

Stirling High School
Parent Council Meeting 28th February 2017

1. Apologies: Rhona, Morag and IW
2. Present: PL, PC, AH, SP, RN, FA, WP, FS, AM, FA, GO'M, SH, CB
3. The minutes from the meeting on 24th January were approved.
4. Funds – £1178.95
5. Head teacher's Report

PC shared the use of Insight at SHS.

Insight is a major online benchmarking tool designed to help bring about improvements for learners in the senior phase (S4 to S6). It is a professional tool for secondary schools and local authorities to identify areas of success and where improvements can be made. The system is updated twice annually, around September for attainment results, and February for school leavers' data. Insight has been developed in line with a number of policy commitments and has a focus on helping to reduce the gap between higher and lower attainers, raising attainment for all, improving literacy and numeracy and helping more young people to reach positive post-school destinations. PC highlighted that attainment is improving year on year; 93% of school leavers at S4, S5 and S6 achieving SCQF 4 in literacy and numeracy which is higher than the virtual comparator school. For initial destinations for school leavers in S4, S5 and S6, just over 94% went on to a positive destination. A lot of work is involved in this, however, 100% is the aim, PC and the staff of SHS are committed to closing the gap. This figure of 94% is above the national, virtual comparator and Stirling figure. The school is in a positive position. The measures analysed through Insight are all interrelated and hard to tease out. PC shared information regarding the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. This works on a decile system from 1-10. At Stirling High School; 50% of the school population are from decile 1-5 and 50% are from decile 6-10. Is living in poverty the barrier to attainment?

PEF – Pupil Equity Fund

SHS will receive £57,600, this figure is related to the free school meal entitlement. PC attended a meeting with Scottish Government to hear about ideas and suggestions about identifying the gap. PC highlighted that identifying the gap is a complex process and that looking for patterns in attendance of YP from deciles 1-3 along with exclusions, demerits, merits, positive destinations is essential. PC shared that targeted support through additional staffing would be an integral part of closing the gap. PC considering a PT of Equity, looking at the journey through school of YP, looking at Growth Mindset, resilience and aspiration. Also looking at home/school links. SHS will receive this money every year and with any new support, everyone will benefit and the impact will come over time.

PC shared that he is looking to recruit a new PT of Creative Industries due to the retiral at the end of June of Barbara Thomson. It is hoped that a new staff member will take up this post in the new session in August 2017.

AH shared further information about the changes to the Senior Prizegiving event with the aim being that there is an increase in the number of YP accepting invitations to attend. In a straw poll, 85% of YP agreed to the changes suggested.

A pupil working group will be established with pupils leading the whole event. The Prizegiving committee were set to reconvene during the week beginning 27/2/17. WP felt that many YP wouldn't want to return to school for the prizegiving. AH confirmed that after a meeting with staff, most YP were keen to attend. Some S6 YP were concerned that they might miss prizegiving due to term starting at university, however, most university terms commence on 12th or 19th September. With the Junior Prizegiving, there will be opportunities for increased parental involvement, video clips of what the YP are involved in so that it is clear for all to see the successes. GO'M asked what a YP has to achieve in order to be invited to the Junior Prizegiving.

AH shared that it is governed by space and numbers of YP involved, however, this does depend on Merit and Commendation Certificates. It was suggested that there could be a

film made of YP receiving certificates at an assembly. PC highlighted that prizegiving is only one snapshot in the whole year, it is aspirational and effort is recognised as well as achievement.

6. Head Boy/Head Girl – Sam Hird shared that Junior House Captains were working well. He shared that S2 will be going on the Battlefields History trip in May, the Music department are having a weekend trip to Lockerbie in September and the football trip for S1-3 pupils will take place in the Easter holidays 2018 and will travel to Madrid instead of Valencia. Chloe Bruce (for Head Girl) Chloe shared that the Cheerleading team would be representing the school in a competition. She also shared that the S1 football team would be playing Larbert in the Alloa Cup, the Senior boys defeated Crieff in basketball and some SHS athletes would be competing in the Forth Valley Cross Country Championships at Bo'ness.
7. Parent Council
 - PL shared FAST Stroke Awareness strategy, Scottish Parent Teacher Council Network Meeting on 16/5/17 from 7-8:30pm at the Mayfield Centre and various other flyers about Developing your Parent Council.
8. AOCB –

FS asked whether Prelims had been particularly hard this year with reference to Geography and French. Prelims should only cover what has been covered in class. Some subjects doing 2nd prelim covering what has been covered in class since the first prelim. PC pointed out that the prelims are in fact part of the learning. The issue of prelims occurring before Christmas was raised. However, the point was made that in some subjects, limited content will have been covered at that time of the year.

WP shared her concerns regarding the restriction of YP at the front of the school. PC shared that the restriction is only at the office windows where YP from S1 had been congregating from August to December. There had been a lot of unruly behavior with YP running through the planters, leaving litter which was attracting seagulls. S1 have been encouraged to join clubs, make use of the footballs on offer. PC pointed out that Social Work share the front of the building and vulnerable adults are regularly entering the building and being intimidated by the shouting and swearing from these YP. The school office staff reported these issues to PC and this action was taken.

WP reported that she receives many texts from SHS and wondered if these are all necessary.

AM extended her thanks to the staff who attended the Berlin Trip recently.
9. DONM – Tuesday 28th March at 7pm