6 pupils to check if any of them are owned. *** Promote on social media. *** • Carolyn provided an update regarding HPV vaccines. • Patricia enquired about parent meetings. George confirmed that no dates have been set aside yet due to the ongoing restrictions. 	<p>GD **</p> <p>GD *** LC/KB ****</p>
<p><u>Next Meeting</u></p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 1 December 2021 at 7pm in the school meeting room as well as on Zoom. Further details will be provided prior to the meeting.</p>	